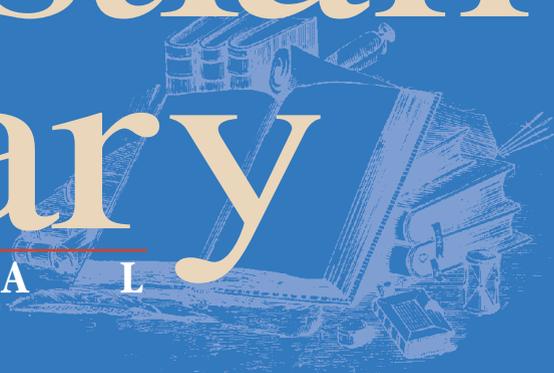


Christian Library

J O U R N A L



THIS ISSUE FEATURES:

- What About Harry Potter?
- Living in a Book
- A Boy Named Jason
- Singing the Songs of Distant Stars
- Recent Christmas Releases
- A Few Clicks Away to Fun
- The Third Quest for the Historical Jesus
- Rediscovering the Children's Books of Jesse Stuart
- Classics Revisited





A Letter from the Editor

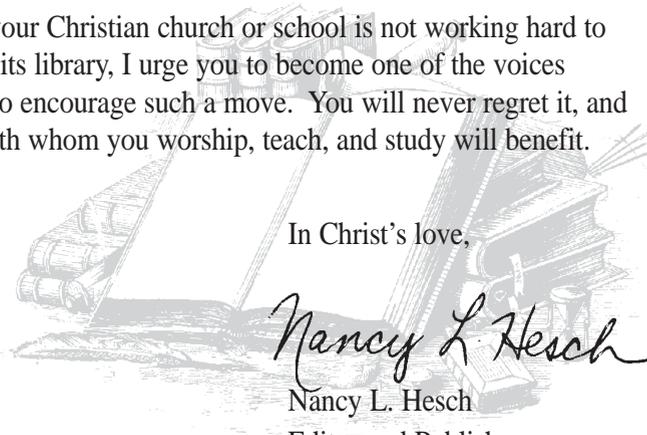
Dear Readers,

As I write, we are a few weeks into the new century. Reflecting on the past and looking forward to the future, I see that many Christian schools and churches have done much to develop libraries which will enlighten, enrich, and entertain their patrons. But many other such schools and churches have yet to make that commitment, and I pray that as we move into the new century, these schools and churches will move forward in this area.

I am personally a strong proponent of the public library, working as a professional librarian in a county library system myself. But we cannot expect the public library to build its collection based on the philosophies of our Christian churches and schools. Many public libraries are responding to the need for Christian literature, and we are thankful for that. But only the Christian library can build its entire collection based on the Judeo-Christian viewpoint, looking hard to find those materials which will meet the needs of its patrons in philosophy as well as subject matter.

If your Christian church or school is not working hard to develop its library, I urge you to become one of the voices needed to encourage such a move. You will never regret it, and those with whom you worship, teach, and study will benefit.

In Christ's love,

A faint, artistic illustration in the background of the signature area. It depicts a stack of books, a quill pen resting on an open book, and some scattered papers or scrolls. The style is a fine-line sketch or engraving.

Nancy L. Hesch

Nancy L. Hesch
Editor and Publisher

By the time you receive this issue, our web page may be up and running. Our address is

www.christianlibraryj.com

and the page is being developed now.

Access it often to learn of upcoming features in CLJ, read about publication schedules, and other information about CLJ.

Tell your fellow librarians, teachers, and general readers about our site.

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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 300 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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Christian Library Journal



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A Word from the Editor: Andrew M. Seddon



Singing the Songs of Distant Stars:

The Science Fiction of Kathy Tyers

“There are ideas that a writer gets without any notion where they came from,” Kathy Tyers replies when asked about the inspiration for her novel *Firebird*, the first of a trilogy from Bethany House Publishers. “This is one of them.” The novel’s premise is deceptively simple: What if the arrival of the Messiah did not occur until a spacefaring humanity had spread to a multitude of worlds? The conflict between a Judaic-style culture and a legalistic society provides the substrate for a story of worldviews in conflict, in which the coming of the Messiah is anticipated.

Tyers, despite a love of science fiction developed as an eleven-year-old (“The librarian took me and guided me gently to the junior high section, and I pulled a novel by Ben Bova called *The Star Conquerors* off the shelf. It was space opera, and it was wonderful, and I read it three times before I took it back to the library”), did not intend to be a writer—she wanted to be a musician. But the need to earn a living dictated otherwise and Tyers pursued degrees in microbiology and education. She continued to study music whenever possible, and married Mark, a band and choir teacher. Not until 1983 did the call of a different type of music claim her, and she decided to venture into the worlds of science fiction—to “write a space adventure kind of book.” Finding herself with a couple of hours a day not devoted to the demands of motherhood (which she loved), she felt the need for other avenues of expression.

This, the release of the third Star Wars

movie, *Return of the Jedi*, and seeing an air show by the Air Force Thunderbirds provided the trigger for her first novel, *Firebird*. But she didn’t immediately write for the Christian market. Instead, she submitted *Firebird* to Bantam, “over the transom, absolutely cold.” They accepted it, and in 1987, four years after she began writing, *Firebird* was published.

Meanwhile, Tyers had completed the sequel, *Fusion Fire*. The story wasn’t finished. Unfortunately, it wouldn’t be. Bantam declined to keep *Firebird* and *Fusion Fire* in print long enough to bring out the third novel, *Crown of Fire*, which remained incomplete. Instead, they asked for stand-alone books. Tyers complied with *Crystal Witness* about a servant who finds herself hired by both sides in a palace intrigue to spy on each other; *Shivering World* about genetic engineering and terraforming; and *One Mind’s Eye*, an “alien invasion codependency novel”. She also wrote a Star Wars novel, *The Truce at Bakura*, several short stories set in the Star Wars universe, and a non-fiction book of travel, *Exploring the Northern Rockies*.

But then came a painful decision. Faced with a conflict between her writing career and her marriage, she gave up writing. “I laid science fiction at the foot of the cross,” she says, “and backed away, praying that if God ever wanted me to write again, he would give me back my career.” Two years passed, the desire to write persisted, and the *Firebird* series continued to call to her. But the prospects of completing the series seemed bleak until Bethany House editor and science fiction fan Steve Laube met Tyers at Mount Hermon Christian Writer’s conference.

Tyers proposed a contemporary women’s romance, but Laube asked what Tyers really wanted to write.

“I couldn’t believe it,” Tyers says. “I took out of my satchel an outline for five novels

in the *Firebird* series, adapted for the Christian market, and laid it on the table between us. “This is what I really want to do.”

Bethany House contracted for three novels, of which the first, *Firebird*, was released in May (*Fusion Fire* and *Crown of Fire* are scheduled for publication later in 1999 and 2000, respectively). Rewriting the books for the Christian market involved Tyers in a conscious effort to bring to the forefront themes that had been previously in the background. “I was amazed how many things in the re-write just flowed naturally from what was already there,” she says. “Occasionally, I had the sensation that I was finally finishing something that I had left unfinished before and that it should have been that way in the first place.”

Her role as a Christian writer, she relates, is to tell a good story. “C.S. Lewis said that what we ‘are’ comes through in our writing, whether or not we try to put it there. The plot ideas that occur to me and the characters who spring to life in my mind come out of a baptized imagination.” Tyers is aware of her character’s sufferings: “I try to pray about scenes in which my characters suffer,” she says. “I try to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s leading about how much pain would be ‘too much’ and what would be ‘too shallow, or too little,’ and even whether or not a certain scene belongs in the story at all. Beyond that scene by scene analysis, I have made a conscious effort in the *Firebird* series to give each book a spiritual ‘theme’ and try to eliminate scenes that have no bearing on it.”

The new *Firebird* series is the first time she has consciously aligned novels around spiritual themes. (Her secularly published novels were circumspect in their Christian content.) *Firebird*’s theme is that God exists, is good, and is worthy of lifelong service. *Fusion Fire* (which has a somewhat ‘Old Testament’ feel) is about the existence of evil, both as an external enemy

and an internal flaw in every human. *Crown of Fire* will deal with the danger of going back to the old ways and pride's deadly consequences. Tyers has been a Christian as long as she can remember. "I was always taken to Sunday School. I can't remember a time when I didn't want to get closer to God, though I didn't get serious about looking into Christianity until my senior year of high school." An encounter with a Gospel tract triggered a renewed interest in spiritual matters. The next year she discovered C.S. Lewis' books, which also helped to strengthen her commitment.

Currently, Tyers and Mark attend the Evangelical Free Church in Bozeman, Montana, where Kathy also serves as church librarian, taking over a library that she found to be a dumping ground for the Christian books that people didn't want and using some of her royalty money to buy new volumes for it.

Writers who have influenced her include Dorothy Sayers ("I really admire her work and her witness"); C.S. Lewis ("I go back and re-read Lewis now that I have spent a lot of time writing, and I find myself analyzing his style, which is an experience"); and J.R.R. Tolkien whose *Lord of the Rings* she has read "more times than I care to admit." Her current favorite authors include Jan Karon (the *Mitford Series*), Bodie Thoene (*Zion Chronicles*), and Michael D. O'Brien (*Father Elijah*).

"One of my friends told me years ago that the downside of being a writer is you will no longer be able to read for pleasure," she says, "and I hope I never get to that point. I have a friend who is an orchestrator in Hollywood, and he says that music has lost the ability to move him, and I think that's tragic." Although there are still many books that are well written, she has "gotten a lot better at putting a book down and saying it's not worth my time to finish it. In fact, I've caught friends of mine reading books, saying, "Oh, this is terrible" and I've said to them, "Why bother finishing it, you've already wasted the money, why waste the time?" And they look at me as if they've never thought of such a thing. What a wonderful freedom it is not to have to finish

a book just because you've started it."

As to whether there is any such thing as a "Christian novel," Tyers says, "Every character in every novel ever written has an implied spirituality." She reluctantly defines a Christian novel as "one in which the characters' spirituality is Christian or moving toward Christian, or influenced by Christianity, where that is an integral part of the plot."

Amongst her own books, *Firebird* has always been her favorite. "I don't know why, unless it's the fact that I know these characters so well. They have become dear friends of mine. I was in mourning when I wasn't able to finish the series for Bantam. I also have always loved the Romeo and Juliet kind of story, the idea of people who grew up on different banks of the river overcoming and reaching through to each other."

Musical elements play a prominent role in Tyer's novels, particularly in *One Mind's Eye* and *Fusion Fire*. "I have tried to work music or the arts into all books that I've written," she says. "That is something I have found missing in a lot of science fiction that will cover futuristic politics and military strategies and so forth, but forgets that people spend a lot of time and effort in music and the arts. I don't think that is something the human race will ever lose. I think that after the Lord comes back, the role of musicians and artists is going to be fabulous and enjoyable, and I want to play flute in the Heaven Symphony Orchestra." Not the harp? "No, no, no, there are plenty of harpers; just the flute, thank you."

As to a deeper connection between her writing and music, she says, "I listen for inspiration. If I cannot get into the mood and I have to sit down and write, I will sometimes put on a soundtrack album. Over many years playing flute in bands and orchestras, I find myself running a mental movie sometimes with a piece of music that I am playing that I know very well." In Respighi's *The Pines of Rome*, for example, she sees in the last movement, 'The Pines of the Appian Way,' a depiction of the *via dolorosa* in all its harrowing reality.

In *Fusion Fire* particularly, her lead character refers frequently to God as Mighty Singer. "Lady Firebird has a vision at the end of *Firebird* where, facing death, she is unable to comprehend that God could exist. She prays, "Show me" and God speaks to her in a language she can understand, which is through music—as having sung the universe into existence. That goes back not only to the *Narnia Chronicles* but also the *Ainulindalë* in Tolkien's *Silmarillion*. I think it's a wonderful image."

The connection between science fiction and music isn't as farfetched as it may seem. Music speaks to humanity at a deep level. All cultures have music. Music is frequently mentioned in the Bible, frequently in reference to creation and the wonders of the universe. Even though the Hebrews weren't privy to our knowledge or the awe-inspiring images provided by the Hubble space telescope, they, like their forefather Abraham, gazed into the heavens created by God. Both music and science fiction sing the language of wonder, of the imagination.

As we explore the wonders of the universe in flights of imagination we also explore ourselves. We explore humanity—as a species, as creatures in relationship to each other and to God.

Firebird is not about space battles and fancy technology, although it has these. At its heart it is about the human spirit, the workings of God, and the complex counterpoint and rhythms of God, creation, and humanity. *Firebird* illustrates the contrast between a person enslaved by legalism and one who is living in the freedom of the Spirit. It is a story of God reaching out to his children, becoming involved in Creation. It is a story about Love, in a universe where God is not only author but participant. But if science fiction is the exploration of God, Creation, and humanity, why hasn't the genre taken off in the Christian market and found a niche between other genres that are considered Christian—general fiction, historical novels, romance novels, contemporary thrillers? In this regard, Christian science fiction is

fighting the negative image imposed by its secular proponents, who all too often envisage a universe and a future without God.

As Tyers notes, “a lot of science fiction that is published in the secular market has elements in it that have no place in a Christian bookstore and have very little place in a Christian home. I am unable to read most secular science fiction for the same reason. It’s full of sex, language, and violence that pushes the limits. True, science fiction as a genre pushes limits. That’s the point of science fiction. But in my opinion it’s supposed to push the limits of speculation, of imagination, of what the future might be like, what turns history could take. Those to me are limits that ought to be pushed, where the imagination really can be challenged.” The questionable elements indicate that science fiction has followed other secular fiction into decline.

What Tyers wants to do in her Christian novels is feed an imagination committed to and renewed by God. So far, she has looked no farther ahead than the three contracted and five projected Firebird novels. “I’m trying to leave that in God’s hands,” she says.

Tyers learned the lesson of trusting God for her writing. And now her books sing the music of the universe, of God and eternity.

Novels by Kathy Tyers:

Firebird Series:

Firebird, Bethany House Publishers, 1999 (original version Bantam Spectra 1987)

Fusion Fire, Bethany House Publishers, 1999 (original version Bantam Spectra 1988)

Crown of Fire, Bethany House Publishers, forthcoming 2000

Crystal Witness, Bantam Spectra 1989

Shivering World, Bantam Spectra 1991

Star Wars: The Truce at Bakura, Bantam Spectra 1993

One Mind’s Eye, Bantam Spectra 1996

A Few Clicks Away to Fun!

by Lisa Wroble

The Internet may contain a wealth of resources, but finding the gems can be hazardous for children. To make it easier for your youngest patrons to find wholesome, entertaining websites, consider bookmarking a few of these favorites. Some contain activities to play on-site. Many contain crafts and activities to do at home.

Begin with Kids Click!

<http://www.sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick/>

— a search engine designed especially for children by librarians across the U.S. Children may enter keywords to search the web, or link to various sites listed by categories, such as Health & Well-Being, Science & Math. (Weird & Mysterious lists a subcategory of witchcraft, however, the Religion & Mythology category lists very good sites for Christianity and General Religion.)

To find recipes for fun, start with:

Rainy Day Resource page

<http://www.cp.duluth.mn.us/~sarah>

This is a great site for children or their parents. It contains recipes for fun food, such as soft pretzels, as well as fun times. Make edible peanut butter play dough, modeling dough, finger paint, or slime. Plus, learn how to make pine cone bird feeders or paper airplanes and link to coloring pages which can be printed out and colored at home.

Crafts for Kids

<http://craftsforkids.miningco.com>

contains easy crafts for children to make, plus holiday and gift ideas. Don’t miss the Bible crafts link on this page—a must for lots of great ideas. At Kids’ Quest <http://www.christiananswers.net/kids/home.html>

learn about our Heavenly Father by exploring his marvelous Rain Forest creations through activities, mazes, video clips, and stories.

Look, Learn & Do

<http://www.looklearnanddo.com/documents/home.html> is filled with historical fun facts, simple science projects, cork crafts, puzzles, games and more.

For more along the educational line, Bizarre Stuff You Can Make in Your Kitchen

<http://freeweb.pdq.net/headstrong/> includes instructions for many simple projects, many with science principles at work, from casting animal tracks through making a cloud in a bottle or a snowstorm in a can. Teachers and librarians will find this site helpful for planning special programs.

With a little help from you, children will find fun on the Internet just a few clicks away!



Lisa A. Wroble writes children’s nonfiction from her home in Plymouth, Michigan. She also works as a library aide in children’s services at Redford Twp. District Library in Redford, Michigan.

School Librarian's Corner



1999 Crown Award goes to :

Frindle by Andrew Clements

Runners-up are:

Child of the Wolves by Elizabeth Hall

Harry the Poisonous Centipede
by Lynne Reid Banks

1999 Lamplighter Award goes to:

Two Mighty Rivers by Mari Hanes

Runner-up is:

Even Stephen by Johanna Hurwitz

Web Site of Interest to Christian Librarians!

www.4america.com

Underwritten by The Renewing
America Foundation,

4america.com is a site dedicated to teaching virtues through American history. Designed for junior high and high school age participants, this is a useful site for classroom and homeschool curriculum and/or

extra credit projects. It is an extension of the ministry of the books, *The Light and the Glory*, and *From Sea to Shining Sea* by Peter Marshall & David Manuel.

..... Welcome back to the School Library Corner of
Christian Library Journal.

.....
by Debra Stombres

Technology in Schools:

Encyclopedias in every way, shape and form are still the basic and most used tools in a school library reference collection. When CD-Rom and Online versions of popular encyclopedias joined the market, it became much less expensive for librarians to provide the most current resources. The market is now fiercely competitive, which means that librarians no longer simply choose between favorite publishers and titles, often difficult enough, but rather from among several versions of each title with each version offering a different array of bells and whistles ranging from multimedia presentations to research assistants and tools. Almost all versions of each encyclopedia I looked at include a current dictionary and maps, many include almanacs, virtual tours and more. As I attempt to sort all of this out, be considering your own needs and wishes for your library.

A point in favor of computerized encyclopedias is that students often have at least one CD-Rom reference source at their home and are therefore more familiar with online search methods than with traditional paper index searching. Students also love to be able to print out the article(s) that pertain to their project instead of checking out or photocopying the original print version. I have thus spoiled my students to the point where I must drag them over to print versions when all the computers are in use.

Because CD-Rom versions are cheaper, we can afford to update them more often than we could paper editions. Occasionally a great combination deal is offered when a print edition and CD-Rom are bundled together. And frequently substantial rebates are available so always check the encyclopedia's promotional web site.

CD-Rom encyclopedias come both in stand-alone versions and networked versions. If you wish to network an encyclopedia and make it available to more than one user at a time, you must pay a licensing fee. In most cases institutional pricing is determined on a site by site basis; contact your area representative for the product you are interested in. Any prices I have included here are merely to give you a ball-park figure and may change at any time.

Other considerations include the cost of paper and ink for students printing the articles. While we do charge for photo copies, we do not charge for computer print outs. I do ask that students only print when working on school related projects.

Most CD-Rom encyclopedias now incorporate links to web articles, allowing for even more content. Obviously you can only use this feature if the CD-Rom encyclopedia is running on a work station that has Web access.

For the purposes of this article, I am not going to include hardware requirements. I wish to present as much content information as possible. Suffice it to say that the more powerful the computer, the better the encyclopedia will perform. And with each annual upgrade the hardware requirements become greater.

ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA ON CD-ROM: While writing this article, I looked at the 1999 Standard Edition, Institutional Version. With more than 73,000 articles by Nobel Prize-winning contributors this is a great value for a school library. We also use a networked edition of

Britannica 1997 that is among the most popular reference tools in our high school library. *Britannica* uses Netscape Navigator as its search tool. I have found this useful when teaching internet searching without actually going on-line. For in-depth text on almost every subject conceivable, *EB* is a must-have. The Standard Edition includes thousands of images but no video clips or extra multi-media features. This is one of the few encyclopedias that does not require a computer sound card as it is not media-heavy. This is much less distracting in the library. *EB* supports Boolean searches as well as actual typed-in questions. Maps, geography, politics, and cultural statistics are available by "Navigating the Compass." Internet links are available. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, Tenth Edition is included. Stand-alone pricing is \$49.00, add-on workstations are \$39.00. A multimedia version is available, adding videos and animation. Intended for home use, the multimedia version retails for \$89.99, with add-ons being \$70.00.

ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA ON CD-ROM. Grolier, 1999. While some multi-media features are available, the strength in this product is the 45,000 scholarly articles written by over 6,500 contributors. Just as the print version, this is written for the more mature researcher and useful for a high school or college library. A built in Web browser takes you to approved Web links for additional information. (You must be connected via your own ISP, Internet Service Provider.) Set up as a book shelf with several selections, this networkable CD-Rom includes the entire text of the *Encyclopedia Americana*, *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary*, Tenth Edition, Helicon Publishing Company's *Chronology of World History*, and Academic Press' *Dictionary of Science & Technology*. I found this product easy to navigate and useful to my students. While the paper set retails for \$995.00, the stand-alone CD-Rom retails for \$179. The Network licensing fee is \$495.00. Call Grolier at 800-243-7256 for system requirements and most current pricing.

1999 GROLIER MULTIMEDIA ENCYCLOPEDIA DELUXE Between the 36,000 articles on the CD-Roms and the

22,000 linked to *Encyclopedia Americana Online* and the *New Book of Knowledge Online*, 58,000 comprehensive articles are available. Additionally, 22,000 web links with content summaries are updated monthly. These CDs include 100 360 degree panoramas, 1,200 maps, and the *American Heritage College Dictionary*. I enjoyed spinning around in Stonehenge in the panorama view. Included is a 65 page *Activities and Study Guide* for home and classroom use. Because of the arranged choice of web links, this encyclopedia targets elementary through college age users. The 2000 edition will include an additional 50 historical panoramas, new and improved research starters for homework help and even more web links. Retail price, \$59.95.

The *Grolier Reference Suite* includes the above as well as *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, the *Hammond Atlas of the World* and the *Wall Street Journal Almanac* and retails for \$89.99.

WORLD BOOK: Available in three formats, *World Book* could take over a PC as a single source reference library. For library use, the Standard Edition is a great buy. The full-text of the 22 volume *World Book* is included without extensive multimedia features. This version does include a 360-degree virtual reality collection of photos and footage from the San Diego Zoo, and a one-year free subscription to the Internet World Book. Retail is \$39.95, contact your representative for educational pricing.

The Deluxe Edition, on two CD-Roms adds full-length videos, simulations, animation's, and helpful study wizards. Consider this option if your library provides word processing and study aids. \$69.95.

The Family Reference Suite on three CD-Roms is designed to be a home library and meet all of a family's reference and study needs. As well as the above, it includes the *Merriam-Webster Reference Library*, three almanacs and ViaVoice Gold speech recognition technology. \$99.95.

For additional information and hardware requirements call 800-508-1610.

ENCARTA 99: *Microsoft Encarta* has been

a pioneer product in the multimedia encyclopedia market. Microsoft competes head to head with the popular *World Book* and now offers three versions of the popular CD-Rom product. The Standard Edition is a single CD-Rom containing over 40,000 articles and a variety of multimedia elements. "Natural Language Search" allows for typed in questions as well as subject or category searching. While still providing excellent multimedia features and articles, Microsoft also makes extensive use of Web links. The CD-Rom will link you to their online Web Directory, an Encarta Search Engine (powered by Infoseek), an Encarta News Service, also powered by Infoseek and the Online Encarta Library which is a fee based Online Encyclopedia owned by Information Access Company owned in turn by the Gale Group. Encarta Standard edition sells for \$39.95.

The Deluxe edition includes virtual tours and a homework center for research and writing assistance and retails for \$69.95.

The *Encarta Reference Suite* includes all of the above as well as Encarta Virtual Globe and Microsoft Bookshelf making it an entire reference library retailing for \$99.95. Educational pricing is available through Microsoft.

COMPTON'S ENCYCLOPEDIA. The Learning Company, 1999. From Compton's Home Library collection, this 2-CD multimedia encyclopedia is a nice addition to a school library collection. It includes all 40,000 articles from the print edition. The map collection is extensive though maps are small, and the star charts are fascinating. It includes web links, an available Online librarian for emailed questions, a dictionary, thesaurus and report helps for students. Retail for \$29.95. For educational information go to www.learningco.com

ONLINE Encyclopedias:

If you provide internet access in your library, there are several encyclopedias with online options that could save you money and increase information available. The primary drawback of an online source is your connection speed and ISP reliability. No matter how good the encyclopedia is, if you cannot stay connected or information is coming in slowly, it is not a preferable

option. Since our library's internet access is limited to my desk PC, we do not subscribe to an online encyclopedia. I did, however, try out the free trial periods where available.

<http://www.funkandwagnalls.com>

For those of you on a budget, try *Funk & Wagnalls Online Multimedia Encyclopedia*. It's free to join this site. They offer the complete unabridged 29-volume encyclopedia enhanced by multimedia and updated monthly. Included is *Random House Webster's College Dictionary* and a Pronunciation key, Writer's guide, charts, facts, and Reuters World News Service updated hourly. This is one of the few encyclopedia sites where the current events proved to really be current. Encyclopedia articles were quite satisfying, pictures were good, and I did not run into the expected advertising a free site usually contains. Animations, maps, flags, etc. Rival multimedia encyclopedias. You can "power-search" all references at once!

<http://www.encyclopedia.com>

Also free on the Web is the *Electric Library*. This is all 17,000 articles from *The Concise Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia*, Third Edition. These are short, text entries and include web links and cross-references.

<http://www.comptons.com/school/>

This online version of *Compton's Encyclopedia* from the Learning Company is only offered for schools. It is a 12 month subscription service licensing an entire school, including lesson plans, narrated slide shows with 360 degree viewing, sound, video and more. The search engine is very quick. Besides encyclopedia articles, you can choose to search approved web links. The Comptons home page includes links to current event coverage; however I found these links anywhere from 2 weeks to 6 months out of date the day I tested them. A one year subscription costs \$499.00. Call 800-828-2608 x1440 for information. A free 30-day free trial period is available.

www.eblast.com

Eblast is a free web search engine offered by *Encyclopedia Britannica*. It is a useful tool for navigating the web for research

purposes.

www.eb.com

This is the full *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. This site includes the complete encyclopedia of over 72,000 articles, over 10,000 illustrations and *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. There is more multimedia available here than on the Multimedia CD-Rom version. Also included is an internet directory to 130,000 rated Web links. These sites are reviewed by Britannica editors and rated between one and five stars. Between articles and web links, there is a lot of information available here on many subjects. Individuals can register for only \$5.00 per month. Site licenses for schools and libraries are determined by student population and number of workstations beginning with 300 or fewer students for \$295 per year and rapidly going up from there. You may request a 7 day free trial. 800-621-3900.

www.wbonline.worldbook.com

World Book Online boasts access "to over 31,000 encyclopedia articles, 6,000 web links, 25,000 periodical articles, 800 videos, animations, sounds, 400 interactive maps, 100 3-D bubble views..." Like the print version, the articles are easier for children to read while still thorough in their coverage of the subject. The opening page includes a "What happened on this day in history", as well as monthly event information such as holidays and famous birthdays. The current events links were two to three weeks old, but very interesting. Maps were excellent and include population density, average rainfall, etc. Multimedia clips rival any CD-Rom and links to UMI full-text periodicals were easily found. Talk about filling a high school bibliography requirement with one stop searching! Call 800-508-1610 for information on World Book Products, or ask your local representative for free trial information for your school library.

Grolier offers three online encyclopedias, **<http://go.grolier.com>**

New Book of Knowledge offers up to date news, I found it current as of the beginning of the week. This is targeted for elementary

school students and offers all of the print encyclopedia along with projects and questions for the classroom.

Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia Online includes the 36,000 articles from the print and CD-Rom versions, over 15,000 linked articles, 300 tables, 300 fact boxes, and more, with content updated monthly. This targets junior high and high school students.

For college research and for high school, *Encyclopedia Americana Online*. Again, all 45,000 articles from the print and CD-Rom versions are available as well as the *Americana Journal*, a searchable database of current events, and the *Wall Street Journal Almanac*.

School pricing is based on purchasing a license for a combination of two or three of the above and upon school enrollment.

www.encyclopedia.com

You will find two options at this web site. The *Encarta Concise Free Encyclopedia* will offers over 16,000 short articles on a broad array of topics. For brief and concise information, this is a valuable tool.

Encarta Online Deluxe is comparable to the Multimedia CD-Rom Deluxe version, including over 40,000 articles, photos, illustrations and panoramic views. *Encarta Online* offers over 800 side bars, over 500 maps, and video clips. Both the Concise Free Encyclopedia and the Online Deluxe include links to over 13,500 web sites. Individual subscriptions are \$49.95 per year, or \$6.95 per month. Other reference sources are available through a subscription to the Encarta Online Library, information is available at the same web site.

By the time this article is in print, many of the 2000 editions will be available. Look for bigger and better versions of the same features, better speech recognition functions, increased use of panoramic photos, multimedia presentations, etc. With the faster processing speeds and internet connections, I believe we will see more and more dependence on the Web links to add content and multimedia to the Encyclopedia CD-Roms and Reference Suites.

Rediscovering

the Children's Books of

JESSE STUART

As Christian parents, teachers, and librarians, we desire to find enjoyable, well written books that reinforce the values we are trying to instill in our children and students without coming across as "preachy" or moralistic. Too often, however, we have access only to books by authors who do not share our values or who offer a weak, watered-down version of those values.

Jesse Stuart is one of those authors who present the type of writing we seek. Stuart was highly acclaimed during his lifetime and won many awards. But then he passed into near oblivion as the book marketers sought to entertain more than to instruct, and embraced relativism and situation ethics. Today, however, his books are making a steady comeback. The Jesse Stuart Foundation in Ashland, Kentucky, is making a concentrated effort to restore Stuart's children's writings to the libraries, homes, and classrooms of the nation.

James M. Gifford, executive director of the Foundation, says that Stuart's children's books "are a guideline to the solid values of America's past. In Jesse's books, readers will find people who value hard work, who love their families, their land, and their country; who believe in education, honesty, thrift, and compassion—people who play by the rules."

It's important that as children learn how to

read their reading material includes stories that have a foundation of truth by which they can learn the values that make for both individual and national success. As Gifford emphasizes, "They need to learn, from reading, the unalterable principles of right and wrong." And that's exactly what they'll find when they read Stuart's books.

The Foundation has begun reprinting Stuart's published works and publishing many previously unpublished writings in an effort to preserve both Stuart's legacy and his values. They have produced more than 40 editions of his works. Teachers, librarians, parents, and fans of Stuart's writing have access to both the books and also videotapes, plays, and school and civic presentations about Stuart, other Appalachian writers, and the Appalachian way of life.

A college professor introduced me to Jesse Stuart shortly after I had become an education major. "If you want to develop a heart for teaching," he admonished the class, "read *The Thread That Runs So True* by Jesse Stuart."

That evening, I bought the only copy of the book in the campus bookstore. Over the next couple of days, my other studies suffered as I devoured that inspiring book. Later, I read Stuart's other autobiographical books, and they proved to be not only a great encouragement to me in my early years as a teacher but also later as a writer. Recalling how he overcame seemingly insurmountable obstacles gave me the courage to persevere through my own problems.

It wasn't until one of my daughters found one of Stuart's children's books in the local

library that I learned their true value. An avid reader, Elissa came home with *A Penny's Worth of Character*, which I later learned was Stuart's most acclaimed children's work. She ended up reading every Stuart book in the children's sections of every branch of the Knox County Library System. With her interest piqued, we read *The Thread That Runs So True* as a family, followed shortly thereafter by another of his autobiographical books, *To Teach, To Love*.

Jesse Stuart was born in 1906 in Greenup County, Kentucky. His family was poor, eking out a subsistence living on the steep, rocky hillsides. But his parents taught him and his six siblings the value of honesty, hard work, and a good reputation.

Stuart loved learning, and when he reached high school he encountered the writings of Robert Burns. He began to experiment with writing, and his teachers encouraged him to push himself to learn and to write.

When he graduated from high school (the first of his family to do so), Stuart hitchhiked to Berea College without having applied, hoping to be admitted so he could pursue his love of learning. A kind professor there referred him to a colleague at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee. Stuart arrived on campus penniless, with a cardboard suitcase in his hand, but LMU agreed to enroll him. He worked hard at his studies, and he worked at every job he could find on campus to pay his way. He graduated in three years and two summer sessions and returned to Greenup County, where he taught school for a year.

His thirst for knowledge was insatiable,

however, so he enrolled in graduate classes at Vanderbilt University. Although he never gained his master's degree, he received advice that set him upon the road to literary success. One of his professors, Donald Davidson, a member of the renowned Fugitive poets and the Agrarian writers then haunting Vanderbilt, counseled him: "Go back to your people. Go back and write of them. Don't change and follow the moods of these times. Be your honest self. Go back and write of your country.... Your country has your material."

Stuart took that advice and returned to the hillsides of Kentucky. As he guided the plow behind the mule in the cornfield, he composed lines of poetry and dreamed up plots for his books and short stories. At the end of the row, he rested the tired mule while he found a broad leaf and penned his lines on its back. Later at night, he transferred his work to sheets of paper, which eventually found their way to the publishing houses and from there into the books and magazines of the nation.

In his first published collection of poems, *Man With a Bull-Tongue Plow*, Stuart wrote,

These are my people and I sing of them.
I know these people I am singing of.
I live with them and I was born of them
Where high hills shoulder to the skies
above.

In each of Stuart's children's books, he presented a young pre-teen (usually a boy) who faced a problem and overcame it, learning in the process an important lesson about character, or gaining a new appreciation for his heritage and way of life.

Stuart's style is deceptively simple, but perhaps that is the best way to communicate to young readers the values we want them to adopt as their own. His style is colloquial, representing clearly the simple, rugged quaintness of his mountain people. The plots of his books are easy to follow, and his vocabulary is simple, making his books easy for young readers or slow older readers. But

they are not so simplistic as to elude the interest of either good older readers or nonreaders. His books are excellent for parents to read aloud to their young children.

A recurring theme of Stuart's books is love for and respectful stewardship of nature. His is a commonsense approach to conservation, not the politically correct environmentalism of today. He recognized that the earth is God's gift to man and that man is responsible to the Creator for how he uses that gift. He leads readers to a respectful awe and understanding of plants, animals, and weather, and man's place among them.

Also evident in his writings is a plethora of sensual imagery. His readers feel the hot sand beneath the character's feet or the cool water as it swishes past his ankles or the momentary Dickensonian "zero at the bone" that comes at the sight of a snake. The reader quickly learns to detect the different howls of a hound in pursuit of a 'coon or a fox. And he feels the sweet satisfaction that comes from doing an honest day's work, earning one's keep by the sweat of his brow.

Noticeably absent from Stuart's children's books is the profanity that often plagues more modern writers' works. Stuart believed that he could help his readers discern an evil character without spewing vulgarity and filth from his mouth, and sense the cruelties and wickedness of life without actually painting them in lurid detail.

Jesse Stuart died on February 17, 1984. Thanks to the work of his many fans and the Jesse Stuart Foundation, his writings live on for another generation to enjoy. Through his books, he continues to teach. Perhaps that is exactly as he would have had it, for he once wrote, "First, last, and always, I am a teacher. I am firm in my belief that a teacher lives on and on through his students. Good teaching is forever, and the teacher is immortal."

Yes, Jesse Stuart lives on. And perhaps no more so than in his children's books. They should be in every Christian library in the

nation, not only providing an enjoyable read but also exposing young readers to the character traits that reinforce the instruction they are receiving from their Bible studies and parental training.

A SUMMARY OF STUART'S CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The Beatinest Boy—A self-reliant orphan works hard to earn a Christmas present for his grandmother.

A Penny's Worth of Character—A boy wants something badly and is tempted to deceive someone to get it, but, in the end, he learns some important lessons about honesty and integrity.

Red Mule—A boy comes to understand the motivation and resulting lifestyle of a man whom everyone else misunderstands and misjudges.

The Rightful Owner—A boy finds a dog, cares for him, and grows to love him as his own, only to have the dog's real owner claim him.

Andy Finds a Way—A boy tries to save his pet calf from being sold for veal.

A Ride With Huey the Engineer—A young boy loves the engineer and the small mountain steam railroad that serves his community.

Old Ben—A boy befriends a snake and learns that the only good snake is not necessarily a dead one.

Come To My Tomorrowland—A girl finds an injured albino fawn and fights to keep it.

Dennis L. Peterson is a freelance editor and writer with many publication credits. He has twelve years of classroom teaching experience, and was formerly a senior technical editor with Lockheed Martin Energy Systems Inc.

Recent *Christmas* Releases



by Lydia E. Harris

Christmas books warm our hearts, enhance our celebrations, and retell the ageless story of Jesus' birth. Consider these releases from the nineties as you celebrate the holiday season and enter the new millennium.

1. Barnes, Emilie. THE TWELVE TEAS OF CHRISTMAS, illustrated by Sandy Lynam Clough. Harvest House, 1999. ISBN 0-7369-0052-7. HBB, \$16.99, 96 pages. This quick read brimming with ideas and inspiration includes twelve theme teas with menus and recipes, plus suggestions for decorations and entertainment. Delicate teacup paintings enhance this beautiful gift book.

2. Frame, Jeron Ashford, editor. DISCOVERING CHRISTMAS: A Treasury of Useful Resources for Churches and Families. Judson Press, 1998. ISBN 0-8170-1293-1. PAP, \$14.00, 112 pages. A creative collection of activities and ideas suitable for home or church, this resource can be used year after year. It includes stories, dramas, songs, crafts, recipes, and Advent devotions centered on the true meaning of Christmas.

3. Gietzen, Jean. IF YOU'RE MISSING BABY JESUS: A True Story that Embraces the Spirit of Christmas. Multnomah, 1999. ISBN 1-57673-498-6. HBB, \$9.99, 48 pages. When a family purchases a nativity set that mistakenly includes two figurines of baby Jesus, they try to find who bought the manger scene with baby Jesus missing. The surprising outcome teaches their family and others that giving is the heart of Christmas. Set in 1943 in North Dakota, this heartwarming true story is suitable to read aloud as a family.

4. Harnish, James A. COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS. Abingdon Press, 1999. ISBN 0-687-07509-2. PAP, \$4.00, 48 pages. With meaningful reflections for each Sunday of Advent, this study for adults includes Scripture, prayer, study questions, and a focus for the coming week. Suitable for group and individual study.

5. Hibbard, Ann. FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AT CHRISTMAS. Baker, 1988, 1993. ISBN 0-8010-1070-5. PAP, \$8.99, 185 pages. This excellent resource provides a two-year supply of meaningful devotions for December 1 through 24. Also included are ideas to celebrate Epiphany and Christmas plus patterns and instructions for related projects. Families looking for ways to honor Christ during Christmas will find this book useful.

6. Hornsby, Sarah. JESUS, BE IN MY CHRISTMAS: Morning and Evening Meditations for Every Day of Advent. Chosen Books, 1992. ISBN 0-8007-9254-8. PAP, \$9.99, 127 pages. A Christmas devotional with brief twice-a-day readings for all four weeks of Advent. Designed to help readers focus on Jesus, each includes Scripture, reflection, and prayer.

7. Lowry, Mark. MARY, DID YOU KNOW? Countryman, 1998. ISBN 0-8499-5445-2. HBB, \$12.99, 64 pages. This six-inch-square gift book with CD recording of "Mary, Did You Know?" is based on the song's lyrics. Scriptures, quotes, and reflections are woven together to express the meaning behind Jesus' humanity and deity. Jill Briscoe, Joni Eareckson Tada, and Edith Schaeffer are some of the authors quoted.

8. Russo, Steve. KEEPING CHRIST IN

CHRISTMAS: Helping Families Find Their Focus. Harvest House, 1999. ISBN 0-7369-0166-3. PAP, \$6.99, 140 pages. A practical book to help families keep their Christmas celebrations Christ-centered. It answers questions about Santa, traditions, how to teach the true meaning of Christmas, and more.

9. Schwartztruber, Michael and Kathy Sinclair, editors. SIMPLIFY AND CELEBRATE: Embracing the Soul of Christmas. Northstone, 1997. ISBN 1-896836-14-3. PAP, \$15.95, 208 pages. A unique resource, it suggests ways to simplify Christmas to make the celebration meaningful rather than commercialized. Reflections and activities for Advent comprise over half the book. Useful for individuals, families, and church/community groups.

10. Swindoll, Charles, Max Lucado, and Charles Colson. THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS. Word, 1996. ISBN 0-8499-5273-5. HBB, \$12.99, 144 pages. A lovely gift book with inspirational writings by three well-known Christian communicators. Some reflections focus on Christmas; all encourage Christian maturity.

11. Wheeler, Joe, compiler and editor. GREAT STORIES REMEMBERED. Focus on the Family, 1996. ISBN 1-56179-459-7. HBB, \$19.99, 373 pages. This anthology of tales, adventures, and life experiences dating back to the turn of the century makes great family reading. Divided by seasons of the year with some specifically for winter and Christmas, the well-written stories touch young and old alike.

12. Yates, Cynthia. THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO CREATIVE GIFT-GIVING. Servant, 1997. ISBN 0-89283-997-X. PAP, \$10.99, 235 pages. The practical and creative gift suggestions in this book are appropriate for children, adults, and hard-to-buy-for people. With ideas galore, this resource is useful all year, not just at

Christmas.

Children's Christmas Books

1. Anders, Isabel. THE REAL NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, illustrated by Shelly Rasche. Concordia, 1999. ISBN 0-570-05480-X. HBB, \$7.99, 32 pages. A takeoff from the familiar poem, "'Twas the Night before Christmas," the book tells the nativity story in rhyming verse. Children ages four to seven will enjoy this die-cut book with cutout cover, entertaining rhymes, and bright illustrations. Consider it for children's Advent devotions.

2. Anderson, Sandra Myhr. LET'S GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS: Advent Activities for Preschool Children, illustrated by Jeff Carnehl. Augsburg, 1993. ISBN 0-8066-2662-3. PAP, \$7.99, 32 pages. Divided into four themes, this excellent collection of Advent stories, activities, and songs focuses on the true meaning of Christmas. It's suitable for three- to five-year olds and their parents or teachers to use at home, church, or day school.

3. Bowman, Crystal. JONATHAN JAMES SAYS, "CHRISTMAS IS COMING!" illustrated by Karen Maizel. Zondervan, 1999. ISBN 0-310-21210-3. PAP, \$4.99, 45 pages. Part of the Learn to Read series, the three charming stories center around giving at Christmas and promote biblical values. Suited for beginning readers four to eight.

4. Ford, June, compiler. A CHILD'S GARDEN OF VERSES, illustrated by Thomas Kinkade. Thomas Nelson, 1999. ISBN 0-8499-5869-5. HBB, \$24.99, 208 pages. A beautiful 9-by-12- inch gift book with Scriptures, prayers, and poems featuring classic works of Robert Louis Stevenson with artwork by Thomas Kinkade. A useful index and table of contents complete this year-round collection that includes a few Christmas selections.

5. Gaither, Gloria. MY FATHER'S ANGELS, illustrated by Barbara Hranilovich. Zondervan, 1999. ISBN 0310-23104-3 HBB, \$14.99, 32 pages. This large-format picture book with cassette is a song about angelic protection. The tape includes vocal and instrumental music.

Children four to eight will be comforted by the soothing words and music and enjoy the enchanting artwork.

6. Haidle, Helen. THE CANDYMAKER'S GIFT: The Inspirational Legend of the Candy Cane, illustrated by David Haidle. Honor Books, 1996, 1998. ISBN 1-56292-150-9. HBB, \$12.99, 32 pages. A candymaker, wanting to surprise his granddaughter with a gift that conveys the real meaning of Christmas, asks God for inspiration. In answer to his prayer, he creates a candy cane whose colors, flavor, and shape tell the story of Jesus. This charming storybook with detailed illustrations includes a variety of family activities at the end.

7. Haidle, Helen. THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE: A Legend from Long Ago, illustrated by David and Elizabeth Haidle. Baker, 1997. ISBN 0-8010-4393-X. HBB, \$12.99, 32 pages. According to legend, a little fir tree doesn't feel worthy to celebrate Jesus' birth with other forest creatures and trees because he doesn't have a gift to bring. God sees his humble heart and sends stars from heaven to light up his branches. Each Christmas thereafter, glittering stars light up the first Christmas tree. Ideas for family discussions and activities are included.

8. Haidle, Helen. THE REAL 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS, illustrated by Celeste Henriquez. Multnomah, 1997. ISBN 1-57673-201-0. HBB, \$14.99, 30 pages. The well-known carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" takes on new meaning with this explanation of the symbolic significance behind each phrase. For example, "my true love" refers to God, a "partridge" is an ancient symbol of Christ, and "five gold rings" represent the first five books of the Old Testament. Ideas for celebrations and traditions are included at the end.

9. Harrast, Tracy. THE CHRISTMAS STORY, illustrated by Carl Moore. Zondervan, 1998. ISBN 0-310-97585-9. HBB, \$6.99, 18 pages. Part of the Peek-a-Bible series with flaps that lift, it tells the story of Jesus' birth. An interactive storybook for children six and under that includes cartoon-style characters.

10. Hoffman, Patricia A. IN BETHLEHEM TOWN, illustrated by Nancy Munger. Concordia, 1999. ISBN 0-570-05564-4. HBB, \$10.99, 24 pages. Part of the new Undercover Bible Story series for ages four to seven, the book features a puzzle and Bible storybook in one. Children take apart the puzzle as the story unfolds and find another picture underneath. Then they can assemble the puzzle and start over.

11. A KING IS BORN illustrated by Ben Mahan. Standard, 1996. ISBN 0-7847-0563-1. HBB, \$7.99, 10 pages. This sturdy board book with bright illustrations and cutout pages will appeal to preschoolers. The story, told simply and briefly, includes the angel's visit to Mary, the trip to Bethlehem, Jesus' birth in the stable, the angel's message to the shepherds, and the shepherds' worship of Jesus.

12. Kramlich, Carolyn Walz. MARY'S TREASURE BOX, illustrated by Walter Porter. Thomas Nelson, 1998. ISBN 0-8499-5834-2. HBB, \$12.99, 32 pages. Mary's wooden treasure box, built by Jesus, contains special objects related to his life. When her granddaughter visits, Mary shares precious memories of Jesus and lessons from items in the box. A dear story for children and families that includes realistic illustrations.

13. Lucado, Max. THE CRIPPLED LAMB, illustrated by Liz Bonham. Word, 1994. ISBN 0-8499-1005-6. HBB, \$14.99, 32 pages. Although crippled, Joshua the lamb learns God has a special purpose for him. He witnesses the birth of Jesus and gives him a needed gift. This precious story can be enjoyed all year and is suitable for children four to eight. Also available: 5th anniversary edition which includes a CD with the story and songs.

14. Lucado, Max. JACOB'S GIFT, illustrated by Robert Hunt. Thomas Nelson, 1998. ISBN 0-8499-5830-X. HBB, \$14.99 32 pages. Jacob has a special woodworking talent and learns a valuable lesson when he shares the feed trough he builds with a new baby. An endearing story for children and the family enhanced by realistic illustrations.

15. Maier, Paul L. THE VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS. Concordia, 1998. ISBN 0-

570-05064-2. HBB, \$14.99, 32 pages. Eight-year-old Christopher thinks he's too old for fairy tales, so his mother reads him the Christmas story from the Bible. This stimulates challenging questions and a wonderful mother-son discussion. Suitable for ages five to ten and written at the third-grade reading level, this 1999 Gold Medallion winner in the elementary children's category includes rich color illustrations by Francisco Ordaz.

16. Osborn, Susan Titus and Christine Tangvald. CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS!, illustrated by Jodie McCallum. Standard, 1996. ISBN 0-7847-0356-6. PAP, \$4.99, 28 pages. This fun, educational book includes bright illustrations and tells of Christmas customs from Saudi Arabia, Norway, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Hawaii, France, Africa, Mexico, Russia, and China. Suitable for children three to eight, it includes directions to make Mexican pinatas, Norwegian rice pudding, nativity figures from France, and paper chains from Sri Lanka.

17. SING-ALONG CHRISTMAS SONGS, illustrated by Laura Gibbons Nikiel. Zondervan, 1999. ISBN 0310-978637. HBB, \$12.99, 22 pages. This large-format book features ten Christmas carols with sound chips for each carol. A unique way to teach Bible-based songs to children two to six, it includes bright illustrations and lyrics to familiar carols such as "Silent Night," "Joy to the World," and "We Three Kings."

18. Tangvald, Christine Harder. JUST LOOK IN THE STABLE, illustrated by Jenny Williams. Concordia, 1999. ISBN 0-570-07559-9. PAP, \$1.99, 16 pages. The bouncy rhythm, rhyming verse, and detailed illustrations in this new Arch Book will delight children ages five to nine. It shares the angels' message to the shepherds and their visit to the stable, inviting readers to look in the stable to see God's gift of love in Jesus.

19. 2000 YEARS SINCE THEN. Concordia, 1999. ISBN 0-570-05566-2. HBB, \$6.99, 22 pages. Children ages four to seven can mark the millennium with this die-cut, accordian-fold board book. Written in bouncy, lyrical verse, it takes readers on a

tour of Jesus' life from his birth and earthly ministry to his resurrection and ascension. This novelty book can be set up as a standing birthday cake that reads, "Happy Birthday, Jesus."

Children two to five will enjoy the following six mini-board books for under a dollar, 10 pages each and published by Concordia in 1999: MARY'S HOUSE, THE BETHLEHEM INN, A BORROWED STABLE, SHEPHERDS' FIELDS, WISE MEN'S PALACE, and HEROD'S PALACE. Each book tells a portion of the Christmas story from Luke or Matthew.

Lydia E. Harris, M.A., is a freelance writer involved in prayer ministry in her church, community, and Moms In Touch International. She writes for numerous publications including THE STANDARD, CELEBRATE LIFE, AND REJOICE! and lives in Seattle, Washington.

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The Third Quest for the Historical Jesus

by Dennis Ingolfsland

A virtual flood of information about Jesus has been produced in the last ten years: articles, TV programs, video teleconferences, lectures, debates and books. The wide variety of opinions presented may make it difficult for librarians to make effective selection decisions in this area. The purpose of this article is to provide librarians with some background for making such book purchasing decisions.

For well over 1000 years people who believed in Jesus generally accepted the picture of Jesus presented in the four Gospels. This began to change abruptly in 1778 with the posthumous publication of the "Wolfenbüttele Fragments" written by Harmann Samuel Reimarus (1694-1769). Reimarus attacked the Gospels' view of Jesus by arguing, among other things, that Jesus' miracles and resurrection never happened.

Reimarus was followed by H.E.G. Paulus (1761-1851), David Strauss (1808-1874), William Wrede (1859-1906), and others who all agreed that the Gospels could not be accurate portrayals of the life of Jesus. Having dismissed the evidence, each writer then sought to inform the reader as to what the historical Jesus was really like. This "Quest for the Historical Jesus," or "Old

Quest" as it came to be called, ended with the work of Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965) who argued that scholars had not discovered the historical Jesus at all, but had simply constructed a picture of Jesus in their own image.

The "Old Quest" was followed by a short time of extreme skepticism, sometimes called the period of "no quest." Rudolf Bultmann (1884-1976) summed up the feelings of many scholars during the time of no quest when he wrote that we could know almost nothing about the Jesus of history.

In 1953 the German scholar Ernst Kasemann challenged the extreme skepticism of Bultmann when he asserted that something of the historical Jesus could be recovered by critically analyzing the Biblical text to discover the authentic words of Jesus. Kasemann was followed by Gunther Bornkamm, Ernst Fuchs, James Robinson and others in seeking to learn more about Jesus from critical analysis of the Gospels and existential application of Jesus' words. This period, from 1953 through about 1980 has come to be called the "New Quest for the Historical Jesus." Scholars differ as to when or if the New Quest ended, but when existential philosophy was no longer in vogue, the New Quest seemed to fizzle as well.

Since the 1980's, the historical study of Jesus has been called the Third Quest for the Historical Jesus. Third Quest scholars are a widely diverse group. Opinions range from those of John Dominic Crossan and Elizabeth Schussler Fiorenza who are very skeptical about the reliability of the Gospels, to scholars like Craig Blomberg and Robert Stein who are convinced that the Gospels are highly reliable. Third Quest opinions about Jesus are also diverse, ranging from Cynic Sage, religious reformer, political revolutionary, exorcist/miracle worker, to embodiment of God. About the only thing common to most Third Quest scholars is a serious commitment to study Jesus from a genuinely historical perspective.

Particularly important non-evangelical authors in the Third Quest include: E.P.

Sanders, Geza Vermes, Sean Freyne, Gerd Theissen, Richard Horsley, John Meier, Marcus Borg, James Charlesworth, Raymond Brown. Prominent evangelical authors include: Ben Witherington, N.T. Wright, Craig Blomberg, Marcus Bockmuehl, Robert Stein, Graham Twelftree, James Dunn and Darrell Bock.

Of particular interest is the public relations campaign of the Jesus Seminar, led primarily by Robert Funk and John Dominic Crossan. The Jesus Seminar is a group of mostly radical left wing New Testament scholars formed in 1985 to discuss and vote, by casting colored beads, on whether Jesus actually said and did the things attributed to him by the gospels. Their work, which was extremely skeptical, has been strongly attacked by both evangelicals and non-evangelical scholars alike. Unfortunately, the public is often misled to believe that the Jesus Seminar views represent those of most scholars.

As part of the research for my doctoral dissertation, I recently polled some of the nation's top evangelical and non-evangelical Jesus scholars about the most significant college level books on Jesus published in the last ten years. Below is an annotated bibliography of the top six books in both categories.

EVANGELICAL BOOKS:

Blomberg, Craig. *Jesus and the Gospels*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1997. (ISBN 0805410589).

Jesus and the Gospels provides a comprehensive overview of issues surrounding the study of the historical Jesus. It includes discussion of historical background, critical and literary analysis, analysis of each Gospel, discussion of the trustworthiness of the Gospels and an overview of Jesus' life as a whole. The book is an outstanding introduction to Jesus studies.

Green, Joel B. and Scott McKnight. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1992 (ISBN 0830817778).

The *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* is an alphabetical arrangement of articles on a wide range of topics related to the study of Jesus. The book includes articles on the birth, death, ethics, temptation, trial and resurrection of Jesus as well

as other related subjects such as archaeology, form and redaction criticism, the Herodian dynasty, etc. The contributors include some of the foremost evangelical scholars in the world today.

Harris, Murray J. *Jesus as God*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992, 1998 (ISBN 0801021952).

Jesus as God is a scholarly analysis of New Testament passages that directly attribute deity to Jesus. Harris examines each passage in the original Greek, discussing both grammatical and textual issues. He analyzes the arguments on all sides of the issue in a thorough, logical and objective manner. *Jesus as God* is an outstanding piece of scholarship but unfortunately, only those with a knowledge of Greek will benefit fully from the book.

Wilkins, Michael J. and J.P. Moreland. *Jesus Under Fire*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995 (ISBN 0310617006).

Jesus Under Fire is a collection of essays providing a basic overview of the current debate on Jesus. The book provides a critique of the Jesus Seminar's attacks on the traditional view of Jesus, discusses Jesus' words, actions, miracles, resurrection and historical evidence for Jesus outside the New Testament. The articles were written by some of the most prominent authors in evangelicalism including Craig Blomberg, Darrell Bock, Gary Habermas, Craig Evans and William Lane Craig.

Witherington, Ben. *The Christology of Jesus*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990.

Witherington is one of the top evangelical Jesus scholars in America. *The Christology of Jesus* argues that Jesus was a prophet, healer, exorcist and sage who saw himself as the embodiment of the wisdom of God. *The Christology of Jesus* is one of the foremost scholarly evangelical contributions to the Third Quest for the historical Jesus.

Wright, N.T. *Jesus and the Victory of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996. (ISBN 0800626826).

Jesus and the Victory of God provides a historical introduction to the field of Jesus studies and a devastating critique of the Jesus Seminar. Wright provides a detailed and painstaking reconstruction of Jesus in his historical, cultural and religious background. According to Wright, Jesus was a prophet, healer, and exorcist who thought of his vocation as embodying the returning and redeeming action of God.

Although Wright's book is somewhat controversial, it may be one of the best contributions to the study of the historical Jesus ever produced.

NON-EVANGELICAL BOOKS:

Borg, Marcus. *Jesus in Contemporary Scholarship*. Valley Forge, PA :Trinity Press International, 1994.

Jesus in Contemporary Scholarship reviews several contemporary books on the historical Jesus, discusses Jesus' eschatology and politics, and analyzes the worldview framework through which people see history. Borg concludes with a section on the church in which he rejects "believing the Christian story" and emphasizes "living within the Christian story." Borg doesn't explain why people should live within a story they no longer believe.

Crossan, John Dominic. *The Historical Jesus*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1991 (ISBN 0060616075).

The Historical Jesus provides the historical background and methodology for studying Jesus historically. Crossan's methodology involves dividing the sources for Jesus' life into "strata" according to date, and counting the number of independent sources attesting to a particular event or saying. While sounding good in theory, Crossan's arbitrary dating methods and his controversial use of hypothetical documents seriously undermines his case. Crossan's views Jesus as a Cynic sage who proclaimed an egalitarian kingdom. While Crossan's work has received wide recognition, his methodology has been strongly criticized by evangelical and non-evangelical scholars alike.

Fiorenza, Elizabeth Schussler. *Jesus: Miriam's Child; Sophia's Prophet*.

Jesus: Miriam's Child; Sophia's Prophet is a further expansion on the ideas in Fiorenza's earlier book *In Memory of Her*. In these books Fiorenza provides a feminist perspective arguing that the New Testament is strongly biased against women (this in spite of the numerous pro-women statements Fiorenza finds therein) and therefore must be re-interpreted to discover women's true place in early Christianity. Fiorenza views Jesus as a prophet of Sophia or God, who led a renewal movement which involved an egalitarian "discipleship of equals" in opposition to the dominant patriarchal ideas of his time.

Funk, Robert. *Honest to Jesus*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1996 (ISBN 0060627581).

In *Honest to Jesus* Funk thoroughly attacks the traditional view of Jesus and the New Testament. Funk's views are summarized in twenty-one theses in which he states that his aim is to set Jesus free from Scriptural and creedal prisons; to view Jesus as a subversive and irreverent sage; to stop making Jesus the object of faith; to demote Jesus from the divine Son of God; to abandon the idea of blood atonement and to view the New Testament as a record of very biased attempts to invent Christianity.

Funk, Robert and Roy Hoover, eds. *The Five Gospels*. New York: Macmillan, 1993 (ISBN 0025419498).

The Five Gospels is a presentation of the results of the Jesus Seminar meetings. The book examines the sayings of Jesus and color-codes the canonical gospels and the Gospel of Thomas according to the consensus of these votes. The work of the Jesus Seminar has been strongly criticized by both evangelicals and non-evangelicals alike.

Meier, John P. *A Marginal Jew*. New York: Doubleday, 1991.

Meier's two-volume work, *A Marginal Jew*, is one of the most thorough and exhaustive studies on Jesus ever published. Volume one provides a detailed analysis of the sources for Jesus' life and an overview of the language, status, and family life of Jesus. Volume two uses standard historical criteria to provide a nearly exhaustive analysis of Jesus' miracles, exorcisms and healings. Meier concludes that many of the events recorded in the gospels were not creations of the early church as many non-evangelicals believe, but actually go back to events in the life of Jesus. Meier's work is one of the most significant non-evangelical works in the third quest for the historical Jesus.

Dennis Ingolfsland is college librarian at Bryant College, Dayton, Tennessee.

Our readers ask:

What about Harry Potter?

by Sylvia Stopforth, YA Fiction Editor

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, by J.K. Rowling. Scholastic, 1998.

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, by J.K. Rowling. Scholastic, 1998.

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, by J.K. Rowling. Scholastic, 1999.

It seems everyone is talking about Harry Potter these days. Children clamour for these titles, and then post glowing reviews on amazon.com; parents line up outside bookstores in the wee hours of the morning in anticipation of the latest release in this series by J.K. Rowling. On the other hand, according to a column in *Newsweek*, parents in five states want these best sellers pulled off school library shelves.¹

What's all the fuss about? For a start, author J.K. Rowling spins a fine tale—familiar, yet engagingly original. Harry Potter is an orphan. As is the case with most paper-and-ink orphans, he is at the mercy of nasty, unimaginative, and completely unsympathetic characters... specifically, the Dursleys, his aunt, uncle, and cousin, who live at 4 Privet Drive, Little Whinging.

Life seems unbearable for the bright eleven-year-old, who lives in a cupboard beneath the stairs, until the day he learns that he is, in fact, a wizard. On top of that, he finds he is to begin his formal schooling in all things wizardly at Hogwarts, an ancient school for wizards and witches, which exists cheek-by-jowl with the world of the Muggles (average, everyday non-magical types), unbeknownst to the latter.

Getting there is tricky for the uninitiated, but Harry manages and, feeling rather nervous, joins the crowd of other first year students. He is assigned to Gryffindor house, where he quickly finds two true friends—the studious Hermione and the loyal Ron—and discovers he has some hidden talents, as well as dangerous enemies.

And so, as in all proper fantasies, the scene is set for the battle between good and evil. Throw in some spirited Quidditch matches (a complicated game played on broomsticks), a bully or two, and some boarding-school hijinks, and the scene is set for a book children clamour for, and parents line up to buy.

But there are those who have some concerns about these titles. For one thing, Rowling's stories do contain frightening villains. To be fair,

they are clearly identified as such, and the author makes it very clear whose side she is on. She does not glamorize evil, and she ensures (in the first three books, at any rate) that good wins out in the end. In other words, there are spine-tingling moments aplenty, but definitely no goosebump!

Another sticking point may be the use of the term "witch" to describe female students and teachers at Hogwarts. In generally accepted fantasy jargon, this word is used to designate characters associated with evil and black magic. But in Rowling's world there is only one magic, which (depending on the character and motivation of those who wield it) can be used for good or evil. In this sense, the underlying philosophy has more in common with Star Wars, in which the "Force" is used to further the cause of right but is also corrupted or tapped to serve the dark side, than with the Judeo-Christian worldview which sees God as the source of all that is good and incorruptible. Good and evil do exist in Harry's world, but there is no reference to an ultimate source of either.

Returning to the "witch" reference, however, do keep in mind such exceptions as the Good Witch in *The Wizard of Oz*. Also keep in mind the fact that when children read fantasy, they are most adept in their ability to ferret out the rules of a particular world and then to view characters and events accordingly. As long as the author is consistent and clear, there is little room for misinterpretation or confusion.

It would be difficult to fault the series based on its magical context without condemning some of the best-loved classics of children's literature. But what about the course list at Hogwarts? Students are required to take such classes as Potions, Defence Against the Dark Arts, and—in third year—Divination. For the most part, these classes simply provide an opportunity for Rowling to inject humor and wit into her books, and to make her protagonist's problem-solving abilities more believable as they acquire new skills.

But there is a somewhat disturbing moment near the end of book three when the Divination teacher falls into a trance and speaks in a voice that is not her own. All I can offer here is that Harry himself finds this episode disturbing; what's more, throughout the balance of the book, the Divination teacher's crackpot prophecies are depicted as ridiculous and facile.

Finally, some concerned readers take issue with the occasional occurrences of violence in these books. They are all integral to the action-packed plot, however, and are neither gratuitous nor overly-detailed.

Reviewer Lee Siegel puts it like this: "Harry and his friends... are good kids, but they are not innocent... They usually do the right thing, and they always feel bad when they do the wrong thing." Siegel continues, "Rowling's complicated violence has a functional purpose too. It draws in children who might otherwise be won away by empty fantasies of violence."²

All in all, the Harry Potter books are a good read, capable of maintaining the interest of children and adults alike for 300+ pages. The author speaks to such important themes as believing in oneself, finding one's true identity, and being loyal to friends.

That said, comparisons with such works as *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* or *Alice in Wonderland*³ are a tad over-ambitious. Rowling delivers a fast-paced plot, likeable, well-rounded protagonists, and a generous dollop of humour, but I somehow doubt that university students will be analyzing her novels decades from now. Fialkoff sums it up well for readers of the *Library Journal*; "Harry Potter may not be great literature, but it's certainly great escapism."⁴

A word to the wise: Rowling has suggested that her seven-part series may become darker as Harry grows older, so it would be wise to keep an eye on developments. As always, there is no substitute for the guidance of caring and informed parents, teachers, and librarians.

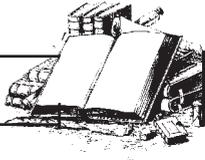
¹ "Hurry, Harry!" by Paul O'Donnell et al. *Newsweek* (11/01/99) v. 134, n. 18, p. 6.

² "Fear of Not Flying," by Lee Siegel. *New Republic* (11.22.99) v. 221, n. 21, pp. 40-45.

³ "Wild About Harry," by Paul Gray. *Time - Canadian Edition* (9/20/99) v. 154, n. 12 pp. 47-52.

⁴ "Potter for Parents," by Francine Fialkoff. *Library Journal* (10/14/99) v. 124, n. 17, p. 60.

Sylvia Stopforth is a librarian at Trinity Western University in British Columbia, Canada, and is also Young Adult Fiction Editor for CLJ.



A Word from the Editor: Eileen Zygarlicke

A BOY NAMED JASON

Of all the students who influenced me and impacted my life, one boy truly opened my eyes to the importance of children’s literature.

The day he shuffled into my classroom I knew there was something special about Jason. His tousled, chocolate-colored hair and freckled face endeared me to him immediately. While the others in the class jabbered incessantly, Jason remained quiet, eyes fixed on his desktop. I came to understand why Jason seemed different from the rest. It was because he felt different from the rest. Although smart, Jason was a poor reader, which affected his performance in school. I set out to change that.

The world of books gives children like Jason the chance to succeed by offering them a respite from their world of social isolation. Instead of being the object of ridicule or teasing, these children can immerse themselves in the swashbuckling adventures of Treasure Island, the mysteries of the

Trixie Beldon, or the love for an animal as in My Friend Flicka. They can take time out from their world and get caught up in another-one where they can become the heroes of the story rather than the person on the outside looking in.

Instead of watching our young people turn to the slash and gash YA and children’s novels, we need to nurture in them discerning tastes as to what is and is not appropriate to read and why. Guides such as CLJ help in the selection process.

Books become friends through the ages, even formula books like Nancy Drew. Even today I look back fondly to the times I spent as a child transported to another time and place through the characters and settings of the books I read. A chance meeting with a former student reinforced this idea. She didn’t talk so much about the class itself but rather the novels we digested and grew to love as a class.

As children gain confidence in their reading abilities, they also gain confidence in their

real lives as I learned with Jason. Many an afternoon, he and I discussed the latest adventure he experienced through the written word. The change in Jason, though gradual, was dramatic. As he conquered his deficiencies and grew to love to read rather than abhor it, he no longer shuffled around. In fact, he joined in the jabbering with the masses flowing through the hallways of the school. Jason no longer looked down at his desk; instead, he looked up, waiting for his next reading adventure to begin.

There really is no greater satisfaction than taking a self-conscious boy and, with the help of books, transforming him into one with confidence. Be on the lookout for the Jasons in your area. You never know where a good book will take them.

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
- 4 Good—well written; strong recommendation
- 3 Average -readers will enjoy
- 2 Fair—can recommend, but not as well written
- 1 Poor—cannot recommend

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

★ Outstanding Book of Its Genre

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

Little Lions, by Jim Arnosky. LCCN 9649837. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers, 1998. ISBN 0399229442, HBB, \$15.99.

E. Pumas--Fiction; Animals--Infancy--Fiction. 30 p. K - Gr. 4.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Jim Arnosky, author/illustrator of over a dozen nature books, released his newest work, *Little Lions*. Each page showcases his fine art skills. Using fluid browns, yellows, and golds, he contrasts small lion cubs sitting between mother lion's large paws while all three are perched on a sunny ledge with Monarch butterflies flitting across a mountain desert backdrop. The large, simple text describes the antics of little lions, hinting at skills they'll need to learn for survival.

Little Lions is a pleasure to read aloud. Arnosky's playful and loving images between mother and cubs make for a warm-and-fuzzy book best for sharing from adult to child on a lap or in a classroom.

"But now they're only kittens, on a sunny mountain step...playing, purring, meowing, with mother always near."

Kimm Swenson Gollnick, Freelance Writer, Homeschool Mother, Marysville, WA

The Lost Lamb, written by Melody Carlson; illustrated by Steve Björkman. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1999. ISBN 1581340729, HBB, \$10.99.

E. Lambs--Fiction; Shepherds--Fiction; Parables--Fiction. 40 p. PS - Gr. 4.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

The shepherd looks out over his flock, and notices the setting of the sun. He leads his flock home, while constantly encouraging his flock to not tarry. There are one hundred sheep, and he knows all of their names, "from lamb to ewe." The names given to the lambs are whimsical, and yet familiar with the children of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

As he finishes counting he realizes that one of his lambs is missing. Making sure the other ninety-nine are safely tucked in at the farm, the shepherd leaves to search for the missing lamb. Great distances he travels in search of his lost lamb, calling out the lamb's name. Finally, the lamb is found, and the shepherd rejoices. He comforts the lamb, and carries him home. The shepherd admits to being tired from his search, but reassures the lamb of his joy in finding the lost one. Once back at the farm, the shepherd involves all the sheep in a celebration of the lost sheep that was found.

The Lost Lamb is a charming and delightful book by Melody Carlson, and reads like a worship song. Your heart will sing, your spirit will soar, and your faith will be refreshed. The music of the words mixed with the frivolity of the watercolor illustrations will be appreciated

and enjoyed by all ages. The durability of the library binding adds to the book's appeal.

Debby Willett, Teacher, Home School Parent, Canyon, TX

It's My Birthday, Too! written by Lynne Jonell; illustrated by Petra Mathers. LCCN 9749635. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, Penguin Putnam, 1999. ISBN 0399233237, HBB, \$12.99.

E. Brothers--Fiction; Parties--Fiction; Birthdays--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction. 24 p. PS - Gr. 2.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Robbie wants to do everything his big brother Christopher does. As Christopher's birthday approaches, Robbie begs to share in the fun. Although Robbie promises he won't spoil Christopher's big day like he did last year, his elder sibling remains skeptical. Robbie decides he won't be the little brother any longer, he'll be a dog! Christopher likes the idea, saying he would rather have a puppy than a brother anyway.

Quickly seeing a way to win his big brother's heart, Robbie plays the role of puppy to a tee. He follows commands and does tricks. He even chews on shoelaces and drools, much to the delight of the party guests. During the singing of "Happy Birthday," Robbie howls along. All of Christopher's friends wish they had a puppy too. But Christopher comes to realize that, "Puppies are nothing but trouble. I'd rather have a brother." Robbie grins from ear-to-ear.

It's My Birthday, Too! provides an amusing context for illustrator Petra Mathers's child-like, stick drawings. The characters created by author Lynne Jonell are full of expression, exhibiting true-to-life interactions. Small children are delighted with the plot and see the inherent sweetness in this simple tale.

John T. Perrodin, Attorney, Editor, Homeschool Father, Colorado Springs, CO

The Cat Barked? by Lydia Monks. LCCN 9810134. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, Penguin Putnam, 1999. ISBN 0803723385, HBB, \$13.99.

E. Cats--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction; Self-acceptance--Fiction; Stories in rhyme. 24 p. PS - Gr. 2.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

"I wish I were a dog," says the orange-colored cat. Dogs go to parks and bark. They guard houses and catch crooks. But a young girl with heart shaped lips points out to the cat all the things dogs have to do that are not pleasant. They have to eat bones and do tricks. Certainly the cat enjoys catching its own supper and seeing in the dark. By the end of the book, the cat is pleased with his lot.

Author Lydia Monks has created her first picture book, and it explodes with color. Through painting and collage, *The Cat Barked* demands attention. Young readers, teachers, and parents

will delight in the expressive shapes and details. The quality of line is excellent; the palette is intense. This book offers images that are fresh and new. The engaging cover invites readers to discover what lies between the pages.

The message of *The Cat Barked* is clear. We are all different with positive and negative aspects in our lives.

Lorie Ann Grover, Freelance Writer/Illustrator, Sumner, WA

Ice Cream Larry, by Daniel Pinkwater; illustrated by Jill Pinkwater. LCCN 988832. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Cavendish Children's Books, Marshall Cavendish, 1999. ISBN 0761450432, HBB, \$15.95.

E. Polar bear--Fiction; Bears--Fiction; Ice cream, ices, etc.--Fiction; Humorous stories. 32 p. PS - Gr. 2.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Larry is a polar bear who lives in a hotel along with his very good friend Mildred. One day a Larry leaves the hotel and becomes quite hot, so he asks the local ice cream store owner if he could cool off in her freezer. Unfortunately, while in the freezer Larry gets hungry and he eats 250 pounds of ice cream. Even though Larry has eaten all this ice cream he says, "I do not feel sick." The ice cream store owner is very upset with Larry and demands that Mildred's dad pay for all the ice cream that was eaten. Mildred takes Larry home and the famous Mr. Berg of the Iceberg Ice Cream Company comes to visit Larry. Mr. Berg wants Larry to be his mascot and so Larry travels to Baltimore, Maryland, to see the ice cream company. The ice cream company creates Larry Bars that include Larry's picture on all the wrappers. The Larry Bars, even in the gourmet—codfish—flavor, become a treat for all. Happily Larry is paid, not with money, but with Larry Bars.

Daniel Pinkwater's Larry first appeared in Hotel Larry, which children will want to read so they will know why Larry lives in a hotel. *Ice Cream Larry* will delight readers with its humor and humorous illustrations.

Connie J. Weaver, Church Librarian, Newville, PA

Uncle Phil's Diner, by Helena Clare Pittman. LCCN 9644326. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda, Lerner Publications, 1998. ISBN 1575050838, HBB, \$14.95.

E. Fathers and daughters--Fiction; Winter--Fiction; Diners--Fiction. 31 p. PS - Gr. 3.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

"Think warm, Ruthie," Pappa tells her on their journey to Uncle Phil's Diner, braving the bitter cold of an early morning snow. Their journey to Uncle Phil's Diner serves as a backdrop to a series of snapshots from Ruthie's memories.

Ruthie begins by remembering the hot summer day she spent helping her Aunt Ida preserve blueberries. "Think warm, Ruthie." Again Pappa reminds her. Ruthie and her Pappa play

games along the way to keep themselves warm.

Just thinking of the pancake breakfast that awaits them, Ruthie and her Pappa continue on their cold morning journey. At one point Pappa speaks of the cold, and Ruthie has the opportunity to remind him to "Just think warm."

Ruthie and her Pappa finally reach Uncle Phil's Diner and are rewarded with the delicious sights and smells of Uncle Phil's cooking. The word imagery is rich, from 'blue morning shadows', 'to white mountains line the sidewalk.' Pittman has included a copy of Uncle Phil's Blueberry Pancakes, just in case the reader can't resist.

The book is laid out like a photo album, complete with corner-keepers for the illustrations. The story is easy to read, and the illustrations are beautifully drawn.

Debby Willett, *Teacher, Home School Parent, Canyon, TX*

***The American Wei*, by Marion Hess Pomeranc; illustrated by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan. LCCN 9718202. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 1998. ISBN 0807503126, HBB, \$15.95.**

E. Naturalization--Fiction; Emigration and immigration--Fiction; Chinese Americans--Fiction; Tooth fairy--Fiction. 30 p. PS - Gr. 1.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Wei is excited. Today he and his family are going to become citizens of the United States. Wei has a very wobbly tooth, which comes out on the way to the ceremonies and is lost. People of many nationalities help look for the tooth before rushing to the ceremony.

Author Marion Hess Pomeranc takes an experience common to all children, losing a tooth, and uses it to teach about naturalization. *The American Wei*, which opens with a one-page explanation of naturalization process, delivers an interesting story-line. Color illustrations by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan breathe life into the characters and make the book one children will enjoy looking at on their own or with a parent.

Children who have gone through the naturalization process or those who have lost a tooth will enjoy *The American Wei*.

Jane Mouttet, *Missionary School Librarian, Window Rock, AZ*

***Dónde Está Jesús (Pascua de Resurrección)*. ISBN 0570099285.**

***(Where is Jesus? (Easter))*, by Mary Manz Simon. (Listen to Me Read)**

E. Bible stories--N.T.; Jesus Christ--Resurrection. 18 p.

***Oh! Oh! (Jonás y el Pez)*. ISBN 0570099358, PAP.**

(Oh! Oh! (Jonah and the Fish.))

E. Bible stories--O.T.; Jonah (Biblical prophet). 18 p. PS - Gr. 1.

Por Mary Manz Simon. Editorial Concordia. (Concordia Publishing) ((Oyeme Leer.) . (Listen to Me Read.))

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Estos libros son magníficos para los niños porque están llenos de colores y tienen menos de treinta y dos palabras fáciles. Los cuentos son de la Biblia y son interesantes. Los colores son vibrantes y los dibujos son buenos. Yo se los leo a mi nieta a veces y a ella le gustan. Hay muchos cuentos en la serie y los recomiendo porque son buenos tienen en su casa.

These books are magnificent for the children because they are filled with color and have less than thirty-two easy words. The stories are from the Bible and are very interesting. The colors are vibrant and the drawings are good. I read them to my granddaughter at times and she likes them. There are many stories in the series and I recommend them because they are good to have around your house.

Bianca Elliott, *Teacher, Linwood, KS*

***Stella and Roy Go Camping*, by Ashley Wolff. LCCN 9845244. New York: Dutton Children's Books, Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers, 1998. ISBN 0525458646, HBB, \$15.99.**

E. Bears--Fiction; Animal tracks--Fiction; Camping--Fiction. 38 p. PS - Gr. 2.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

In author/illustrator Ashley Wolff's *Stella and Roy Go Camping*, a sequel to *Stella and Roy*, the bantering siblings are on a camping trip and searching for animal tracks. Stella has learned to read and carries an animal identification track book. While Roy spots the tracks, Stella identifies the animals.

"Look, Stella, baby bear tracks!" shouts Roy.

"Sorry, Roy," says Stella. And so goes the hike all the way up to Lone Pine Lake. It's not until night, when everyone else is asleep, that Roy sees a bear. In the morning, the bear tracks even convince big sister, Stella.

While Stella and Roy spot tracks, the reader has fun spotting the animals hiding in the spreads. Certain animals follow the characters throughout the book. Wolff's painted prints are rich in color with pleasing layouts and compositions. Further animal information is provided at the close without being overwhelming.

Lorie Ann Grover, *Freelance Writer/Illustrator, Sumner, WA*

***King Longshanks*, by Jane Yolen; illustrated by Victoria Chess. LCCN 9448359. San Diego: Harcourt, 1998. ISBN 0152000135, HBB, \$15.00.**

E. Fairy tales; Frogs--Fiction. 29 p. K - Gr. 3.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

King Long Shanks is a frog who is royally pleased with himself. His handsome legs and fine coloring are admired by all. Eager to impress, he hires two visiting tailors to make him an outfit for the upcoming summer parade. Their special cloth, the tailors claim, can only be seen by people who are true, good, honest, smart, and loyal. This claim, of course, is false, but as the invisible cloth is sewn, no one dares say anything. However, when King Long Shanks proudly parades through town wearing nothing, a bold tadpole speaks up and the whole town grins, giggles, and guffaws. The loyal queen saves the day by quietly tearing her own gown and covering her husband with it.

Jane Yolen adds her own humor and flair to this unique retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Emperor's New Clothes". The flattering tailors are poets. The eccentric king zaps bugs with his tongue when he doesn't know what to say. Full pages of text alternate with colorful pictures of kingdom life. Illustrator Victoria Chess' watercolor, colored pencil, and ink drawings complement the text and add to the fun.

Destined to elicit enchanted smiles from listening children, *King Long Shanks* is an entertaining read-aloud choice for primary children. For preschoolers, the humorous pictures hold interest, yet the detailed text may be overwhelming. This book will appeal to children transitioning into chapter books, as they can read longer passages, but still take pleasure in fanciful illustrations.

Karen Brehmer, *Teacher, Silverdale, WA*



CHRISTIAN PERIODICAL Index

- ❖ **Over 90
Titles** Index covers a
broad spectrum
- ❖ **Begun in
1956** of knowledge
from an
- ❖ **Published
Three
Times
a Year** evangelical
Christian
perspective.

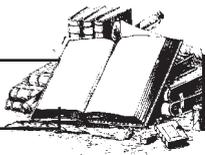


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Search for a Fawn, by Esther Bender; illustrated by Edna Bender. LCCN 9822275. Scottsdale, Pa.: Herald Press, 1998. ISBN 0836190998, PBB, \$8.99.

F. Brothers--Fiction; Stepfamilies--Fiction; Grandmothers--Fiction; Deer--Fiction. 30 p. Gr. 2 - 5.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Brothers Copper and Skeet and stepbrother Tucker go for a two week visit to their grandmother's farm. While visiting they decide to search for the rare albino fawn that has been spotted around the countryside. The search provides many adventures, including overnight campouts, a "ghost" sighting, and a night spent in a shed while a violent storm rages outside. The search and its adventures help Copper to both deal with his grandfather's death and begin to accept his stepbrother as part of the family.

Search for a Fawn by Esther Bender is a story about acceptance. Although Copper struggles to accept the loss of his grandfather and the addition of a brother, ultimately he is able to come to terms with both. Unfortunately, how he achieves this is unclear and the reader is left wondering exactly what brought about the change. Also, a fuller plot and less description would make this a more exciting and interesting story. Illustrator Edna Bender's depictions of farm life are lovely and help greatly in bringing the story to life.

Kerri A. Cunningham, Librarian, Camano Island, WA

Disappearing Acts, by Betsy Byars. (A Herculean Jones Mystery.) LCCN 9729434. New York: Viking, Penguin Putnam, 1998. ISBN 0670877352, HBB, \$14.99.

F. Fathers and sons--Fiction; Mystery fiction. 120 p. Gr. 5 - 9.

Quality—4 Acceptability—3

Herculeah Jones is an amateur detective who seems to find more than her share of mysteries and dead bodies. Her rather squeamish sidekick, Meat McMannis, loves a mystery, too, but when he finds his own mysterious dead body in the Funny Bonz restroom, it's anything but funny. When the body disappears, Herculeah and Meat are on the case. The plot thickens as the pair begins their search for Marcie Mullet, the woman whose wallet was found near the crime scene.

Herculeah herself is also knee-deep into another

mystery which involves Meat's father, a man who left his family several years ago. Her sleuthing uncovers his identity, but she wonders if Meat can handle the truth she's found.

Bringing suspense and thrill together works well for the author Betsy Byars. *Disappearing Acts* is a fast-paced book which gives reality a real go for the money. Unfortunately, some of the tactics used to gain this realism borders heavily on the seedier things of life. There are sexual undertones in this book, including inappropriate responses and jokes about bra sizes and breasts, that are offensive. Overall, the book is well written, but the content demands caution.

Beth Loughner, Freelance Writer, Registered Nurse, Columbus, OH

Heart to Heart, by Sandra Byrd. (Secret Sisters; 1.) Colorado Springs: Waterbrook Press, 1998. ISBN 1578560152, PAP, \$5.95.

F. Friendship--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 106 p. Gr. 4 - 6.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

After a friendless and lonely first year at Coronado Elementary School, Tess Thomas is looking forward to sixth grade. Over the summer she has made a friend; popular Colleen has even called her "best friend." When they are placed in different sixth grade classes, Colleen renews former friendships, forming a club with the popular girls. Tess begins to doubt whether their friendship can last. Colleen reassures her that everything is okay but asks Tess to complete an initiation prank to prove her loyalty to the others in the club. After Tess fails the two chances she has been given, she becomes the target of ridicule. Devastated, she questions her beliefs and wonders what is right. As she faces each challenge, she discovers what is important to her and what true friendship is all about.

With short, easy to read chapters, *Heart to Heart* is appealing for the reader reluctant to commit to larger novels. Author Sandra Byrd tenderly addresses issues relevant to any preteen, especially the choices one must make in relationships between peers, teachers, and parents. Tess begins to explore what she has heard about God, giving the reader a glimpse of a new relationship to come in future books of the series. For a child who enjoys books in the Babysitter's Club series, this book offers a fresh alternative.

Karen Brehmer, Teacher, Silverdale, WA

The White Pony : A Tale of Great Love, by Sandra Byrd; paintings by Sarah Waldron. Colorado Springs: Waterbrook, 1999. ISBN 1578561922, HBB, \$14.95.

F. Indians of North America--Fiction. 32 p. K - Gr. 3.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Starlight, lives with her family in a native village on the plains. Whenever she is allowed to request a story from the village elders, she always chooses the same one, the story of the white pony in which a handsome young brave pays an unheard of bride-price for a young woman that the village considers unmarriageable, a bride-price that includes his favorite white pony.

Author Sandra Byrd has successfully adapted this traditional allegory of God's great love in redeeming his people to the Native American setting. Paintings by Sarah Waldron incorporating Native American designs with lovely action drawings of horses and village life, are sure to inspire the young horse lover to return to this tale as often as Starlight herself does.

Judy A. Driscoll, Teacher, Poulsbo, WA

Spotlight on Cody, by Betsy Duffey; illustrated by Ellen Thompson. LCCN 9817461. New York: Viking, Penguin Putnam, 1998. ISBN 0670880779, HBB, \$14.99.

F. Talent shows--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 74 p. Gr. 2 - 6.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Every child who has ever wondered what makes him or her special will find this book very reassuring. Poor Cody! He desperately wants to do something terrific for his school's talent show and even imagines the announcer introducing the Amazing Cody. But there's a problem. He has no talent to speak of. What's worse, he comes from a long line of marginally gifted individuals. His Aunt Dot can clog. Maybe he could try that. But just the sound of that activity doesn't set well with Cody. "He needed a talent that didn't make it sound like he was about to do something gross."

Finally, he settles on juggling. Even his turning-

forty-father can do that. However, he starts out poorly and manages to land an egg—splat on top of his father's birthday cake. He learns later that you start by juggling one item at a time, a single orange, for example. Downcast, Cody imagines the program announcer saying, "Cody Michaels will now juggle one orange."

As Cody tries to encourage his father, who is feeling positively ancient, he realizes that he has a knack for drawing. His card boosts Dad's sagging spirits, and Cody discovers that he just might be able to do something for the talent show after all. Both touching and well-written, Betsy Duffey's *Spotlight on Cody* is a treasure. The expressive line drawings by Ellen Thompson are a perfect complement to the quick-moving, humorous text. Kids will love this latest Cody classic.

John T. Perrodin, Attorney, Editor, Homeschool Father, Colorado Springs, CO

Out of the Ocean, by Debra Frasier. LCCN 965274. San Diego: Harcourt, 1998. ISBN 0152588493, HBB, \$16.00.

F. Beaches--Fiction; Nature--Fiction. 30 p. PS - Gr. 3.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

When Debra Frasier takes you on a romp on the beach, you're sure to find treasure, especially if you have spent time combing the beaches between the leaves of *Out of the Ocean*. The author combines her love of collages, both paper, and natural, with photography to create a lively look at what can be found on a beach, and hints about what can be done with these treasures. An ocean journal at the back of the book describes some of the treasures mentioned, giving scientific or historic perspective to beach life and beach treasures. Here is a feast for the eyes, as well as the imagination!

Judy A. Driscoll, Teacher, Poulsbo, WA

Nany e Isaías: Pascua Hoy, Pascua Para Siempre, por Carol Greene. CPH Family Films, Concordia. VID, \$.

(Nanny and Isaiah: Easter Today and Easter Forever, by Carol Greene.)

F. Easter--Fiction; Jesus Christ--Resurrection--Fiction. 1 videocassette. PS - Gr. 6.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Me gusta este video porque el cuento es sobre una maestra que muere antes de la Pascua y hay una chica que tiene problemas sobre la muerte. La chica tiene miedo porque su mamá tiene un gripe fuerte y piensa que mamá va a morir como su maestra. Durante el video hay una canción bonita y es fácil aprender con un tema animado. Los niños que tengan miedo de la muerte necesitan mirar este video. Los niños que tengan preguntas sobre la Pascua también necesitan mirar este video de Concordia Publishing House. Es para las edades 4 a 11 y este video fue doblado en Quito, Ecuador. Es muy bueno.

I like this video because it is about a teacher that

dies before Easter and there is a girl who has problems about death. The girl is afraid because her mother has a bad cold and she thinks that she will die like her teacher. During the video there is a beautiful song, easy to learn with an encouraging theme. Children that have fear of death need to watch this video. Children that have questions about Easter also need to watch this video from Concordia Publishing House. It is for children four to eleven, and was dubbed in Quito, Ecuador. It is very good.

Bianca Elliott, Teacher, Linwood, KS

Song Lee and the "I Hate You" Notes, by Suzy Kline; pictures by Frank Remkiewicz. LCCN 9841376. New York: Viking, Penguin Putnam, 1999. ISBN 0670878871, HBB, \$13.99.

F. Schools--Fiction; Behavior--Fiction; Korean Americans--Fiction. 51 p. Gr. 2 - 5.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Because of her sunny disposition, Song Lee is one of the most popular kids in Miss Mackle's third grade class. But when she starts receiving anonymous hate mail, her smiles disappear. Concerned, her friends Doug and Harry decide to find out why. By clever deduction, the boys discover that Mary, Song Lee's friend, is the culprit. Why would Mary do such a thing? Song Lee makes the class laugh; she scores a home run in gym; she knows the answers in math. And Mary is jealous and vengeful and determined to make her feel bad. Only when Song Lee sends a nasty note of her own does Mary realize how hurtful her actions have been, and the girls reconcile.

Suzy Kline sends several messages through her entertaining story: Stand up for yourself. Losing sleep can make you irritable. Envy and resentment are unattractive to others. Friendship can conquer hurt, if both parties are willing to try. While the "eye-for-an-eye" solution might smack of dubious wisdom, the manner in which Song Lee composes her letter celebrates courage rather than an inappropriate meekness. Frank Remkiewicz's illustrations are breezily amusing and reinforce the tone of the text. This book is the fourth in a series of Song Lee adventures and should be appreciated by girls as well as boys.

Marcy Stewart Froemke, Asst. Prof. of Education, Bryan College, Dayton, TN

★

The Crippled Lamb, by Max Lucado, with Jenna, Andrea, and Sara Lucado; illustrated by Liz Bonham. LCCN 9419865. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 1999. ISBN 0849959799, HBB, w/CI, \$17.99.

E. Sheep--Fiction; Jesus Christ--Nativity--Fiction. 32 p. PS - Gr. 3.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Max Lucado and his daughters created this story five years ago as a verbal bedtime game, adding a character or plot twist each night until *The Crippled Lamb* resulted. To celebrate the fifth anniversary of *The Crippled Lamb's* first printing, publisher Tommy Nelson re-issued this gift book version, including a special bonus—a free CD with Jodi Benson's touching narration and singing.

The story revolves around a crippled lamb named Joshua and his longing to belong. He leans on his friend, Abigail the cow, who encourages him by saying, "Don't be sad, little Joshua. God has a special place for those who feel left out." When the shepherds take the sheep to a new meadow but leave Joshua behind because he can't keep up, he feels even worse. Abigail reminds him not to be sad.

It's rare to find a fresh angle on the Christmas story, but Lucado and his daughters succeed, and it's far more than a holiday tale. *The Crippled Lamb* aptly captures the universal longings for acceptance and purpose, while tactfully dealing with inner feelings related to a physical disability. Such layers add depth without overdoing sentimentality. Liz Bonham's tender paintings reflect a Monet quality. True to initial expectations, this edition is on its way to becoming a favorite family classic.

Kimm Swenson Gollnick, Freelance Writer & Homeschool Mother, Marysville, WA

Rock River, by Bill Maynard. LCCN 9742156. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers, 1998. ISBN 0399232249, HBB, \$15.99.

F. Rivers--Fiction; Courage--Fiction; Brothers--Fiction; Death--Fiction. 104 p. Gr. 4 - 6.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Luke used to watch in admiration as his brother Robert climbed boulders and jumped across the swirling river. But Robert died in the river. Luke now wonders if he has any bravery at all. It seems whenever his friends goad him to do daring acts, Luke backs out. Stuck in a bet over who can catch the biggest fish this summer, daring deeds might be necessary to win.

Bill Maynard's middle grade novel, *Rock River*, offers an exciting story with an exemplary main character. Luke struggles with peer pressure but takes the right path at each junction. He listens to his parents' voices in his mind, reminding him of his brother's death. Their advice encourages him not to take stupid chances. Luke's obedience gives him the impression he is not brave or fearless. But when a dangerous rescue is necessary, Luke doesn't hesitate to help in the precarious situation. He is the hero because he acts at the right time despite his fear.

Readers will be engaged with Luke's concerns, his dangerous situations, and his resolve to do the right thing. Parents and teachers will cheer

Maynard for providing a believable, positive main character.

Lorie Ann Grover, *Freelance Writer/Illustrator, Sumner, WA*

***Beautiful Warrior : The Legend of the Nun's Kung Fu*, by Emily Arnold McCully. LCCN 973823. New York: Scholastic, 1998. ISBN 0590374877, HBB, \$16.95.**

F. Kung Fu--Fiction; China--Fiction. 36 p. Gr. 3 - 6.
Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Long ago during the Ming Dynasty, a little girl, Jingyong, is born, and her father has high hopes for her. Because he sees something special in her, he refuses to allow her young life to be determined by others, as was the Chinese custom at that time.

Jingyong was allowed to study academics as if she were a son. One day while she was out riding her horse, she became permanently separated from her parents and had to begin taking care of herself. She decided she wanted to study kung-fu with some Buddhist monks, and went to them to see if they would allow that. Normally monks do not accept girls in their monasteries, but Jingyong persevered, and was accepted. She became a Buddhist nun and developed a quite a reputation for her skill, and received a new name, Wu Mei.

Wu Mei came across a young girl who was in need of help, and this young girl became a student of Wu Mei's. Mingyi was an apt pupil, and learned everything she could in a years time. Different styles of kung-fu were developed over time, including the Wing Chun style. It is thought that Mingyi might be the developer of the Wing Chun kung-fu style.

Beautiful Warrior is an easy read, and a good example of what girls can accomplish when they try. Children will enjoy Jingyong's journey as she learns and grows. The watercolor illustrations are beautiful and bring the words to life.

Debbly Willett, *Teacher, Home School Parent, Canyon, TX*

***Grandpa's Gamble*, by Richard Michelson; illustrated by Barry Moser. LCCN 9752633. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Cavendish Children's Books, Marshall Cavendish, 1999. ISBN 0761450343, HBB, \$15.95.**

F. Grandfathers--Fiction; Jews--United States--Fiction; Immigrants--Fiction; Prayer--Fiction. 32 p. Gr. 2 - 3.
Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Grandpa Sam is always sleeping and his bored grandchildren must be very quiet so as to not disturb him. However, one day the grandchildren learn how Grandpa came to America from Poland. Grandpa's family is Jewish and they were treated very poorly. Due to hunger and beatings, Grandpa was sent to America. When Grandpa arrives in New York he is taught how to be a pickpocket and how to

gamble. Grandpa becomes very rich so he gets married and has a little girl. Unfortunately, Grandpa's precious daughter becomes ill and all of his money cannot save her. The doctors tell Grandpa that only a miracle can help his little daughter. So, Grandpa prays for forgiveness and for his daughter's health. Prayers are answered and Grandpa never ever gambles again. The grandchildren are duly impressed and so now they are glad to be quiet while Grandpa sleeps.

This touching story contains very nice sepia illustrations. Award winning illustrator Moser portrays the bored expressions of the children quite well. The prominent use of Jewish terms will require readers unfamiliar with those terms to read the definitions that are included in the author's note at the end of the book.

Connie J. Weaver, *Church Librarian, Newville, PA*

***Selina and the Shoo-Fly Pie*, written by Barbara Smucker; illustrated by Janet Wilson; quilts by Lucy Anne Holliday. New York: Stoddart Kids, 1998. ISBN 0773730184, HBB, \$15.95.**

F. Mennonites--Fiction; Family--Fiction; Canada--Fiction. 30 p. Gr. 1 - 3.
Quality—5 Acceptability—5

In *Selina and the Shoo-fly Pie*, Selina has just moved with her family from Pennsylvania to Upper Canada, leaving her grandmother and other relatives behind. Although she likes her new home and is learning how to quilt, she still misses her relatives, especially her grandmother. When some family relations from Pennsylvania sojourn to Canada, they bring news that Grandma and Cousin Henry are coming to visit Selina's family in order to escape the perils of the Civil War. Grandma promises in her letter that she will teach Selina to bake a Shoo-fly Pie since it is Henry's favorite. The company arrives and Selina notices how somber and shy Henry appears. Selina's father takes Henry to the sawmill while Grandma and Selina bake pies. Upon Henry's return, he is a different person, filled with enthusiasm for life rather than contemplating the horrors of war.

Author Barbara Smucker does an adequate job of introducing characters and creating a plot. Illustrator Janet Wilson adds a depth and dimension to the story with her illustrations and helps breathe life into Selina and Grandma as well as the other characters. The pictures are vivid, realistic, and winsome. A cascade of colors fills each page, enticing the reader to turn the page merely to see what scene is captured next. An inviting book that parent and child will enjoy for many readings.

Eileen Zygarricke, *Freelance Writer & Editor, Grand Forks, ND*

Many series titles are similar in composition and quality to other titles in the series.

Following are some series titles from series we have previously reviewed. Readers are referred back to the original review for further information about the series.

The Boxcar Children Mysteries Mystery, created by Gertrude Chandler Warner; illustrated by Charles Tang. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, HBB, \$13.95.

Last reviewed Winter/Spring.1999.
Quality—4 Acceptability—5

The Black Pearl. ISBN 0807507830, 1998.

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction, Orphans--Fiction, Mystery fiction, Hawaii--Fiction. 121 p.

The Cereal Box Mystery. ISBN 0807505757, 1998.

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction, Orphans--Fiction, Mystery fiction. 111 p.

The Panther Mystery,. LCCN 9819107, ISBN 0807563277, 1998.

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction, Orphans--Fiction, Mystery fiction, Everglades (Florida)--Fiction. 121 p.

The Mystery of the Stolen Sword. (#67.) LCCN 9839740, ISBN 0807576220, 1998.

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction, Orphans--Fiction, Mystery fiction, Orchards--Fiction. 121 p.

The Mystery of the Queen's Jewels. (Special #11.) LCCN 9824725, ISBN 0807554502, 1998.

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction, Orphans--Fiction, Mystery fiction, London (England)--Fiction. 121 p.

The Mystery at Peacock Hall. ISBN 0807554448, 1999.

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction, Orphans--Fiction, Mystery fiction. 121 p.

The Windy City Mystery. ISBN 0807554472, 1999.

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction, Orphans--Fiction, Mystery fiction, Chicago (Illinois)--Fiction. 120 p.

The Basketball Mystery. (#68.) LCCN 9830728, ISBN 0807505757, 1999.

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction, Orphans--Fiction, Mystery fiction, Basketball--Fiction. 135 p.

The Movie Star Mystery. (#69.) LCCN 9854785, ISBN 0807553034, 1999.

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction, Orphans--Fiction, Mystery fiction, Actors and actresses--Fiction. 119 p.

The Mystery of the Pirate's Map. (#70.) ISBN 0807554537, 1999.

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction, Orphans--Fiction, Mystery fiction, Buried treasure--Fiction. 121 p.

The Ghost Town Mystery. (#71.) LCCN 9922474, ISBN 0807528587, 1999.

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction, Orphans--Fiction, Mystery fiction, Ghost towns--Fiction, Rocky Mountains--Fiction. 121 p.

The Mystery in the Mall. (#72.) LCCN 9935489, ISBN 0807554561, 1999.

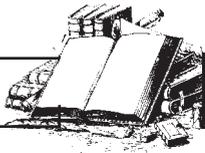
F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction, Orphans--Fiction, Mystery fiction, Shopping malls--Fiction. 115 p.

The Mystery of the Black Raven. (Special #12.) LCCN 9854886, ISBN 0807529885, 1999.

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction, Orphans--Fiction, Mystery fiction, Alaska--Fiction. 133 p.

The Mystery in New York. (Special #13.) LCCN 9934254, ISBN 0807554596, 1999.

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction, Orphans--Fiction, Mystery fiction, New York (N.Y.)--Fiction, Stealing--Fiction. 121 p.



100's—Philosophy & Psychology

The Goodbye Boat, by Mary Joslin; illustrated by Claire St. Louis Little. LCCN 9844940. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1999. ISBN 080285186X, HBB, \$16.00.

155.9. God in children; Bereavement in children; Children and death; Love (Psychology) in children. 28 p. PS - Gr. 3.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

A young, unnamed boy and girl have to say goodbye to someone they dearly love as they watch her die. With a boat used as a symbol, they watch her sail out onto a stormy sea and away from their lives. Their love for this elderly woman is gently explored, as well as the pain and sorrow they feel as she slips out of their lives. Ultimately, however, the book ends with hope as the woman is seen sailing "somewhere new" where dawn is just breaking.

The Goodbye Boat by Mary Joslin concisely and poetically deals with the process of pain and grief. In less than thirty-five words, Joslin evokes love, death, grief, sorrow, renewal, and, finally, hope. Because of the simplicity and minimalism of the book, the reader is able to focus on its central message that death is not the end, but something that simply carries loved ones out of sight.

Claire St. Louis Little's illustrations are both realistic and beautiful, and her rich use of color in depicting the moods of the characters helps to make the story believable and effective. *The Goodbye Boat* is a wonderful book for teaching children how to say goodbye to a loved one and, even more importantly, how to believe.

Kerri A. Cunningham, Librarian, Camano Island, WA

200's—Religion

The Bible, by Rick Osborne and K. Christie Bowler. (I Want to Know.) LCCN 9738952. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998. ISBN 0310220890, HBB, \$9.99.

220.6. Bible. 32 p. Gr. 3 - 8.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

How does one know the Bible is inspired by God? What are the best ways to memorize Scripture? When was the Bible first printed? The answer to these and many more questions are answered in *The Bible*. Rick Osborne and K. Christie Bowler have made this book not only

accurate but fun to read. Explaining major points of the Bible and how it applies to lives today is a tall task. The Bible manages to accomplish this task beautifully with fun activities, great photos, cartoons, and reading.

While this book has a textbook feel to it, the activities and bright layout will definitely attract readers outside the classroom. Parents and teachers will also appreciate this structured resource when teaching important Bible basics. All quoted Scripture is from the New International Reader's Version.

Beth Loughner, Freelance Writer, Registered Nurse, Columbus, OH

In the Beginning : The Story of Creation. LCCN 9745994. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, Crossway Books, 1998. ISBN 0891079971, HBB, \$14.99.

222. Creation; Bible stories--O.T. 48 p. PS - Gr. 7.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

In The Beginning is a pictorial interpretation of the first chapter of Genesis. The scriptures are printed in the book, but it's the pictures that steal the show. Real life photography is used to detail each of the seven days of creation. Forty-six photographs are used. From NASA's "A View of the Earth from the Moon" demonstrating the first day of creation, to Tim Davis' "Red-eyed tree frog" on the sixth day, each day of creation is visually created for the reader.

This beautiful book could be used not only as a helpful tool for learning about the seven days of creation, but for a photography class as well. Most of these breath-taking pictures are two pages wide, giving even more depth to their beauty. This book is truly able to capture the majesty of God's natural creation. A list of photography credits is provided.

Patricia A. Youmans, MLIS, Homeschool Parent, Siloam Springs, AR

Precious Moments : Noah's Ark, illustrated by Sam Butcher. LCCN 9830869. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, Baker Book House, 1998. ISBN 0801044111, HBB, \$12.99.

222. Noah (Biblical figure); Noah's art; Bible stories--O.T. 28 p. PS.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Precious Moments: Noah's Ark is a simplified version of the biblical story, illustrated with

Precious Moments characters, which stand out as the most important feature in the volume. Each large, single page picture shows a set of animals working their way toward the ark. The two elephants are wearing hair bows and a bowler hat as they walk "trunk in trunk" to the ark. The two zebras are so soft and rounded that a child might want to pick each one up and cuddle it. The pastel colors are soft, the lines are rounded and the landscape is gentle and rolling. The mice are especially appealing as they transport their luggage via a "tortoise express."

Off-setting the peaceful appearance of each picture is a background of slightly threatening storm clouds, indicating the rains to come. Filling the border around the text on opposing pages are gray swirls suggesting ocean waves. But this is as dramatic as the story gets. Its peaceful, happy characters are usually smiling, despite the soulful appearance of their eyes. At the end of the story the sun breaks out again and a rainbow is formed. Noah and the reader are reminded that God keeps his promises.

Donna E. Brown, Church Librarian, Portland, OR

La Historia de Jesús: Historias del Nuevo, por Sarah Fletcher y traducido y editado por Hector Hoppe. CPH Recursos Étnicos, Concordia. ISBN 0570099706, PAP, \$.

(*The History of Jesus: Stories from the New Testament for Little Children*, by Sarah Fletcher and translated and edited by Hector Hoppe. Concordia Publishing House.)

225.9. Bible stories--N.T. 31 p. Gr. 1 - 4.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Este es un libro pequeño de la historia de Jesús. Empieza con su nacimiento y termina con su va al cielo. Cada cuento tiene una página para el cuento y, debajo de la página, hay un verso fácil para que el niño lo aprenda. También, hay una página de dibujos del tema. Este es un libro que los padres les leen antes de que los niños se duerman o al tiempo del cuento.

This is a small book of the story of Jesus. It begins with his nativity and finishes with his going to heaven. Each story has a page for the story and, at the bottom of the page, there is an easy verse for the child to learn. Also, there is a page full illustration of the theme. This is a book that parents read before bedtime or at story time.

Bianca Elliott, Teacher, Linwood, KS

The Jesus Book, retold by LaVonne Neff; illustrated by Toni Goffe. Chicago: Loyola Press, 1999. ISBN 0829413731, HBB, \$9.95.

232. Jesus Christ; Bible stories--N.T. 83 p. PS - Gr. 3.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

The Jesus Book is a collection of well-known stories about the life of Christ. Full of details concerning Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and resurrection, this volume also includes parables of the runaway son, the lost sheep, the workers in the vineyard, and the two builders—one wise and the other one foolish.

Author LaVonne Neff has a knack for getting at the heart of the scripture while showing sensitivity for how much a young child can understand. The wise men are shown visiting a two-year-old Jesus instead of paying homage to an infant, as many junior editions do. Only one story, "Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Boy," slightly strays from accuracy. The Bible refers to the paralytic as a grown man. The text and accompanying illustrations show a young boy being healed. Though a small point, children well-versed in the story will notice the error.

Illustrator, Toni Goffe, whose delightful drawings can be found in *The Rhyme Bible* (Gold'nHoney/Questar Books, 1996, ISBN 0-88070-829-8) and *The Rhyme Bible Prayer Book* (Gold'nHoney/Questar Books, 1997, ISBN 1-57673-054-9) obviously honed artistic skills with *The Jesus Book*. You can see the same warm smiles, rich details, colorful costumes, and those trademark scruffy beards in this re-issue of a 1994 edition from Great Britain. An excellent addition to a library's religious section, this book both teaches and entertains.

John T. Perrodin, Attorney, Editor, Homeschool Father, Colorado Springs, CO

300's—Social Sciences

Precious Moments : Twelve Days of Christmas. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, Baker Book House, 1998. ISBN 0801044103, HBB, \$12.99.

394.2. Christmas poetry. 28 p. PS.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

The opening page of *Precious Moments : Twelve Days of Christmas* says that Christmas has been a time for songs and the giving of gifts for many years and that "just as God gave us a very special gift at Christmas, we give gifts to each other, too." *The Twelve Days of Christmas* tells the story of twelve gifts given on consecutive days at Christmas time. The book invites the reader to look for a special gift on each page and to "share your Christmas cheer with the people you love."

The twenty-four pages of text and illustration depict each of the twelve gifts in cute and often humorous terms. Four calling birds are using

telephones; six geese are laying sound asleep, on fluffy pillows; the nine ladies dancing are lady bugs, lined up on a twig; and the ten lords a-leaping are frogs.

Each illustration has large "Precious Moments" animals and children characterized by soft lines, colors, and "tear-drop" eyes. The children add to the activities of the animals by providing violin accompaniment for three French hens, trying to collect eggs from sleeping geese, or providing twelve rabbits with a set of drums on which to thump with their big, soft feet. The borders add to the musical theme with faint musical notes and measures on a beige background.

The book revolves around a Christmas theme but encourages readers and listeners to give the gifts of "loving, caring and sharing...all year long."

Precious Moments: Twelve Days of Christmas will have the greatest appeal for toddlers and pre-school age children or fans of the Precious Moments characters.

Donna E. Brown, Church Librarian, Portland, OR

Follow the Stars : A Native American Woodlands Tale, retold and illustrated by Kristina Rodanas. LCCN 957103. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 1998. ISBN 0761450297, HBB, \$15.95.

398.2. Summer--Folklore; Ojibwa Indians--Folklore; Indians of North America--Folklore; Folklore--North America. 32 p. Gr. 2 - 5.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

When spring doesn't come to their forest, Fisher listens to the wisdom of the stars and leads the animals on a quest to find the birds of summer. After journeying for days the animals come upon an Indian village with flowers and leafy trees. They hear cooing from the wigwams. Together the animals become like one horrible beast and they scare the humans away. Quickly the animals free the birds and they flee home just as the Indians return. Only Fisher stays behind, to release the last of the birds. He is chased by the people and he climbs high into a tree. Not knowing what to do, he hears the stars calling him. He jumps into the night and becomes part of the stars, forever to guide those in need.

Based on tales from the Eastern Woodlands Indian storytelling tradition, this legend combines elements from the natural and spirit world. The Fisher is immortalized as he becomes what we call the Big Dipper. This provides a common link across cultures, as the North Star is commonly identified as a friendly guide for those needing direction. Easy flowing prose makes this an enjoyable selection for individual reading or for read-aloud sharing. Rich colored pencil and watercolor wash paintings, with beautiful color contrasts, give the story warmth and depth. An excellent

addition to any collection, *Follow the Stars* by Kristina Rodanas would especially enhance a teacher's American Indian or legends unit.

Karen Brehmer, Teacher, Silverdale, WA

400's—Language

More Simple Signs, by Cindy Wheeler. LCCN 9726797. New York: Viking, Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers, 1998. ISBN 0670874779, HBB, \$14.99.

419. Sign language. 28 p. PS - Gr. 3.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

As a sequel to her *Simple Signs*, Cindy Wheeler has revisited the sign language scene with *More Simple Signs* in which she introduces the very young learner to the world of sign language with thirty basic words which a child can use in every day conversation. Each page is colorfully illustrated with a fanciful picture of the word, the word spelled out in bold black letters, and a clear ink drawing reproducing the action of the hands in producing the sign. A short hint at the bottom of each illustration describes the action so that the child can relate the action to the word and picture.

In this way Cindy has covered all three learning modalities, seeing, hearing, and doing, to teach the child. A variety of common nouns, verbs, colors, adverbs, and manners are presented. Whether it be guiding her thumb down her bonnet strings to depict a girl, or scratching one's ribs like a monkey for monkey, the young child is sure to be intrigued with this introduction to sign language.

Judy A. Driscoll, Teacher, Poulsbo, WA

500's—Natural Sciences & Mathematics

Animal Defenses : How Animals Defend Themselves, by Etta Kaner; illustrated by Pat Stephens. Buffalo, N.Y.: Kids Can Press, Kids Can Press, 1999. ISBN 1550744194, HBB, \$10.95.

591.47. Animal defenses; Animal weapons. 40 p. Gr. 2 - 5.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Animal Defenses : How Animals Protect Themselves is a simple book on the various methods animals use to protect themselves. Author Etta Kaner breaks up their tactics into eight different categories including "Putting on a show" (looking dangerous), "Can you find me?" (camouflage), "Copycats", "You can't hurt me" (armor), "Warning, stay away" (bright colors) and more.

The animals within the same defense categories don't seem to follow the same pattern of protection. An example of this is in the category "Playing Tricks;" two animals play dead, one plays injured, one loses a tail, another has a fake appearance, and the last one tries to hide, then shoots ink. The patterns are not clear enough for

a younger child, yet the information is presented too simplistically for the fact-minded group of children, seven years and up.

Animal Defenses is a bright, oversized book with color illustrations by Pat Stephens. Most of the pictures are well done, but several, including ones of the toad and the sloth, are below the overall standard of the book.

Joanne M. Haffly, *Freelance Writer, Homeschool Mother, Gig Harbor, WA*

Little Bull : Growing Up in Africa's Elephant Kingdom, by Ellen Foley James. New York: Sterling, Sterling Publishing, 1998. ISBN 080692098X, HBB, \$12.95.

599.6. Elephants. 49 p. K - Gr. 3.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

For those who have been enchanted with wild animal films on the Discovery Channel, author Ellen Foley James has captured on paper with word and photograph the story of Little Bull, an infant elephant. Young readers will giggle at the antics of the baby elephant trying to stand on his head, and feel the desperation of the elephant herd during the hot drought of summer. When the rains come and the grass grows again, the reader can almost hear the life-giving raindrops, and feel the cooling breezes. A glossary and index in the back of the book give additional help to those inquisitive minds who always want to know more.

Judy A. Driscoll, *Teacher, Poulsbo, WA*

600's—Technology (Applied Sciences)

A Doctor's Life : A Visual History of Doctors and Nurses Through the Ages, by Rod Storrington. New York: Dutton Children's Books, Penguin Putnam, 1998. ISBN 0525675779, HBB, \$17.99.

610. Physicians--History. 48 p. Gr. 4 - 7.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Beginning with a Roman doctor in ca. 50 A. D. and ending with a 1960s family physician, *A Doctor's Life : A Visual History of Doctors and Nurses Through the Ages* draws the reader toward its pages. Author Rod Storrington provides biographical snapshots of famous physicians, nurses, and midwives throughout the centuries.

Like the Usborne and DK books, this book is filled with color photographs such as: surgical tools including knives, saws, forceps; false teeth; historical reenactments with costumed models; and medical equipment such as wheelchairs, doctor bags, dried herbs, and medicine bottles.

Although the book was aimed for ages nine and above, the curious as young as four can be found enjoying the horrors of medical practices gone by. The book is not visually graphic although some of the procedures described will delight a

nine-year-old boy.

Joanne M. Haffly, *Freelance Writer, Homeschool Mother, Gig Harbor, WA*

700's—The Arts and Recreation

The Life of Jesus in Masterpieces of Art, by Mary Pope Osborne. LCCN 9860316. New York: Viking, Penguin Putnam, 1998. ISBN 0670873136, HBB, \$17.99.

704.9. Jesus Christ. 48 p. Gr. 3 - Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

The Life of Jesus in Masterpieces of Art does just what its title suggests: it clearly and simply retells the life of Jesus and illustrates its many stories with the great masterpieces of European painters. In retelling the life of Jesus, author Mary Pope Osborne has selectively chosen events from all four gospels and woven them together to read like a picture book story. Events chosen include everything from the nativity to the feeding of the five thousand, the Passover, the parable of the prodigal son, and the crucifixion. The result is a full, rich, exciting, and readable story.

Forty-one breath-taking illustrations are included in the book. Paintings by Botticelli, Brueghel, Pouissin and many other artists are beautifully reproduced and carefully placed so as to serve as illustrations to each event depicted in the story. An Afterward reproduces the paintings again, smaller this time, with the titles of each painting, the names of the artists, and the corresponding dates of either the painting or the painter's life.

The Life of Jesus in Masterpieces of Art is a beautiful book for all ages, and Mary Pope Osborne has done a wonderful job of freshly retelling a story that has been told for the past two thousand years.

Kerri A. Cunningham, *Librarian, Camano Island, WA*

800's—Literature & Rhetoric

Biographies of Christian Authors Who Write for Young Readers, Vol.1 & 2, by Peggy Pickering. Fishers, Ind.: Peggy Pickering, 1992. ISBN , PAP, \$20.00.

809. Authors--Christian. 146 and 101 p. K - Adult.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

In her two volumes on *Biographies of Christian Authors Who Write for Young Readers*, Peggy Pickering specifically addresses young readers. She highlights topics of interest to the target group: the lives of the authors as children, their education, spiritual experiences they have had, what they have written, what led them to become writers—and specifically writers for children, their families, and their other occupations, past and present. In both volumes entries are arranged alphabetically by the authors' last names. (In each volume, a

husband-and-wife team is treated as a single entry.) Each entry begins on a new page, and most entries are one to two pages in length, with only a few shorter or longer than that. No illustrations are included on the single-column 8 1/2 x 11 inch pages with standard manuscript margins. All entries begin with lists of children's titles written by those authors and nearly all end with addresses for writing to the authors. Several of the entries are primarily short mini-autobiographies written by the authors, or letters by them which are addressed to children. Interview format is used in a few other entries. Most entries include at least some direct quotations from the authors. Consistently addressing her young readers as "you," Pickering frequently adds her own editorial comments or rhetorical questions.

Entries for women outnumber those for men. Each volume includes thirteen men among the fifty-two entries in Volume One and the thirty-nine entries in Volume Two. If women authors are married, widowed, or divorced, Pickering consistently refers to them by their married last names, even when relating childhood events. For many women, there is nothing in the entry which indicates what the woman's maiden name had been, while for others the form of the name may provide a clue. More than half of the entries in Volume One contain the authors' birthdates, plus a few with birth years. Most of the entries in Volume Two give no birth information. While there is no index in Volume One, a two-page index to Volume Two includes series, topics, and two individual book titles. Occasional errors (mostly typographical and spelling) appear in titles of books or series, and a couple in authors' names. This could hamper children or adults using these volumes for reference. For several of the authors included in Volume One, their books for young readers are now out of print, although many may still be available in homes and libraries. Approximately one-third of the authors included by Pickering appear in Walker's *Developing Christian Fiction Collections for Children and Adults*, and Walker has short biographical sketches for less than half of those [CLJ, 4, (2/3):77,78 (1999)]. Pickering has brought together, in a style geared to young readers, information not easily found elsewhere.

Donna W. Bowling, *Library/Educational Consultant, Siloam Springs, AR*

Under the Breadfruit Tree : Island Poems, by Monica Gunning; illustrated by Fabricia Vanden Broeck. LCCN 9191408. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills, 1998. ISBN 1563975394, HBB, \$15.95.

811. Caribbean poetry (English); Caribbean Area--Poetry. 48 p. Gr. 2 - 5.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Under the Breadfruit Tree : Island Poems is a collection of original poetry based upon poet Monica Gunning's childhood in Jamaica. The thirty-six poems present snapshots of Gunning's

family, her friends, and the events that shaped the lives of those in her Caribbean community. Poem topics include everything from Grandma and Aunt Jane's bickering to best friend Connie's death and night walks with Grandpa. Each poem serves to capture the essence of the poet's Jamaican life by portraying both the happy and the sad times, the beautiful and the heartbreaking.

Monica Gunning's poetry is wonderfully unique. Her language is rich and surprising and the poems beautifully evoke the sights, sounds, and flavor of Jamaica. Also, poem topics are varied enough that they present a picture of the island that feels full and complete. Fabricio Vanden Broeck's black and white illustrations are deliberately simple yet they do an outstanding job of visually depicting Jamaican life.

Kerri A. Cunningham, Librarian, Camano Island, WA

***Tea Party Today : Poems to Sip and Savor*, by Eileen Spinelli; illustrated by Karen Dugan. LCCN 9777901. Honesdale, Pa.: Wordsong, Boyd's Mills Press, 1999. ISBN 1563976625, HBB, \$15.95.**

811.54. Parties--Poetry; American poetry. 32 p. Gr. 1 - 4.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

In the introduction to *Tea Party Today: Poems to Sip and Savor*, author Eileen Spinelli shares her first childhood memories of tea parties. She delights the reader with sometimes silly, sometimes serious poems about having tea alone or with friends, in bed or at the beach.

Illustrator Karen Dugan's cheerful pictures reflect the multicultural audience which *Tea Party Today* targets. Unlike other tea party books which are directed toward girls, this book appeals to both sexes.

The author includes teatime tips along with each poem. Whether the tips are recipes, invitations ideas, or tea party games, the young child is sure to find something of interest. The book would be a charming gift along with a first porcelain tea set.

Joanne M. Haffly, Freelance Writer, Homeschool Mother, Gig Harbor, WA

900's—Geography, History, & Biography

***The Kids Guide to the Millennium*, written by Ann Love and Jane Drake; illustrated by Bill Slaviv. Buffalo, N.Y.: Kids Can, 1998. ISBN 1550745565, HBB, \$12.95.**

909. Millennium; Two thousand, A.D.; Civilization--History; Twenty-first century--Forecasts. 64 p. Gr. 3 - 7.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Be ready for this event because there will not be another like it, not in a thousand years. It is the celebration of the century. *The Kids Guide to the Millennium* is sixty-four pages filled with

ideas of celebrating the year 2000. From earth-conscience, native-plant gardens to millennial-minded party supplies, Ann Love and Jane Drake explore the possibilities of seizing the moment. Some ideas reflect on past millenniums. Others preserve the present or imagine the future. Children ages eight to twelve can accomplish most activities with little supervision using common materials.

Running through the book is a timeline of noteworthy events, inventions, and accomplishments which happened in the past 2000 years. The object is to feel a sense of time and celebrate our part in it. Bill Slaviv's illustrations simplify the instructions and add humor to the historical facts.

Melinda Torgerson, Freelance Writer, Newport, WA

***Saint Patrick*, by Ann Tompert; illustrated by Michael Garland. LCCN 9772774. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyd's Mills, 1998. ISBN 1563976595, HBB, \$14.95.**

921 (291). Patrick, Saint, 373?-463?--Biography; Christian saints--Ireland. 30 p. Gr. 1 - 4.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

A welcome volume for teachers looking for stories of the early saints of the church, especially those connected to holidays like Saint Patrick's Day, is *Saint Patrick*. The story of Patrick's life and work from boyhood to his death is an inspiration for future missionaries. Wonderfully expressive illustrations by Michael Garland, combined with illuminated Celtic knot borders surrounding the text, capture the setting of early life in Ireland, and the feel of ancient writings. An author's note on the last page gives additional information about the writings of St. Patrick as well as some of the legends that surround his work. This is a book to be savored.

Judy A. Driscoll, Teacher, Poulsbo, WA

***Alexander Graham Bell : An Inventive Life*, written by Elizabeth MacLeod. Buffalo, N.Y.: Kids Can Press, 1999. ISBN 1550744569, HBB, \$12.95.**

921 (621.38). Bell, Alexander Graham, 1847-1922; Inventors--Biography. 32 p. Gr. 3 - 6.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Alexander Graham Bell is best known for inventing the telephone, but not many realize he actually invented many different things such as air conditioners, water purifiers, hydrofoils, and iceberg detectors. His life-long passion was, in fact, to help the deaf communicate. In this book author Elizabeth MacLeod explores his life and inventions, giving readers a fascinating look at Bell's long, creative legacy. She tells us Bell didn't invent for honor or money. "The inventor," she quotes Bell as saying, "is a man who looks around upon the world and is not contented with things as they are. He wants to improve whatever he sees, he wants to benefit the world...." MacLeod does an excellent job

showing a balanced view of Bell's life and work.

The text is set off-center to allow for sidebars offering colorful bits of information complementing the text. An added bonus is the number of illustrations, rare photographs, and even an original sketch by Bell himself. Tying it all together is a small, detailed drawing of Alexander Graham Bell who appears on each page with a bubble caption above his head, stating a bit of fact or humor. Back matter includes a timeline of Bell's life, a list of Internet sites, and a short index. Nicely done.

Kim Swenson Gollnick, Freelance Writer & Homeschool Mother, Marysville, WA

***With Open Hands : A Story About Biddy Mason*, by Jeri Chase Ferris; illustrated by Ralph L. Ramstad. (A Creative Minds Biography.) LCCN 9816247. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, Lerner Publications, 1999. ISBN 1575053306, HBB, \$21.27.**

921 (973). Mason, Biddy, 1818-1891; Slaves; Afro-Americans--Biography; Women--Biography. 64 p. Gr. 3 - 6.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

With Open Hands : A Story about Biddy Mason is the biography of a black slave who becomes one of the richest women in Southern California. Bridget "Biddy" Mason was born a slave in Georgia in 1818. Taken from her family, Biddy grows up as the property of John Smithson. As a young adult, she is given to a Mormon couple, Robert and Rebecca Smith, as a wedding present.

Author Jeri Chase Ferris tastefully deals with the issue of Biddy's three illegitimate children fathered by slave owner Robert Smith. Biddy travels with her young children and the Smith family to Utah and then to Southern California where Biddy is freed from her life of slavery. There she uses her skills as a nurse to help others and support her family. Slowly she saves her money until she can buy property piece by piece, an investment that eventually proves to be financially fruitful.

Aside from nursing the sick and feeding the poor, Biddy helps establish the First African Methodist Episcopal Church (FAME) which meets in her home until members can afford a building.

Throughout the book, the illustrator Ralph L. Ramstad inserts black and white drawings. Each drawing adds character and historical flavor to the overall essence of the biography.

Joanne M. Haffly, Freelance Writer, Homeschool Mother, Gig Harbor, WA

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***The Wild West*, by Tim Wood. (See Through History.) LCCN 9760690. New York: Viking, Penguin Putnam, 1998. ISBN 0670875287, HBB, \$19.99.**

978. The West (U.S.); Frontier and pioneer life. 48 p.
Gr. 3 - 6.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

The Wild West is an informative book about how people discovered and later tamed the western part of the United States. Some of the topics covered are: the Revolutionary War, frontiersmen, the Alamo, the buffalo, wagon trains, gold mines, cowboys, outlaws, Indians, lawmen, stagecoaches, the railroad and the Industrial boom. The very informative text is divided into accurate descriptions written in short paragraph style. Illustrations range from actual photographs to amazingly well done drawings.

This particular series has four "see-through scenes." One of the scenes depict prospectors panning for gold. The see-through scene is flipped over and the reader is then able to look at how bandits are robbing the prospectors. On the same topic, the reader is able to see the outside of a large mining company and the building. Numbered diagrams give the reader terms to the various aspects of the illustration, such as a prospector and settling tanks. The other three see-through scenes are a cattle ranch, a frontier town and a railroad locomotive.

An index and table of contents is available. This is just a fabulously entertaining way to visualize United States history.

Connie J. Weaver, Church Librarian, Newville, PA

***People of Salmon and Cedar*, by Ron Hirschi; illustrated by Deborah Cooper with photographs by Edward S. Curtis. LCCN 9433075. New York: Cobblehill Books, Penguin Putnam, 1996. ISBN 0525651837, HBB, \$16.99.**

979.7. Indians of North America--Fishing--Washington (State); Indians of North America--Food--Washington (State); Cedar--Social aspects--Washington (State). 42 p. Gr. 4 - 8.

Quality—5 Acceptability—3

Ron Hirschi grew up in the Pacific Northwest and worked as a fisheries biologist for the Port Gamble S' Klallam Tribe (also known as "Clallum"). During that time, he learned much about coastal tribal customs regarding fishing and hunting, which he weaves throughout this nonfiction book.

The author describes the devastating deaths of Northwest Native Americans after the Europeans exposed them to smallpox in the 1850s. He also mentions the treaties offered to the tribes, which were violated soon after, and the terrible poverty and trauma of the tribes.

Unfortunately, Hirschi's narrative of events comes across as slanted, with negative generalizations of white settlers, while native

peoples are cast as all-wise, all-knowing, true conservationists. The author also makes broad statements without quoting sources. He does not include a bibliography or recommended reading list, which may have been helpful to students. Readers should also be aware Hirschi states pantheistic beliefs as facts, such as: "All parts of the earth are sacred," directing readers to embrace "giving thanks to the cedar" and salmon in a spiritual sense of obligation and gratitude. Also, one illustration depicting "salmon people" includes partial nudity.

This is a tough book to rate. It's beautiful and much of the information about Northwest Native Americans is interesting. The original photographs obtained from the University of Washington Special Collections department add depth and interest. Careful teachers might invite older students to separate fact from the apparent biases behind the text and discuss them.

Kimm Swenson Gollnick, Freelance Writer & Homeschool Mother, Marysville, WA

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Many series titles are similar in composition and quality to other titles in the series. Following are some series titles from series we have previously reviewed. Readers are referred back to the original review for further information about the series.

Celebrate the States, Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, HBB, \$24.95.

Last reviewed Fall.1998.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Wyoming, by Guy Baldwin. LCCN 9738590, ISBN 76140662X, 1999.

978.7. Wyoming. 144 p.

Kentucky, by Tracy Barrett. LCCN 9738589, ISBN 0761406573, 1999.

976.9. Kentucky. 144 p.

West Virginia, by Nancy Hoffman. LCCN 9732927, ISBN 0761406654, 1999.

975.4. West Virginia. 144 p.

Rhode Island, by Ted Klein. LCCN 9747727, ISBN 0761404171, 1999.

974.5. Rhode Island. 144 p.

New Mexico, by Melissa McDaniel. LCCN 9826425, ISBN 76140659X, 1999.

978.9. New Mexico. 144 p.

New Hampshire, by Steve Otfinoski. LCCN 9750379, ISBN 0761406697, 1999.

974.2. New Hampshire. 144 p.

Minnesota, by Martin Schwabacher. LCCN 9839891, ISBN 0761406581, 1999.

977.6. Minnesota. 144 p.

Ohio, by Victoria Sherrow. LCCN 9715041, ISBN 0761406565, 1999.

977.1. Ohio. 144 p.

Mississippi, by David Shirley. LCCN 9819496, ISBN 0761406646, 1999.

976.2. Mississippi. 144 p.

Washington, by Rebecca Steffoff. LCCN 9748937, ISBN 0761404228, 1999.

979.7. Washington. 144 p.

Arkansas, by Linda Jacobs Altman. LCCN 9843959, ISBN 0761406727, 2000.

976.7. Arkansas. 144 p.

Massachusetts, by Suzanne LeVert. LCCN 9852549, ISBN 0761406662, 2000.

974.4. Massachusetts. 144 p.

New Jersey, by Wendy Moragne. LCCN 9843948, ISBN 0761406735, 2000.

974.9. New Jersey. 144 p.

Maryland, by Leslie Rauth. LCCN 9843960, ISBN 0761406719, 2000.

975.2. Maryland. 144 p.

Idaho, by Rebecca Steffoff. LCCN 9848995, ISBN 0761406638, 2000.

979.6. Idaho. 144 p.

First Field Guide, New York: Scholastic, HBB, \$17.95.

Last reviewed Winter/Spring.1999.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

National Audubon Society First Field Guide to Trees, by Brian Cassie. (First Field Guide.) LCCN 9821855, ISBN 590054724, 1999.

582.16. Trees. 159 p.

National Audubon Society First Field Guide to Reptiles, by John L. Behler. (First Field Guide.) LCCN 988332, ISBN 590054678, 1999.

597.9. Reptiles. 160 p.

If You Were a.. New York: Benchmark Books, HBB, \$14.95.

Last reviewed Winter/Spring.1999.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

If You Were a.. Ballplayer, by Virginia Schomp. (If You Were a..) LCCN 9912651, ISBN 761409173, 2000.

796.3. Ball games, Athletes, Occupations, Vocational guidance. 32 p.

If You Were a.. Pilot, by Virginia Schomp. (If You Were a..) LCCN 9932142, ISBN 76140919X, 2000.

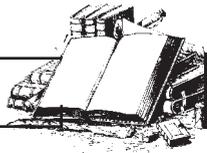
629.13. Aeronautics--Vocational guidance, Air pilots, Airplanes--Piloting, Occupations, Vocational guidance. 32 p.

If You Were a.. Teacher, by Virginia Schomp. (If You Were a..) LCCN 9934643, ISBN 761409165, 2000.

371.1. Teachers, Teaching--Vocational guidance, Occupations, Vocational guidance. 32 p.

If You Were a.. Zookeeper, by Virginia Schomp. (If You Were a..) LCCN 9834701, ISBN 761409181, 2000.

636.088. Zoo keepers, Zoos, Occupations, Vocational guidance. 32 p.



***The Monkey Tree*, by Janet S. Anderson. LCCN 9824315. New York: Dutton, Penguin Putnam, 1998. ISBN 0525460322, HBB, \$15.99.**

F. Artists--Fiction; Self-perception--Fiction; Family life--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Great-uncles--Fiction. 152 p. Gr. 5 - 8.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Susanna and her family come across the country to her Grandmother's funeral in a small farming village. Susanna is introverted and gifted in art, and has recently lost her two best friends: one moved away, and the other abandoned her to a more popular set. Susanna is at a very painful time and trying to find herself. Her grandmother has kept her own brother Louie in a room upstairs for twenty years, taking care of him in his mental illness. As Susanna gets to know Uncle Louie and enjoy the beautiful art work in his room, she dreams of helping him to become normal through their similar gifts. Her dream does not work out, but she comes to know what true friendship is really about and what is important in her life.

The neighbor girl, April, is involved in the church youth group, and becomes a friend. She is very, very fat; and some description of this may be offensive, as the girl's father calls her names like "lard-butt." April seems to deal with this abuse in some decent coping ways, but also by eating what she feels like eating.

Janet Anderson masterfully weaves descriptions of the physical surroundings through her obvious love of art. She notes patterns and beauty and makes the reader see the old house and the events that happen. Some of her language is poetic: "Space and silence cleared things, just as they always did, cleared the air." "Would she ever know it again, that solid, safe, certain sense of who she was, where she belonged?" She also hooks the reader into Susanna's feelings and thoughts about her life, as she empathizes with and serves her great-uncle. Parts of the book seem a little strange, almost surreal in the way people treat each other, but it is because we are brought into the middle of a real life type scenario depicting life as it is.

Judy Belcher, Teacher, Bremerton, WA

***Lost in the War*, by Nancy Antle. LCCN 9718234. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, Penguin Putnam, 1998. ISBN 0803722990, HBB, \$15.99.**

F. Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Depression, Mental--Fiction. 137 p. Gr. 4 -

8.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

While her aunt is out of town, Lisa Grey must calm and comfort her mother during a storm. During this storm, her mother, who is a Vietnam War veteran, relives the agony of war. During the war that took her husband's life, Lisa's mother served as an army nurse. When Lisa's mother became depressed, she left her job as an emergency room nurse to become a school nurse at Lisa's school. Lisa begins to notice situations that frighten her mother. A student injured in softball game triggers memories of a young man she tended and comforted while he died in the war. Lisa sees how this affects her mother. She is able to deal with her feelings of loss as she realizes that her mother is dealing with feelings of loss and trauma.

Antle expresses the feelings that Lisa works through as any twelve-year-old might deal with difficult situations. The honesty of unsure feelings about discussing the Vietnam War in class when her family is having such trouble because of the war will compel the reader to continue the story. The universal story of realizing that our parents are individuals who have dealt with pain and do not have all the answers will connect with readers.

Carol M. Jones, Children's Librarian, Champaign, IL

***Wilderness*, by Karen Ball. Sisters, Ore.: Palisades, Multnomah Publishers, 1999. ISBN 1576735524, PAP, \$6.99.**

F. Romance fiction; Christian fiction. Gr. 11 - Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Mady and her best friend, Eva, promised each other that if they were still single at age thirty-five, they would do something outrageous together, like take a survival adventure trip in the northern Cascades of Washington. Unfortunately Eva's last-minute broken leg requires Mady to go by herself, unsure of how she'll fit in with a group of total strangers for four days. She becomes even more disheartened when she finds herself paired with Jason, a man who brings out the worst in her, including her temper, and her natural tendency to be accident prone.

Jason is not too thrilled to be on this trip either, when he discovers he'll be spending time inexperienced folk, rather than rugged outdoorsmen up for any challenge. He definitely does not want to be paired with

anyone he'll have to protect, or "shepherd," even though he is naturally gifted in that area. Once a brilliant preacher, Jason is running from God, with a hardened heart and a cynical attitude toward life. He wants nothing to do with Mady, whose faith in God seems unshakable.

As partners, Mady and Jason reluctantly set out for their last adventure experience of the trip—finding their way to four checkpoints and back, relying on only a map, a compass, and each other. When Mady slips off a cliff into a raging river and Jason follows her, they find themselves far from any check points, with no radio, no map, and no easy way back. As they work together to survive in the wilderness for three days, Mady's faith is challenged in significant ways, and Jason's heart is gradually softened enough for him to hear the Lord calling him to come home, like the prodigal son.

Wilderness starts off like any typical romance, but it soon plumbs the depths of important spiritual truths. Karen Ball has written a powerful story in *Wilderness*, a book that is a testament to the sufficiency of God to supply all our needs—not wants. Even in the most trying of circumstances. Mady and Jason's stories remind us that Christians will experience trials and troubles in this world; God will not shield us from them, but neither will he desert us. He is there to walk with us through the most difficult times. Jason learns a hard lesson about serving God over self, and letting go of pride; and Mady learns the importance of following God wherever He leads, even if obedience brings hardship.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Medford, OR

***Maverick Mania*, by Sigmund Brouwer. (Sports Mystery Series; 1.) LCCN 9814576. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 1998. ISBN 084995813X, PAP, \$5.99.**

F. Kidnapping--Fiction; Soccer--Fiction; Mystery fiction. 115 p. Gr. 5 - 8.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Maverick Mania features Caleb Riggins, star of the high school soccer team, who is grounded from playing in any of the elimination games which could send his team to the nationals. He comes to the fourth game, but his father forcibly removes him from the field. Matt Carr, Caleb's friend, is worried about Caleb and goes to see him. The house is deserted and protected by guard dogs kept in check by an invisible fence.

A Note from the Editor: by Sylvia Stopforth



CLASSICS REVISITED

We would like to share our second annotated list of classics with our *CLJ* readers.

BOYDS MILLS PRESS

The Emperor's New Clothes, retold by Christine San Jose, illustrated by Anasstaija Archipowa, 1998, HBB, \$15.95. Preschool - Grade 4.

Archipowa's illustrations have a certain aged quality, as if they've been tucked away in someone's attic for many years. This quality lends an air of faded elegance to the sumptuous costumes and extravagant wigs parading across the pages of Hans Christian Andersen's humorous and insightful tale of an emperor fallen prey to a galloping case of the vanities. With her retelling, Christine San Jose infuses the story with a new liveliness. Her occasional asides draw the reader into the narrative. This book's large format and clean, white backgrounds make it an excellent choice for a story-time session.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, by Washington Irving, illustrated by Michael Garland, 1992, HBB, \$15.95, 62 p. All ages.

This edition of Irving's classic American folktale, first published in 1820, is a luxurious wallow for readers of all ages. The author indulges himself in unhurried descriptions of abundant, lush countryside; his words are chosen as much for their shape and sound as for their meaning. Illustrator Michael Garland takes an equally indulgent approach to his work, making

lavish use of color and realistic detail, so that Ichabod's prominent proboscis fairly leaps off the page. All of this provides the ideal context for the tale of the overconfident and highly suggestible Ichabod, whose senses—particularly in the culinary arena—are almost feverish in their intensity.

HERALD PRESS

Henner's Lydia, by Marguerite de Angeli, 1998, PBB, \$14.95, 72 p. Preschool—Grade 4.

Award-winning author and gifted artist, Marguerite de Angeli wrote and illustrated *Henner's Lydia* in the 1930's. Lydia's father, Henry—or Henner as he is known—has promised her that she can accompany him on his next trip to the market in Lancaster, but only if she completes her first piece-work, a small hooked rug. Lydia has the best intentions, but there are so many wonderful things to see and do in the Conestoga Valley in the fall, and her quick mind is easily distracted. The author's sketchy drawings, some in black and white, others in vibrant autumnal colors, perfectly complement the abundant yet simple life of her Amish characters. Her narrative voice, a comfortable blend of fractured English and German, rounds out this heartwarming tale, pleasing to both the eye and the ear.

VIKING

The Little Mermaid and Other Fairy Tales, by Hans Christian Andersen, collected and with an introduction by Neil Philip, illustrated by Isabelle Brent, 1998, HBB, \$21.99, 139 p. All ages.

Complete with gilt-edged pages and jewel-toned illustrations by Isabelle Brent, this collection of Andersen's tales will delight children of all ages—and discerning adults as well. Tucked between the colorful borders, reminiscent of illustrated manuscripts, traditional favorites such as "The Emperor's New Clothes" and "The

Little Match Girl" rub shoulders with the less familiar "The Goblin at the Grocer's," or "The Gardener and His Master." Whatever the title, the reader can expect a tale that captivates and entertains, while simultaneously revealing the the hidden depths of human nature.

VIKING

The Whole Story

Frankenstein, by Mary Shelley, illustrated by Philippe Munch, 1997, HBB, 25.99, 253 p. Gr. 7 and up.

With their "The Whole Story" series, Viking has taken a novel approach (no pun intended) to the reprinting of classics. The paper is thick and glossy, margins are wide and friendly, and pictures are generously distributed throughout; but in addition to the new illustrations by Munch, these books contain reprints of old etchings, diagrams showing scientific discoveries of the time, and brief biographical sketches which help to shed light upon unclear, dated references within the narrative. This allows readers of Shelley's timeless classic to experience her tale with some sense of how readers of her time might have approached it.

WILLIAM MORROW AND COMPANY

Books of Wonder

A Child's Garden of Verses, by Robert Louis Stevenson, illustrated by Diane Goode, 1998, HBB, \$18.00, 119 p. All ages.

Stevenson was a somewhat sickly child, and so his whimsical reflections on childhood are often touched by a certain poignancy. While they are firmly rooted in the concrete world of ants, whistles, and toy soldiers, they also manage to convey the intangibles, the immediacy of childhood, the short but intensely lived joys, and the dreams that sometimes seem more real than the waking world.

A Child's Garden of Verses was first published in 1885, with no illustrations. Since that time, many artists have tried to capture the spirit of his words. Diane Goode's rumpled pastel children dance through puddles, tumble in the hayloft, and crown themselves king and queen, with confidence and delight. No page escapes her creative flourishes. The table of contents and clearly numbered pages facilitate quick access to favorites, while the heavy paper and reinforced binding provide a durable receptacle for these gems.

More Books of Wonder

The Jungle Book: The Mowgli Stories, by Rudyard Kipling, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, 1995, HBB, \$ 258 p. All ages

The Lost Princess of Oz, by L. Frank Baum, illustrated by John R. Neill, 1998, HBB, \$24.00, 318 p. Gr. 1—5.

—*Rinkitink in Oz*, 1998, HBB, \$22.00, 318 p. Gr. 1—5.

The Story of Doctor Dolittle, by Hugh Lofting, illustrated by Michael Hague, 1997, HBB, \$20.00, 159 p. All ages.

Tales of Edgar Allan Poe, illustrated by Barry Moser, 1991, HBB, \$ 308 p. Gr. 8 and up.

The Three Musketeers, by Alexandre Dumas, illustrated by Tom Kidd, 1998, HBB, \$25.00, 633 p. Gr. 5 and up.

All of Morrow's Books of Wonder have the look and feel of books from another era,

Matt notices a folded piece of paper stuck in one of the dog's collars. The next night with his friend Steve, Matt recovers the note and finds it to be a plea for help from Caleb. The two stake out the Riggins' home and follow Mr. Riggins when he shows up. Mr. Riggins captures Steve, not knowing that Matt is hiding, and takes him to join Caleb. Mr. Riggins, who is not really Caleb's father, is intent on killing both Steve and Caleb and only quick thinking by Matt averts their demise.

Sigmund Brower scores a goal with soccer fans and mystery buffs grades six through eight as he creates believable characters with dimension. The writing, sprinkled with clues to help the reader solve the mystery and with a moral lesson about appreciating family no matter how

when books were prized possessions, to be cherished, read again and again, and passed down through generations. These reinforced trade editions are all hardcover, and have a most satisfying heft, thanks to the smooth, cream-colored paper. They are all graced with striking, full-page color plates and are a pleasure to handle as well as to read. The tales of Dumas, Kipling, and Poe have been reissued intact, but some minor changes were made to Lofting's engaging story of the doctor who communes with the animals. Patricia and Fredrick McKissack took pains to maintain the integrity of the original, while revising some of the more disturbing references to racial stereotypes. Baum's books deserve special mention, because some of our readers may not be aware that the famous author of the book Hollywood immortalized in "The Wizard of Oz" wrote many more tales set in his fantastic world. These books are printed in a larger typeface, and each sports over one hundred of Neill's original illustrations, including a dozen full-page color plates. Baum's rollicking yarns are peopled with the progeny of a vivid and fertile imagination, yet they lay claim to a simple charm, with their gentle morals and kind-hearted protagonists.

WM. B. EERDMANS PUBLISHING CO.

The Christian Eclectic Readers, by William H. McGuffey, revised by Charles and Betty Burger, 1998, PBB, \$50.00. Gr. 1—10.

—*The Christian Eclectic First Reader*, 81 p.

different they may seem, is fast-paced enough for reluctant readers. Matt, the main character, is a person young people can relate to. Even though Matt's life isn't perfect, he grows to appreciate his family despite their quirkiness.

Eileen Zygarlicke, Freelance Writer & Editor, Grand Forks, ND

***Wings of Dawn*, by Sigmund Brower. Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor Books, 1999. ISBN 1564767566, PAP, \$12.99.**

F. . 456 p. Gr. 11 - Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Thomas is a Merlin, part of a small, secret group chosen to fight the corruption of the Druids in

—*The Christian Eclectic Second Reader*, 193 p.

—*The Christian Eclectic Third Reader*, 160 p.

—*The Christian Eclectic Fourth Reader*, 363 p.

—*Study Guide to the Christian Eclectic Readers*, 193 p.

The McGuffey Readers have been a respected resource for teachers and homeschool parents for well over a century. (They even received mention in an episode of *The Little House on the Prairie* television series!) Originally published in 1836, *The Christian Eclectic Readers* provide a ten-year curriculum within a Christian context. Each lesson is followed by questions and vocabulary lists, which facilitate instruction in comprehension, reading, and spelling skills. The first four volumes of this five-volume set have been revised and edited by the Burgers, consultants, writers, editors, and homeschool parents. They have retained the flavor of the original, and while this makes for some interesting historical observations, children brought up on *Nova* and the *National Geographic* may find some of the natural science references outdated and inaccurate. Betty Burger has added a fifth volume, a study guide for instructors, which presents general overviews, goals, and guidelines for each lesson. Appendices include suggested sources for project ideas and sample outlines for assignments.

the 1300's, much as the legendary Merlin used his druidic knowledge as a sword of righteousness against the evil Druids of his day. Reared as an orphan, Thomas is trained and prepared from his childhood to avenge the death of his parents and re-establish his rightful position as ruler of Magnus—once the stronghold of Merlins, now under druidic control. With the help of a mysterious knight, a strange old man, a beautiful young woman posing as a horribly scarred servant, and a church custodian, Thomas begins his quest.

Complications arise when it is clear that Thomas does not understand many of the mysteries surrounding his quest and the secrets of Magnus. Furthermore, he does not know who to trust as he unravels bits and pieces of the story.

Likewise, the Merlins who wish to help him cannot fully trust him or reveal themselves to him. They fear that when his nurse and teacher died, Thomas may have been contacted and swayed by the enemy, and may have committed himself to the druidic cause. Until Thomas' loyalties are tested, nothing can be revealed that might destroy generations of the Merlins' work in combating the druidic plans to take control of society. Their goal is to undermine the people's true faith in God, causing them to question the king of England's power (which the people believe is given him by the Roman church and the authority of God), thus allowing the Druids to seize control.

Through his trials, Thomas, who has seen the corruption of the church and rejected anything to do with God, comes to recognize the power and reality of God and the importance of bringing the light of truth into the world, regardless of the personal cost. Ultimately he, along with the help of the few remaining Merlins, is successful in his quest for truth, but only after great struggle, persecution, misunderstanding, and frustration.

Wings of Dawn, by Sigmund Brouwer (originally published as *Magnus* in 1995) has an intricate plot; the reader is constantly surprised at the events that unfold. Indeed, at times the twists and turns of the story are so rapid and complex that it becomes difficult to follow, or even to know what to believe and which characters to trust. In this sense, the reader is as puzzled as Thomas is, as he sorts out the mystery surrounding Thomas' birth, his quest, and the Merlins. Brouwer has created a story with appealing characters and a clear message of the importance of knowledge and truth in preventing darkness from sweeping the land through ignorance and superstition. Brouwer also points out the clear distinction between faith, which is God-made, and religion, which is man-made and therefore often flawed or susceptible to corruption.

Sherril Beeler, Teacher, Medford, OR

Heat, by Michael Cadnum. LCCN 9740938. New York: Viking, Penguin Putnam, 1998. ISBN 0670878863, HBB, \$15.99.

F. Diving--Fiction; Accidents--Fiction; Fathers and daughters--Fiction; Remarriage--Fiction. 196 p. Gr. 7 - 10.

Quality—3 Acceptability—3

Bonnie Chamberlain is a high school sophomore whose life centers around diving for her school's swim team. The book opens after she has hit her head on the diving platform. The plot of the book moves through Bonnie's physical and emotional recovery from her concussion. Although the doctors release her to dive again she wages emotional battle with her unfamiliar fear of diving.

Written in first person from Bonnie's viewpoint, the story has a great amount of interior

monologue. Her thoughts and insights contain maturity and adult speech patterns beyond a high school sophomore. Michael Cadnum effectively takes the reader deep into the world of competitive diving, but he lacks good transition from chapter to chapter. Even within scenes, Cadnum jerks the reader around in Bonnie's interior dialogues, jumping among the many subplots. Too frequent flashbacks cause confusion, distracting the reader from the present story. Cadnum includes many scenes of irrelevant material.

There is a little profanity. And, although Cadnum resolves Bonnie's emotional conflict with diving again, none of the subplots are tied up. The book ends abruptly.

Jo Huddleston, Freelance Writer, Author, Former Teacher, Auburn, AL

P.S. Longer Letter Later, by Paula Danziger and Ann M. Martin. LCCN 9719120. New York: Scholastic, Scholastic, 1998. ISBN 0590213105, HBB, \$15.95.

F. Friendship--Fiction; Moving, Household--Fiction; Letters--Fiction. 234 p. Gr. 6 - 8.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Elizabeth and Tara*Starr are the best of friends until an awful thing happens. Tara*Starr's parents move to Ohio and the friends are split apart. Elizabeth is quiet and shy whereas Tara*Starr is an outgoing, independent free soul. The girls tell each other in letters what is happening in their lives. Tara*Starr consoles Elizabeth when her dad has been down sized from his executive position. Elizabeth's parents must learn how to budget money for the first time in their lives. Unfortunately, Elizabeth's dad does not handle the layoff very well, turning to alcohol and overspending on his credit cards. Tara*Starr joins the drama club, makes new friends, goes out on a date but also learns that her parents are about to have a baby. Tara*Starr does not want a new baby therefore, she ignores her parents. Meanwhile, Elizabeth must leave her mansion to live in a one bedroom apartment. As the year progresses, the girls have to learn how to deal not only with their families but also on how to maintain a long distance relationship that does not always ride smoothly.

So much is conveyed throughout the reading of these two friends' letters to each other that the reader really feels a part of the girls' lives. Paula Danziger (*The Cat Ate My Gymsuit*) and Ann Martin (*The Babysitters Club Series*) have devised an extremely creative way to portray how these girls will experience the ups and downs of real life friendships.

Connie Weaver, Church Librarian, Newville, PA

Second Cousins, by Virginia Hamilton. LCCN 9812859. New York: The Blue Sky Press, Scholastic, 1998. ISBN 0590473689, HBB, \$14.95.

F. Cousins--Fiction; Afro-Americans--Fiction. 168 p. Gr. 6 - 8.

Quality—3 Acceptability—3

After witnessing the drowning of her cousin Patty Ann, twelve-year-old Cammy wonders if her life will ever be the same. Little does she know that the future holds nothing but changes for her. Elodie, Cammy's twelve-year-old third cousin, comes to live with Cammy and the two become inseparable. The anticipation of their family reunion keeps them excited. However, when Cammie and Elodie meet cousins from Queens, New York, their relationship with each other changes as the four cousins try to forge bonds with one another. Cammie, feeling her friendship with Elodie threatened by the presence of one of the cousins, finds herself becoming attached to the other New York cousin. Through a series of events, Cammie discovers that one of her New York cousins, the one she has befriended, is really her sister. Although the summer has a surprise ending, Cammie comes to realize that change happens and it can be good.

Author Virginia Hamilton uses fragmented sentences and thoughts to communicate the ideas of Cammy to the reader. Although *Second Cousins* is interesting and unique, young readers may have difficulty becoming interested in the story since the writing is jerky rather than smooth. The story is written from the point of view of a young black girl, using authentic black dialect. The plot is a bit slow.

Eileen Zygarricke, Freelance Writer & Editor, Grand Forks, ND

Honor's Quest, by Kristen Heitzmann. (Rocky Mountain Legacy; 3.) Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1999. ISBN 0764220330, PAPER, \$9.99.

F. Colorado--Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction; Christian fiction. 283 p. Gr. 11 - Adult.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

In Book Three of the Rocky Mountain Legacy, Abbie Farrel faces a series of changes and even tragedy in her life. A visit to Charleston for Abbie and her husband Monte, is prompted by the death of Monte's sister, Francis, and a request that the couple raise her young daughter, Jeannette. Three-year-old "Jenny" has had little correction or discipline during her lifetime and it falls to Abbey to provide all of the loving discipline that the child requires.

As the small family returns to their ranch in Colorado, Abbey learns that the pregnancy she has longed for has finally become a fact. While she and Monte work to build up their ranch and anticipate the birth of their first child, tragedy hits their family. Suddenly Abbie is left with overwhelming responsibility, grief, and consuming anger. In her determination to save the ranch for her child, she rejects the help of the man who promised to look after her.

The author provides a spiritual dimension to Abbie's struggle as she comes to terms with the character of God and His sovereign will. *Honor's Quest* is best read as part of the series.

Donna E. Brown, Church Librarian, Portland, OR

An Unlikely Prince, by Barbara Jean Hicks. (Once Upon a Dream.) Colorado Springs: Waterbrook Press, 1998. ISBN 1578561221, PAPER, \$6.95.

F. Humorous fiction. 254 p. Gr. 11 - Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Suzie Wyatt doesn't know quite what to think when she encounters Mr. Stuff-Shirt, Harrison Hunt. Her new neighbor may be handsome, but he certainly isn't Prince Charming. But all Harrison really wants is some peace and quiet, some solitude in which to write his book. He soon discovers there's no such commodity whenever Suzie's around. Suzie and her day-care children drive him absolutely crazy with their noise and antics. His other neighbor, the sourly Mrs. Pfefferkuchen, has a solution—shut down the day-care. Harrison can't help but agree.

It's not Suzie's fault she encounters one disaster after another trying to befriend Harrison. Some things simply can't be controlled. It's just that poor Harrison always seems to be at the wrong place at the wrong time. Harrison soon discovers, though, fun-loving Suzie has the ability to melt hearts—especially his. But is it too late? Helping Mrs. Pfefferkuchen shut down the day-care center certainly won't help him score any points with the woman.

Barbara Jean Hicks injects a wonderful dose of humor into this story and its characters. Readers will smile and even laugh aloud as the pages whiz by. *An Unlikely Prince* is a unique romance filled with spiritual truths dealing in compassion and humbleness. The author takes great pains to make the hero different, unстереotypical, and she successfully pulls it off. Harrison is a methodical, shy, uptight man who can blush, but he also has the ability to be romantic without changing who he is.

Beth Loughner, Freelance Writer, Registered Nurse, Columbus, OH

The Maze, by Will Hobbs. LCCN 9810791. New York: Morrow Junior Books, William Morrow, 1998. ISBN 0688150926, HBB, \$15.00.

F. Runaways--Fiction; Foster home care--Fiction; Condors--Fiction; Endangered species--Fiction; Wildlife conservation--Fiction; Canyonlands National Park (Utah)--Fiction. 198 p. Gr. 7 - 12.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

The Maze by Will Hobbs begins as Rick Walker, fearing for his life, escapes from Blue Canyon Youth Detention Center in the Nevada desert. While trying to get as far away from Nevada as possible, he stows away in the back of a truck

and find himself in Utah, at the Canyonland National Park, just outside a network of canyons known as the Maze. He stumbles into the camp of Lon Peregrino, a biologist who reintroduces condors into the wild. As Rick spends time with Lon, he begins to help with the work of monitoring the young condors, and eventually comes to love and respect them as much as Lon. This also gives Rick time to do some soul searching and forgiving, which Lon encourages him to do. Rick is also involved in helping to protect the condors from men who want to loot the area's Native American ruins, and who eventually want Lon and Rick out of there, at all costs.

Award winner Will Hobbs has written another great book that uses the natural beauty of a desert and six majestic condors to bring a young boy to the simple act of forgiveness. Although there are no mentions of God in this book, there is a sense that Rick is moved by the beauty of creation. The reader is able to see the struggle in Rick as he tries to come to terms with his past and those who have let him down. The characterization is full and complete and there is enough action to keep a youth's interest. Canyonlands National Park truly exists and Mr. Hobbs does include a brief description of how he came to use this park in his story. A helpful map of the park is included.

Patricia A. Youmans, MLIS, Homeschool Parent, Siloam Springs, AR

Ashes and Lace, by B. J. Hoff. (Song of Erin; 2) LCCN 9933318. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1999. ISBN 0842314792, PAPER, \$11.99.

F. Irish Americans--New York (State)--Fiction; Christian fiction. 421 p. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

When Terese Sheridan begins her voyage from Ireland to America with two orphans in tow and an illegitimate baby on the way, she little suspects the challenges she will face. Terese hopes to be reunited with her brother Cavan, her only family member yet living. However, when she is detained at the docks in a quarantine hospital with terrible living conditions, Terese is driven to desperate measures. She steals another woman's health certificate to escape quarantine, and then finds herself on the streets of New York with no place to go. Severely stricken by pneumonia shortly thereafter, Terese collapses, and awakens in a mission hospital after a close brush with death. Here she is tenderly cared for by the good Doctor Leslie, and by the genteel Samantha Harte, the sweetheart of newspapermen, Jack Kane, who is Cavan's employer.

Jack has always been a man in control—a man who could get whatever he wanted if he pushed hard enough—everything, that is, except Samantha. Though she loves him deeply, Samantha refuses to marry Jack because he does not share her faith in God, and because she had

been so abused by her now-deceased husband that she would be unable to give Jack children. Jack pressures Terese into giving her illegitimate child up for his adoption, thinking that if he can give Samantha a child in this way, he can convince her to marry him. When Terese, who claimed that the child was a product of rape, reveals that the child's father is actually Brady Kane, Jack's wayward brother, Jack unleashes his explosive anger, and his violence frightens Samantha. When he comes to his senses, Jack fears he has lost her trust and any chance of a future relationship.

Not until Jack loses all he has worked for when an arson burns his newspaper building to the ground does he realize what is truly important. Jack goes into the burning building to save the life of a young boy trapped inside. The situation is hopeless, but he hears the Lord's reassuring voice as snatches of scripture flow through his mind. Jack cries out to the Lord in complete surrender, and God miraculously delivers him and the boy through the fire without a burn. Ultimately Jack is reconciled with Samantha, Terese, and eventually his own brother, Brady. He grows in his faith and becomes a strong, godly influence through his rebuilt newspaper, the Vanguard.

Ashes and Lace by B.J. Hoff is the second and final book in the Song of Erin series. Hoff takes an unflinching look at the corrupt nature of mankind and shows how God can bring about change in even the hardest of hearts and the darkest of lives. Jack surrenders to the Lord his need to be in control; Samantha allows the Lord to teach her to trust again, and to heal her from years of physical abuse; Terese learns to accept God's forgiveness for her promiscuity and foolish choices; and Brady trusts God daily in his struggle against alcoholism. Once again Hoff writes an encouraging story of redemption and reconciliation—one that is best enjoyed by first reading book one, *Cloth of Heaven*.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Medford, OR

The Emerald Isle, by Angela Elwell Hunt. (The Heirs of Cahira O'Connor; 4.) : Waterbrook, 1999. ISBN 1578561809, PAPER, \$11.95.

F. Ireland--Fiction; Christian fiction. 416 p. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

When God told Kathleen to wait a moment before crossing the street, she had no idea she'd be meeting Maddy, the Irish woman who would fall in love with and marry Kathleen's best friend Taylor—or that Kathleen would be going to Ireland with them to be Taylor's "best man" at the wedding. Kathleen, not big on adventure, is reluctant to make the trip. She's afraid of being a third wheel, and Kathleen is not sure how she feels about Maddy marrying the man she had planned to marry someday. But Kathleen, uniquely distinguished by the white streak in her

red hair, has been researching her Irish ancestors—particularly the four women who share her piebaldness, and Taylor convinces Kathleen that there is no better place than Ireland for her to research the final woman, Cahira, a Gael princess.

Kathleen and Taylor stay with Maddy's family on their bed and breakfast dairy farm, and Kathleen soon realizes there is extreme tension between Maddy's brother Patrick, who constantly suggests new ways to improve the farm, and Maddy's father, who is of the old school and vehemently resists any change. Kathleen researches Cahira's story, discovering that she was instrumental in bridging the conflict between the Gaels and the Normans by marrying a Norman soldier. Kathleen finds herself cast in a similar role as her presence enables Patrick and his father to bridge the chasm between them, and to find a saving faith in Christ. Additionally, Kathleen realizes that all of Cahira's piebald descendants were simply ordinary women who rose to the occasion in unusual circumstances. Kathleen finds her own true love in Patrick and serves happily as a wife and mother, confident in her ability to face whatever challenges life brings by trusting in the strength of the Lord.

The Emerald Isle, by Angela Elwell Hunt is the fourth and final book in the Heirs of Cahira O'Connor series, and will be best enjoyed by readers who have read the first three books in the series. Written as two stories in one, the book brings Kathleen's own story to a satisfying conclusion, tying together the threads of her own search for her role in life as prompted by her research into the stories of the O'Connor women. Through Kathleen, readers are reminded that the joy we experience is in direct proportion to the pain we are willing to bear, which often means stepping out of our "comfort zone" and allowing the Lord to stretch our faith. Kathleen also learns the importance of not being ashamed of being a Christian, as she finds confidence in her relationship with the Lord through encouraging Patrick in his new-found faith.

Sherril Beeler, Teacher, Medford, OR

***The Only Outcast*, by Julie Johnston. Plattsburgh, N.Y.: Tundra, 1998. ISBN 0887767054, HBB, \$14.95.**

F. Fathers and sons--Fiction. 221 p. Gr. 5 - 8.
Quality—3 Acceptability—3

Fred is the eldest of four kids, and at sixteen, feels pretty totally awkward. He is getting to know himself and coming of age, and he sees himself as a total outcast, thence the title of the book. His mother died before the beginning of the story. He, his two brothers, and one sister travel to their grandparents cabin to spend the summer. They are joined by a couple of aunts and a cousin. The older boys make a camp on the edge of the lake. They spend their summer

traveling the lake in an old boat and doing chores and growing up.

The story takes place in Canada in the summer of 1904, definitely a bygone time. The boys are interested in an old spooky cabin that has terrible stories about it, and indeed, Fred falls through the floor and lands on a skeleton. Fred has a stutter, for which, along with many other things, his father puts him down, and many others make fun of him. He falls in love. He has real compassion on others who may be hurting down inside. He comes to see his father's foibles, and is able to communicate with him.

There is one reference to a Sunday School lesson, in which the teacher preaches about somebody in the Bible who spilled his seed on the ground. The teacher says that every time they waste their seed, they lose a portion of their brain fluid, and the more they lose the stupider they become. In a couple of other places in the book, reference is made to this lesson when Fred feels really stupid. There is also a reference to dropping 'a silent but deadly rose' for passing gas.

This book is written in first person, often from the viewpoint of an observer, with a bit of a journal attitude. It comes from a feminine style viewpoint, continually internalizing about feelings. Fred is definitely an introvert; and the reader gets to know him very well, but not quite understand him. Most of the other characterization seemed pretty stereotypical. Some of the descriptions are poetic and enable the reader to see clearly what the characters see.

Judy Belcher, Teacher, Bremerton, WA

***The Power and the Glory*, by Clint Kelly. (In The Shadow of the Mountain; 2.) Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1999. ISBN 1556619561, PAP, \$10.99.**

F. Armenia--History--Fiction; Turkey--History--Fiction. 270 p. Gr. 10 - Adult.
Quality—5 Acceptability—5

At the end of World War I the Armenian people are struggling to find their place among their Turkish supplanters. The unrest and factious uprisings among their own people have created tension in the marriage of the "Fox" and his lady. He debates the wisdom of having obtained a wife during the hazards of rebuilding his homeland. He finds himself torn in several directions trying to protect her and influencing his people in the right direction. Will inflicting the Turks with the same actions the Armenians received help rebuild their homeland? Is the effort his wife has put into trying to make a life during such dangerous times a futile attempt?

Clint Kelly continues the saga of Tatul and Adrine Sarafian in *The Power and the Glory*. History, culture, and life at the heart of civilization is again resurrected. To continue to trust God when beaten down time after time and allow his sovereign will to orchestrate the affairs

of man toward justice is the crux of this book.

Debbie A. Lindsay, Homeschool Parent, Eatonville, WA

***In the Stone Circle*, by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel. LCCN 9714737. New York: Scholastic, 1998. ISBN 0590213083, HBB, \$15.95.**

F. Haunted houses--Wales--Fiction; Wales--Fiction; Mothers and daughters--Fiction. 225 p. Gr. 7 - 10.
Quality—4 Acceptability—4

An intriguing blend of ghost story and historical novel, *In the Stone Circle* marks Elizabeth Cody Kimmel's first time out as an author. Although uneven at times, the book will definitely interest young adult readers who want to go beyond a straightforward retelling of an historical event.

Cristyn suffers from the usual fourteen-year-old woes: whether or not Mr. Right will ask her to the school dance; friend problems; and, of course, a parent who just isn't with it. Her widowed father has raised her from a young child, and Cristyn knows next to nothing about her mother. But when her father takes her on a summer-long research trip to Wales, her mother's birthplace, she begins to learn about her mother, her father, family life, and herself. She grows from a self-centered, slang-talking teen to a maturing young woman with compassion not only for her father and his new love-interest, but also for an ancient Welsh ghost trapped in Cristyn's rented stone house.

The use of slang expressions in the first few chapters of the book can be annoying. But as the plot unfolds, Kimmel abandons the slang in favor of plot action. *In the Stone Circle* makes a satisfying read for teenage girls.

Georgia Beaverson, Freelance Writer & Editor, Madison, WI

***On Assignment*, by Marilyn Kok. (A Palisades Contemporary Romance.) Sisters, Ore.: Palisades, Multnomah Publishers, 1998. ISBN 1576732797, PAP, \$9.99.**

F. Photography--Fiction; Singapore--Fiction. 264 p. Gr. 10 - Adult.
Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Tessa Brooks has come to Singapore on assignment to photograph not only a native family, but also to see if she still has feelings for her ex-fiancé, Michael. Michael is a banker that works as a loan officer for corporations in Singapore. Even though Tessa believes she is over her love for Michael, she still has not been able to commit herself to any other man. Michael is also still carrying a torch for Tessa and would like very much to become more than her step cousin, but there is the original problem that they both have very demanding careers. While Tessa and Michael are trying to sort out their feelings, a sinister bank employee from Tessa's past is determined to keep her from identifying his real name.

The description of the various sites in Singapore gives the reader the impression that the author has indeed been to this far-off place. The author describes not only elements of Buddhism, but some extremely deep Christian philosophy that may leave readers confused or simply skimming these sections. Unfortunately, the characters never really seem to feel like they are someone you know. The ending is disappointing in that the criminal element is not brought to justice. This may be the author's way to leading into a series based upon Tessa and Michael.

Connie Weaver, Church Librarian, Newville, PA

***In Time of Trouble*, by Nancy J. Lindquist. That's Life! Communications, 1999. ISBN 0968549500, PAP, \$6.95.**

F. . 196 p. Gr. 9 - Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Eighteen-year-old twin brothers, Shane and Sandy are blond, athletic and competitive. They were once inseparable. But when Sandy becomes class president, is a star athlete, and honor student, Shane feels left out and unable to compete. He establishes a new set of friends who drink, experiment with drugs, and throw wild parties. Soon Shane is fired from his job, gets his car taken away by his dad, and fails in school. The growing distance between the brothers becomes an uncrossable chasm.

In a downward spiral, Shane considers suicide. A classmate tells him about Jesus and second chances, then invites him to a youth rally. Shane scoffs at first, though he realizes he needs a second chance at life. However, he seriously questions if anyone can start over. He accepts Christ at the rally and expects his life to improve. Instead, it gets worse. Friends and family who are skeptical, even hostile immediately test his faith. Friends jeer, his father won't let him attend church, and one girl friend leaves him while another takes revenge.

N.J. Lindquist, author of *In Time Of Trouble*, weaves an engrossing story depicting an angry, confused young man, with realism and in-depth knowledge of how a teen thinks and feels. Although not the ordinary story of religion and witnessing, teens and adults alike will laugh, cry, and cheer for Shane throughout this refreshing book. The only criticism is it ends too soon.

Gail Welborn, Freelance Writer, Everett, WA

***A Match Made in Heaven*, by Shari MacDonald. (The Salinger Sisters;2.) Colorado Springs: Waterbrook, 1999. ISBN 157856137X, PAP, \$6.95.**

F. Dating--Fiction; Romance fiction; Christian fiction. 246 p. Gr. 9 - Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

"Rent-a-Yenta" proclaims the sign on the door of Lucy Salinger's match-making business in

Los Angeles. Lucy has always had a special instinct for pairing people with their life-mates. The only match she hasn't made is her own. But when Campbell Howard, a charming Christian psychologist comes to her for help in finding a wife, Lucy is smitten, and finds it difficult to adhere to her company policy of not dating clients. Lucy purposefully mis-matches him with three women clients, so she can at least maintain some contact with Campbell, even if it is business-related. Unfortunately, each time Lucy meets with Campbell she ends up making a complete fool of herself one way or another.

Campbell, however, is astute enough to realize Lucy's bizarre actions are more related to her fear of getting involved with someone, only to be abandoned later on, just as Lucy's ex-fiancee abandoned her at the altar some years earlier. With patience, persistence, and understanding, Campbell is able to convince Lucy that he truly cares for her, and that she can trust him. Gradually Lucy is able to turn her fears over to the Lord, and enter with confidence into a relationship with Campbell.

A Match Made in Heaven, by Shari MacDonald, is a romance that deals fairly seriously with some emotional and spiritual issues. As a result, the book is mis-labeled with the "Giggle Guarantee" which promises that if the book "fails to tickle your funny bone," you can exchange the book for another in the "A Time for Laughter...and Romance" line. There are some lighter moments in the story, but the dialogue seems somewhat contrived in these scenes, and the situations Lucy finds herself in are often more ludicrous than realistic. The book is definitely worth reading, however. This is the second book in the Salinger Sister series, but it is easily read and understood on its own.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Medford, OR

***The Perfect Wife*, by Shari MacDonald. (The Salinger Sisters;3.) LCCN 9914976. Colorado Springs: Waterbrook, 1999. ISBN 1578561388, PAP, \$6.95.**

F. Christian fiction. 242 p. Gr. 9 - Adult.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

One little white lie. That's all it took to get Brody Collins embroiled in a tangle of lies so complex that extricating himself requires brutal honesty—and the possible loss of the woman he loves. As editor of the prestigious *California Dream* magazine, Brody inveigles an invitation to the biggest wedding of the year so he can get photographs and the inside scoop before his competitors do. He runs into Felicia, a girl he was smitten with in high school, who is now a newly-divorced mother of three. Brody finds her still attractive after all these years, and she becomes even more appealing when he discovers that her ex-husband Robert ran off with Hollywood actress Tiffany Diamond. Recognizing an incredible story opportunity, Brody offers to fill Felicia's need for a nanny,

figuring that he can convince Felicia to sell her story and give him an exclusive interview.

Brody, the rather wealthy owner of *Child's Play* magazine, implies that he has a lot more experience with children than he actually does, which makes his exploits as a nanny rather interesting. He moves into the guest cottage behind Felicia's house and pretends that he is struggling financially, even going so far as to drive a beat-up looking car to make the deception more realistic. As he spends time with the children, cooks meals for Felicia, and eats with the family when she comes home from work in the evenings, Brody finds himself falling in love with her. And Felicia, who had determined that she was done with men, finds herself strangely attracted to him.

The story climaxes when Felicia finds out about Brody's deception the day Robert and Tiffany come to pick up the kids. Felicia races home to confront Brody, and finds him and a photographer on the doorstep just as Robert and Tiffany are driving away. Assuming the worst, Felicia explodes in anger and Brody is forced to confess his lengthy and elaborate deception. Brody, however, realizing that he loves Felicia far too much to hurt her, had refused to go through with the plan, had forbidden the photographer to take pictures, and was subsequently fired from his job at *California Dream*. He apologizes to Felicia and confesses his love for her; she willingly forgives him, and agrees to marry him.

Of the three books in the Salinger Sister series, *The Perfect Wife*, by Shari MacDonald is the most humorous; it actually lives up to the "giggle guarantee" (if the book doesn't make you laugh, it's free). The story is somewhat unrealistic, however. For a woman as badly hurt as Felicia seems to be from her previous marriage, she jumps into another serious relationship in less than a week's time. She expresses concern that her ex-husband had not shared her faith in God, yet Brody is described as a "social Christian" and little mention is made of any spiritual growth throughout the story; yet, Felicia does not seem particularly concerned about this. Additionally, for a woman who has been badly crushed and deceived by her ex-husband, she seems all too eager to forgive and forget Brody's lies. Despite these weaknesses, the book is an enjoyable, light read.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Medford, OR

***The Eagle's Shadow*, by Nora Martin. LCCN 96029902. New York: Scholastic, Scholastic Press, 1997. ISBN 0590360876, HBB, \$15.95.**

F. Tlingit Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--Alaska--Fiction; Alaska--Fiction; Alcoholism--Fiction. 172 p. Gr. 5 - 8.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

When he learns that he will be stationed in Japan, Clearie's father sends her to live with her mother's mother. Since her mother abandoned

her, Clearie joins a family and a life that she does not know. When she arrives, she finds her mother's sister cold and bitter. Soon Clearie discovers the secret of her mother's disappearance and its link to the town's despised trader, Henry Jonee. Clearie gains confidence as she settles in, learns to weave, gets to know her aunt better, and makes trusted friends. With this confidence and the help of family and friends, she is able to report the illegal activities of Henry Jonee.

Nora Martin crafts an excellent story of the importance of knowing our heritage, perseverance, and integrity. Although Clearie feels as if her family is distant, she learns that their love is strong and deep as she comes to know them better. The treasure of knowing one's history and family along with the resolution Clearie finds as she grows to understand the culture of her mother's family creates a story which readers will find both comforting and compelling.

Carol M. Jones, *Children's Librarian, Champaign, IL*

***Nephilim*, by Lynn A. Marzulli. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1999. ISBN 0310220114, PAP, \$12.99.**

F. Christian fiction. 352 p. Gr. 11 - Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Nephilim: a race of Old Testament giants—offspring of human women and fallen angels, some say; a race so evil during Noah's time that God wiped them out with the flood. Do they still exist? And is there a connection between them and so-called "extra-terrestrial" activity? News reporter Art "Mac" MacKenzie is sent on a top-secret assignment to Israel to find out the answers to these questions. What he discovers is shocking. Not only are the *Nephilim* back, but they are working with the U.S. government in a top-secret laboratory creating human-alien hybrids, and preparing for the "great deception" which will usher in the age of the anti-Christ.

When Mac is shown the remains of one of the *Nephilim* uncovered in an archaeological dig in Israel, he is amazed at the possible connection to alien activity. His search for answers leads to the beginning of his spiritual journey from hard-heartedness toward God for the death of his son, to healing and release as he comes to know the God of the Bible who is "a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief." As Mac returns to the United States to continue his probe into extra-terrestrial activity, he is called upon to fight the *Nephilim* demons not by might, but with his spiritual weapons.

Nephilim, by L.A. Marzulli is an intriguing tale filled with numerous scriptural and historical references to the *Nephilim*, and to the spiritual war that rages in realms unseen to us. The connections Marzulli makes between demonic activity, extra-terrestrial experiences, and the end times seem entirely plausible, which is what

makes the story so fascinating. *Nephilim* comes with the guarantee that if you don't "love this book" it's free. There probably won't be many takers on this offer, although Marzulli does leave some questions unanswered, and the ending is somewhat anti-climactic after all the build-up of suspense. The book is left open-ended, however, perhaps to allow following books to continue the story, which would delight science-fiction fans.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Medford, OR

***Wings of Healing*, by Alan Morris. (Guardians of the North; 5.) LCCN 996631. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1999. ISBN 1556616961, PAP, \$8.99.**

F. North West Mounted Police (Canada)—Fiction; Siksika Indians—Alberta—Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life—Alberta—Fiction; Women missionaries—Alberta—Fiction; Epidemics—Alberta—Fiction; Fort Macleod (Alta.)—Fiction. 270 p. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Full characters and appealing story line again compliment this fifth story in the *Guardians of the North* series. Alan Morris creates a believable and exciting tale amid the rugged Canadian landscape. Reena O'Donnell, missionary to the friendly Blackfoot tribe, is more than distressed to learn that the government is closing in on the Indians' freedom. As reservations become the up and coming way to deal with the native American, both Reena and Canadian Mounty, Hunter Stone, try to fight the new orders that threaten to dehumanize the unsuspecting tribe.

To add to the difficulties, a plague of the flu has hit the settlers and Indians alike, taking its toll in deaths. The only doctor succumbs to the disease, and now, a new and rather rogue young physician comes on the scene to complicate the desperate fight for life. Major Briggs, the new superintendent, and Indian hater, adds distrust and tension to an already tumultuous time within the fort.

Wings of Healing is another excellent read for those who enjoy pioneering and conflict against a strong backdrop of faith, as well as enjoying a touch of romance.

Mary McKinney, Former Teacher & Freelance Writer, Port Orchard, WA

***The Beginning of Sorrows: Enmeshed in Evil*, by Gilbert, Lynn, and Alan Morris. (The Omega Trilogy; 1.) Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1999. ISBN 0078527000, PAP, \$12.99.**

F. 192 p. Gr. 11 - Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

In the year 2050, America is winding down as a super-power, and it is the Germanic Union of Nation-States that has gradually grown in strength, taking an active role in policing affairs all over the world, and maintaining numerous

military bases in the U.S. America has been transformed by MAB, the Man and Biosphere Project which effected a massive relocation of the population into co-op cities to allow for the "re-wilding" of the earth. This project was largely supported by two ultra-environmentalists: Vice President Aristide Luca Therion, and his mistress, Minden Lauer, the "Lady of Light," and spiritual leader of the Earth's Light religious group. Surprisingly enough, people seemed willing to give up many of their property rights and civil liberties as government programs gave them nationalized health care, food credits, low-cost housing, and personal multi-media computers through the Cyclops system. Of course, the MAB program wasn't fully complete, and in areas like Texas there were always rebels who resisted relocation and stubbornly continued to live off the land.

When an American scientist discovers a new life-form, Therion and Minden get ahold of a mutated version of it that literally eats electricity. With the help of the Germans, they plan to release the "ohm-bug" at strategic locations throughout the U.S. The "ohm-bug" has been supposedly engineered to effect a three day blackout in those areas, thus allowing the government to evacuate the remaining citizens to co-op cities and fulfill the completion of the MAB project. However, the Germans take advantage of this opportunity to black-out not only the designated areas, but the entire U.S. for weeks, thus bringing the country to its knees while the military is totally defenseless. Their plan succeeds, and the blame is falsely placed on the terrorist actions of radical Christian groups throughout the country. As the story concludes, small groups of people introduced throughout the story—usually with at least one Christian among them—struggle to survive the best they can in this world of literal and spiritual darkness.

The Beginning of Sorrows, by Gilbert, Lynn, and Alan Morris is a top-notch book that sets the stage for the books to follow in the *Omega Trilogy*. The book jumps, Tom Clancy style, from person to person and location to location, gradually weaving the stories together to form the larger picture. The characters are widely varied and intriguing, and the book whets the reader's appetite for more of the unique blend of realistic sci-fi and the connection to possible end times events yet to come.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Medford, OR

***The Right Hand of God*, by Gilbert Morris. (The Liberty Bell; 6.) LCCN 996388. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1999. ISBN 1556615701, PAP, \$9.99.**

F. United States—History—Revolution, 1776-1783—Fiction; United States—History—Revolution, 1776-1783—Participation, German—Fiction; Hessian mercenaries—Fiction. 283 p. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

The Right Hand of God chronicles the era of the

Revolutionary War through the adventures of the Bradford family. Jacob Steiner, Hessian soldier and prisoner of war, escapes and finds sanctuary in the Bradford's storage barn. Rachel Bradford discovers the wounded and starving Hessian. During her administrations she battles with her own internal conflict. Once the man is healed, must she obey her civic duty and report him?

Gilbert Morris concentrates book six of The Liberty Bell series on the winter of suffering at Valley Forge and the role that German soldiers participated in the English army.

With all of the characters that have been introduced up to this point, Mr. Morris has developed their relationships and maintains the multiple threads of each contribution without confusion and unwieldy repetitions. The book has a satisfying conclusion yet strongly hints that there will be more forthcoming about all the individuals who have come under the umbrella of the Bradford family.

Debbie A. Lindsey, Homeschool Parent, Eatonville, WA

Sirena, by Donna Jo Napoli. LCCN 9748391. New York: Scholastic, 1998. ISBN 0590383884, HBB, \$15.95.

F. Mermaids--Fiction; Mythology, Greek--Fiction; Aegean Sea Region--Fiction. 210 p. Gr. 11 - Adult. Quality—4 Acceptability—1

Author Donna Jo Napoli creates the character of Sirena, a seventeen-year-old mermaid in search of a human man with whom she can mate and thereby gain immortality. Sirena finds the man, Philoctetes, abandoned by fellow sailors, on an island. He is hurt and near death, yet Sirena nurses him back to health. Although Philoctetes lives on the island for close to ten years, his countrymen come to retrieve him to fight in the battle of Troy. Here Philoctetes is faced with the decision to go or stay with Sirena whom he has grown to love. This is the story of how love can overcome natural barriers and become lasting.

The book is a reference guide to Greek mythology. There are a few instances where the author sensually describes Sirena's body and the eventual union between the two. Although Napoli is skilled in writing and the book is technically good, the theme and use of mythology and sexual references make this book difficult to recommend.

Eileen Zygarricke, Freelance Writer & Editor, Grand Forks, ND

Tripping Over Skyscrapers, by Wendy Lee Nentwig. (Unmistakably Cooper Ellis; 1.) ISBN 0764220659.

F. Friendship--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Modelling--Fiction. 158 p. Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Moonstruck in Manhattan, by Wendy Lee Nentwig. (Unmistakably Cooper Ellis; 2.)

LCCN 99185341. ISBN 0764220667.

F. Friendship--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Modelling--Fiction. 155 p. Quality—3 Acceptability—4

Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1998. PAP, \$5.99.

Gr. 7 - 12.

Fifteen-year-old Cooper Ellis lives in a high rise apartment in Manhattan. She and her best friends, Claire and Alex, begin an after-school reading group in their high school to discuss C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*. Cooper is modeling for fashion magazines, Claire is an aspiring fashion designer, and Alex is dreaming of a career as a movie producer. Each week the three teens get together to watch old videos at Cooper's apartment while her folks go out for dinner.

In Wendy Nentwig's first book of the series, Unmistakably Cooper Ellis, the Reading Group is started and Cooper begins her modeling career. Cooper has to learn to deal with changes in her life. Josh begins to show serious interest in Cooper in *Moonstruck in Manhattan* and takes her to a school dance for their first date. Alex is jealous of Josh and Claire is jealous of Cooper so there is a lot of petty teen dialogue throughout the book. Cooper's modeling career gets a boost when a famous photographer takes a liking to her. However, his treatment of Cooper makes her uncomfortable, and when on a photo shoot the photographer, other models, and crew all smoke marijuana and drink, Cooper leaves. This prompts her to talk to her mother and some of the pressure she was carrying alone is relieved.

Cooper's parents are driven by their careers and aspirations for their only child. Much detail is given to the food Cooper's family eats, the videos the teens watch, and the faddish clothing Cooper wears.

Patricia J. Perry, Retired Librarian, Westerville, OH

In His Steps : The Promise, by Joey O'Connor. LCCN 9840721. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, Baker Books, 1998. ISBN 0800756789, PAP, \$8.99.

F. Christian life--Fiction. 184 p. Gr. 10 - Adult. Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Written over one hundred years ago, Joey O'Connor has modernized Charles Sheldon's classic that asks, "What would Jesus do?" *In His Steps: The Promise*, details choices and resulting problems framed by asking the question in a contemporary setting.

Reverend Max Henry, pastor of First Church in California, concludes his Sunday message with, "...today we have looked at learning to love, steps of faith, obeying God's word, and imitating the life of Christ." A vagrant slips from the back pew and comes down the center aisle, a sour, dirty smell preceding him. Interrupting the service, he says, "I'm not a beggar, I'm homeless...Lose your job, ...and

you could be just like me in three months." His presence and words confront parishioners and challenge their sincerity. The vagrant's statements disturb Reverend Max. When the vagrant dies the following week, he challenges the congregation to commit to a one-year promise to ask, "What would Jesus do?" before making any decision.

Many take the pastor's challenge. Young and wealthy Gina Paige purchases and renovates a building for the homeless. Rikki Winslow, talented singer, walks away from a major singing contract to use her talents at the new mission in spite of strong family disapproval. Alex Powers, recognized high school computer genius, turns down employment and millions of dollars in stock options, refusing to sign with a company linked to pornographic websites. Those who sometimes question their own motives and decision-making will appreciate this updated classic.

Gail Welborn, Freelance Writer, Everett, WA



The Hidden Heart, by Jane Orcutt. Colorado Springs: Waterbrook Press, 1998. ISBN 1578560535, PAP, \$7.95.

F. Christian fiction. 323 p. Gr. 11 - Adult. Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Elizabeth Cameron has never been good enough—not good enough for God, not good enough for her father; not good enough for anyone. After the death of her father, she has only one place to turn. Maybe it won't be so bad joining a group of religious, celibate women who call themselves Sanctificationists. Maybe she can start her life anew. Taking her five-year-old Indian charge, she heads for Belton, Texas. But the stagecoach trip barely begins before fellow-rider Caleb Martin is ready to blow steam out his ears from Elizabeth's prudish, Bible spouting behavior. The woman is impossible!

But Caleb has no choice in the matter. To win his freedom from the State of Texas, he has to fulfill one last assignment—Elizabeth Cameron. Little does he know of the inner torment ripping through Elizabeth's heart day after day. She can't forget the horrible torment she endured when captured at the age of twelve by savage Indians or how she watched as they murdered her mother and sister. Why hadn't they killed her, too! They'd already killed her spirit, why not her body? Caleb is busy fighting his own demons. The gunslinger is trying hard to face his past before it ruins his future.

Learning to distinguish holy fear from unhealthy fright of God becomes key in *The Hidden Heart*. Jane Orcutt takes readers through several heart wrenching dramas, capturing the emotion as if the hero and heroine were real. As each character deals with issues relating to God's love and sovereignty, the reader will be challenged to

examine his or her own hearts. This romance is not an "easy" or relaxing book, but thought-provoking and spiritually stretching. Once started, it can't be put down.

Beth Loughner, *Freelance Writer, Registered Nurse, Columbus, OH*

Westward the Dream, by Judith Pella and Tracie Peterson. (Ribbons West; 1.) Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1998. ISBN 0764220713, PAP, \$10.99.

F. United States--History--Fiction; Pioneer and frontier life--Fiction; Railroads--Fiction. 316 p. Gr. 11 - Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

In the first of the Ribbons West series, a sequel to Ribbons of Steel, authors Judith Pella and Tracie Peterson continue the saga of the Baldwin family in *Westward the Dream*. Brenton Baldwin, finishing his apprenticeship in photography, faces tough decisions as the Civil War intensifies and his parents are in Russia. Through a series of events he and his sister, Jordana, find themselves heading west in search of their sister, Victoria, and her husband Kiernan O'Connor. The Baldwins are joined in their journey by Kiernan's sister, Caitlin, recently arrived from Ireland. Brenton is employed by Billy Vanderbilt to photograph the land where the Transcontinental Railroad is to be built. As the trio make their way across the continent, Brenton's feelings for Caitlin grow. However, because she lacks a relationship and a belief in God, Brenton struggles with his emotions. Victoria and Keirman have struggles of their own when Victoria must conquer the temptation of the allure of another man.

The main theme of the book deals with watching your heart. Pella and Peterson show the frailty of the human heart and the importance of keeping your heart pure in the eyes of God. Although predictable in parts, it is good to see main characters with depth struggling with feelings that have been taboo to explore in the past. Pella and Peterson create the struggles and the characters to bring those problems to life. This is a book many will appreciate and relate to.

Eileen Zygarrlicke, *Freelance Writer & Editor, Grand Forks, ND*

Hidden in a Whisper, by Tracie Peterson. (Westward Chronicles; 2.) Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1999. ISBN 0764221132, PAP, \$9.99.

F. West (U.S.)--Fiction; Harvey Girls--Fiction. 284 p. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Though happy with her position as head manager of the Harvey House girls at the soon to open restaurant, Rachel must quell her longing for what she knows she will never have—a family. She will always love Braeden,

but because of his impropriety with another woman, she has left her former life to the past to begin anew.

During the hectic days of preparation for the grand opening of the new resort, Rachel is called from her busy schedule to be introduced to the new house manager with whom she will have to work very closely. Looking up for the introduction, her eyes collide with those of the man she has forever relegated to her past.

In *Hidden in a Whisper* Tracie Peterson continues the series of the Westward Chronicles which pursues the history of the Harvey House Restaurants that were established along the Santa Fe Railroad lines. The story traces the life of one of the characters and works through the difficulties that are a result of listening to gossip and the destruction of trust that is one of its grim reapers.

Debbie A. Lindsey, *Homeschool Parent, Eatonville, WA*

Max the Mighty, by Rodman Philbrick. LCCN 9711762. New York: The Blue Sky Press, Scholastic, 1998. ISBN 0590188925, HBB, \$16.95.

F. Runaways--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction. 166 p. Gr. 4 - 8.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

"My name is Maxwell Kane and the thing you should know about me is this: even though I'm a big dude with a face like the moon and ears that stick out like radar scoops and humongous feet like the abominable snowman, inside I'm a real weenie." This opening line from *Max the Mighty* reflects the tone of Philbrick's sequel to his first novel, *Freak the Mighty*, continuing with the main character Max. The author combines first person with present tense, sometimes with long rambling sentences as if Max is telling us the story even while it's happening. For instance, Max tells us, "I ask Worm if she's hungry and she nods and Joe shows her how to blow on the spoon so she won't burn her mouth." Or: "'So,' she goes, 'Now you're Max the Mighty.'" Undeniably, this gives Max (or perhaps the author) a strong, unique voice. On the other hand, Philbrick risks losing some readers early by complicating an otherwise interesting story. Max, a fourteen-year-old boy who's unusually large, saves a girl nicknamed Worm from her step-father's physical abuse. He finds himself on the run as he helps her get to Montana to find her real father. Nearly two-thirds of the way through, the story intensifies when the author delves deeper into the characters' fears and wishes, the most powerful section of the book. It's riveting.

In spite of the story's strong points, readers should be aware Max is severely negative, repeatedly calling himself stupid. In saving Worm, Max takes her on the run from parents and authorities, hitching a ride with strangers across country. Domestic and street abuse is portrayed in two scenes early in the story,

perhaps providing Max's motive for helping Worm.

On a happy note, Max learns in the end that he's okay, just the way he is. "I'll never be normal," he says, "not in a million years, and I like it that way just fine, thank you. And that's the truth."

Kimm Swenson Gollnick, *Freelance Writer & Homeschool Mother, Marysville, WA*

Serenity's Desire, by Kay Rizzo. (Serenity Inn Series; 1.) LCCN 9815560. ISBN 0805463739.

F. Western fiction; Romance fiction. 271 p.

Serenity's Quest, by Kay Rizzo. (Serenity Inn Series; 2.) LCCN 9820316. ISBN 0805416749.

F. Western fiction; Romance fiction. 264 p.

Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1998. PAP, \$7.99
Gr. 9 - Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

In the first book of the Serenity Inn series, author Kay Rizzo introduces the character of seventeen-year-old Serenity Pownell, daughter of a New York State Assemblyman, in the years prior to the Civil War. While attending a "Finishing Academy for Young Ladies", Serenity receives the shocking news that her mother has been killed in a carriage accident. Called home, she further learns that her widowed father is planning to remarry and that the woman he is to marry was one of her mother's closest friends. While doing all that she can to undermine this relationship, Serenity also sets out on a path to learn more about her mother through the reading of journals and her mother's Bible. In doing so, she learns that her mother had an abiding faith in God, a faith that Serenity is lacking.

Further change comes to Serenity's world when she discovers that her home is being used as a station on the Underground Railroad. During one disastrous night Serenity's childhood home is destroyed by fire and her remaining family is scattered. Now she must move into completely unfamiliar territory with only the help of her friend and protector, Caleb Cunard, and a new found faith in the God that her mother knew and trusted.

In book two of the series, Serenity's faith and trust in God grow as she matures into a loving and wise young woman. While still grieving over the death of her mother, Serenity receives word that her father is missing at sea and presumed dead. Left with a sizable inheritance, Serenity must learn whom to trust and who may want her only for her money. Trusting in God and following the family friends who have treated her as one of their own, Serenity goes west and in the process finds love in the form of their eldest son, and her protector, Caleb.

Donna E. Brown, *Church Librarian, Portland, OR*

Best Friends, by Debra White Smith. (Promises Romance.) Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor, 1000. ISBN 1564767213, PAPER, \$9.99.

F. Christian fiction; Romance fiction. Gr. 9 - Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Something is wrong with Beth's best friend Scott. She's known him since forever, but lately he's been acting strangely and she even wonders if maybe he has a personality disorder! There's nothing wrong with Scott that love won't cure, but he hasn't a clue how to let Beth know he's fallen in love with her without ruining their long-standing friendship.

Then Hollywood-gorgeous Michael takes a room at Beth's bed and breakfast for the summer and starts turning on the charm. Beth falls hard and fast, to Scott's utter dismay. What does God think He's doing? He promised Scott that Beth was the woman for him. Was he mistaken in hearing what he thought had been God's voice? Scott had been so confident! If he was mistaken in this, then could Scott even be sure of his own salvation?

Michael is a fraud through and through. He cares nothing for Beth—only for a valuable painting that he believes is secreted somewhere in the bed and breakfast. Michael woos Beth to keep her distracted while he searches for the painting. When he finds it, he'll disappear, sell it for a million dollars to a discreet client, and never have to work for the rest of his life. As the story unfolds, Michael is caught in his deception, and slowly but surely Beth awakens to an abiding love for Scott, to the great glee of her family, who had long ago figured out that their marriage was inevitable.

Best Friends, by Debra White Smith, is a well-written story with very realistic characters, which makes it extremely funny in places. The reader can easily identify with Scott's rising frustration and jealousy, and Beth's complete puzzlement over Scott's behavior towards her and her relationship with Michael, as Scott is torn between love and common sense. The reality of the characters also makes the struggles and sometimes violent upheavals between Beth and Scott all the more poignant and heartbreaking. Although the book is a light-hearted romance, it is one with substance and depth. Both Beth and Scott grapple with some difficult spiritual issues. Scott needs complete healing from the emotional scars his alcoholic father left him, and Beth needs release from deep-seated feelings of inferiority that have steadily driven a wedge between herself and her sister. Finally, both Beth and Scott struggle daily with making choices that demonstrate their Christian witness, rather than contradicting it or hiding it. The book gives a clear reminder of the healing and cleansing power of the Holy Spirit, and the importance of seeking God's will and being willing to wait for His direction and timing.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Medford, OR

Hawaiian Sunrise, by Lauraine Snelling. LCCN 996641. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1999. ISBN 155661991X, PAPER, \$9.99.

F. Christian fiction. 285 p. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Lauraine Snelling is an accomplished, award winning author that has another winner in *Hawaiian Sunrise*. Her heroine, Maddy Morton, suffers all the ills that are the consequences of a rebellious childhood and finds her way back to the paradise home she left on the big island of Hawaii. Unfortunately, the changes in her father and the farm he raised her on are all too real, and this Cinderella ending must go through several twists before its completion.

Abuse, single parenting, loss of loved ones, rebuilding prodigal relationships, and life's challenges in general are handled beautifully and skillfully as Snelling takes her main character back to God as well as home. She does a particularly realistic job of including scripture and prayer in her story line. The action is not at all syrupy as Ms. Morton faces a haunting past, stubborn relatives, wild boars, and thundering tropical storms. Maddy proves substantially that man, or woman, cannot stand alone. Loving people and a handsome, caring Hawaiian hero complete the circle that ensure God's care for His lost sheep. Take a trip to Hawaii with Lauraine Snelling in this well written, powerful book.

Jim McKinney, Port Orchard, WA

Tender Mercies, by Lauraine Snelling. (Red River of the North; 5.) LCCN 996410. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1999. ISBN 0764220896, PAPER, \$10.99.

F. Norwegian Americans--Dakota Territory--Fiction; Christian fiction. 300 p. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Mary Martha MacCallister arrives to visit her brother Zeb and family in the Dakota Territory. She helps the school children under Pastor John Solberg and soon develops close relationships with them. Pastor John, dubious of match-making parishioners, keeps his distance from Mary Martha, but privately asks God for a wife. When she returns to Missouri unexpectedly to care for her ailing mother, Pastor John faithfully keeps watch over his church flock as they deal with the hardships of immigrant living on the prairies in the 1880's. During Mary Martha's absence, Zeb's wife and baby die in childbirth enfolding Zeb in bitterness, a challenge she understands, having just buried their mother.

Lauraine Snelling portrays the daily life of characters in *Tender Mercies* accurately for readers intrigued with historical fiction. New inventions (sewing machine), the railroad,

statehood questions and the beginnings of women's suffrage bring welcome and challenging turns to the lives of Dakota pioneers. While the relationship themes are not new (life, death, harshness of pioneering), Snelling writes with respect for each character as a child of God. The reoccurring theme of God's sovereignty in life is unmistakable. No less than four stories spiral simultaneously as readers witness God's hand in each. The stories move along expertly and appeal to readers who identify with life's daily struggles and victories. Although being familiar with the whole series will give a richer picture, this volume stands alone.

Carolyn Hearing, Freelance Writer, Virginia, MN

I Am Mordred : A Tale From Camelot, by Nancy Springer. LCCN 9739740. New York: Philomel Books, Penguin Putnam, 1998. ISBN 0399213439, HBB, \$16.99.

F. Mordred (Legendary character)--Fiction; Arthur, King--Fiction; Fathers and sons--Fiction; Knights and knighthood--Fiction; England--Fiction. 184 p. Gr. 6 - 10.

Quality—5 Acceptability—4

The plethora of books being published about the King Arthur legend makes it difficult for a newcomer to stand apart from the pack. Difficult, but not impossible. Nancy Springer reveals a finely-drawn, deeply felt character in *I Am Mordred*.

The tale opens with a riveting scene of Arthur's attempt to destroy his misbegotten son by killing a group of male babies, setting them adrift in a little coracle. The story sweeps on through Mordred's miraculous survival, his befriending by the sorceress Nyneve, his fifth-wheel childhood spent in the court of his natural mother and stepfather, his introduction to court, and his first quest as a knight of the Round Table. Throughout the book Mordred struggles with questions that surround his identity. His primary, conflicting desires are to hate the father who tried to kill him and yet yearning for Arthur to acknowledge him as his true son.

Lovers of fantasy and folklore will enjoy this unusual story. Not only is the action exciting, but the deep questions it raises make it a book to read again and again. Nancy Springer has written a winner! Magic and occult practices are included in the story.

Georgia Beaverson, Freelance Writer & Editor, Madison, WI

Marigolds for Mourning, by Audrey Stallsmith. (A Thyme Will Tell Mystery;2.) Colorado Springs: Waterbrook Press, 1998. ISBN 1578560543, PAPER, \$6.95.

F. Mystery fiction. 290 p. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Farmer Regan Culver returns to help her police chief fiancé (Matt Olin) solve another mystery

involving the town of Hayden. On Homecoming Day, the high school sponsored local business owners to come into the school to present informative workshops. While Regan is setting up her Victorian floral display, her assistant Gabe becomes the recipient of a racial incident. Individualist Lucerne Abiel and much loved quarterback Jack Dawson come to Gabe's rescue. Unfortunately, after the dance, Jack (who is allergic to bee stings) becomes the victim of a hideous crime wherein Jack is stung and now lays in a coma on a hospital bed. Was the incident truly a racial crime or was there some other devious plot in hand such as revenge. Regan and Matt, who are having some rocky times in their new found love, are trying to discover why the incident was made to look like a racial crime since more attempts have been made on Jack's life while in the hospital. Meanwhile, Gabe and Lucerne stumble across clues that just may put their lives in jeopardy.

Readers may want to read book one, *Rosemary for Remembrance*, before they read this series installment. Since many characters involved are high school seniors, this could be suggested to young adult mystery readers. There are passages that move quite slowly, however, there are other scenes that are action packed and exciting. The ending does leave the reader hanging, so we know that more books are being planned to this gardening mystery series.

Connie Weaver, Church Librarian, Newville, PA

***Firebird*, by Kathy Tyers. (Firebird; 1.) LCCN 996368. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1999. ISBN 076422147, PAP, \$8.99.**

F. Science fiction; Christian fiction. 288 p. Gr. 9 - Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Lady Firebird is the daughter of the queen, but she is the third-born child and therefore a wastling—a daughter who will live just long enough for her older sisters to assume their titles, and then be ordered to seek an honorable end to her life. Since wastlings are not considered heirs, her only hope lies in living well, honoring the holy Powers by complete allegiance to the nine Disciplines, and bringing glory to Netaia in her death. Firebird willingly enlists in the Netaian Planetary Navy, and when her geis, or death orders come, she accepts, leading her flight team into the front lines of battle against the Federation. In a tight point of combat, Firebird allows her flight team to escape in safety while she draws the enemy's fire. Her plans for an honorable and glorious death are thwarted, however, when she is captured rather than shot down. Her last attempt at honor fails as she is saved from self-poisoning by Brennen, a Federation telepath.

As he accesses Firebird's mind to interrogate her, Brennen is surprised and deeply affected by this woman of great strength, capacity, and a mind so utterly connatural to his own. Firebird

is granted political asylum; gradually Brennan wins her trust and encourages Firebird to see the value of the life so she is so ready to cast off for the sake of her honor and her country's deep traditions. When Netaia commits unspeakable acts against the Federation, Firebird's commitment to her country is weakened—even more-so when terms of Netaia's surrender to the Federation demand Firebird's return to face the firing squad for having disgraced her country by failing to kill herself. After agonizing over her situation, Firebird decides to forsake Netaian traditions, and help the Federation, the enemy of her people.

When it appears that Netaian rebels have broken the terms of the planet's surrender by importing basium for the production of ecologically harmful weapons, Firebird is certain that Phoena, her power-hungry sister, is behind the plot. Firebird is convinced that Phoena has converted a secret Netaian mountain hide-away into a lab for producing warheads. The Federation does not take her concern seriously enough, but Brennan does. Prompted by his conscience and the guidance of the Eternal Speaker, the Creator of the universe whom he worships, Brennan goes against direct military orders, taking Firebird with him, and secretly flies to Netaia to destroy the lab. Their mission is successful, and through a series of events, Firebird comes to realize for herself the reality and awesomeness of the Eternal Speaker. Forsaking the emptiness of her allegiance to the "Powers" and the nine Disciplines, she surrenders herself to the Holy One, and to her love for Brennen.

Firebird, by Kathy Tyers, presents an intriguing science fiction story that assumes the delay of the birth of Christ until after interplanetary settlement has begun. Various planetary systems are lost in the beliefs of false gods and traditions, as was Firebird's; but the truth is preserved and passed on by God's chosen ones such as Brennen, born into the small, almost exclusive group of Sentinels, who have preserved and followed the inspired writings of the Holy One, and who eagerly await the fulfillment of the prophecy's about the coming Savior. Although the story lags a bit in places, the plot is strong, and the main characters well-developed within their worlds; Firebird's Netaian traditions and societal structure are fascinating, as is the unique relationship Brennen shares with her as a telepath. Given the relative lack of Christian science fiction available, Tyers' book provides an exciting and much-needed addition to this genre.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Medford, OR

***Every Little Thing About You*, by Lori Wick. (The Yellow Rose Trilogy; 1.) LCCN 9918882. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House, 1999. ISBN 0736901043, PAP, \$10.99.**

F. Western fiction; Romance fiction; Christian fiction. 299 p. Gr. 9 - Adult.

Quality—4

Acceptability—5

Slater Rawlings rides into Shotgun, Texas, and the first person he confronts is the deputy sheriff, who demands he turn over his gun. That wouldn't be so bad except Liberty Drake is the prettiest little gal he's ever seen. A solitary man, Slater discovers God, a church family, and the love of his life in this small western town. But it's not easy going. As he begins to discover his love for Liberty he also wants to protect her from the dangers of her job. Liberty's as strong-willed as any woman libber of the 1990's and figures she can handle it on her own.

Lori Wick has given us a heroine we'll applaud in her eighteenth book for Harvest House Publishers. *Every Little Thing About You* is the first book in Wick's new, The Yellow Rose Trilogy. This is a good western tale with more romance than you'll find in L'Amour and more in depth characters than you'll find in almost any western. The theme of strong family values and how they influence choices runs throughout the book.

Myrtle May Pittman Crane, Freelance Writer & Editor, Alderwood Manor, WA

***Sweetbriar Hope*, by Brenda Wilbee. (Sweetbriar; 6.) LCCN 9841196. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, Baker Books, 1999. ISBN 0800756959, PAP, \$11.99.**

F. Denny, Louisa Boren--Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life--Washington (State)--Fiction; Women pioneers--Washington (State)--Fiction; Seattle (Wash.)--History--Fiction; Denny, David Thomas--Fiction. 317 p. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Quality—5

Acceptability—5

Indian wars amid the hardships of pioneering reveal the true grit of those who willingly sacrificed to settle new territory in the Seattle area. In this sixth Sweetbriar sequel, Brenda Wilbee again displays her expertise in history. With authentic accounts heading each chapter, the story unfolds through the eyes of Louisa and David Denny, as they face the trials and dangers of warring Indian parties and misguided government authorities.

Throughout these treacherous times, the reader is allowed to share in the undying love of this special couple along with their strong faith in God. The beauty of the Pacific Northwest, as well as the misery of its frequent rain, becomes the backdrop to the unfolding drama. *Sweetbriar Hope* reveals how the entire town has to occupy the small blockhouse for weeks on end as they huddle together for protection. This unbelievable living situation is finally dispelled in a surprising way as God truly blesses the kind intentions and actions of David toward the Indians.

The actual sight of this drama still holds its place within the Seattle landscape in the form of special parks set aside in the heart of the present-day city. For the history buff, as well as those who enjoy pioneering tales, *Sweetbriar Hope*

will be a satisfying read.

Mary McKinney, *Former Teacher & Freelance Writer, Port Orchard, WA*

***The Crown of Eden*, by Thomas M. Williams. Word, 1999. ISBN 0849916100, PAP, \$12.99.**

F. Christian fiction; Fantasy. 372 p. Gr. 11 - Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

King Perivale once united seven kingdoms into a mighty empire after gaining the Crown of Eden in a terrible battle against the evil Morgultha. But in the twelfth year of his reign, Perivale and his men rode into battle and were never seen again; the legendary Crown of Eden was lost. The empire deteriorated and fell into disunity as hard times fell upon the land. However, hope lay in the ancient prophecy of the Seven Kingdoms which foretold the marriage of King Tallis' daughter and King Afron's son which would unite the kingdoms of Meridan and Valomar and usher in the rebirth of the empire.

Morgultha, greedy for power, seeks to place her own devil-spawned son on the throne by switching King Afron's son for her own at birth. Fortunately she does not reckon on the angel of the Master of the Universe stealing the true king's son away before she can kill him. Things seem to go according to her plan, however. The "parents" of Lomar, Morgultha's son, die a mysterious death, and the orphaned "prince" is reared to be a spoiled, selfish, vulgar man. The Princess Volanna desperately tries to find something to respect in Lomar, in deference to the prophecy, and to the pledge her father and King Afron made for them to marry. She discovers, however, that he loves nothing but himself; his life is dedicated to experiencing as much pleasure as he can. Inflicting pain does not bother him, and he will do whatever it takes to gain more power, and with it, the new pleasures that it brings.

Fearful and distraught, Volanna spends her days wandering in Braegan Wood, trying to find a way out of her dilemma. Here she meets Aradon, a blacksmith's son who is training to be a knight. Their friendship rapidly develops, and even though Volanna guards her heart against him, her love for Aradon becomes solidified when she is abducted by Morgultha's minions and Aradon rescues her. In the process, Aradon stumbles across the long lost Crown of Eden. When he returns Volanna safely to the castle, Lomar accuses Aradon of abducting Volanna. Aradon escapes capture, but a price is put on his head and he is forced to go into hiding. Aradon becomes a champion of the people, secretly righting many wrongs practiced by Lomar's power-hungry men, and he gains the support of the commoners. When Aradon reveals to a friend that he has the Crown of Eden, they press him to claim the throne for himself, since he would clearly have the backing of the people who so admire his chivalry, and who despise the

brutalities practiced upon them by Lomar.

Crown of Eden by Thomas Williams is a masterfully told fairy-tale fantasy comparable in both style and wisdom to the works of George McDonald, C.S. Lewis, and J.R.R. Tolkien. The book is filled with spiritual truths and deals with a number of challenging issues on an allegorical level. It is a book to be read slowly, and to be savored. The book is never predictable; at times it seems hopeless that things will ever work out, allowing the reader to feel the characters' own despair and frustration.

The evil in this book, particularly evidenced in Lomar, is truly black, chilling, and despicable. Nothing is too graphically described, but there are brief references throughout to torture and cruelty, and to suggestions of sexual immorality, including the repeatedly wanton behavior of a village cake-maker, an implied rape scene, and a hint at bestiality.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Medford, OR

***If You Come Softly*, by Jacqueline Woodson. LCCN 9732212. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, Penguin Putnam, 1998. ISBN 0399231129, HBB, \$15.99.**

F. Interracial dating--Fiction; Afro-Americans--Fiction; Family life--Fiction; New (N.Y.)--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 181 p. Gr. 8 - 12.

Quality—5 Acceptability—2

Fifteen year olds Miah and Ellie run into each other their first day at a private high school in New York City. Their spirits somehow connect, and they basically fall in love with each other then, although they don't really talk for several weeks. The problem is that Miah (Jeremiah) is a black basketball player, the son of well-known wealthy parents, who live across the street from each other. Ellie (Elisha) is Jewish, the daughter of a doctor, whose parents don't communicate well with each other. Their story is one of tender, young, sweet love, colored by how people in their culture deal with a mixed race relationship.

The author obviously knows what it is like to be black, to always feel black; and she gives masterful descriptions of what this means personally. Much of Miah's self talk is about his blackness. The chapters alternate points of view and experiences of the two young people. This means that the text is in and out of first person, which is sometimes confusing. The author does an amazing job making the story seem real, in spite of what might seem like obvious stereotypes: the two meeting literally running into each other, their parents being wealthy, Miah dying tragically at the end of the story; the theme being politically correct. The descriptions of feelings are great, but the reading level is pretty basic for the intended audience. The author assumes a knowledge of New York City and its culture.

A basic theme of the book is about people

accepting other people and their relationships. This tolerance viewpoint is demonstrated in a conversation Ellie has with her older sister, on the phone from San Francisco. They talk about the commitment ceremony that Anne and her female roommate are planning to have. A parallel is assumed between accepting same sex relationships and inter-racial ones.

Other questionable material may be in the parents' relationships. Ellie's mother had left the family two different times in her growing up, and while Ellie has a lot of difficulty with trusting because of this, the idea seems to be presented as a fact of life. Miah's father works in movies and is living with his girlfriend, and while Miah has trouble with that relationship, the author casts no moral judgment on the life his father has chosen to live.

Judy Belcher, Teacher, Bremerton, WA

***The Cook's Family*, by Laurence Yep. LCCN 9723892. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, Penguin Putnam, 1998. ISBN 0399229078, HBB, \$15.99.**

F. Chinese Americans--Fiction; Family problems--Fiction; Grandmothers--Fiction; Interracial marriage--Fiction. 184 p. Gr. 6 - 10.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

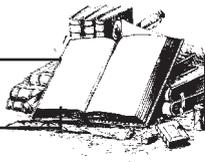
Robin Lee, a half-Chinese twelve-year-old, has a close relationship with her grandmother who has been in America a year. Robin loves to dance, which her grandmother supports, although Robin's mother doesn't.

While in Chinatown of San Francisco, the two see a commotion in front of a Chinese restaurant. The waiter follows irate customers onto the sidewalk where he sees Robin and her grandmother. He tells them his cook, Wolf, misses his family and therefore won't cook; he enlists Robin and her grandmother to pretend to be the cook's wife and daughter. A delightful story ensues that involves a fantasy family for Robin and her grandmother when they visit the restaurant for three consecutive Saturdays.

Robin welcomes her Saturdays being a part Wolf's "family." Her fantasy falls apart when she learns that Wolf's real daughter is illegally in this country and Wolf leaves his job to flee with her and protect her from the immigration officials. Robin applies the lessons learned in her fantasy family toward improving her own family's relationships.

Laurence Yep weaves adventure with mysteries of the Chinese culture of family, making *The Cook's Family* an enjoyable, interesting read. All of the characters are animated and memorable, especially Robin and her grandmother. Yep has obvious knowledge of the Chinese culture and of an aspiring twelve-year-old ballerina.

Jo Huddleston, Freelance Writer, Author, Former Teacher, Auburn, AL



000's—Generalities

Decision Points : Boolean Logic for Computer Users and Beginning Online Searchers, by Janaye M. and Robert S. Houghton. LCCN 9853624. Colorado Springs: Libraries Unlimited, 1999. ISBN 1563086727, PAP, \$20.00.

025.04. Electronic information resource searching; Computer logic; Algebra, Boolean. 155 p. Gr. 5 - Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

AND, OR, NOT, and their various combinations—these Boolean logic concepts, added to If -- then logic, provide a framework for making decisions in everyday life situations. They also are especially useful for searching and managing the avalanche of information available by computers and online through the Internet. In *Decision Points: Boolean Logic for Computer Users and Beginning Online Searchers*, the authors gradually present these logic principles, using practical situations faced by young people. They then apply these principles to computer searching tasks. The latter half of the book presents strategic considerations for approaching various categories of information sources accessed by computer. Safety, relevance, and accuracy are factors in making decisions on where to hunt for needed information: whether from individuals, online library and bookstore catalogs, or any of varying types of search engines.

Expanding on and going beyond principles presented in their earlier book, *Circuit Sense* (CLJ 3 (3):37), Janaye and Robert Houghton provide a unique approach to the development of searching strategy and information management skills in this day of information overload. Specifically designed for young people, the simply presented concepts are equally useful to adults. The layout features generous use of white space, with simple black and white illustrations and occasional logic truth tables. The forty learning activities included may be reproduced for classroom use. (An answer key is provided for all except the thirteen online activities.) The "Table of Selected Boolean Features" for representative online information resources also indicates if "family filtered." In addition to many website references, a few book references and an index are included.

Donna W. Bowling, Library/Educational Consultant,

Siloam Springs, AR

200's—Religion

Dictionary of Biblical Imagery. General editors, Leland Ryken, James C. Wilhoit, Tremper Longman III. LCCN 9816945 . Downers Grove, Ill.: Intervarsity Press, 1998. ISBN 0830814515, HBB, \$39.99.

220.3. Bible--Language, style--Dictionaries; Symbolism in the Bible--Dictionaries, 1058 p.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

More than a dictionary, *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery* is a massive reference tool for pastors, teachers, and students of the Bible. Here you will find an exhaustive listing of literary images, symbols, and motifs found in scripture, plus a seventy-five-page index—half subject index, half scripture reference index.

Editors Ryken, Wilhoit, and Longman have brought together more than 150 specialists in Bible and literature to build a complete and varied interpretive study, more than 850 articles: everything from Aaron's rod to Zion. Do you want to know about stories in the Bible? You will find entries for travel stories, love stories, murder stories. There are joy and sorrow, strength and weakness, heaven and hell. Entries for each book of the Bible detail the literary images used in them. Asterisks within articles point you to other entries you can find in the dictionary.

The Bible deals with the real world, uses common, concrete images to teach spiritual lessons. Considering just the body, you will find entries for feet and hands, tongue, mouth, throat, toe, shoulder, hair, head, heart, stomach, neck, knees, and hair.

My only suggestion for improvement would be to attribute each entry to its author. It is, in all, a work I will reach for often in my studies.

R. Jeanette Hardage, Freelance Writer, Sonora, CA

A Dictionary of Bible Types, by Walter L. Wilson. LCCN 9929809. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1999. ISBN 1565634187, HBB, \$29.95.

220.6. Symbolism in the Bible--Dictionaries; Typology (Theology)--Dictionaries. 470 p. Gr. 7 - Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Originally published in 1957 by Wm. B.

Eerdmans Publishing, as *Wilson's Dictionary of Bible Types*, Hendrickson Publishers updated Walter Wilson's work in 1999. Wilson died in 1969 after serving as medical doctor, pastor, and dedicated Bible student. He used his medical knowledge often in sermon illustrations and was a well-known soul winner.

The dictionary surveys 1,000 alphabetically arranged symbols and types in the Bible from Adam to washpot to yoke. In addition to the unmistakable types of Christ, the church, man and the tabernacle, Wilson includes unusual entries such as: caterpillar, toe, and tooth! A section on how to study types is included.

Realizing the differences of opinion concerning the meaning of types, Wilson wisely separates the (a) pure types from (b) those that seem so because of their use and (c) those that are questionable. He uses the a,b,c format throughout. In addition, some types, such as loose, may offer all three categories in their explanations.

The Dictionary of Bible Types is easy to read and furnishes Scripture references in support of each type. Wilson's love of the Word is evident in the Introduction as he encourages the reader to realize the Bible is "boundless, limitless and measureless", therefore, "if the reader should find other symbolical meanings" it will be cause for thanksgiving. If there is difference of opinion, no criticism will result. Wilson's honesty embodies the strength and value of this study-help. This reference will enrich church, Christian school, and family libraries.

Carolyn Hearing, Freelance Writer, Virginia, MN

Conversations in Time with Men and Women of the Bible, by Herbert O'Driscoll. LCCN 9926295. Cambridge, Mass.: Cowley Publications, 1999. ISBN 156101155X, PAP, \$10.95.

220.9. Bible--Biography; Imaginary conversations; Christian life--Anglican authors. 158 p. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Written in the first person, *Conversations in Time* is exactly what the name implies—conversations between O'Driscoll and such people as Isaiah, Abraham, Ruth, and St. John. But not only heroes—Caiphas, Joab, Delilah, and Michal also step into O'Driscoll's purview.

Using this unusual format enables O'Driscoll to

present these characters in a different way. Unlike the one-dimensional images that all too often emerge from biblical study, these people are real, complex, and—perhaps—not the way we've always imagined them. They are people with struggles, motives, and relationships with God which are far from straightforward—in short, they are people like us.

Not only does this approach illuminate people from the Bible; O'Driscoll is also able to bring light onto our life as Christians and onto our society as a whole. We too must face a complicated, changing world—we can learn from how our ancestors faced the world they lived in. While there are many differences between biblical days and now, there are also many similarities. People are much the same. *Conversations In Time* is unique, insightful, at times controversial, but never dull. While I doubt that I'd like to meet all of these people, it was refreshing to hear their sides of the story—at least, as O'Driscoll tells it.

Andrew M. Seddon, *Writer and Physician, Billings, MT*

***True for You, But Not for Me : Deflating the Slogans That Leave Christians Speechless*, by Paul Copan. LCCN 9745477. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1998. ISBN 0764220918, PAP, \$8.99.**

239. Apologetics; Relativity--Controversial literature; Religious pluralism--Controversial literature. 192 p. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Christianity is just one path among many to God. Belief in Jesus as the only way to God is totally intolerant. You can do whatever you want just as long as it doesn't hurt anybody.

How should Christians respond to such statements? Copan provides answers to those statements in *True For You, But Not For Me*. This book explains how relativism claims there is no core of truth, only opinions, and that universal truth does not exist. Copan defends the existence of objective truth and morality. He supports the position that Jesus is unique and the only way to God, while including responses to relativistic statements.

Written in five parts, with short, easy-to-read chapters, each chapter ends with suggested questions and answers. Part one looks at the myth of relativism. Part two discusses issues of morality and provides absolute answers. Part three looks at religious pluralism and exposes the misconception that all faiths lead to salvation. Part four discusses claims of Jesus from a historical standpoint and cites the resurrection, empty tomb, post-resurrection appearances and the origin of the Christian church as evidence. Part five addresses the question of what happens to those who never hear of Jesus. Will they go to hell?

The chapters have catchy headings. Ten pages of discussion questions suitable for study groups

are included, as well as an extensive bibliography.

Gail Welborn, *Freelance Writer, Everett, WA*

***Radically Plugged In : High-Voltage Devotionals to Ground Your Faith*, by Michael Ross and Jeff Edmondson. LCCN 9743856. Kansas City, Mo.: Beacon Hill Press, 1998. ISBN 083411707X, PAP, \$9.99.**

242. Teenagers--Religious life; Prayerbooks and devotions; Christian life. 134 p. Gr. 6 - 12.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Radically Plugged In is a devotional book for teenagers that meets them where they are and helps them see what God expects of them in their relationship with him. The book includes twenty-eight devotionals, divided into sections about what it means to be a Christian, how to walk with the Lord, relationships with peers, and family life. It concludes with answers to some typical questions that teens might ask. For the format of the text, the authors have used a computer analogy; so at the beginning of each section is an introduction entitled *Plugging In* that includes a story to help the reader understand what the section is about, *Powering Up* lists scripture and questions to stimulate thinking about the subject. Each day's lesson has a vignette of a common situation titled *Surf the Net*; *Access the Word*, with scripture; and *Download and Walk the Talk*, giving suggested actions for making the lesson a part of one's life.

Michael Ross and Jeff Edmondson are obviously well connected to the frustrations and struggles common to teenagers, and for the most part deal with these in constructive, straightforward, non-preachy ways. They continually point to the Bible as the source for information and wisdom, and emphasize the importance of speaking out and living the life to which God has called them. The stories hook the reader and bring focus to the commonality of the problem. The lessons are a good length, not too long and not too short. The flashy cover and computer-related graphics appeal to the reader. Adults can gain understand of the young people they work with by reading this superb book.

Judy Belcher, *Teacher, Bremerton, WA*

***The Millennium Myth*, by N. T. Wright. LCCN 9929665. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 1999. ISBN 0664258417, PAP, \$12.95.**

263. Millennium; Postmodernism. 128 p. Gr. 9 - Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

The approach of the millennium has been widely hyped in the media and penetrated deeply into the public consciousness. The responses range from indifference, to celebratory preparation, to apocalyptic fears of the end of the world. Christians, too, have adopted one of these viewpoints. But what

should an appropriate Christian response entail?

In this (too) slender volume noted New Testament scholar N.T. Wright explains the dating of the millennium, and shows how the year 2000 is a purely human invention that has no real connection to any significant event. (Due to errors, it isn't even close to the time of Jesus' birth.) He explores the use of apocalyptic imagery and devices in Jewish thought and the scriptures, and how the misuse of this literary convention can result in doomsaying and the rise of end-times oriented cults. Such a misuse takes the focus off the coming of the "new heaven and new earth" where all will reach completion in Christ, and replaces it with a false dualism where "heaven" is good and "earth" is evil.

Much of the millennial hype he believes comes from a post-modern society which is floundering in a sea of spiritual confusion. And so the proper response to the millennium is to celebrate it as did Dionysius the Insignificant (the man who rearranged the calendar to coincide with the birth of Christ, not the birth of the Roman Emperor). Dionysius made a statement that Christ is Lord, not the emperor, and this is the message, Wright says, that the world needs to hear—and to see in action.

Andrew M. Seddon, *Writer and Physician, Billings, MT*

***Let My People Go!* by Cal R. Bombay. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah Publishers, 1998. ISBN 1576734595, PAP, \$12.99.**

272. Sudan--Religious persecution; Slavery. 192 p. Gr. 8 - Adult.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Imagine watching from your hiding place as a small group of people exchange money for the freedom of your spouse and children! What a wild range of emotions shoot through you as you recognize that your loved ones are still alive. Delight is mixed with fear as you wonder what horrors they have had to live through. Unfortunately, this isn't a movie scene, but reality in Sudan. Islamic fundamentalists in Northern Sudan are capturing and enslaving women and children, many of them Christian, from Southern Sudan, and selling them to other Muslims in the north as servants and concubines.

This scene and many more like it unfolds in Cal Bombay's easy-to-read book entitled *Let My People Go!* The title is a play on biblical times when God freed his people from slavery in Egypt. But these white foreigners aren't Moses. And it isn't signs from God, but cold hard cash that motivates these Muslim slave traders. Live the adventure as Cal Bombay tells of his trips into Africa to free slaves and offer food relief to people in Uganda and Ethiopia.

Mr. Bombay, today a well-known voice for Christ and morality in Canada, was once a missionary in Africa for seventeen years. When

he is invited to join a small group traveling to Sudan to free slaves, he is both fascinated and frightened. In this book Mr. Bombay talks honestly about his fears of going into non-safe areas and enduring physical hardships that his soft body isn't prepared to handle. But he could never refuse this opportunity to free slaves and feed the hungry.

Let My People Go! offers pages of black and white pictures with clarifying captions, a list of influential people who can change the situation in Sudan, and contacts for mission agencies working in the area. From its captivating cover with a child's eye peeking out from his safety zone, to the clear black and white pictures, to the useful who-to-contact information in the back of the book, *Let My People Go!* will haunt you. Barbara Beyer

300's—Social Sciences

Issues in the Environment, by Patricia D. Netzley. LCCN 9725894. ISBN 1560064757.

333.7. Environmentalism--United States; Environmental protection--Economic aspects; Environmental law--United States. 96 p.

Issues in Biomedical Ethics, by Lisa Yount. LCCN 9730784. ISBN 1560064765.

174.2. Medical ethics; Bioethics. 128 p.

Issues in Sports, by Stephen Currie. LCCN 9727451. ISBN 1560064773.

306.4. Sports--United States--Sociological aspects. 96 p.

(Contemporary Issues.) San Diego: Lucent Books, Greenhaven Press, 1998. HBB, \$22.45. Gr. 6 - 12.

Quality—5 Acceptability—4

Contemporary Issues Series seeks to provide a point/counter point discussion on important issues to young people. The books reviewed in this series were written by people knowledgeable in their field. The format for

each book starts by focusing on the issue, and then, in following chapters, giving a more thorough discussion. Each book begins with an introductory chapter that sets the tone for the book. The information is presented in an unbiased manner and the works consulted section is beneficial for further inquiry. The index, charts, pictures, and political cartoons all contribute to the education of the student on the subject. There is also a section for the student to write for more information. The books are durable and the pages and type are conducive to reading. Each edition is short enough for the middle/junior high student to read and yet complete enough in information for the student to arrive at an intelligent opinion.

The environment issue discusses the topics of environmentalism and the economy, Endangered Species Act, garbage, and Americans and the environment. The sports issue discusses the topics of the demands of

Recent Birding Releases

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

The Large Gulls of North America, by Jon L. Dunn. (Advanced Birding Video Series; 1) : Peregrine Video Productions, 1997. ISBN, VID, \$34.95.

598.3. Gulls. 1 videocassette, 119 min. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

As one of the fastest growing hobbies in North America, birdwatching, or birding as it has come to be known, is opening the door for a greater and greater number of publications, in a variety of formats. Whether you want to identify a bird in your backyard, or, distinguish the age and moult of a more esoteric species found on vacation, there are a growing array of resources available to assist you in the process. The purpose of this extended review is to present a sampling of new tools available to library users with an interest in this aspect of the natural world.

As you go out to watch birds the primary tool which should be in your hand (or backpack) is the field guide. *The Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (3rd edition) is the most comprehensive and up-to-date guide available. Covering all species known to breed in North America, this revised edition has added eighty additional species and revised names, range maps, and text accounts to bring the user the latest identification information available. This guide is geared to the more advanced birder/naturalist and the massive amount of information presented can be somewhat overwhelming for a neophyte. For an interesting aside, check out a behind-the-scenes look at the process and people involved in the major revision of this standard guide: <http://www.virtualbirder.com/vbirder/shelf/gui>

des/ngs/index.html

Moving beyond the mere identification of bird species, an increasing number of publications are focused on a particular family of birds. *New World Blackbirds* by Jaramillo & Burke is an example of this genre. It provides detailed written and visual assistance to those interested in a more in-depth understanding of this family of birds. Using color plates and range maps, black and white illustrations as well as thorough textual descriptions and bibliographies, the authors provide relevant information on the 103 species which comprise the Icterid family.

For many people a picture may not be worth a thousand words. Their learning style focuses on the aural rather than the visual. For the study and observation of birds a number of CD/audiocassette products have been developed. The two main competitors for a wider North American market are: Peterson's *Eastern / Central Birds Songs* and *Western Bird Songs*, and, *Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs: Eastern Region and Western Region*.

Finally, in this multimedia era the use of video in the description of bird species has finally matured. *The Large Gulls of North America* is the first of a series of "advanced birding" videos produced by Peregrine Video Productions and takes advantage of slow motion, side-by-side comparisons, freeze frames and other special effects. This is definitely a resource that must be viewed repeatedly to gain full advantage of the depth of information provided.

Books, CDs, and videos are all useful tools in our growing understanding and identification of the natural world.

Ted Goshulak, University Librarian, Langley, BC

Field Guide to the Birds of North America, edited by Jon L. Dunn. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 1999. ISBN 0702274512, HBB, \$21.95.

598.2. Birds--North America. 480 p. Gr. 8 - Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

New World Blackbirds : The Icterids, by Alvaro Jaramillo and Peter Burke. LCCN 9834714. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton Univ. Press, 1999. ISBN 0691006806, HBB, \$49.50.

598.8. Blackbirds; Birds--Identification. 431 p. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Eastern/Central Bird Songs. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1999. ISBN 0395975220, CDR, \$20.00.

598.8. Birdsongs. 1 CD, 74 min. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Western Bird Songs. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1999. ISBN 0395975190, CDR, \$25.00.

598.8. Birdsongs. 2 CDs, 143 min. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs : Eastern Region, by Kevin Colver, with Donald & Lillian Stokes. Time Warner Audio Books, 1999. ISBN 1570424837, CDR, \$29.98.

598.8. Birdsongs. 3 CDs, 210 min. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs : Western Region, by Lang Elliott, with Donald & Lillian Stokes. Time Warner Audio Books, 1998. ISBN 1570425884, CDR, \$34.98.

598.8. Birdsongs. 4 CDs, 300 min. Gr. 10 - Adult.

sports on young people, the "student-athlete" debate, drug usage in sports, gender bias, and role models. The biomedical issue deals with allocation of health care, assisted death, animal research, and gene therapy. Each chapter presents the information and then shows the reader the point and counterpoint to the topic being discussed. The student is encouraged to have an informed opinion and then to act on it. This series would be helpful in the middle school or the high school debate team.

Bianca Elliott, Teacher, Linwood, KS

600's—Technology (Applied Sciences)

***They Never Gave Up : Adventures in Early Aviation*, by Michael Wilkey. Victoria, B.C.: Orca, 1998. ISBN 1551430770, PAP, \$9.95.**

629.13. Aeronautics--Biography; Aeronautics--History; Flight; Paper airplanes. 120 p. Gr. 6 - 8.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

In the early 1900's, the ancient dream of man became a reality. He learned to fly. Although the theory of flight seemed to bloom suddenly as if by magic, it actually grew from seeds of undaunted determination. Not only did the force of gravity need to be overcome, so did the scorn of social criticism. However, once the possibility of flight was achieved, scorn melted into enthusiasm.

They Never Gave Up chronicles the efforts of early North American aviators beginning with the Wright brothers first flight in 1903. John McCury flew his plane off the ice of Bras d'Or Lake in Nova Scotia four years later, becoming the first Canadian pilot. There were many dreamers and designers in those days. The Underwood brothers' manned kite looked like a flying saucer. William Gibson pursued his passion for flying in secret, fearing his bankers would think he was crazy. Once airplanes became more dependable, airmail deliveries led the way for commercial cargo and passenger flights.

Michael Wilkey's fascination with flight shows his writing as well as in the details of his pen and ink illustrations. Each story has a tone of experience, as if he himself had been a part of the adventure. To help readers understand the difficulties of flight theory, Wilkey has included several simple experiments on aerodynamics, a chart identifying the essential parts on an airplane, and diagrams explaining the function of different wing types. The instructions for folding paper airplanes will encourage readers to become participants in discovering flight.

Melinda Torgerson, Freelance Writer, Newport, WA

***The Twelve Teas of Christmas : Sharing the Season with Those You Love*, by Emilie Barnes; paintings by Sandy Lynam Clough. LCCN 9914124. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House, 1999. ISBN 0736900527, HBB,**

\$16.99.

641.5. Afternoon teas; Christmas cookery. 96 p. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Emilie Barnes, author of *If Teacups Could Talk*, and artist Sandy Lynam Clough team up to create another winning gift book. Brimming with inspiration and steeped with warmth, *The Twelve Teas of Christmas* combines imaginative ideas with delicate paintings of teacups, teapots, and Christmas decorations. Also sprinkled throughout are tea information, dates of historic Christmas happenings, and Christmas customs.

The book features twelve tea celebrations with menus, recipes, entertaining, and decorating ideas for each. Tea themes include: friendship, family, joy, warmth, sharing, merriment, peace, dreams, tradition, giving, creation, and stillness. The emphasis for each celebration is on hospitality and sharing rather than on tea and how to serve it.

With a dozen original celebrations, the book contains ideas to suit everyone's taste. Begin in early December with a friendship tea that salutes companionship and Christmas. Or celebrate family with a teatime that develops traditions and builds rich memories. If a Victorian theme suits you, try a celebration of joy that pampers guests. Or combine a tea party and sleepover with a drive to see neighborhood Christmas lights. Consider a caroling tea party or mother-daughter tea with an angel theme. To minimize the after-Christmas letdown, plan a teatime in January that focuses on stillness and reflection. With more ideas than you can use in one year, enjoy the celebrations for seasons to come.

Recipes include sandwiches, sweets, breads, fruit, spreads, and beverages. They range from familiar tea fare to new tastes. The instructions for some recipes are incomplete, and the book lacks an index. Weak in tea information but strong in creativity and beauty, tea lovers will delight in this quick read.

Lydia E. Harris, Former Teacher & Freelance Writer, Seattle, WA

***21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership : Follow Them and People Will Follow You*, by John C. Maxwell. LCCN 988365. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1998. ISBN 0785274316, HBB, \$17.99.**

658.4. Leadership; Industrial management. 233 p. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Whether bungling through a leadership position, or desiring to master techniques of worthy leadership, *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership* provides a blueprint for any leader yearning to improve. Based on sound biblical principles, Maxwell identifies 21 laws which, when practiced, equip the leader with the necessary tools to fulfill his or her leadership role. From "The Law of the Lid" (Leadership Ability

Determines a Person's Level of Effectiveness) to "The Law of Connection" (Leaders Touch a Heart Before They Ask for a Hand) John Maxwell, an ex-pastor turned leadership specialist, details what it takes to lead others.

Filled with examples from his pastoral years as well as current and historical figures, he deftly applies the laws to life's situations. Maxwell develops the precepts chronologically, although each chapter stands alone. The last section, "The Law of Legacy" (A leader's Lasting Value is Measured by Succession) emphasizes passage of leadership principles. Zig Ziglar says in the introduction, "It's loaded with hope, direction, encouragement, and specific procedures."

Church leaders, SS teachers, pastors, as well as Christians working in a secular position, will be enriched with this easy to read help. *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership* reads like a conversation with a good friend, and its credibility stems from the honesty of Maxwell's examples, which include successes and failures in leadership. Visuals to clarify and illustrate principles are included, in addition to extensive notes for further direction in personal research.

Carolyn Hearing, Freelance Writer, Virginia, MN

700's—The Arts and Recreation

***Within Reach : My Everest Story*, by Mark Pftetzer and Jack Galvin. LCCN 9829215. New York: Dutton, Penguin Putnam, 1998. ISBN 0525460896, HBB, \$16.95.**

796.52. Pftetzer, Mark; Mountaineers; Everest, Mount (China and Nepal); Youths' writings. 224 p. Gr. 7 - 12.

Quality—4 Acceptability—3

Mark Pftetzer, with the help of Jack Galvin, has written his personal story of triumph and setback as he attempts to become the youngest ever to summit Mt. Everest. *Within Reach* chronicles how he climbed his first mountain, 19,029 ft., at age fourteen. After climbing several mountains over a two year period, he made his first attempt on Everest at age fifteen. However the physical stress kept him from the summit. His second, and most promising trip to Everest, was made a year later. Unfortunately, a flash storm caused eight deaths the day before he was to summit. He was on the mountain during that storm, only a couple thousand feet from the summit, yet had to turn back. Pftetzer gives detailed descriptions of eight climbs, some successful, some not. He describes the complex organization involved in climbing mountains, such as raising finances, training, team bonding, and acclimatizing (getting physically used to the low oxygen on the mountain).

The fact that Mark Pftetzer, a sixteen-year-old, is allowed to get out of school to do something so ambitious without the supervision of his parents will appeal to most young readers. However, Mr. Pftetzer does an admirable job of allowing

the reader to really "see" the mountain, understand the difficulties and intricacies of climbing, and feel the joy of his successes as well as the heartaches of the failures. The characterization of Mark is well developed to the extent of his mountain climbing. There is little insight into his family life other than the fact that his father has cancer at the end of his story. The reader really knows nothing outside of Mark's climbing. Detailing day-to-day events on eight different climbs can become a little monotonous unless one is deeply interested in the subject.

There are eight pages of color pictures from various climbs. Also included is a timeline of the mountains climbed, a roster of the people involved in each of Mark's climbs, and a glossary of mountain climbing terms which proves to be very helpful. There is mild profanity and instances of lying to get around the rules.

Patricia A. Youmans, MLIS, Homeschool Parent, Siloam Springs, AR

900's—Geography, History, & Biography

***Witnesses to War : Eight True-Life Stories of Nazi Persecution*, by Michael Leapman. New York: Viking, Penguin Putnam, 1998. ISBN 0670873861, HBB, \$16.99.**

920 (940.53). Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945); Holocaust survivors. 128 p. Gr. 9 - Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Michael Leapman writes of the Germans' hatred of the Jewish people, thinking them an inferior race. He tells how they sought to get rid of the children of Jews and other minority races, knowing the children would grow up to increase the numbers of their races. In *Witnesses to War*, Leapman writes the stories of eight children who suffered through the cruelties of subjection to the atrocities of war.

Leapman describes how these minority children were separated from their parents and about their lack of proper nourishment, medical care, and clothing while in custody of the Germans. He relates how TB and polio spread.

From interviews with these surviving adults, Leapman tells how some children were chosen for "Germanization" after their physical features were determined to closely match the German race. The goal of Germanization, Leapman writes, was to aid more thorough populating of all of Europe when the Germans conquered the continent. The author recounts how relief organizations rescued groups of these children and removed them to Britain.

Authentic photographs of these eight children taken during the war accompany Leapman's realistic accounts about their lives. The reader won't soon forget his vivid descriptive narrative relating their experiences. Evidence of Leapman's excellent research on his topic is apparent throughout the book. In *Witnesses to*

War, Leapman presents an eye-opening account of the realities of war.

Jo Huddleston, Freelance Writer, Author, Former Teacher, Auburn, AL

***Louisa May Alcott*, by Amy Ruth. (Biography.) LCCN 9747283. Minneapolis: A&E and Lerner, Lerner Publishing Group, 1999. ISBN 0822549387, HBB, \$25.26.**

921 (813). Alcott, Louisa May, 1832-1888; Authors, American; Women--Biography. 128 p. Gr. 6 - 9.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Louisa May Alcott, by Amy Ruth, presents a realistic look at the life of a writer whose works are loved and enjoyed by many. The reader becomes acquainted with Louisa in her struggles on the road to reaching her dream of being a writer, and then her delight at the successful acceptance of her writings. We are given a glimpse into the community around her, the situations and people that influenced her, and the restlessness of her family as they moved from one situation to another, attempting to make life work for them. Louisa's personal life is revealed as she tenderly cares for others as a nurse during the Civil War, as she lovingly watches over a dying sister, and then near the end of her life as she becomes 'mother' to her young niece.

Amy Ruth has provided an enjoyable and informational book about Louisa Alcott, her family, and family friends including Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson. There are many references to her journal entries, giving insight into her personal thoughts. Black and white photos are throughout the book. At the beginning of the book we see Louise as a young child and near the end is a photo taken during the last years of her life. Some are not good quality, but helpful in giving a visual representation of life during those days. At the back of the book is additional information including an epilogue, a list of sources, a bibliography of the writings of Louisa, other book sources, and magazine and newspaper articles, a detailed index and acknowledgement of photos included.

Lynette Sorenson, College Librarian, Kirkland, WA

***No Pretty Pictures : A Child of War*, by Anita Lobel. LCCN 9748392. New York: Greenwillow Books, William Morrow, 1998. ISBN 0688159354, HBB, \$16.00.**

921 (940.53). Lobel, Anita--Childhood and youth; Jews--Poland--Kraków--Biography; Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945); Holocaust survivors. 193 p. Gr. 5 - 8.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Anita Lobel recalls her experiences during World War II as a Jewish child in Poland. Her father escaped to Eastern Russia, and Anita and her brother lived in the countryside for a while. They were eventually captured and taken to various concentration camps. They

miraculously survived, which she attributes to the Catholic beliefs that her nanny taught her. She lived in a home in Sweden until her parents were reunited after the war and they found her and came and got her. This is a very interesting account, and includes many of the realities and horrors of war from the eyes of a ten-year-old child and the perspective of her own memories.

This narrative is written in a pretty simple and straightforward style, which makes it quite powerful. The reality of her words make the reader visualize what actually happened. The sentences are clipped, as if written by someone whose first language was not English. She says they were numb in their feelings, and the story is written that way, a bit distantly. The language is occasionally earthy and crude.

Several pages of black and white photos are included of Anita's family before, during, and after the war. The reader definitely gains insight from the tale that is told, a different saga than is often projected in WW II—they are "we hid" type of stories.

Judy Belcher, Teacher, Bremerton, WA

***Thomas Jefferson : Father of Liberty*, by Jeri Chase Ferris. (Trailblazers Biographies.) LCCN 9746039. Minneapolis: Lerner Publishing Group, 1998. ISBN 1575050099, HBB, \$23.93.**

921 (973.4). Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826; Presidents. 112 p. Gr. 3 - 8.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Thomas Jefferson "wrote piles, masses, heaps of papers and letters." He never argued except with his pen. This was a defining factor of his life, along with his love for his home, Monticello. He kept precise documents of all of his possessions and work there, including his slaves. He did try several times in his life to settle the problem of slavery. He was extremely intelligent; he read Shakespeare at six years old, and at nine studied Latin, Greek, and French. His library had books in seven languages. Jefferson was the early American leader who believed that people could rule themselves, and this responsibility didn't need to be left to the wealthy. At times in his life he was rich; but at the end of his life, he was very much in debt. He wanted to be remembered for being the author of the Declaration of Independence and the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, and the Father of the University of Virginia.

Jeri Chase Ferris has written an excellent biography of this great American, one that makes the reader feel like he or she knows the man himself, what he believed in, and how he thought. This book is thorough, and written in the language that middle grade students can easily understand. The illustrations include black and white photographs of paintings, documents, furniture, architectural drawings of his house, and other relevant material. A section titled "Notes" at the end of the book

gives some additional fascinating information. An ample bibliography specially denotes books that these students could easily read, and the index is comprehensive.

Judy Belcher, Teacher, Bremerton, WA

The Holocaust Overview, by Ann Byers. LCCN 9737637. ISBN 0766010627.

940.53. Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945); Germany-- Politics and government--1933-1945. 128 p.

Quality—5 Acceptability—4

The Holocaust Camps, by Ann Byers. LCCN 9737642. ISBN 0894909959.

940.53. Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945); World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps. 128 p.

Quality—5 Acceptability—4

The Holocaust Ghettos, by Linda Altman Jacobs. LCCN 9737638. ISBN 0894909940.

940.53. Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945); Jewish ghettos. 112 p.

Quality—5 Acceptability—4

(The Holocaust Remembered Series.) Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 1998. HBB, \$19.95. Gr. 6-12.

The Holocaust Remembered series is a must for the libraries of America. The series presents an easy to read account of the Holocaust, focusing on certain aspects such as the ghettos or the camps. Each book can stand alone, as there is little overlap or repetitive information between the books. Each book contains clear pictures and maps as well as charts to help the reader visualize the material. The index and bibliography section is great for the middle/junior high student and above for providing more information. The paper is durable as is the cover. The writing is straight forward and non-emotional.

Ms. Beyers tells in the Overview how the Holocaust began with Hitler's rise to power. She then chronicles the steps he and other key figures took and why they began the "Final Solution." She carefully states the facts in terms that the younger student will understand and at a pace that will keep him/her mesmerized. While the information is mature, Beyers presents it carefully and appropriately for the targeted age group. In the book about the Holocaust camps, Ms. Byers presents the history of why the camps were started and who first occupied them, as well as what their use was. She differentiates between the camps in a simplified manner, such as one camp was used for munitions while another was used for extermination. She explains what life was like in these camps and the liberation of the camps. Both of her books contain a timeline to enhance the student's understanding of the material.

Ms. Altman provides a brief overview of the war, explains the history and the location of the first ghettos, and takes the reader into the ghettos. As with the other books in the series, the photographs, drawings, maps, and charts are

very helpful without taking away from the text. The index and bibliography will provide the student with more information. The only caution is that these books cover a difficult subject and while neither of the authors seek to make the material harsh, it is still a dark period of history and these books may be difficult for some readers.

Bianca Elliott, Teacher, Linwood, KS

Russia, rev. ed., by Michael Kort. (Nations in Transition.) LCCN 9810751. New York: Facts on File, 1998. ISBN 0816037760, HBB, \$19.95.

947.09. Russia (Federation). 200 p. Gr. 7-12.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

As part of the Nations in Transition series, *Russia* shows the people as they rebuild a country that had once been dominated by the Communists. It outlines the people's struggles against nature, against other nations, and against themselves. The author, Michael Kort, not only looks at the daily life of the Russian people, but also examines Russian culture, economy, history, and religion.

I found Kort's Chronology of Russian History, (pps 186-192) an excellent resource. Kort begins in the mid-9th century and takes the reader step by step to the appointment of the prime minister in 1998. The book is richly illustrated with black and white photos of Russia's common people as well as the country's well-known people like Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, and Alexandr Solzhenitsyn. The book also includes photos of places and maps.

The author includes a two page list of suggestions for further reading, and provides a more than adequate index. Overall, Michael Kort presents a credible review of Russia and her people.

Dell Smith Klein

East Timor : Island in Turmoil, by Taro McGuinn. (World in Conflict.) LCCN 9713683. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications Co., 1998. ISBN 0822535556, HBB, \$25.26.

959.8. Timor Timur (Indonesia)--History; Timor Timur (Indonesia)--Ethnic relations. 88 p. Gr. 7-12.

Quality—3 Acceptability—4

East Timor, a part of the island of Timor, and located 400 miles northwest of Australia, is a country that was once part of Portugal, and is now controlled by Indonesia. Past problems and the present situation produces pain for the people who inhabit this small island in the South Pacific. The past history of this small country is discussed, including the civil war where an estimated 200,000 Timorese were killed by the Indonesian military. The human rights of the people in this small country have been violated, while the rest of the world was unaware of what was happening or did not seem to care about

doing anything to help these people. The conflict continues as Indonesia claims that people of East Timor can not make it without their help, while most of the East Timorese feel that they can exist independently.

Maps and black and white and colored photos add to the understanding of the situation and condition in East Timor. A word list with definitions is at the beginning, those words in the text are bold. At the end is an index, selected bibliography containing both older and current books, and an epilogue that includes how to keep current happenings in Timor. A chronology is also provided dating from 1400's to 1997. The introduction contains good information, but could have given more personal information about the people rather than talking about the conflict. This is a very useful source to students doing research on human rights or on countries in conflict.

Lynette Sorenson, College Librarian, Kirkland, WA

Many series titles are similar in composition and quality to other titles in the series. Following are some series titles from series we have previously reviewed. Readers are referred back to the original review for further information about the series.

African-American Biographies, Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, HBB, \$19.95.

Last reviewed Winter/Spring.1999.
Quality—5 Acceptability—5

W. E. B. Du Bois : Champion of Civil Rights, by Mark Rowh.LCCN 9850787, ISBN 0766012093, 1999.

921 (305.896). De Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burkrardt), 1868-1963, Civil rights workers, Afro-Americans--Biography. 128 p.

Walter Dean Myers : Writer for Real Teens, by Denise M. Jordan.LCCN 9850788, ISBN 0766012069, 1999.

921 (813). Myers, Walter Dean, 1937-, Authors, American, Afro-Americans--Biography. 128 p.

Collective Biographies, Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, HBB, \$19.95.

Last reviewed Winter/Spring.1999.
Quality—5 Acceptability—4

American Computer Pioneers, by Mary Northrup. LCCN 9724155, ISBN 0766010538, 1998.

920 (004). Computers--History, Computers--Biography, Inventors, Businessmen. 112 p.

American Tycoons, by Carl R. Green and William R. Sanford. LCCN 9850786, ISBN 0766011127, 1999.

920 (338.092). Businesspeople. 112 p.

American Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers, by Claire L. Datnow. (Collective Biographies.) LCCN 988846, ISBN 0766010902, 1999.

920 (813). Authors, American, Science fiction--History and criticism, Fantasy--History and criticism. 128 p.

Cultures of the Past, Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, HBB, \$19.95.

Last reviewed March.1998.
Quality—5 Acceptability—5

The Ancient Hebrews, by Kenny Mann. LCCN 976551, ISBN 0761403027, 1999.

909. Jews--History, Bible. O.T.--History of Biblical events. 80 p.

Mesopotamia, by Pamela F. Service. LCCN 9654611, ISBN 0761403019, 1999.

935. Iraq--Civilization--To 634. 80 p.

Elizabethan England, by Ruth Ashby. LCCN 9643868, ISBN 0761402691, 1999.

942.05. Great Britain--History--Elizabeth, 1558-1603, England--Social life and customs--16th century. 80 p.

Spain in the Age of Exploration, by Heather Millar. LCCN 972090, ISBN 0761403035, 1999.

946. Spain--Civilization--711-1516, Spain--Civilization--1516-1700. 80 p.

Belarus, by Patricia Levy. LCCN 9748562, ISBN 0761408118, 1998.

947.8. Belarus. 128 p.

Cultures of the World, New York: Marshall Cavendish, HBB, \$24.95.

Last reviewed March.1996.
Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Liberia, by Patricia Levy. LCCN 9743613, ISBN 76140810X, 1998.

966.62. Liberia. 128 p.

Tanzania, by Jay Heale. LCCN 9742180, ISBN 0761408096, 1998.

967.8. Tanzania. 128 p.

Guatemala, by Sean Sheehan. LCCN 9744619, ISBN 0761408126, 1998.

972.81. Guatemala. 128 p.

New Zealand, by Roselynn Smelt. LCCN 9742179, ISBN 0761408088, 1998.

993. New Zealand. 128 p.

Papua New Guinea, by Ingrid Gascoigne. LCCN 9743611, ISBN 0761408134, 1998.

995.3. Papua New Guinea. 128 p.

Czech Republic, by Efstathia Sioras. LCCN 9830290, ISBN 0761408703, 1999.

943.71. Czech Republic. 128 p.

Estonia, by Michael Spilling. LCCN 9843682, ISBN 0761409513, 1999.

947.98. Estonia. 128 p.

Mongolia, by Guek-Cheng Pang. LCCN 9831987, ISBN 0761409548, 1999.

951.7. Mongolia. 128 p.

Yemen, by Anna Hestler. LCCN 9853993, ISBN 0761409564, 1999.

953.3. Yemen. 128 p.

Kuwait, by Maria O'Shea. LCCN 9825833, ISBN 0761408711, 1999.

953.67. Kuwait. 128 p.

Bangladesh, by Mariam Whyte. LCCN 9822428, ISBN 76140869X, 1999.

954.92. Bangladesh. 128 p.

Senegal, by Elizabeth L. Berg. LCCN 987790, ISBN 76140872X, 1999.

966.3. Senegal. 128 p.

Ghana, by Patricia Levy. LCCN 9849004, ISBN 0761409521, 1999.

966.7. Ghana. 128 p.

Angola, by Sean Sheehan. LCCN 9851963, ISBN 76140953X, 1999.

967.3. Angola. 128 p.

Democratic Republic of the Congo, by Jay Heale. LCCN 9828538, ISBN 0761408746, 1999.

967.51. Congo (Democratic Republic). 128 p.

Honduras, by Leta McGaffey. LCCN 9854908, ISBN 0761409556, 1999.

972.83. Honduras. 128 p.

Uruguay, by Leslie Jermyn. LCCN 9827375, ISBN 0761408738, 1999.

989.5. Uruguay. 128 p.

Latvia, by Robert Barlas. LCCN 9930168, ISBN 0761409777, 2000.

947.96. Latvia. 128 p.

Cyprus, by Michael Spilling. LCCN 9931942, ISBN 0761409785, 2000.

956.93. Cyprus. 128 p.

Côte D'Ivoire, by Patricia Sheehan. LCCN 9927250, ISBN 0761409807, 2000.

966.68. Côte D'Ivoire. 128 p.

Uganda, by Robert Barlas. LCCN 9927577, ISBN 0761409815, 2000.

967.6. Uganda. 128 p.

Barbados, by Marie Louise Elias. LCCN 9927594, ISBN 0761409769, 2000.

972.98. Barbados. 128 p.

Paraguay, by Leslie Jermyn. LCCN 9927257, ISBN 0761409793, 2000.

989.2. Paraguay. 128 p.

Historical American Biographies, Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, HBB, \$19.95.

Last reviewed Fall.1998.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5 (or Quality—3
3 Acceptability—4, depending on the subject)

Mark Twain : Legendary Writer and Humorist, by Lynda Pflueger. 9831293, ISBN 0766010937, 1999.

921 (818). Twain, Mark, 1835-1910, Authors, American, Humorists. 128 p.

Billy the Kid : Outlaw of the Wild West, by Roger A. Bruns. 9916689, ISBN 0766010910, 2000.

920 (364.15). Billy, the Kid, Robbers and outlaws, Frontier and pioneer life--Southwest. 128 p.

The Wright Brothers : Inventors of the Airplane, by Wendie C. Old. 9939585, ISBN 0766010953, 2000.

920 (629.24). Wright, Orville, 1871-1948, Wright, Wilbur, 1867-1912, Aeronautics--Biography, Inventors. 128 p.

Mary Todd Lincoln : Tragic First Lady of the Civil War, by Mary E. Hull. 9920080, ISBN 0766012522, 2000.

921 (973.7). Lincoln, Mary Todd, 1818-1882, First ladies, Women--Biography. 128 p.

George Armstrong Custer : Civil War General and Western Legend, by Zachary Kent. 9927496, ISBN 0766012557, 2000.

921 (973.8). Custer, George Armstrong, 1839-1876, Generals. 128 p.

Jim Bowie : Hero of the Alamo, by Ann Graham Gaines. 9914239, ISBN 0766012530, 2000.

921 (976.4). Bowie, James, d. 1836, Pioneers, Alamo (San Antonio, Tex.)--Siege, 1836, Texas--History--Revolution, 1835-1836. 128 p.

Daniel Boone : Frontier Legend, by Pat McCarthy. 9924578, ISBN 0766012565, 2000.

921 (976.9). Boone, Daniel, 1723-1820, Pioneers, Frontier and pioneer life. 128 p.

In American History, Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, HBB, \$19.95.

Last reviewed Winter/Spring.1999.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

The Panama Canal in American History, by Ann Graham Gaines. (In American History.) LCCN 9814477, ISBN 0766012166, 1999.

972.8. Panama Canal (Panama). 128 p.

Slavery and Abolition in American History, by Linda Jacobs Altman. LCCN 9919885, ISBN 0766011240, 1999.

973.7. Antislavery movements, Slavery--History, Abolitionists. 128 p.

Reconstruction Following the Civil War in American History, by Marsha Ziff. LCCN 9846740, ISBN 0766011402, 1999.

973.8. Reconstruction, United States--History--1865-1898. 128 p.

The Alaska Purchase in American History, by David K. Fremon. LCCN 9848913, ISBN 0766011380, 1999.

979.8. Alaska--History--To 1867, Russians--Alaska--History, Alaska--Annexation to the United States. 128 p.

The Lindbergh Baby Kidnapping in American History, by Judith Edwards. LCCN 9930815, ISBN 0766012999, 2000.

364.15. Lindbergh, Charles Augustus, 1930-1932--Kidnapping, 1932, Lindbergh, Charles A. (Charles Augustus), 1902-1974, Hauptmann, Bruno Richard, 1899-1936, Kidnapping. 128 p.

The Vietnam Antiwar Movement in American History, by Anita Louise McCormick. LCCN 9937118, ISBN 0766012956, 2000.

959.7. Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975, Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975--Protest movements. 128 p.

The Louisiana Purchase in American History, by Ann Gaines. LCCN 9924659, ISBN 0766013014, 2000.

973.4. Louisiana Purchase, United States--History--1801-1809. 128 p.

Nations in Transition, New York: Facts on File, HBB, \$19.95.

Last reviewed This issue.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Ukraine, by Steven Otfinoski. LCCN 987988, ISBN 0816037574, 1998.

947.7. Ukraine. 122 p.

Bulgaria, by Steven Otfinoski. LCCN 9810577, ISBN 0816037051, 1998.

949.9. Bulgaria. 118 p.

People to Know, Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, HBB, \$19.95.

Last reviewed Winter/Spring.1999.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Ernest Hemingway : Writer and Adventurer, by Della A. Yannuzzi. LCCN 9733351, ISBN 0894909797, 1998.

921 (813). Hemingway, Ernest, 1899-1961, Authors, American. 112 p.

Robert Ballard : Oceanographer Who Discovered the Titanic, by Christine M. Hill. LCCN 9854437, ISBN 076601147X, 1999.

921 (551.46). Ballard, Robert D., Oceanographers, Titanic (Steamship), Shipwrecks. 128 p.

Frank Lloyd Wright : Visionary Architect, by David K. Wright. LCCN 9729056, ISBN 0766010325, 1999.

921 (720). Wright, Frank Lloyd, 1867-1959, Architects. 128 p.

Jack London : A Writer's Adventurous Life, by Elaine Slivinski Lisandrelli. LCCN 9850565, ISBN 0766011445, 1999.

921 (813). London, Jack, 1876-1916, Authors, American. 128 p.

Al Gore : Leader for the New Millennium, by Laura S. Jeffrey. LCCN 9852498, ISBN 0766012328, 1999.

921 (973.929). Gore, Albert, 1948-, Vice-Presidents. 112 p.

Madeleine Albright : First Woman Secretary of State, by Barbara Kramer. LCCN 9921294, ISBN 0766011437, 2000.

921 (327.73). Albright, Madeleine Korbel, Cabinet officers, Ambassadors, Women--Biography. 112 p.

Rosie O'Donnell : Talk Show Host and Comedian, by Virginia Meachum. LCCN 9926875, ISBN 0766011488, 2000.

921 (792.7). O'Donnell, Rosie, Comedians, Entertainers, Women--Biography. 112 p.

Port Cities of North America, Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, HBB, \$23.93.

Last reviewed Winter/Spring.1999.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Destination San Juan, by Herón Márquez. (Port Cities of North America.) LCCN 9639489, ISBN 0822527928, 1998.

972.95. San Juan (P.R.). 80 p.

Science Projects, Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, HBB, \$19.95.

Last reviewed October.1995.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Science Fair Projects—Planning, Presenting, Succeeding, by Robert Gardner. LCCN 988667, ISBN 0894909495, 1999.

507.8. Science projects--Methodology. 104 p.

Science Projects About Math, by Robert Gardner. LCCN 986820, ISBN 0894909509, 1999.

507.8. Mathematics--Experiments, Science--Experiments, Science projects, Experiments. 112 p.

Science Projects About Physics in the Home, by Robert Gardner. LCCN 986822, ISBN 0894909487, 1999.

507.8. Physics--Experiments, Experiments, Science projects. 112 p.

Science Projects About Kitchen Chemistry, by Robert Gardner. LCCN 9835050, ISBN 0894909533, 1999.

540.78. Chemistry--Experiments, Experiments, Science projects. 128 p.

Science Projects About Plants, by Robert Gardner. LCCN 986821, ISBN 0894909525, 1999.

580.78. Botany projects, Plants--Experiments, Science projects, Experiments. 112 p.

Science Projects About the Environment and Ecology, by Robert Gardner. LCCN 9835049, ISBN 0894909517, 1999.

628. Environmental science--Experiments, Ecology--Experiments, Experiments, Science projects. 112 p.

Science Projects About the Science Behind Magic, by Robert Gardner. LCCN 9923826, ISBN 076601164X, 2000.

507.8. Science projects, Magic tricks. 128 p.

Science Projects About the Physics of Sports, by Robert Gardner. LCCN 9934119, ISBN 766011674, 2000.

530. Sports--Experiments, Force and energy--Experiments, Motion--Experiments, Experiments, Science projects. 128 p.

Science Projects About Methods of Measuring, by Robert Gardner. LCCN 9935532, ISBN 0766011690, 2000.

530.8. Measurement--Experiments, Experiments, Science projects. 128 p.

Sports Great Books, Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, HBB, \$16.95.

Last reviewed September.1996.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Sports Great Dikembe Mutombo, by John Albert Torres. LCCN 9930160, ISBN 0766012670, 2000.

921 (796.323). Mutombo, Dikembe, Basketball players. 64 p.

Sports Reports, Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, HBB, \$19.95.

Last reviewed Fall.1998.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Scott Hamilton : Star Figure Skater, by Barry Wilner. LCCN 9835035, ISBN 0766012360, 1999.

921 (796.91). Hamilton, Scott, 1958-, Ice skaters. 104 p.

The Drama of American History, Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, HBB, \$20.95.

Last reviewed Winter/Spring.1999.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

A Century of Immigration, 1820-1924, by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier. LCCN 983358, ISBN 0761408215, 2000.

304.87. United States--Emigration and immigration--History, Immigrants--Fiction, Slavery--History. 95 p.

The Rise of Industry, 1860-1900, by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier. LCCN 9838528, ISBN 0761408207, 2000.

338.1. Industries--History, Technology--History, United States--Economic conditions--1865-1918. 94 p.

Slavery and the Coming of the Civil War, 1831-1861, by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier. LCCN 982620, ISBN 0761408177, 2000.

973.3. United States--History--1815-1861, United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865, Slavery--History. 93 p.

The Civil War, 1860-1865, by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier. LCCN 9749178, ISBN 0761408185, 2000.

973.7. United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865. 95 p.

Reconstruction and the Rise of Jim Crow, 1864-1896, by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier. LCCN 988821, ISBN 0761408193, 2000.

975. Reconstruction, Afro-Americans--History--1863-1877, Afro-Americans--History--1877-1964, Afro-Americans--Civil rights, Race relations. 93 p.

United States Presidents, Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, HBB, \$19.95.

Last reviewed Fall.1998.

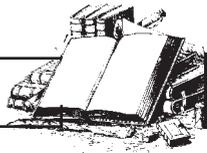
Quality—4 Acceptability—5

John F. Kennedy, by Karen Bornemann Spies. LCCN 9829553, ISBN 0766010392, 1999.

921 (973.922). Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963, Presidents, United States--Politics and government--1961-1974. 160 p.

Bill Clinton, by Michael A. Schuman. LCCN 9853046, ISBN 0766010368, 1999.

921 (973.929). Clinton, Bill, 1946-, Presidents, United States--Politics and government--1993-. 128 p.



***The Slash Brokers*, by Jeff S. Barganier. LCCN 9870960. Lafayette, La.: Huntington House, 1998. ISBN 1563841509, PAP, \$14.99.**

F. Stock brokers--Fiction; Crime--Fiction. 252 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

The Slash Brokers is not an easy book; not easy to read, not easy to digest, not easy to believe it is based on truth. Yet this novel deals with gruesome events that are actually taking place in parts of our world today. Slash brokers are those that harvest human body parts and aborted fetuses. Barganier weaves a fascinating tale as a wake-up call to the American people. His characters read like members of an espionage thriller as they infiltrate companies dealing in these deadly practices, placing their own lives at risk all the while.

Interesting though it may be, *The Slash Brokers* is filled with plots and subplots that are not always discernibly linked together. Many investment terms are used that are not easily

understood by casual readers and the very small print may prove quite difficult for some readers.

This book has a message of Christianity woven throughout with many strong Christian characters as main participants. There are several incidents mentioned of Christians imbibing beer or wine and partaking of cigars. For those libraries with a large fiction collection and readers interested in this genre, Barganier's *The Slash Brokers* may be a good addition.

Ceil Carey, School Librarian, Plano, IL

***One Shenandoah Winter : A Novel*, by T. Davis Bunn. LCCN 9819987. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1998. ISBN 0785272178, HBB, \$12.99.**

F. Appalachian Mountains--Fiction; Physicians--Fiction; Death--Fiction. 265 p. Adult.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Connie Wilkes, assistant mayor for the town of Hillsboro, works long and hard to bring a doctor

to town. She is at first pleased when Dr. Nathan Reynolds accepts the challenge. Dr. Reynolds, on the other hand, complains about the clinic, calling it "a gallery for medical nightmares!" In spite of his rancorous attitude and horrible bedside manner, the doctor is accepted by the townspeople after he cures the minister's baby. However, the doctor clashes with Connie over things trivial to major and hurts the feelings of just about everyone in Hillsboro.

Pappa Joe, Connie's uncle, falls ill. The old man has lived alone "on the mountain" for many years and doesn't give up his freedom easily. The doctor, after spending the night at Pappa Joe's cabin, gets involved, not only in his medical, but in his spiritual life. It is at this point, the doctor begins to look at his own past and future with new eyes.

Dawn, the daughter of Connie's best friend, plans to marry a man that Connie believes has no future. As Connie struggles with this dilemma, she learns much about herself and

A Note from the Editor: by Mary McKinney



Artifacts and Relics

Religious artifacts and relics have been the basis of many an interesting story and legend.

Looking back to the now classic *The Robe* and *The Silver Chalice*, we see that objects that potentially had been used by Jesus Christ when he walked the earth have become the focus for revealing the Christian message and the power of God. Those early novels, also produced as well-known movies, were just the forerunners of many and varied renditions of using "sacred objects" to point to Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

Whether we personally feel these ideas are probable or perhaps sacrilegious, matters little, for the quest continues. The Ark of the Covenant has received great notoriety, not only in the fiction field, and the cinema, i.e. *In Search of the Lost Ark*, (Indiana Jones style), but in the non-fiction realm, i.e. *In Search of Temple Treasures*, by Randall Price. Great controversy surrounds the hope of finding this coveted artifact, and great potential exists for more exciting adventures to be written.

Two recent novels have emerged that bring these interests and possibilities to the forefront. *The Iron Lance*, an historical novel about the Crusades, focuses on the spearhead used at Christ's crucifixion. Stephen Lawhead, an expert on Celtic history, unfolds a fascinating and enlightening account of this infamous event

in the history of the church.

The second novel, *A Ship Possessed*, by Alton Gansky, is set in modern times and coincidentally centers around the same religious artifact, the spearhead that pierced Christ's side. Though very different in subject matter, both stories relate similar quests within their respective story lines.

The bottom line is that there are some fascinating "reads" out there that not only may give you a glimpse into the historical past, but show the impact of Jesus Christ over the last two thousand years. If you enjoy inspirational novels filled with adventure and mystery and with a supernatural twist, then you'll relish these two new novels as well as some of those older classics.

others. As Christmas draws close, lives are transformed, but the events on Christmas day stand like a breath of freshness in this Appalachian valley.

Illustrations are black and white drawings that add to the beauty of this book. The author, T. Davis Bunn, captures the quaint language, traditions and culture of Appalachia in *One Shenandoah Winter*. At times the story moves slowly and predictably, but Bunn leaves us with a satisfying closing.

Dell Smith Klein, Writer, Teacher, Catalina, AZ

***Shades of Light*, by Marilyn Carlson. (A Palisades Contemporary Romance.) LCCN 9812014. Sisters, Ore.: Palisades, Multnomah Publishers, 1998. ISBN 1576732835, PAP, \$9.99.**

F. Widows--Fiction; Interior decoration--Fiction. 222 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Gwen Sullivan's passion for life dies when a drunken driver kills her husband before the start of *Shades of Light*. A thirty-eight-year-old widow of two years, Gwen attends a dinner party given by a friend, Candice Mallard. Candice tells Gwen she needs to get a life and by evening's end Candice hires Gwen to work at her interior design company.

When Candice misses an office appointment with Oliver Black, a divorced potential client, he asks Gwen to join him to see a building he's buying. Oliver likes Gwen's ideas for restoring and redecorating the old mansion. Candice refuses to be Oliver's decorator and warns Gwen against seeing him socially. When Candice's only reason is that Oliver is not what he seems, Gwen becomes confused whether to accept Oliver's invitation out. She learns Oliver was an intoxicated driver involved in an auto accident. Gwen becomes torn between remembering the cause of her husband's death and building a relationship with Oliver.

Candice finally gives Gwen the responsibility of finishing a decorating job. When Gwen deviates from Candice's original designs, to please the client, Candice fires her. Gwen searches for resolution in her relationship with Oliver and in her employment options, emerging as a more confident person than a few weeks earlier.

Melody Carlson creates a likable character in Gwen Sullivan. The book is a light and enjoyable read, keeping the reader in mild suspense to the end. Mentions of God and Christianity are sparse.

Jo Huddleston, Freelance Writer, Author, Former Teacher, Auburn, AL

***The Citadel and the Lamb*, by Ethel Herr. (The Seekers; 3.) Minneapolis: Bethany**

House, 1998. ISBN 1556617488, PAP, \$9.99.

F. Holland--History--Fiction; Persecution--Fiction. 320 p. Adult.

Quality—3 Acceptability—4

Author Ethel Herr sets her story in the late 1500s in the area now known as Holland, but at that time known as the Low Lands. The city of Leyden, was located on the Rhine River and built on at least forty islands. It was dominated by a hill of land on top of which was a fortress tower known as the Citadel.

After centuries of battles over possession of the area and the Citadel, the Low Lands were left to Spanish King Philip, who spoke only Spanish. He considered it his mission to impose the Catholic religion on all his territories, and his attempts were met with opposition from the populace, who wanted freedom to select their religion. There followed battles and sieges, dark hours of starvation and plague, with citizens' resistance eventually wearing down. Willem van Oranje, a German prince with Lowland holdings and a mission to preserve the religious freedom, urged the people to resist King Philip's persecution.

The fictional characters are numerous and a challenge to follow. But they depict the hardships suffered by the citizens, and how it was difficult to know whom to trust among their friends. They were routed out of their homes, and had to meet secretly to worship in their chosen faith. They offer inspiring examples of forefathers who had to fight so desperately for the religious freedom we tend to take for granted today. There are scenes of suffering and torture—a time when superstition played as much a role in medicine as herbs. Supernatural creatures were considered credible, and crime was common.

This is a trip back in time to scenes of religious persecution and the hardy souls that survived them or died for their beliefs.

Barbara Goy Taenzler, Freelance Writer, Glenwood, IA

***The Eternity Gene : A Novel*, by Robert Don Hughes. LCCN 9843296. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999. ISBN 0805460004, PAP, \$12.99.**

F. Science fiction. 341 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Dr. Jack Brennan, a seminary professor, is abducted a second time by alien demons and taken into deep time travels. The demons' governing body is The Ultrastructure, a six member panel representing all global areas. This Ultrastructure controls world governments and rules the earth from within through the loyalty of those they have deceived.

Jack observes the demons as they harvest large numbers of humans from around the world and from different time periods. As the complicated

plot unfolds, Jack concludes they are searching for the key to eternal life. If they find it, Jack reasons, all humans on earth will live forever. This will effectively lock heaven's door from the outside when believers won't ever die and go to be with God. Or could they be searching for a gene that would enable them to destroy Christianity?

The Eternity Gene is a sequel to *The Fallen*. Robert Don Hughes effectively weaves all the subplots with appropriate suspense to hold the reader's interest. The beginning of the book is a little slow while Hughes gives the reader background about Dr. Brennan's previous encounter with these alien demons. Hughes writes with keen insight, portraying a world of the near future. He also mixes in some surprises for the potential future of our world.

In this science-fiction novel, Hughes gives us vivid, living characters that linger in the reader's mind. He leaves a few loose threads of plot; just enough so that another sequel would be welcome.

Jo Huddleston, Freelance Writer, Author, Former Teacher, Auburn, AL

***Deep Dixie*, by Annie Jones. Sisters, Ore.: Alabaster Books, Multnomah Publishers, 1999. ISBN 1576734110, PAP, \$11.99.**

F. Fathers and daughters--Fiction; Adoption--Fiction. 343 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

When Marci abandoned her infant daughter, her unmarried brother, Riley, stepped in and played father for six years, rearing Wendy as his own child. Now he has to go to court to get Marci to completely sever her parental rights so he can continue to rear Wendy without the threat of Marci one day showing up to claim her daughter. But when Riley's mother breaks her hip in a bad fall, she is no longer able to look after Wendy while Riley is at work. In order to demonstrate that he is able to provide a stable home-life for Wendy, Riley buys into a partnership with the Fulton-Leigh company—a job that will allow him to spend more time with Wendy—and he moves to Fulton's Dominion. After initially locking horns with his new partner, Dixie (who recently took over the reins of the company after her father's death), she graciously opens her home to Riley, Wendy, and his invalid mother until he is able to find a place of his own.

Riley finds himself becoming fond of the crazy Fulton household with its eclectic mix of a shop-lifting, sometimes-magician grandfather; an eccentric aunt who dresses her dog in a wardrobe equal to her own; and a frail, elderly Negro woman with great wisdom and a quirky sense of humor. But most of all he finds himself falling for Dixie, who is struggling to come to terms with the death of her father, her new business responsibilities, and some shocking secrets she uncovers in the family Bible hidden

in her father's safe. Together Riley and Dixie sort through their difficulties, come to some point of reconciliation with various estranged family members, and transform their business partnership in to a marriage.

Deep Dixie, by Annie Jones, emphasizes the importance of repairing broken relationships before it is too late, and the importance of putting one's faith into action. Jones also reminds the reader to not be too proud to accept help when it is offered, as God may answer one's needs in unexpected ways. The book is mildly amusing in places, but is fairly predictable, and fails to fully engage the reader in the lives of the characters in a personal way.

Sherri Beeler, *Teacher, Medford, OR*

***The Chairman*, by Harry Lee Kraus, Jr. LCCN 9846847. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1999. ISBN 1581340389, PAP, \$12.99.**

F. Handicapped--Fiction; Marriage--Fiction. 475 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

When Nathan McAllister awakens in the hospital, he has no memory of the days surrounding the shooting that made him a quadriplegic. Now the former police officer must adjust to changes that affect his relationships with everyone: his estranged wife, his young daughter, his friends and associates. Most of all, the man whose life once defined independence, leadership, and machismo must come to terms with total reliance on others and God.

As he questions his fellow police officers about the drug bust that robbed him so tragically, he becomes frustrated at their reticence. Why won't they answer his queries? Could it be his accidental shooting by his best friend and partner was no accident? To Nathan's surprise, the police have disturbing questions of their own: Why did he enter the drug house without his weapon? His integrity challenged, the disabled man becomes even more assertive about discovering the truth, a truth that involves the death of a teen which may or may not have been a suicide.

Parallel to Nathan's dilemma is the story of the chairman of the neurosurgical unit at Brighton University Hospital, Dr. Ryan Hannah. A man driven to be the best, he has been conducting research into spinal regeneration. His results are promising but circumvented by animal's rights protestors. Is Nathan a good candidate for the first human trials of his experimental, but potentially dangerous, drug?

In *The Chairman*, Dr. Kraus has written a multi-textured medical thriller that ventures far beyond the genre. His characterizations are realistic, the suspense escalating on each page. But much more than this, his work focuses on significant themes of forgiveness, reconciliation, and the search for what constitutes the true

worth of a man. If some fiction is light as dessert, *The Chairman* is a fully satisfying entree. A truly entertaining and significant read by an intelligent and insightful author.

Marcy Stewart Froemke, *Asst. Prof. of Education, Bryan College, Dayton, TN*

***A Winter's Love*, by Madeleine L'Engle. LCCN 96376. Wheaton, Ill.: Harold Shaw, 1999. ISBN 0877888892, PAP, \$15.99.**

F. Marriage--Fiction; Switzerland--Fiction. 335 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—3

A Winter's Love, a 1957 publication newly bound and offered again, focuses on relationships: Emily Bowen and her husband Courtney; Emily and Abe; Emily and Gertrude de Croisenois; Gertrude and Kaarlo; Virginia and Mimi; Sam and Mimi; Virginia and Snider. Other characters round out the story set in a French alpine village at Christmas time.

Emily feels cut off because Courtney has lost his professorship and this winter spends his time writing academic papers. At least he tries, but with little success. She knows he needs her emotionally, though he insists he can get through this trying time alone. Their good friend from New York, Abe Fielding, and his son Sam, also come to this village. Old feelings between Emily and Abe surface again, stronger than ever. Emily willingly follows Abe's lead. Soon she must make a life-changing decision: should she leave Courtney's world and enter Abe's?

While the adults face their feelings and shortcomings, the young people struggle with their own. Virginia dislikes Snider, called Beanie, because he makes unpleasant remarks about Mimi, a Jew. Why should one's religion matter, Virginia wonders, as Beanie pursues her. Mimi thinks she's in love with Sam and he with her, but she doesn't understand him. Then, they all ask why Gertrude and Kaarlo live together but don't get married.

L'Engle tackles these true-to-life knotty problems while still including sound insights about love and marriage. Her good writing brings them out through dialogue and Emily's battle within herself. She splices into the story line ordinary happenings at the Bowen villa and at Gertrude's chalet, emotional hurts from the past, and eccentric people. In her usual style, the writer includes details of sight, sound, touch, taste, and feel that draw the reader completely into the story.

Betty M. Hockett, *Freelance Writer, Newberg, OR*

***The Quest*, by Nancy Moser. (The Mustard Seed; 2.) LCCN 9922049. Sisters, Ore.: Alabaster Books, Multnomah Publishers, 1999. ISBN 1576734102, PAP, \$11.95.**

F. Christian fiction. 406 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Two years have passed as *The Quest* calls back those who had originally been chosen to receive a special invitation from God. Walter, Julia, Natalie, Kathy, and Father Del have gone on with their lives—each a little more tuned in to the Lord. Although each is trying to honor the Lord, we find our main characters living typically "safe" lifestyles. Now, they are faced with a series of events that challenges them to take a strong stand for their faith.

Nancy Moser has again written a page-turner as she takes the reader to the next level of faith and commitment to God. As usual, the story line holds the reader's interest as the well-rounded characters face life-changing decisions. The characters are ordinary enough that readers can find of bit of themselves within the flaws and strengths revealed. Filled with challenging scriptures, *The Quest* has a mirrors a bit of Frank Peretti's books as we see the battle for good and evil come to the forefront. Although this second book in the series can stand alone, the reader will appreciate being familiar with the characters from the first book.

Mary McKinney, *Former Teacher & Freelance Writer, Port Orchard, WA*

***Leota's Garden*, by Francine Rivers. LCCN 9925963. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1999. ISBN 084233498X, HBB, \$17.97.**

F. Christian fiction; Gardening--Fiction; Family life--Fiction. 425 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Leota: an old woman, estranged from her children, wallowing in self-pity; Corban: a self-centered, impatient, "know-it-all" college student; and Anne: torn between being the "perfect child," and starting her own life away from Nora, her controlling mother. These three people are an unlikely match, but as they slowly form a vital relationship, all three learn some very difficult lessons about life and love, blame and forgiveness.

Leota, once a vital, lively woman who loved tending her large flower garden, is aging, and unable to tend the garden which has fallen into pitiable disrepair. Corban, who needs a case study with the elderly to get an A on a college paper, volunteers, rather grudgingly, to help Leota once a week. He finds her abrasive and difficult to get along with, and she finds him equally impolite and arrogant. Anne, Leota's granddaughter, after years of keeping the peace with her mother, has moved out on her own, and, in a rather bold move, contacts Leota, the grandmother her mother purposely isolated her from all her life.

As Leota and Anne get to know each other, Anne offers to help Leota restore her garden, and with Corban's help they slowly begin to repair the damage with Leota's careful direction. As their relationships grow, Leota shares the

family history with Anne, which helps explain her mother's severed relationship from Leota, and the cause of her deep bitterness. The telling helps Leota recognize things she needs to ask the Lord's forgiveness for, and through her growing love for her granddaughter, Leota is brought out of her self-pity and begins to reach out to Corban as well. Corban learns a few things about himself as he gradually develops a respect and appreciation for Leota and her wisdom. Anne gains self-confidence and flourishes in her relationship with the Lord.

When Leota has a stroke and Nora is faced with the possibility of her death, Anne confronts her with truth that is difficult to hear about herself, but is necessary to plant the seeds of reconciliation and forgiveness. Not until Easter, a few months after Leota's death, do those seeds begin to sprout, when Anne, who inherited Leota's house, holds a resurrection celebration in the now fully-restored garden. There Nora sets aside her guilt and bitterness to see the love her mother had for her, and recognize her need to love her own daughter less selfishly.

True to form, Francine Rivers sets aside more frivolous plot-lines to grapple with the complexities of experiencing the fullness of life in Christ in the face of seemingly hopeless situations—in this case severely strained family relationship, caused by the root of bitterness. The book is long, and is somewhat difficult to read because the pain, constant negativity, and bleakness of the character's lives. Hope finally begins to shine through at the end, and the healing begins that was so desperately needed. Rivers does not give easy answers, nor does she tie up the story with a neat, clean ending. The redemptive process has begun, but the completion of its work will take time to erase the years of pain and emotional scarring. However, the promise remains that just as Leota's restored garden blooms again, so will these relationships be restored, as Christ, who begins a good work, will be faithful to complete it.

Sherril Beeler, Teacher, Medford, OR

***Resting in the Bosom of the Lamb*, by Augusta Trobaugh. LCCN 9831305. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999. ISBN 0801011701, HBB, \$19.99.**

F. Afro-American women--Southern States--Fiction; Afro-Americans--Southern States--Fiction; Aged women--Southern States--Fiction; Secrets--Southern States--Fiction; Psychological fiction; Christian fiction. 229 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Miss Cora, Pet, Wynona, and Lauralee, all old and older, live together, though less mindful of skin color and place in life than in their younger years. They have much to remember and talk about, but some memories cannot easily rise out of forgetfulness. Instead they act like a thorn under the skin, prickling but remaining invisible until the sore breaks open.

Because family means everything to Miss Cora, she continually adds to the Family Book, written by "great-grandmama's hand and my grandmama's and my mama's and now in mine." She plans to "pass it on to the ones who come after us, so they'll know who we were, and they can put their own stories in here for the ones who come after them." Pet worries, "Not gonna be a living soul coming after us."

As Pet tells the story, questions fly off each page. What dark event made Lauralee unsmiling and almost untalkative? Why does Miss Addie, the neighbor across the street, admonish Pet to "...make Cora remember." Remember what? Why does Pet find this so difficult? What about the story of Wynona's husband? What secret does only Pet and Miss Addie know?

Throughout *Resting in the Bosom of the Lamb*, past and present mesh together into a perfect tapestry of family details, suspense, and surprise. In spite of shameful happenings, love and tradition permeate the story. Along the way Trobaugh gives hints, then clarifies, but she does not assuage reader anticipation until the final page.

Resting in the Bosom of the Lamb counts as a can't-lay-it-down book, not only because of the story but for the excellent writing, as well.

Betty M. Hockett, Freelance Writer, Newberg, OR

***Voices from the Titanic*, by Jim Walker. (Mysteries in Time Series; 2.) LCCN 9843017. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999. ISBN 0805417710, PAP, \$13.99.**

F. Titanic (Steamship)--Fiction; Mystery fiction. 459 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Author Jim Walker continues his Titanic series with *Voices from the Titanic*, picking up where *Murder on the Titanic* leaves off. The story begins with the main characters Morgan Fairfield and Margaret Hastings arriving in New York City aboard the *Carpentaria*. Fairfield, a cub reporter for the *New York Herald*, is teamed up with experienced crime reporter, "Call" McCall; the two try to uncover evidence that Morgan's friend, Hunter Kennedy, was murdered aboard the Titanic. The more they dig, the closer they come to solving the crime, despite Call's being framed by the police for murder. Complications arise when someone claiming to be Hunter Kennedy surfaces and meets up with Fairfield, who confronts the imposter. Through a series of events, Morgan and Call discover the murderer and in the process uncover and foil a plot to send a shipment of firearms to the IRA in Ireland.

The main theme of this novel, woven skillfully throughout, is dealing with pride, which can stand in the way of forgiveness and happiness. The biggest change comes in Call, a hardened reporter who has made a practice of alienating

people and keeping walls up. Through consistency of character, Morgan manages to create fissures in Call's rigid exterior causing Call to begin to change.

The plot of the novel, with just enough twists to keep it interesting, is unique and well constructed with clues for the readers sprinkled throughout the action. *Voices from the Titanic* is suspenseful enough to keep the pages turning.

Eileen Zygarlicke, Freelance Writer & Editor, Grand Forks, ND

***The Undying Fire*, by H.G. Wells. LCCN 9815991. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1998. ISBN 0805416730, PAP, \$9.99.**

F. . 179 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

H.G. Wells creates an interesting scenario of the classical tale of Job, set in the early twentieth century. Although the characters reflect the trials and ills of a more modern society than Job of the bible, the same heartfelt cry comes forth—to know and understand this God of the universe. Job Huss, the headmaster of a school, finds his world crashing down around him when his health, loved ones, and circumstances all come under attack. Unfortunately, his "friends", in their misguided advice, become part of the problem instead of the solution. The bottom line of course, is that Job Huss, i.e. mankind, must discover that the undying fire that burns in every man's heart can only be satisfied by relationship and trust in God Almighty.

The language is challenging in places, more typically reflecting when it was first published in 1919. The story is thought-provoking and at times, convicting, as the reader wades through the many troubles of Job and finally arrives at the other side—the proper acknowledgment of God—and the final restoration of relationships, health and provision.

Mary McKinney, Former Teacher & Freelance Writer, Port Orchard, WA

***The Dark Sun Rises*, by Denise Williams. (Roots of Faith; 1.) Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1998. ISBN 1556618824, PAP, \$11.99.**

F. Slavery--Fiction; Literacy--Fiction; Christian fiction. 448 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Joseph could read, and for that offense his tongue was nearly severed from its root by the knife of Brant, his master's son. As a Negro slave, Joseph was forbidden to read, write, or teach other slaves to do the same. An educated slave was considered a dangerous slave who would stir up rebellion and unrest, for with education comes power and freedom, and as everyone knew, the Negro mind was too small to deal with such knowledge properly.

Abram, Joseph's owner, returns home to find Joseph in incredible pain, wracked with fever,

and unable to speak but the most rudimentary of sounds. Joseph was dear to Abram's heart, having grown up side by side with his own son Brant, later to become Abram's personal serving man. The discovery of Joseph's ability to read rocks Abram's world and beliefs to the core. A godly man, Abram had worked for years to bring God's word of salvation to his slaves. All Joseph wanted was to be able to read the scriptures for himself. But was it possible that Joseph was not the only slave with such intellectual abilities? If so, Abram asks himself, "What does God desire for the Negro? And what does he expect from Christian masters?"

To settle this matter for himself Abram secretly sends Joseph to Charleston to give him a full classical education, and gather proof of what a pure African is capable of learning. Joseph revels in his new-found, relative freedom as an order clerk in a mill. By the grace of God his tongue heals so that he can speak again. He drinks in the education he receives after working hours, and studies "to show himself approved unto God." As a Negro, Joseph is continually under suspicion, and faces the constant threat of punishment or hanging for the least offense. When white men create an "incident" causing his Negro teacher to be arrested, it is discovered that Joseph has used his literacy to help Negro friends of his be smuggled to the north. Joseph is arrested and sentenced to be hanged. However, out of respect for the severe illness of Master Abram, Joseph is instead sentenced to ninety days in the workhouse chipping gravel. When he is finally released to return the plantation he arrives broken, sick, and exhausted, only to find Abram on his deathbed. Tenderly, Joseph nurses Abram, who begs his forgiveness and insists that in his sick room, there will be no division of the races—they will treat each other as equals, friends, and brothers in the Lord.

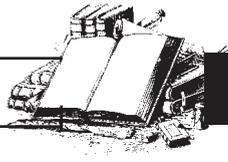
By law, Abram is not allowed to set Joseph free, though he deeply desires to do so. Having petitioned the court for Joseph's manumission, occasionally awarded in exceptional circumstances, Abram's last act is to sign those freedom papers when they, by a miracle of God, arrive in the hands of an attorney. Upon his death, Brant inherits the plantation. However, the manumission papers cannot be found, and Joseph is put back to work in the fields with the other slaves. While Brant is in the north honeymooning with his new wife, Joseph is captured by trouble-makers, whipped, imprisoned, and is threatened to be burned alive by Rensler, a white man who despises him and has continually made trouble for him all his life. Joseph learns that the patrollers raided the Brant plantation and the male slaves were severely beaten; his wife and unborn child drowned in the river trying to escape the danger on a raft with the other women and children. In complete despair, Joseph takes out Abram's Bible that had been smuggled to him, and turns to it for comfort. There, miraculously, he discovers his

freedom papers folded in the pages. Brant returns home just in time to take action against Rensler, prevent Joseph's death, and put him on a boat headed north, a free man at last.

The Dark Sun Rises, by Denise Williamson, is an incredible book that belongs on the shelf next to the likes of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The book is a powerful testimony of the abuses of slavery, the corruption of worldly slave owners, and the quandary of godly slave owners. Through Joseph's pain, humiliation, and frustration, the spirit of God works mightily in him, transforming his life and the lives of those around him. He refuses to allow his extreme circumstances overcome him, but instead takes comfort in the fact that he belongs to God and God alone—that God is the one true master of all men. The images in this book are harsh and difficult to stomach at times, inducing bitterness and rage in the reader at the hopelessness of the slaves' plight. Joseph, however, turns this anger into forgiveness and strength and gives witness to the incredible redeeming power of God. He readily embraces "servanthood under the lordship of Christ."

The Dark Sun Rises does not limit itself to sympathy for the Negro, however. It deals significantly with the spiritual growth of Abram; of his son Brant, and Brant's new wife; of Gund, the white over-seer who finds greater friendship and Christian fellowship with the slaves than he does with people of his own race; and of Rosa, once the daughter of a Haitian slave owner, now falsely enslaved herself, and experiencing the abuses of the system she was once part of. Through their trials each of these people grow and are stretched in faith and understanding of the ongoing struggle to walk humbly, whatever their lot. As Joseph's teacher said, "The proud man would conquer others. The Christian's ambition must be to conquer himself."

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Medford, OR



000's—Generalities

How to Grow a Young Reader : Books from Every Age for Readers of Every Age, by Kathryn Lindskoog and Randelda Mack Hunsicker. LCCN 9851648. Wheaton, Ill.: Harold Shaw Publishers, 1999. ISBN 0877884080, PAP, \$14.99.

011.62. Children--Books and reading; Reading--Parent participation; Children's literature--Bibliography. 391 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

In the updated and expanded edition of *How to Grow A Young Reader*, authors Kathryn Lindskoog and Randelda Mack Hunsicker introduce over 1,800 best loved books. Many

titles are old friends such as C. S. Lewis' *The Narnian Chronicles*, *Grimm's Fairy Tales*, and Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. Other less known books are also listed with brief descriptions. The authors include biographical information on some of the authors along with pertinent historical events which prompted some of the writings.

A Note from the Editor: by Ray Legg



Living in a Book

"Aim at heaven and you get earth thrown in; aim at earth and you get neither."

C.S. Lewis

On Monday, December 21, 1998, presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin appeared as a guest on the NBC Today Show. During the interview, Katie Couric asked whether, in light of the vote to impeach the President by the House of Representatives, the resignation of Speaker-elect Livingston (R. LA), and the bombing of Iraq, it would be possible for Goodwin to find a date or time comparable to Saturday, December 19, 1998, anywhere else in U. S. history.

Goodwin compared the impeachment of William Jefferson Clinton with that of Andrew Johnson, but said the two events are not alike. While issues of war remained under consideration, she believes had Johnson been convicted, his arch-enemy (then Speaker of the House), would had become president because there was no Vice

President. Lincoln had been assassinated and Johnson had already ascended. In Goodwin's opinion, that would have resulted in a wholesale shift of national policies which could have been disastrous. As she sees it, should Clinton be convicted, Al Gore would become President and things would basically remain status quo—Democrat for Democrat rather than Democrat for Republican as in Johnson's case.

Asked, then, because polls suggest U. S. citizens would prefer to keep Clinton in office in spite of a partisan congressional will to do otherwise, if there was another time in history where the will of the people leaned in one direction and the Congress in another, Goodwin likened the present condition in Washington to that which prevailed in the late 1950s. During those years, the majority of the people favored some sort of Civil Rights legislation and Congress did not. Congress was controlled by a block of southern Democrats who would not consider the matter.

Unfortunately, Goodwin said, the atmosphere of hostility and bitterness in Washington today will continue, as it did then, until a voice of reason sounds forth across the land to bring both sides of the debate together—a voice that will ring out as one heard in the 1960s; that will embrace the message of nonpartisan reconciliation;

one voice dedicated to changing the world forever like that raised by Martin Luther King, Jr.

It seems to me that one of the tasks before us is to make our children and young people in general aware of the world around them and to make them aware that they are, in a sense, "living in a book." History is not just something to grind through because teachers and parents want to make them miserable. It is the living record of their lives written, sometimes, at the same time they are living it. They need to understand that reading not only tells them what happened in the past, but also that it can give them the tools to cope with what is going on around them. It can help them make sense of their world when little seems sensible.

We are living in a time when cynicism seems to be running rampant and when giving up or looking away seems to be the best course of action. My suggestion is that we keep encouraging those in our charge to read in the hopes that one of them might learn the lessons of history and become the voice of reason in a world which seems out of control.

Divided into fifteen chapters, the book begins by describing the rich resources in children's literature, the "dragon" television, and methods for promoting reading within the family. Further chapters cover "Tried and True" books—the familiar classics including *Pinocchio*, *Treasure Island*, *Sir Gibbie*, and others, fairy tales, biographies, historical fiction, and more. From fantasy books to poetry books, *How to Grow a Young Reader* is chock full of information.

This book is not the most comprehensive book available on children's classics. But it provides a nice balance of information without overwhelming the reader. It would make a nice gift for a parent, grandparent, or teacher or as a library resource guide.

Joanne M. Haffly, Freelance Writer, Homeschool Mother, Gig Harbor, WA

100's—Philosophy & Psychology

Sopa de Pollo Para El Alma : Relatos Que Conmueven El Corazon Y Ponen Fuego En El Espiritu, by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen. Health Communications, 1995. ISBN 1558743537, PAP, \$12.95.

(*Chicken Soup for the Soul*, by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen.)

158. Spiritual life. 305 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—4

Este es un libro para alentar su alma y espíritu. En este libro hay muchos cuentos, algunos breves y algunos largos, que nos alientan meditar en Dios y en sus obras. Muchos de los cuentos son de los Estados Unidos pero las ideas son universales. Las categorías son sobre las cosas importantes de su vida como el amor, sus sueños, sus obstáculos, etc. Esta es una serie popular ahora y hay libros para los adolescentes, madres, padres, y cada persona que vive.

(This is a book to encourage your soul and spirit. In this book there are many stories, some short and some long, that encourage us to meditate on God and his works. Many of the stories are from the U.S. but the ideas are universal. The categories are over the important things of your life like love, your dreams, your obstacles, etc. This is a popular series now and there are books for teenagers, mothers, fathers, and every person that lives.)

Bianca Elliott, Teacher, Linwood, KS

Relativism : Feet Firmly Planted in Mid-Air, by Francis J. Beckwith and Gregory Koukl. LCCN 9817425. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998. ISBN 0801058066, PAP, \$14.99.

171.7. Ethical relativism--Controversial literature. 188 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

As pervasive as relativism is in our society, it is surprising to note that few have challenged its

tenets. But two authors, Frank Beckwith and Gregory Koukl, offer a critique and confront the "unofficial creed of American culture" in *Relativism: Feet Firmly Planted in Mid Air*. In their book the authors show how relativism has trickled down from academia and affected our lives in such arenas as education, medicine, marriage, etc. And neither Beckwith nor Koukl shy away from controversial issues, including abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, and values clarification.

As the authors note, relativism leads to "ethical nothingness." Truth is non-existent. In other words, anything goes. Yet Beckwith and Koukl point out that the logical outworking of relativism is dangerous. They quote Hitler, who declared the following at Auschwitz: "I freed Germany from the stupid and degrading fallacies of conscience and morality... We will train young people before whom the world will tremble."

Particularly interesting is the authors' discussion of how relativism has led to the acceptance of all ideas. To disagree with a viewpoint is tantamount to intolerance. However, Beckwith and Koukl make a distinction between "classical tolerance" and "contemporary tolerance." The former says, "I don't think your view is correct, but I'll listen to it." The latter claims, "All views are valid." Contemporary tolerance has abolished rational discourse. Nothing is right; nothing is wrong. Ironically, relativists hold that tolerance is the supreme virtue. In other words, it is an absolute...which renders this position untenable and as nonsensical as the statement, "I can't utter a word of English" or "Never say never." But relativists, as the authors point out, are not tolerant of absolutists or non-relativists. In fact, they are intolerant of those whom they perceive to be intolerant. They themselves do not embrace all ideas as equally valid!

Particularly helpful chapters include "Relativism's Seven Fatal Flaws" and "Tactics to Refute Relativism." These sections render the book a valuable reference tool. Not only do they outline and define the salient points of the philosophy, but also they show how to confront it.

Relativism, in a word, is self-refuting and unlivable. The authors contend that truth exists and it is absolute. What is more, they demonstrate how morality points us toward God. "Morals are not disembodied principles but personal commands," the authors explain, "and so a violation is not just a broken rule but an offense against the person who made the rule." In short, the authors accomplish their twofold purpose: They write about a complex subject for the lay reader, yet they write about a complex topic for the lay reader in an intellectually rigorous fashion.

A work in "philosophical apologetics," *Relativism: Feet Firmly Planted in Mid-Air* addresses the origin and nature of truth. It is of

the same caliber as the writings of Os Guinness, Francis Schaeffer, and C.S. Lewis. Again, it is one of a few titles that solely focus on relativism; for this reason, it is unique.

C. Brian Smith, Freelance Writer, Bloomington, IN

200's—Religion

The Knowing Jesus Study Bible. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999. ISBN 0310921252, HBB, \$32.99.

220. Bible. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

The Knowing Jesus Study Bible is an NIV translation that is really more a devotional Bible than a study Bible. Designed to be read in one year, the main feature of this Bible is the 365 devotions, spread every few pages throughout the entire Bible. Each devotion comments on the adjacent passage and relates it to Jesus. The devotional pages, called Discoveries, are followed by a "Self Discovery" which usually consists one or two questions designed to cause the reader to apply the passage personally. Also scattered throughout the Bible are numerous inserts called "Jesus Focus" which point out various background or theological points relating to Jesus.

Study helps in this Bible include numerous charts, a good concordance, a couple of color maps, some textual notes and many cross-references. The Bible also includes several beautiful color picture inserts. Those who are looking for an in-depth study Bible with detailed commentary notes like the NIV Study Bible, for example, will likely be disappointed with *The Knowing Jesus Study Bible*. For those looking for reverent, conservative, and practical devotional Bible, this one is worthy of consideration.

Dennis Ingolfsland, University Librarian, Dayton, TN

Nuevo Testamento Devociones para la Mujer con Salmos y Proverbios (NIV). Editorial Vida, 1996. ISBN 0829723900, PAP, \$12.99.

(*Spanish Women's Devotional New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs*.)

220. Bible. N.T.--Spanish language materials. 659 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

¡Increíble! Me gusta mucho este libro porque tiene las cosas que yo necesito. Es en la Nueva Versión Internacional y es muy fácil leer. Tiene notas e información importante para comprender el libro de Dios. Pero hay mucho más en este libro. Por ejemplo, hay una tabla de pesos y medidas, un plan de lectura, un índice de temas de las meditaciones devociones y un glosario. Pero, a mí, mi cosa favorita de esta Biblia es las Meditaciones de mujeres. Ellas no son solamente de EE.UU. pero son del mundo

latino.

No es posible para mí recomendar a una escritora pero tocante a sus circunstancias hay una mujer que puede hablar a su situación. Hay una parte que se llama Datos biográficos de las autoras y me interesa mucho. Si usted conoce a una mujer que lee en español, éste es un regalo para ella.

Incredible! I like this book a lot because it has things that I need. It is in the New International Version and is very easy to read. It has notes and important information to understanding the book of God. But there is much more in this book. For example, there is a table of weights and measures, a reading plan, an index of meditation themes and devotions and a glossary. But, to me, my favorite thing is the Meditations for Women. They are not written only by women from USA but from the latina world. It is not possible for me to recommend one writer but depending on your circumstances there is a woman who can speak to your situation. There is a part called "Biographical Information" of the authors and it is very interesting to me. If you have a woman that reads Spanish, this is the gift for her.

Bianca Elliott, Teacher, Linwood, KS

★

***The Journey from Texts to Translations : The Origin and Development of the Bible*, by Paul D. Wegner. LCCN 9911224. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999. ISBN 0801021693, HBB, \$33.99.**

220. Bible--History; Bible. English--Versions--History. 462 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

The subtitle of this book says it well: it is the story of the "origin and development of the Bible." This is the best and most readable discussion of the origins of the Bible I have ever seen anywhere. The book is divided into five sections; each part discusses pertinent matters relating to the transmission of the biblical text in translation. The first part presents general information about the Old and New Testaments, including historical backgrounds, interpretive problems, and a discussion of the unity of the biblical text as a whole. The second part gives an overview of the important problem of the canonization of the Bible, i.e. how it came together as a single book. Included in this section also is material on the apocryphal writings which are not included in the Protestant text of the Bible but are included in the Roman Catholic version. Part three examines the transmission of the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts of the Bible and how they are used in textual criticism. The fourth part of this book looks at early historical translations and versions of the Bible. Then in part five, Wegner traces a history of the English Bible with all of its translations and versions through history, right up to the present day.

This book is incredibly helpful in many respects. There are extensive end notes at the end of the book; there are good indices, and there helpful bibliographies at the end of each chapter. In addition, the book is full of excellent charts, pictures, and photographs of famous manuscripts and people.

It is hard for me to overemphasize the value and significance of this book. It is a wonderful reference as well as an excellent textbook for a course in the history of the Bible.

Paul C. Boling, Asst. Professor/Philosophy & Bible, Dayton, TN

★

***Encountering the Old Testament : A Christian Survey*, by Bill T. Arnold and Bryan E. Beyer. LCCN 9818612. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999. ISBN 0801021766, HBB, \$49.99.**

221.6. Bible. O.T.--Textbooks. 512 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

This book is an outstanding survey text of the Old Testament. It can be used as a personal reference book or as a textbook for a course in Old Testament introduction. The authors have done an excellent job presenting key information in a very interesting and readable style. The book also contains a wealth of study helps and aids, including an interactive CD for computer use.

The book begins with a brief discussion of general material on the origins, transmission, and interpretation of the Old Testament, as well as a summary of the history of Israel and the geography of the Middle East. Each chapter begins with an outline and a statement of the objectives of that chapter. Following the presentation of the material, there is a chapter summary, a chart of key terms, people, and places, a list of study questions, and suggestions for further reading on the issues of the chapter. Everything is color-coded and marked for emphasis. There are many helpful photographs and maps for easy reference throughout the text, as well as helpful indices at the end.

The authors take a generally evangelical approach to the text of the Old Testament, but they discuss alternative interpretations at key points; e.g. the dual authorship of Isaiah is discussed, as well the documentary hypothesis of the authorship of the Pentateuch. The body of the text is divided into sections on the Pentateuch, historical books, poetic books, and the prophets. Each book of the Old Testament is introduced, outlined, and briefly discussed section by section. Each type of literature, e.g. poetry, is explained as well.

This is one of the finest and most up-to-date Old Testament survey texts I have seen. It will serve many Christians and others who are interested in the Bible well.

Paul C. Boling, Asst. Professor/Philosophy & Bible, Dayton, TN

***Something New Under the Sun : Ancient Wisdom for Contemporary Living*, by Ray Pritchard. LCCN 99158328. Chicago: Moody Press, 1998. ISBN 0802481566, HBB, \$14.99.**

223. Prayerbooks and devotions; Ecclesiastes (Bible. O.T.). 314 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

The book of Ecclesiastes is surely one of the most neglected books in the Bible. It's depressing, hard to understand, negativistic... or is it? Ray Pritchard would say no—not if we understand Solomon's motives and methods in writing. Ecclesiastes is a realistic book; it has, so to speak, both feet firmly on the ground.

Something New Under the Sun is not a commentary on Ecclesiastes. It is, rather, a collection of an even 100 devotional meditations (approximately eight per chapter). Pritchard has selected passages and themes applicable to modern life. Each is intended to draw out the insights found in this book of wisdom. And they are, perhaps surprisingly, quite relevant. There is nothing new under the sun—people today are really no different than in Solomon's reign.

This book was not meant to replace commentaries on the Biblical text but it can serve as a valuable introduction to Ecclesiastes and (as intended) a devotional for busy people.

Andrew M. Seddon, Writer and Physician, Billings, MT

★

***New Dimensions in Evangelical Thought : Essays in Honor of Millard J. Erickson*, edited by David S. Dockery. LCCN 9750064. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1998. ISBN 0830815171, HBB, \$34.99.**

230. Evangelicalism; Theology. 470 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

This excellent volume is a series of essays written in honor of Millard J. Erickson, a prominent evangelical theologian and writer. There are a total of twenty-six essays. The first two are personal tributes to Erickson, one of which is written by his advisor at Northwestern University, William Hordern. The rest of the book is divided into essays on biblical theology, historical theology, systematic theology, and applied theology. The last section is a bibliographical essay on Erickson's writings, and following this is a complete listing of all of his works. There are helpful indices organized by name, subject, and Scripture reference at the very end of the text.

Each of the essays in this collection is written by a well-informed expert on each topic, and each author discusses the present status of thought in his field, as well as the history of thought in that

field. Following this historical survey of the field, the authors give suggestions on hot issues being discussed today and in the future. For example, in the section on historical theology, there are interesting articles on the trends in patristic theology, Eastern Orthodox thought, as well as Reformation theology, Baptist theology, Pentecostal theology, and American theological education. In the section on systematic theology, each author discusses a particular area of theology, such as Scripture, the doctrine of God, salvation, angels, Holy Spirit, the church, and others. These are excellent discussions of current topics in these fields of study; most are written in a style that the serious student of theology can understand and enjoy. Each essay includes a list of references for further study at the end. The points of view of the authors vary denominationally and theologically, so the book is balanced in its perspectives.

One of the most interesting sections of this book is the one on applied theology. In this section authors discuss current thought and issues in the church and culture, ethics, spirituality, evangelism, and worship. This section alone is worth the price of this book.

This book is not for beginners, but anyone interested in current thought on important biblical and theological issues will enjoy this work immensely. It is one of the best such works I have seen.

Paul C. Boling, Asst. Professor/Philosophy & Bible, Dayton, TN

***What a Christian Believes*, by Ray Pritchard. LCCN 9823783. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1998. ISBN 1581340168, PAP, \$9.99.**

230. Theology, Doctrinal--Popular works. 159 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Beginning with the history of the Bible, its inspiration, and reliability, Ray Pritchard takes the reader on a step by step journey of the very basics of Christianity. Using the scriptures for support, along with personal stories and a conversational format, the topics presented include what a Christian believes about the Bible, God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, creation, forgiveness of sins, angels and demons, heaven and hell, and the second coming.

At the end of each chapter Mr. Pritchard asks a few questions for consideration and lists scriptures to ponder. At the back of the book is a list of recommended reading materials along with how to contact the author. The main objective of the book is to increase the desire for further study of the Bible. There is a chance for marginal disagreements regarding some of the subjects discussed due to denominational interpretations. If this stimulates closer inspection of the subjects, then the goal of this book is achieved. The size and quality make this an excellent tool for witnessing.

Debbie Lindsay, Homeschool Parent, Eatonville, WA

***Bright Evening Star : Mystery of the Reincarnation*, by Madeleine L'Engle. LCCN 9721410. Wheaton, Ill.: Harold Shaw, 1997. ISBN 0877880794, HBB, \$17.99.**

232. Jesus Christ--Biography; Incarnation--Meditations; L'Engle, Madeleine; Christian biography. 165 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Madeleine L'Engle, a firm believer in the value of story and a renowned storyteller, once again invites readers into her own life. This time she leads us to consider anew God's love in sending his Son, Jesus, to earth, becoming part of his own creation. Throughout *Bright Evening Star* she proclaims and affirms, "God is love."

Vignettes from L'Engle's daily life, childhood to the present, give good starting points for her theological discussions. She thinks deeply and asks difficult questions about God, Jesus, the Trinity, and what Jesus meant by certain statements. Then, even more amazing and less understandable, how could he be fully divine and fully human at the same time? L'Engle admits that many times she cannot find the answers, yet she no longer feels bothered by lack of provable facts. As she points out, the Gospels tell enough to show us all we need to know about Jesus. Rather than trying to prove the impossible, she understands she has to believe by faith. She calls readers to also believe by faith.

The love that made Jesus willing to become a human being passes our comprehension. L'Engle reminds readers by her example to thank him for being born for us, for living all the way to death, then dying for us.

Every page of *Bright Evening Star* provokes readers to ponder the questions she poses. One reading will not suffice. It will remain a good resource for devotional reading. Betty M. Hockett

***Pinches of Salt, Prisms of Light : Ordinary People, Extraordinary Stories*, written and compiled by Carmen Leal and Eva Marie Everson. Ontario: Essence Publishing, 1999. ISBN 1553060121, PAP, \$14.95.**

242. Devotional literature, Canadian; Christian life. 309 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Similar to the popular "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books, this new book by Carmen Leal and Eva Marie Everson offers a collection of 101 true inspirational stories and poems. Contributing authors include Michelle Akers, starting striker on the world-champion U.S. Women's Soccer Team, along with insights by nurses, clergy, performers, journalists, retired teachers, homeschool mothers, and even a

twelve-year-old writer.

Pinches of Salt, Prisms of Light is nicely organized in eleven sections. Each section describes instances of sharing (or receiving) God's love in everyday situations: "Salt and Light in Family," "In Neighborhood," "In Friendship," and includes surprising but worthwhile sections such as "Salt and Light in Travel," "To the Unlovely," "In Death and Dying," and even "In Cyberspace." Quotes appear above each story, offering the perfect lead-ins to each.

The cover hosts a beautiful color painting of a doorway surrounded by ferns and flowers on a glossy white background. Artist Esther Horvath describes the stories in *Pinches of Salt, Prisms of Light* as "a doorway into learning something about yourself and the world around you... [and] a closer relationship with God." Because the stories are short and sections clearly labeled, this book can be easily read in snatches, jumping from section to section, or straight through. It could even be adapted as a once-a-day devotional. Nicely designed and well thought out, this book makes a beautiful gift for a friend or loved one, or a get-well "pick-me-up" gift. An appendix and details about the contributors appear in the back.

Kim Swenson Gollnick, Freelance Writer & Homeschool Mother, Marysville, WA

***Truffles from Heaven : Discovering the Sweet Gift of God's Grace*, by Kali Schnieders. LCCN 99028092. Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor Books, 1999. ISBN 1564767647, HBB, \$12.99.**

242.21. Christian life. 120 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

In this autobiographical book, Schneiders describes some of the struggles of life, and how God walks through those struggles with us, delivering grace in surprising ways. She sees him extending his grace the way a suitor extends a box of chocolates: full of love, promising all good things. She closes each chapter with a "nougat center"—a Bible verse that reminds us of God's promises.

The daughter of divorced parents, Schneiders struggled with her self-image. She competed in beauty pageants, hoping a crown would bring her father back. She longed for a husband, one who would stay with her always. Quietly, God assured her that he would be her father, he would be her husband, and that he would be with her always. He gave her tokens of his affection and meaning for her life.

Some of the tokens God gave her were silly little things such as elusive key lime yogurt. Others were undeniable miracles—like the time she won an African safari in a sales contest. She knew her prize was not the result of her sales skills, but that God had graciously supplied the contact that would generate the sales goals.

Once, after a move to a new home, her new church gave her the assignment of finding a guest speaker for a luncheon. God made it clear to her that she was to be that speaker and that opportunity launched her speaking ministry.

Schneider is blessed with a storytelling gift. Women will identify with her struggles, and alternately be moved to tears and laughter.

Andrea R. Huelsenbeck, *Freelance Writer, Tempe, AZ*

***Prayers Women Pray : Intimate Moments with God*, by Quin Sherrer and Ruthanne Garlock. LCCN 9746403. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Vine Books, Servant Publications, 1998. ISBN 1569550875, PAP, \$9.99.**

242.84. Women--Prayer-books and devotions--English. 167 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Prayers Women Pray is written for the busy modern woman who feels pressured by many tasks and concerns, with little time available for quiet meditation. When she does pray she is so overwhelmed by all facets of her life that she does not know how to communicate with God effectively.

Prayers Women Pray provides beautifully worded prayers to help women pray about the many aspects of modern life. This book contains prayers for family, friends, jobs, community, and nation. It has prayers for milestones such as marriage, pregnancy, birth, illness and death. Prayers are included for the good times as well as those hard times when prayer is extremely difficult.

Organized into key themes, this book gives a woman easy access to just the right prayer for any situation. The authors have provided powerful prayers for those extremely difficult situations such as infidelity, a child's drug addiction or unwanted pregnancy, abuse and anger, when a woman may feel unable or even unworthy to ask for God's help and mercy.

Scriptures for meditation are provided at the end of each section. These help us to realize that God does understand our situation, and is always there to share it with us.

Prayers Women Pray is an excellent devotional book for all women who want to communicate honestly with the Lord. It contains prayers and scriptures to help the modern woman cope with the many joys and sorrows of her daily life, and to help her to understand that she is not alone in her situation, that others feel exactly the same way, and that the Lord is always with her.

Virginia E. Brown, *Freelance Writer, Sheridan, WY*

***A Passion for Prayer : Experiencing Deeper Intimacy with God*, by Tom Elliff. LCCN 9748676. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books,**

1998. ISBN 0891079637, HBB, \$15.99.

248.32. Prayer--Christianity; Christian life. 224 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Tom Elliff, a Southern Baptist pastor and former missionary to Zimbabwe, challenges readers with "a new call to prayer." In *A Passion for Prayer*, Elliff states that believers are called to pray, to keep on praying, and to pray with passion.

To do this, Elliff looks at some of the basic ingredients of prayer and relates them to what he calls persevering prayer. The author contends that prayer is a believer's most effective but also most often unused weapon. Throughout the book he cites supportive Scriptures as he explores personal and intercessory prayer, prayer for grace to forgive, prayer during the hard times, prayer for blessing, and more.

The author urges believers to establish a consistent prayer life as mentioned in Luke 18:1 that will result in effective prayer. In addition to consistency in praying, Elliff stresses that praying and reading his Word are inseparable for victorious Christian living.

Pastor Elliff presents an in-depth study into the area of prayer. He gives personal anecdotes that offer clear understanding of the Scriptures concerning prayer. The book flows well and provocative questions for reflection and prayer appear at the end of each chapter. *A Passion for Prayer* would be beneficial to the reader who wants to establish a stronger prayer life. Elliff guides the reader toward that goal with Scripture as the foundation of his writing.

Jo Huddleston, *Freelance Writer, Author, Former Teacher, Auburn, AL*

***Far From Home : The Soul's Search for Intimacy with God*, by Joseph M. Stowell. Chicago: Moody Press, 1998. ISBN 0802410863, HBB, \$17.99.**

248.4. Christian life; Spiritual life--Christianity. 182 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Knowing God and having an intimate relationship with him should be every Christian's goal, but accomplishing such a task isn't always easy. *Far From Home* explores God's original design for a relationship with his people, the common distractions, and the corrective measures Christians can use to 'come home' again. Joseph Stowell uses a progressive analogy of the Prodigal Son to get each point across. The basic message remains the same: plug into God through worship, praise, obedience, and purity. The most practical chapter is on "Connectedness" where several well-known Christian figures share personal experiences and how-to ideas about personal devotions and prayer.

Far From Home stays on a very personal level.

Whether seasoned or new to the faith, readers will appreciate this priceless look at scriptures and the practical analogies derived from them.

Beth Loughner, *Freelance Writer, Registered Nurse, Columbus, OH*

***Called to Rebellion : The Key to Single-hearted Love for Christ*, by Sandy Snively. LCCN 9924177. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 1999. ISBN 1576734196, PAP, \$10.99.**

248.8. Christian women--Religious life. 320 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

In her first book, Sandy Snively calls women to rebel against the Imposter, the devil, and turn back to the heart of the Master, God. Because God created us and loves us, Snively reminds readers throughout *Called to Rebellion*, he has the right to rule over us. On the other hand, the devil aims to unseat God from his rightful place in our lives.

To rebel against sin, Snively declares, strengthens our resolve to say yes to God. This rebellion leads to a "Single-Hearted Love for Christ" in order to live a "Single-Hearted Life in Christ." She skillfully reveals how the Imposter takes great care to make his lies and deceitful practices sound and look acceptable, while in actuality he opposes everything the Master offers.

Snively readily gives illustrations from her own life at home and at work as she sought a new life in Christ through rebelling against the Imposter. She writes without hesitation, in a manner sure to convict readers, yet in a can't-put-the-book-down style. Scripture verses lace together the ideas, challenges, and encouragement. Women interested in reading more in this vein will appreciate the bibliography at the end of the book.

Betty M. Hockett, *Freelance Writer, Newberg, OR*

***Shattered Hopes, Renewed Hearts : What to Do With Wishes That Don't Come True*, by Maribeth Ekey; foreword by Paul Meier. LCCN 9812813. Ann Arbor: Vine Books, Servant Publications, 1998. ISBN 1569550123, PAP, \$11.99.**

248.8. Loss (Psychology)--Religious aspects--Christianity; Consolation. 224 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

In a discussion of the nature of 'life formulas' people live by, this clinical psychologist teaches on how to wish realistically. She would have the reader consider defensive wishes that were never fulfilled in childhood and how they often govern our relational thinking. With compassionate insight as well as clinical precision, she illustrates with short case study examples the route to dreaming possible dreams and letting go of dysfunctional wishes.

Readers will be intrigued with the fascinating process as clients explore why they spoil relationships that would be good for them or why bitterness has become a habitual response to life. Ekey elaborates on how depression is chronic mourning, how bitterness and shame refuse to let go of the ideal. Comparing the process of healing with the renovation of an old house, the author notes: "Souls need to be excavated from the debris of defensive wishes." She goes on to say that though the process seems endless and futile at times, "there is a soul in there and it can be restored."

Using biblical references as they support her psychological premises gives a Christian patina to the work. While the premises appear sound, the solutions are uniquely psychological, analytical, with no discussion of Jesus as healer or the power of the Holy Spirit to break the yokes of illusions.

Carol B. Taylor, *Freelance Writer, Poulso, WA*

***The Lady, Her Lover, and Her Lord*, by T. D. Jakes. LCCN 986298. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, Penguin Putnam, 1998. ISBN 0399144145, HBB, \$19.95.**

248.8. Marriage; Christian women--Religious life; Christian women--Conduct of life. 208 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Popular pastor, speaker, and author Bishop T.D. Jakes, addresses the hurting, modern woman in *The Lady, Her Lover, and Her Lord*. Drawing upon the Scriptures for help and encouragement, Jakes leads readers who have suffered abuse and neglect along a journey of inner transformation. The heart of his message is the power of the living God to restore the battered spirit and enable her to enter into relationships of genuine, lasting love and commitment. Critical to this delicate and complex issue is the necessity of the woman's seeing herself through the eyes of Christ. According to Jakes, the redemptive work of the Savior doesn't end at cleansing from sin—it can go on to polish every facet of a woman's life until she becomes the unique and beautiful individual intended by a loving Creator. Jakes' presentation of the Proverbs 31 woman makes it clear that this passage of Scripture isn't pie in the sky, but a livable gift from God.

The book's metaphoric style is at once its strongest and weakest feature. The richness of the poetic content is touching ("In his arms, love found its definition"), but its redundancy makes it at times laborious reading. The bishop's usage of repetitive sentiment occasionally slows the book's progress.

Still, Jakes has a feel for the subject matter and those who read this book will find an understanding friend who will help them discover the superb tapestry of a woman's life that lies behind the damaged veneer.

Kevin M. Reeves, *Freelance Writer, Haines, AK*

***The Secret of Self-Control : What God Wants You to Know About Taking Charge of Your Life*, by Dr. Richard L. Ganz. LCCN 9820504. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1998. ISBN 158134015X, PAP, \$11.99.**

248.8. Self-control; Thought and thinking. 208 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Is there hope for a Christian to find liberation from a bad habit? How can a Christian nurture and establish a good habit? Can the spirit-filled life ever be attained?

Drawing upon his years of expertise and training in the field of counseling, coupled with personal experience, Dr. Richard L. Ganz reveals the journey a person is able to take to gain self control; a biblical fruit of the Spirit. In *The Secret of Self Control*, Dr. Ganz demonstrates that it must begin with the desire to serve Jesus Christ. Gleaning wisdom from the ultimate guide book, *The Holy Bible*, the reader is encouraged to climb the ladder one rung at a time that will lead to a fuller understanding and actualization of self control in a world that revolves around self-love.

Each chapter ends with a pause for reflection exercise of several questions for introspection and self assessment in applying the principles discussed. This self-help book will be a valuable asset for every Christian's library.

Debbie A. Lindsay, *Homeschool Parent, Eatonville, WA*

***The Velveteen Woman : Becoming Real Through God's Transforming Love*, by Brenda Waggoner. LCCN 9925891. Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor, 1999. ISBN 1564767485, HBB, \$13.99.**

248.8. Christian women--Religious life. 208 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Brenda Waggoner sees in the children's classic story *The Velveteen Rabbit* an allegory for spiritual growth. A certified Christian counselor, she wants to take women from the brand new plush bunny stage (masks of false perfection) to the threadbare, well worn "real" stage (the persons God created them to be).

Using the story line of *The Velveteen Rabbit* as a rough outline, Waggoner explores the barriers to authenticity which we erect in order to appear perfect. She attacks self-righteousness and controlling impulses. She urges Christians to live with paradox and questions. Just because we are believers doesn't mean that we no longer fail.

Waggoner uses many excerpts from literature and from cinema to illustrate her points. She also uses her own experiences and those of friends and acquaintances. She ties it all together with a thread of scripture. Each chapter

ends with a Fake Fur Conception (actually a misconception) and a Real Skin Reality (a truth about how God really works in our lives). Questions for group discussion or private meditation are grouped at the end of the book.

Although *The Velveteen Woman* is written for women, it is a message all Christians could benefit from.

Andrea R. Huelsenbeck, *Freelance Writer, Tempe, AZ*

***Toward Holy Ground : Spiritual Directions for the Second Half of Life*, by Margaret Guenther. LCCN 9519074. Cambridge, Mass.: Cowley Publications, 1995. ISBN 1561011142, PAP, \$10.95.**

248.8. Middle aged persons--Religious life; Christian aged--Religious life; Spiritual life--Christianity. 151 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—3

The second half of life, says Margaret Guenther, is when we are finally grown up—past childhood, the teen years, and young adulthood. It is a time of maturity, when perspectives change. It is the "second half" of life, and comes with its own special needs and concerns. It is towards this period of life that Guenther has written *Toward Holy Ground: Spiritual Directions for the Second Half of Life*.

Guenther (an Episcopal priest) uses St. Anne (the mother of Mary) as her example. Anne is a legendary character, but was popular in the Middle Ages. Guenther's journey discusses life in terms of kinship, craft, healing, and wholeness, then moves on to preparation for dying, and ministry with the aged. *Toward Holy Ground* aims to be a book of practical spirituality for mid-life—a period when in the press of modern society it is all too easy to overlook the most important aspects of life—and makes many valuable points.

It is regrettable (or a sad commentary on the church) that Guenther points towards the gay/lesbian community as an example of communal love. And using a legendary character as the basis for theological reflection may leave us wondering why there wasn't a real person to fit the bill. But the middle years will confront an increasing number of us, and we'd be wise to take seriously the special needs that arise during this time.

Andrew M. Seddon, *Writer and Physician, Billings, MT*

***Parent-Child Retreats : Spiritual Retreats for Children Ages 7-10 and Their Parents*, by Lynne Knickerbocker and others. Denver: Living the Good News, Morehouse Publishing, 1998. ISBN 1889108375, PAP, \$17.95.**

249. Retreats; Spiritual life. 214 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Often Christian parents feel frustrated as they attempt to juggle the many aspects of their busy lives, and at the same time, build a strong faith foundation for their children. Many parents are also unsure of exactly how to share their precious faith with their children. *Parent-Child Retreats* is an excellent resource to help fill these needs.

Retreats in this book emphasize the true nature of Jesus and help parents and children learn to share the acceptance, love, and forgiveness of God. Even though these retreats can become a valuable part of a religious education program, the authors stress the importance of keeping the environment distinct from the normal classroom setting.

Parent-Child Retreats includes step-by-step guides for retreats for parents and children, including instructions for children's activities, parent sessions, and the parent-child sharing time at the end of the retreat. Included also are retreats for the children only with a follow-up for parents.

An earlier book by the same authors entitled *Parent-Child Retreats: Spiritual Experiences for Children Ages 3-6* (Living the Good News, Inc., 1997) can be used in conjunction with this book to plan retreats in which the entire family can share and grow in their faith. Schedules and retreat themes are similar to facilitate family retreats.

Parent-Child Retreats would be a valuable asset to religious education programs, giving them an excellent resource for enriching and strengthening the faith of both children and parents. Faith should be a family affair, and parent-child retreats are an excellent means for deepening and strengthening family faith and family ties.

Virginia E. Brown, Freelance Writer, Sheridan, WY

***Apóstoles a la Ciudad*, por Roger Greenway. Libros Desafío. ISBN 155883088X, PAP, \$.**

(*Apostles to the City*, by Roger Greenway.)

266. City missions. 101 p. Adult.

Quality— Acceptability—

Doctor Greenway fue un misionero en la Ciudad de México y después fue el Secretario para de Misiones Mundiales Latinoamericanas de la Iglesia Cristiana Reformada de Norteamérica. Naturalmente, él tiene un corazón para los latinos y otras personas del mundo también. En este libro él usa seis personas bíblicas para demostrar cómo traer a Cristo a las ciudades del mundo. Me gusta este libro porque demostró en muchas maneras cómo el Señor ve al mundo y nos quiere hablar de él y vive para él en la ciudad.

El doctor Greenway describe las ciudades claramente y refiere a las profetas como Jonás y Bernabé y como ellos hacían una diferencia en

sus ciudades y cómo nosotros la podemos hacer también. No hay visuales ni fotos pero hay muchas ideas para ayudar su ciudad. Léalo.

Doctor Greenway was a missionary to Mexico City and afterwards was the Secretary for Latinamerican World Missions for the Christian Reformed Church of North America. Naturally, he has a heart for latinos and other persons of the world also. In this book he uses six Biblical persons to demonstrate how to bring Christ to the cities of the world. I like this book because it demonstrates in many ways how the Lord sees the world and He wants us to speak of Him and live for Him in the city. Doctor Greenway describes the cities clearly and refers to the prophets like Jonas and Barnabas and how they made a difference in their cities and how we can do it too. There are no visuals or pictures but there are many ideas to help your city. Read it.

Bianca Elliott, Teacher, Linwood, KS

***Joining Children on the Spiritual Journey : Nurturing a Live of Faith*, by Catherine Stonehouse. LCCN 9748468. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998. ISBN 0801058074, PAP, \$15.99.**

268. Christian education of children. 237 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

A deep love for children and concern for their spiritual development is evident in this thoroughly researched book. Dr. Stonehouse explores scientific research on the various developmental stages of children in an approach that integrates theology and science. She believes that since God is the source of truth, and he made the universe, science and theology should be in harmony. She sees a dynamic interaction of Scripture with tradition, reason, and experience.

The author's goal for children is a maturing faith, a deepening relationship with Jesus Christ through which one becomes more Christlike. Children are a part of the community of faith and so the community itself is critical to their development. The spiritual formation of parents and other caring adults has a direct impact on children. Attention is given to helping adults themselves be the role models and nurturers that children need. Insight is given into how children think and reason, which is different from adults. The various views on child development are thoroughly explained and well documented in footnotes for all relevant views.

This is a reference book as well as a unique documentation of an area of a child's development which has not been studied in this manner before. The index is helpful. Scientific research on a child's development, point of view, understanding of right and wrong is easy to find in the book. It is thorough but concise, easy to read because it is so personal. The author's tone is like a friend sharing insights and information. She is not dogmatic on any one

point of view. Information is there; the reader chooses how he wishes to use it. Dr. Stonehouse's integrated approach harmonizes science and theology, with the traditional, pragmatic and biblical approaches. There is not a program for religious instruction given.

This book deals with spiritual formation and, as such, is useful for adults in understanding the children in their sphere of influence who are at various stages. It is a freeing and uplifting experience to go through this book and gain better understanding of children without having a heavy burden placed on one. The author enables someone to do what he is doing with children better than before.

Lauralee Boling, Dayton, TN

***Early Christian Traditions*, by Rebecca Lyman. (The New Church's Teaching Series; 6.) LCCN 9922972. Cambridge, Mass.: Cowley Publications, 1999. ISBN 1561011614, PAP, \$11.95.**

270.1. Church history--Primitive and early church, ca. 30-600. 178 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Continuing the series designed to help Anglicans understand the basis of their Christian faith, *Early Christian Traditions* takes the reader back to the first six centuries of Christianity. What kind of a world did the first Christians live in? How did the beliefs we now accept develop? What struggles—social, religious, theological—did our predecessors face? Lyman considers such topics as the world of the early church, apostolic Christianity, Christianity and social crisis, Imperial Christianity, early images of Christ, the nature of God, and concludes with the church in late antiquity (i.e. the era of Augustine).

It is a daunting task to cover such a complex period in a short book, but Lyman accomplishes the task well. It would be very easy to become overwhelmed by obscure theological disputes, but Lyman paints with a broad brush. While the scholar may wish for more detail, the lay person will be glad for an overview that presents material clearly without becoming bogged down.

The era of the early Christians is one that perhaps we don't think of often. But the early Christians faced a world not so very different from our own, and struggled with many of the same issues which we face today. *Early Christian Traditions* presents a readable and valuable introduction to this period of history.

Andrew M. Seddon, Writer and Physician, Billings, MT

***Unriddling Our Times : Reflections on the Gathering Cultural Crisis*, edited by Os Guinness. LCCN 9932958. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999. ISBN 080105981X, PAP,**

\$8.99.

270.8. Christian ethics; Moral conditions. 141 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Unriddling Our Times is not a book of answers, but a call to reflection. Christian's can't respond to the forces at work in our society unless we see, study, and understand those forces. We must remember the lessons of history and recover the vision of Christianity as the only answer to the problems facing the world.

In Part One Guinness examines the need for modern prophets who will speak the truth of the evils abroad in modern society. This is illustrated by an extended extract from Nazi-resister Reinhold Schneider's 1937 novel *Las Casas Before Charles V*; ostensibly about Spanish atrocities in the New World, it was a hidden denunciation of Nazi activity against the Jews.

Part Two discusses the erosion of truth and the need to recapture it—because truth is 'essential to resist manipulation' and 'as a basis for freedom and fulfillment.' Truth matters, and we redefine it or relativize it to our peril. As a demonstration of the power of truth, the remainder of Part Two is a portrait of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and his quest to reveal the true state of affairs of the Soviet Union.

Part Three is the most disturbing of all. How have the changes in the cultural underpinnings of society affected the people in it? Shirley Jackson's famous story "The Lottery" is followed by an essay by professor Kay Haugaard. When all truth has been relativized and no one is in possession of moral absolutes and capable of judging, nothing—and no one—is safe.

Guinness is no scare-monger; he freely admits that crises may build up only to pass away without disaster. *Unriddling Our Times* thus is a book to provoke thought; to encourage Christians to educate themselves about their faith and to re-embrace the foundations of that faith; and to understand at a deep level how the world differs. Most important of all, he calls us to speak the truth to our world—whether it wants to hear that truth or not.

Andrew M. Seddon, *Writer and Physician*,
Billings, MT

***The Mystery and Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls*, by Hershel Shanks. LCCN 9729391. New York: Random House, 1998. ISBN 0679457577, HBB, \$25.00.**

296.16. Dead Sea scrolls. 246 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Over fifty years have passed since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, yet much about them is still unknown. In *The Mystery and Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls*, Hershel Shanks (editor of the *Biblical Archaeology Review*) lays out

relevant events that have occurred since their discovery. He provides an historical overview of the world at the time of the writing of the scrolls. He presents textual criticism from many scholars and offers his own analysis of the scrolls.

Shanks presents the information in a clear and straightforward style, providing the general reader with a thorough introduction to the scrolls. Interesting anecdotes about people and discoveries are scattered throughout the well researched facts. Although he uses a scientific approach and is rather objective, some of the author's conclusions may be offensive to some believers. The Christian reader will feel something is missing in the discussion of Christianity and the Bible, as Shanks' analysis lacks the feeling and reverence for Scripture being the inspired, inerrant Word of God.

The Mystery and Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls is a good starting point for adult readers wanting to know about the background, content, and possible interpretations of the scrolls.

Karen Brehmer, *Teacher*, Silverdale, WA

300's—Social Sciences

***At the Heart of Every Great Father : Finding the Heart of Jesus*, by Clark Cothorn. LCCN 9732501. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 1998. ISBN 1576732134, PAP, \$10.99.**

306.87. Fathers; Father and child; Fatherhood. 220 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

At the Heart of Every Great Father is a warm and witty guide for fathers to encourage them to be the best they can be for their children. In each chapter Clark Cothorn magnifies a fruit of the Spirit with a story from his childhood or from the interactions with his own children. Fathers are asked to strive to imitate Jesus Christ and to request divine help and forgiveness if they have botched the effort. But the Holy Spirit must first be in charge of the inner being of each man because exercising fatherhood with ones own wisdom and strength will be a certain failure. The book ends with an invitation and how to surrender to the Lordship of Jesus.

Though this book is intended for fathers it will also provide valuable insights for mothers.

Debbie A. Lindsay, *Homeschool Parent*,
Eatonville, WA

***Blinded by Might : Can the Religious Right Save America*, by Cal Thomas and Ed Dobson. LCCN 9850196. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999. ISBN 0310226503, PAP, \$19.99.**

320.5. Evangelicalism; Christianity and politics; Conservatism. 281 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Believing that the main purpose of government

is to promote an ordered society, and Christianity's purpose is to live godly lives before others, Cal Thomas and Ed Dobson (unrelated to Dr. James Dobson), join forces to demonstrate that the Moral Majority and other Christian-based political movements fail to provide the changes in direction America needs, to eliminate abortion and pornography, and return to traditional values. The compromising vital to political success jeopardizes Christianity, and they deem the political arena contrary to religion. The journalist and the pastor cite the inability of Christians to recognize politics' seducing power leading to spiritual compromise. "Let the church be the church." Since morality cannot be legislated, they admonish Christians to stop murmuring at an unsaved world.

Although the authors intersperse comments to the contrary, the reader may conclude that politics is off limits to Christians. The distinction of how to participate in the cultural struggle and remain pure is unclear. Dobson and Thomas, both former Moral Majority leaders, openly criticize others (James Dobson, Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, and Gary Bauer) who still advocate political involvement.

U.S. Senator John Ashcroft challenges Thomas' thinking in one of the book's ten interviews with various cultural and political leaders. He rightly says, "it's not 'either/or' but 'both/and'" to the false dichotomy Thomas sets up between political and religious activities. *Blinded by Might* creates a stir in conservative Christian and political camps but lacks the focused vision it advocates in the epilogue. A worthy book for the concerned Christian's shelf.

Carolyn L. Hearing, *Freelance Writer*, Virginia,
MN

***Una Guía de Estudio y Acción: Alcoholismo Alcohol y Otras Drogas*, por William R. Lenters y Mariano Avila A. Libros Desafío. ISBN 155883091X, PAP.**

***(A Study Guide and Action: Alcoholism, Alcohol and Other Drugs*, by William R. Lenters and Mariano Avila A.)**

362.29. Alcoholism--Spanish language materials; Drug abuse--Spanish language materials. 115 p. Adult.

Quality— Acceptability—

Este libro es difícil leer porque es al revés para mí. Hay lecciones al principio y después hay lecturas sobre las lecciones que son muy informativas. Los escritores indican que alcoholismo es una enfermedad genética bioquímica, cuando una persona abusa el alcohol está en una situación de una adicción y dependencia psicológica. Esta es una diferencia muy importante. La doctora Mariano Avila Arteaga dijo que este estudio es útil y valioso a los latinos. Ella era la traductora del libro. Este libro fue escrito por la Sínodo de la Iglesia Cristiana Reformada de Norte América y es de

su punto de vista. Me gusta este libro porque vivía en una familia de alcoholismo y este libro me explica el por qué y las razones de este problema. Recomiendo este libro práctico a las familias y personas que sufren directamente o indirectamente de esta enfermedad. Tiene mucha información que otras personas necesitan.

This book is difficult for me to read because it is in reverse. There are lessons at the first and after are readings over the lessons that are very informative. The writers indicate that alcoholism is a genetic biochemical sickness, while a person who abuses alcohol is in a situation of addiction and psychological dependency. This is a very important difference. Doctor Mariano Avila Arteaga said that this study is useful and valuable to Latinos. She was the translator for the book. This book was written by the Christian Reformed Synod of North America and is from their point of view. I like this book because I lived in an alcoholic family and this book explains to me why and the reasons for the problem. I recommend this practical book to the families and persons who suffer directly or indirectly of this sickness. It has a lot of information that others need.

Bianca Elliott, Teacher, Linwood, KS

None Dare Call It Education, by John A. Stormer. Florissant, Mo.: Liberty Bell Press, 1998. ISBN 0914053124, HBB, \$21.95.

370. Education--United States--1945-. 207 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

"America has lived through a revolution that has transformed the culture and way of life of millions of Americans." So writes John Stormer in *None Dare Call It Education*, the author of best selling *None Dare Call It Treason*. Stormer traces the downfall of public education from Dewey to the "dumbing down" of students, the school being the vehicle used by radical educators to create a "new social order." He identifies twelve concepts foundational to America's traditional way of life and culture from marriage and family, to absolutes, that schools erode. When the public rises up and says, "No," at the front door to the implementation of liberal programs, he exposes techniques "educational reformers" use to execute them at "the back door."

Additional topics discussed are Goals 200, School-to-Work, Outcome Based Education, Mental Health provisions, and techniques for manipulating bright students.

Meticulously documenting all facts, *None Dare Call It Education* fairly reports what educators themselves say about their agenda. He includes points of view from liberal to conservative think-tanks, legislators, parents, journalists, and school board members to present a well-balanced picture of the issues. Readers will find the index also detailed.

This is a must read for every one who loves children and wants them protected.

Carolyn L. Hearing, Freelance Writer, Virginia, MN

Across the Centuries : Teaching Units for Timeless Children's Literature from a Christian Perspective, Level B, Vol. 1 (Ira Sleeps Over / The Snowy Day / Ox-Cart Man / The Hundred Penny Box / Little House in the Big Woods), by Linda Causey and Debbie Bible.

372.64. . 176 p. Adult.

Across the Centuries : Teaching Units for Timeless Children's Literature from a Christian Perspective, Level C, Vol. 1 (The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe / Stone Fox / Homer Price / Misty [of Chincoteague]), by Debbie Bible.

372.64. . 175 p. Adult.

Across the Centuries : Teaching Units for Timeless Children's Literature from a Christian Perspective, Level D, Vol. 1 (The Door in the Wall / Amos Fortune: Free Man / Caddie Woodlawn / Island of the Blue Dolphins), by Annette Rose and Darlene Troxel.

372.64. . 176 p. Adult.

Across the Centuries : Teaching Units for Timeless Children's Literature from a Christian Perspective, Level E, Vol. 1 (The Bronze Bow / Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl / Treasure Island / Anne of Green Gables), by Wendi Pollard.

Christian Academic Publications and Services, 1998. PAPER, \$19.95.

372.64. . 192 p. Adult.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Children's literature study guides from a Christian perspective provide a real service to teachers in Christian schools and home schools. Each volume in the *Across the Centuries* series provides teaching units for four or five quality children's books. Each of these teaching units include: an introduction including information about the author, an instructional plan with suggested teaching and assessment activities (many with answer keys), an enrichment section with additional suggested projects, related books, and occasional Internet addresses. Geared to activities suggested in the instructional plan, approximately half the pages in each unit consist of illustrated black-line masters which can be reproduced for classroom use. Units incorporate higher order thinking skills and include: vocabulary studies, research projects, creative writing, and some cross-disciplinary activities.

Supplementary books appeal to a broader age range than the two grade levels targeted by the teaching guides, so teachers at other grade levels may find certain units useful for their classes.

Several of the unfortunate errors occur only in the instructional plan sections (e.g., publication history of book, Level C, p. 5). However, teachers should be alert to make occasional corrections before duplicating certain activity pages. They range from repeated misspelling of a character's name (Level D, p. 121, cf. 98) to activities designed for integration with other subject areas. Examples include place name history (Teton Mountains, Level C, p. 70), and misidentification of sea mammal (elephant seal, Level D, p. 167). Particularly ironic are three typographical errors in the Latin Vulgate Bible text to be copied "with no mistakes" (Level D, p. 39). The simple black and white illustrations are usually fine, but the orientation of family tree on the activity page is reversed from the instructional plan as written (Level B, p. 122, cf. 111; see also Level E, p. 87, cf. 66). Illustrations for gravitational pull in tide behavior are confusing (Level D, p. 122). Some suggested activities may not be age appropriate (e.g. multiplication by 8 and division by 15 in grades 1 and 2, Level B, p. 102).

New volumes for Levels B-E, are now in press, along with Volume 1 for Level A (Preschool - Kindergarten). Level F (High School) is in the planning stage. These guides are less expensive and more visually appealing than comparable Bible-based literature study guides for single books produced by Progeny Press. Progeny guides are somewhat more reflective and approach vocabulary words using the text of the books themselves, rather than inventing different sentences. Each series has its own strengths.

Donna W. Bowling, Library/Educational Consultant, Siloam Springs, AR

The Cause of Christian Education, 2nd ed., by Richard J. Edlin ; with an introduction by Albert D. Greene, Jr. ; and an annotated bibliography compiled by Harro Van Brummelen. LCCN 945536. Northport, Ala.: Vision Press, Vision Press, 1998. ISBN 1885219075, PAPER, \$16.95.

377. Church schools--United States; Christian education--United States---Philosophy. 269 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Edlin presents an excellent book considering Christian education from an educator's point of view. He has served in such roles as teacher through administrator on several continents. He writes having more experience with MK's (missionary kids), but keeps his material flexible enough for all types of students. His experiences with SIM (Sudan Interior Mission) enhances his understanding of unique teaching situations. The chapters are in-depth and address the topic completely using current research, logic, and Scripture.

The book is written for lay people as well as those in the education profession. The first two chapters examine the why of Christian

Evangel ad

education and how public schools are not neutral in their education of students. The next eight chapters look at the logistics of a Christian school, such as how one is formed, the role of board members, the vision and mission statement of the school, as well as the roles and assignments of the major people in a Christian school. The last chapter deals with Christian teachers in the public school. Most chapters have charts, checklists, or other notation systems to enhance the understanding of the material. The notes at the end of each chapter are good sources for further research or documentation of the statements within the chapter. Edlin also provides appendices discussing Christian school materials (an annotated list) and a Cultural Sensitivity Discriminator test that helps teachers understand their students. The last appendix Edlin adds is a URL list that will help Christian schools considerably in locating information. The book is dogmatic in addressing the issue of sending children to public or Christian schools but stops short of offending the reader.

Bianca Elliott, Teacher, Linwood, KS

Say Please, Say Thank You : The Respect We Owe One Another, by Donald McCullough. LCCN 9822401. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, Penguin Putnam, 1998. ISBN 0399144390, HBB, \$21.95.

395. Etiquette; Respect for persons. 286 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

"We can fan the hidden spark of goodness in another person until it bursts into flame," summarizes Donald McCullough's recent release, *Say Please, Say Thank You*. Thirty-six easy to read chapters tell how courtesy is disappearing and why we need it. Each chapter gives an example illustrated with a short story from personal experience.

Chapters include showing respect, our dependence on others, consideration of other's time, property, and feelings, developing patience, and being aware of physical and sexual boundaries. The examples are often candid and sometimes humorous.

Chapter three discusses white lies. The author realizes the subject is controversial, but quotes Aristotle, "Speaking the right truth to the right person at the right time in the right way for the right reason." McCullough believes white lies are acceptable in the interest of the larger truth, and often prevent hurt feelings.

Chapter four talks about violence and our need to curb it. He discusses how we add to the mentality that breeds violence with inconsideration and how that can lead others and ourselves to Hell that the Bible speaks of. McCullough says, "The heart of courtesy is respect for persons; it has less to do with manners than a manner of relating."

McCullough believes humans have eternal worth and should be treated with dignity, and respect. He believes common acts of courtesy play a significant role in creating the climate for a more humane society.

Gail Welborn, Freelance Writer, Everett, WA

600's—Technology (Applied Sciences)

Worldproofing Your Kids : Helping Moms Prepare Their Kids to Navigate Today's Turbulent Times, by Lael F. Arrington. LCCN 9711017. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1997. ISBN 0891079564, PAP, \$12.99.

649.1. Child rearing; Parenting; Mother and child. 304 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

How do we help our kids discern right and wrong? Do you know what a "worldview" is, and can you identify yours? Can we help shape the worldview of our children? Author and speaker Lael Arrington, known for her seminars on cultural apologetics, mapped a way in *Worldproofing Your Kids: Helping Moms Prepare Their Kids to Navigate Today's Turbulent Times*. The material she covers in this book is extensive, making it difficult to absorb in one reading; but it's a good resource to refer to over and over again as situations or questions arise.

In the first section, Arrington deals with truth and how it fits in a culture that is no longer Christian. In the second section, she deals with rights and personal beliefs, revolving around personal value (chapters cover evolution, animal versus human life, abortion, aging and dying). In the third section, she addresses work, leisure, and the importance of developing a biblical work ethic; she contrasts this with the entertainment and self-gratification influences of our current culture. And in the fourth section, Arrington discusses citizenship—our sense of belonging, politics, dual responsibilities to God's kingdom and earthly governments, and how to bring lasting meaning to our lives. A final section, probably the best for its simplicity and pure interactivity, suggests scripture readings and questions for each chapter-making this book an excellent Bible study guide for individuals, families, Christian schools, and small church groups.

An excerpt of Arrington's book can be found in the *Focus on the Family Magazine* in an article titled, "Hey, Mom, What's a Worldview?" (April 1998). Forward by Howard and Jeanne Hendricks; index also included.

Kimm Swenson Gollnick, Freelance Writer & Homeschool Mother, Marysville, WA

700's—The Arts and Recreation

Truth About Rock, by Steve Peters and Mark Littleton. LCCN 9733957. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1997. ISBN 0764220535,

PAP, \$13.99.

781.66. Rock music--History and criticism; Rock music--Reviews; Music and morals; Rock music--Religious aspects--Christianity. 205 p. Adult.

Quality—3 Acceptability—4

Peters and Littleton have done primary research for many years on the topic of rock music. This book helps to relay the information gleaned over the years and be put into the hands of parents and other interested parties. Peters and Littleton have updated their research to include the current (1998) artists and how their lyrics and personal lives match up with Judeo-Christian standards. The answers are not good.

The twelve short chapters cover such issues as a brief history of rock and roll, lifestyles portrayed in the music as well as the singers' lives, album graphics, Christian music, sections for the rock music listener and the parent, and finishes with an alphabetical review of the artists themselves. The print is easy to read and the book has a cover that grabs the reader. The pictures within are covers from the albums and are not appropriate for the very young reader. The language used in the book is quotes from the artists themselves with the main part of inappropriate words blanked out. The book explains rather graphically what the musicians like to do on the road with their fans and what transpires at the concerts.

Bianca Elliott, Teacher, Linwood, KS

800's—Literature & Rhetoric

A Complete Guide to Writing for Publication, Susan Titus Osborn, general editor. Phoenix: ACW Press, 1999. ISBN 1892525097, PAP, \$15.00.

808. Authorship; Christian literature--Authorship. 215 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Both beginning and seasoned writers will benefit from this extensive guide filled with advice from twenty-four accomplished authors. Topics range from getting started to negotiating book contracts to working with agents to speaking in public. These experts tell how to write for various markets—Christian and secular, children through adults, fiction and non-fiction. They give specific guidance on how to benefit from writers' conferences, use the Internet for research, write query letters and articles, and self-edit. Additional chapters cover writing humor, poetry, mysteries, romance novels, gift books, devotionals, educational materials, and more.

A glossary of writing terms would have strengthened this well-written resource. Although no index or appendix is included, chapter end notes are added when needed. Highly recommended for writers, would-be authors, and libraries.

Lydia E. Harris, Former Teacher & Freelance Writer, Seattle, WA

***Is There a Book Inside You? Writing Alone or with a Collaborator*, by Dan Poynter and Mindy Bindham. Santa Barbara, Cal.: Para Publishing, 1998. ISBN 1568600461, PAP, \$14.95.**

808. Authorship. 228 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Is there a book inside you waiting to be born? If so, this comprehensive how-to manual will guide you through the birthing process from conception to publication. With numerous published books to their credit, Poynter and Bindham share the inside story of how to get published alone or with help. *Is There a Book Inside You?* a newly-revised Writer's Digest Book Club main selection, is a valuable resource for beginning or established writers.

The authors provide useful evaluation tools to assess writing motives, strengths, and topic marketability. Included are five T's of authorship to score yourself on: time, temperament, talent, training, and territory (a place to write). Add to this the specific guidelines for choosing topics and titles, and you have a book already worth its purchase price. For example, the authors recommend titles of six words or less with a longer, more descriptive subtitle. A good title grabs attention, indicates the subject, and limits the scope.

After strengths and weaknesses are identified, the authors suggest a realistic writing plan. An included planning sheet for research, writing, and publication deadlines helps writers organize and stay on schedule. Chapters cover book structure, necessary tools, organization and research, writing, revising, editing, and completing the manuscript. Numerous secrets for success are shared such as: write the back-cover copy before starting, begin with the easiest chapter, and write the first chapter last.

Book collaboration is addressed along with tips for locating and hiring coauthors, editors, ghostwriters, and other collaborators. A writing partnership may be advantageous when a person with ideas and experience lacks time or the ability to write. They recommend interviewing numerous individuals to find someone with a compatible temperament and work style.

The last section discusses several publishing options and includes eight reasons to self-publish. The detailed self-publishing quiz helps readers decide if it's right for them.

Poynter and Bindham present a realistic picture of the time, energy, and relational sacrifices required to author books. Readers who take the plunge will value their expert step-by-step coaching and the extensive resources in the appendix. Although I read a borrowed copy, now I've ordered my own.

Lydia E. Harris, Former Teacher & Freelance Writer, Seattle, WA

***Write His Answer : A Bible Study for Christian Writers*, by Marlene Bagnull. Phoenix: ACW Press, 1999. ISBN 1892525127, PAP, \$12.00.**

808. Authorship; Christian literature--Authorship. 169 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Marlene Bagnull, freelance writer, editor, and conference director, draws from personal experience and God's Word to create an outstanding Bible study for writers. Having walked in writers' shoes, she understands their struggles and presents clear footprints of truth to follow. For example, her chapter, "Finding Our Place," discusses the pitfall of writers comparing themselves with others. Bagnull writes, "Frequently I receive letters from writers who are questioning their call because they've fallen into the trap of comparing themselves with other writers. Convincing themselves that they don't have what it takes, they are in danger of missing the uniqueness of the gifts God has given them. It is not the Lord's intention that we be carbon copies of one another."

Reading this newly expanded version is like having a mature, experienced writer provide spiritual mentoring through the peaks and valleys of a writer's life. Thirty-three chapters offer encouragement deeply rooted in God's Word. Timely topics include: overcoming procrastination, discouragement and disappointment; maintaining a balanced life; and learning patience. Bagnull's warmth and transparency enable readers to identify with her and feel uplifted rather than condemned. She shares struggles such as, "Instead of being led and empowered by God's Spirit, all too frequently I drive myself to make things happen in my own strength." Bagnull continues, "Knowing the Lord needs to be our focus, our passion, our heart's greatest desire. It's only out of the overflow of our relationship with him that we have anything worthwhile to say or write. And it's only as we learn what it means to surrender all that we discover the joy of being led instead of driven."

Brimming with powerful insights that inspire a response to God's call, this one-of-a-kind book deserves frequent reading. Nine useful appendices contain information on critique groups, writing a testimony, recommended resources, and more. Writers and those who encourage them will appreciate this book. Scriptural lessons are also applicable to other professions.

Lydia E. Harris, Former Teacher & Freelance Writer, Seattle, WA

***Invitation to the Classics : A Guide to Books You've Always Wanted to Read*, edited by Louise Cowan and Os Guinness. LCCN 9743058. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998. ISBN 0801011566, HBB, \$34.99.**

809. Literature--History and criticism; Christianity and literature. 384 p. Adult.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

For the many people who have often wanted to read more of the classics, and others as well, a distinguished group of Christian scholars extend this *Invitation to the Classics*. Following introductory essays on classics and their importance, sixty-five short chapters provide individual introductions to seventy-five Western literary classics by seventy different authors, beginning with Homer and concluding with Solzhenitsyn.

Along with discussions of the featured literary works, each chapter provides background on the authors, highlighting relevant faith perspectives and mentioning other significant published works. Chapters conclude with suggested sections on "issues to explore" from a Christian viewpoint and references "for further study." Other chapters interspersed throughout the book, which focus on significant literature of various periods, countries, or literary genres, refer to over 180 additional authors. Each four-to-six page chapter includes colored illustrations of the authors and scenes relating to the literary works. Among the sidebars which highlight key quotations from the various texts, a few include original language quotes along with the English translations.

Under the sponsorship of the Trinity Forum, Louise Cowan and Os Guinness have drawn together contributions from a diverse group of committed Christian scholars associated with evangelical Protestant, Roman Catholic, and secular institutions. Their stated purpose is "to introduce the Western literary masterworks in a clear and simple style that is mature in seriousness and tone and Christian in perspective." The featured classic authors include five women (others appear in the general chapters), and thirteen of the forty-nine contributing scholars are women. Several minority authors and Third World authors are discussed in the final general chapter on Contemporary Writers. Most of the classics selected appear on such standard lists as Great Books of the Western World, along with some additional significant Christian works, such as several mentioned in Terry Glaspey's annotated bibliography of *Great Books of the Christian Tradition*. Discussions on individual selections are more comprehensive than in Clifton Fadiman's *The Lifetime Reading Plan*. Designed for the adult reader, this book could also be useful for curriculum planning and as a supplemental resource for both teachers and students at the high school and university levels.

Donna W. Bowling, Library/Educational Consultant, Siloam Springs, AR

900's—Geography, History, & Biography

***Uncommon Gifts : Transforming Learning Disabilities into Blessings*, by James S. Evans.**

LCCN 9810408. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1998. ISBN 0877888493, PAP, \$12.99.

921 (362.1). Evans, James S. (James Stewart), 1959-;
Dyslexics--United States--Biography; Hyperkinisia--
Patients--United States--Biography; Christian life--
1960-. 236 p. Adult.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

James S. Evans is the son of Colleen Townsend Evans and Louis Evans, who write a foreword to this book. From an early age James was afflicted with dyslexia, attention deficit, and hyperactivity. This book is a revision of his 1983 book titled *An Uncommon Gift* and continues his story to include his adulthood and marriage.

In *Uncommon Gifts*, Evans offers insight, help, inspiration, and hope for millions of Americans with learning disabilities and for their families. His goal is to help those with disabilities to learn self-discipline, and to help the members of their families. Evans is encouraged that today there is research and remediation available to the learning disabled that was not available when he came through the education system. He compares today's capable school systems with those of his youth when learning differences were sometimes denied.

While his learning differences affected him academically in his youth, now in his adult years his hyperactivity affects his relationships. He writes that his learning difference has been a blessing because he has learned to have "dependence on God and on committed relationships."

Uncommon Gifts is an anecdotal account of Evans' meeting the challenges of his learning difference. Although there is little transition from chapter to chapter, he provides an educational source in this area of learning disabilities. This book will help families and teachers of the learning disabled to better understand their low self-image and lack of self-love and, therefore, have realistic expectations of them.

Jo Huddleston, Freelance Writer, Author, Former Teacher, Auburn, AL

The following is a list of publishers whose titles are reviewed or discussed in this issue of *CLJ*. Use these addresses and phone numbers to order books reviewed in this and all past issues.. Any of them will be glad to send you catalogs and information about cataloging and discounts. "C" at the end of a listing indicates a publisher of primarily Christian materials.

- A&E See Lerner Publications.
- ACW Press, Order Dept., 5501 N. Seventh Ave., PMB 502, Phoenix, AZ 85013. 800-931-2665. C
- Alabaster Books See Multnomah. C
- Albert Whitman and Co., Order Dept., 6340 Oakton St., Morton Grove, IL 60053-2723. 800-255-7675.
- Baker Book House, Order Dept., P.O. Box 6287, Grand Rapids, MI 49507. 800-877-2665. C
- Beacon Hill Press, Order Dept., 2923 Troost Ave., P.O. Box 419527, Kansas City, MO 64141-6527. 816-931-1900. C
- Benchmark Books See Marshall Cavendish.
- Bethany House Publishers, Order Dept., 11400 Hampshire Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55438-2852. 800-328-6109. C
- Blue Sky Press See Scholastic.
- Boyd Mills Press, Order Dept., 815 Church St., Honesdale, PA 18431. 800-949-7777.
- Broadman & Holman Publishers, Order Dept., 127 9th Ave. N., Nashville, TN 37234-0143. 800-251-3225. C
- Carolrhoda Books See Lerner Publ. Group.
- Cavendish Children's Books See Marshall Cavendish.
- Chariot Victor Publishing, Order Dept., 4050 Lee Vance View, Colorado Springs, CO 80918. 719-536-3271. C
- Cobblehill See Penguin Putnam.
- Concordia Publishing House, Order Dept., 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118-3968. 800-325-3040. C
- Cowley Publications, Order Dept., 28 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111. 800-225-1534. C
- Crossway Books, Order Dept., 1300 Crescent St., Wheaton, IL 60187. 800-635-7993. C
- Dial Books for Young Readers See Penguin Putnam.
- Dutton See Penguin Putnam.
- Editorial Vida See Vida Publishers.
- Eerdman's Books for Young Readers See Wm. B. Eerdman Publishing Co..
- Enslow Publishers, Order Dept., Box 398, Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922-0398.
- Essence Publishing, Order Dept., 44 Moira St., W., Belleville, ON K8P 1S3, Canada. 800-238-6376.
- Facts on File, Inc., Order Dept., 11 Penn Plz, New York, NY 10001-2006. 212-967-8800.
- Fleming H. Revell See Baker Book House. C
- G. P. Putnam's Sons See Penguin Putnam.
- Greenwillow See Wm. Morrow.
- Harcourt Brace & Company, Order Dept., Children's Books Division, 525 B Street, Ste.1900, San Diego, CA 92101. 619-699-6435.
- Harold Shaw Publishers, Order Dept., P.O. Box 567, Wheaton, IL 60189. 630-665-6700. C
- HarperCollins Publishers, Order Dept., 10 E. 53rd St., New York, NY 10022. 212-207-7000.
- Harvest House Publishers, Order Dept., 1075 Arrowsmith, Eugene, OR 97402. 800-547-8979. C
- Health Communications, Order Dept., 3201 S.W. 15th St., Deerfield, FL 33442-8157. 800-851-9100.
- Hendrickson Publishers, Order Dept., 140 Summit St., P.O. Box 3473, Peabody, MA 01961-3473.
- Herald Press, Order Dept., 616 Walnut Ave., Scottdale, PA 15683-1999. 800-245-7894. C
- Houghton Mifflin, Order Dept., Children's Trade Books, 222 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116-3764. 800-225-3362.
- Huntington House, Order Dept., 104 Row 2, Suite A1 & A2, Lafayette, LA 70508. 318-237-7049.
- InterVarsity Press, Order Dept., P.O. Box 1400, Downers Grove, IL 60515. 630-887-2500. C
- Kids Can Press, Great Lakes Customs, 4500 Witmer Industrial Est, Niagara Falls, NY 14305-1386.
- Lerner Publishing Group, Order Dept., 241 First Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55401. 800-328-4929, x366.
- Liberty Bell Press, Order Dept., PO Box 32-A, Florissant, MO 63032.
- Libraries Unlimited/Teacher Ideas Press, Order Dept., P.O. Box 6633, Englewood, CO 80155-6633. 800-237-6124 x1.
- Libros Desafio, Order Dept., 2850 Kalamazoo Ave., SE, Grand Rapids, MI 45960. 800-333-8300.
- Living the Good News, Order Dept., 3101 N. 7th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110. 800-824-1813. C
- Loyola Press, Order Dept., 3441 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60657. 800-256-0589. C
- Lucent Books See Greenhaven Press.
- Marshall Cavendish, Order Dept., 99 White Plains Road, PO Box 2001, Tarrytown, NY 10591. 800-821-9881.
- Moody Press, Order Dept., 820 N. LaSalle Blvd., Chicago, IL 60610. 312-329-2108. C
- Morrow Junior Books See Wm. Morrow.
- Multnomah Publishers Inc., Order Dept., P.O. Box 1720, Sisters, OR 97759. 800-929-0910. C
- National Geographic Society, Order Dept., P.O.Box 1640, Washington, DC 20013-1640. 800-647-5463.
- Orca Book Publishers, Order Dept., P.O. Box 468, Custer, WA 98240-0468. 800-210-5277.
- Palisades See Multnomah Publishers. C
- Para Publishing, Order Dept., P.O.Box 8206, Santa Barbara, CA 93118-8206. 800-727-2782.
- Peggy Pickering, 12206 Colbarn Place, Fishers, IN 46038.
- Peregrine Video Productions, Order Dept., 7583 Estate Circle, Niwot, CO 80503.

Philomel See Penguin
Putnam.

Princeton University Press,
Order Dept., 41 William St.,
Princeton, NJ 08540. 609-
258-4900.

Random House, Order Dept.,
11th Floor, 201 E. 50th, New
York, NY 10022. 212-751-
2600.

Scholastic, Inc., Order Dept.,
555 Broadway, New York, NY
10012-3999. 212-343-6100.

Sterling Publishing, Order
Dept., 387 Park Ave. S., New
York, NY 10016. 212-532-
7160.

Stoddart Kids, Great Lakes
Customs, 4500 Witmer
Industrial Est, Niagara Falls,
NY 14305-1386.

That's Life Communications,
Order Dept., PO Box 487,
Markham, ON L3P3R1,
Canada. Tollfree 877-
THATSLI(FE). C

Thomas Nelson Publishers,
Order Dept., 506 Nelson Pl.,
P.O. Box 141000, Nashville,
TN 37214. 615-889-9000.
C

Time Warner Audio Books,
Care of: Little Brown & Co., 3
Center Plaza, Boston, MA
02108. 800-759-0190.

Tommy Nelson, Order Dept.,
404 BNA Dr., Bldg. 200, Ste.
508, Nashville, TN 37217.
615-902-2314. C

Tundra Books, Order Dept.,
481 University Avenue, Suite
802, Toronto, ON M5G 2E9,
Canada. 416-598-4786.

Tyndale House Publishers,
Order Dept., 351 Executive
Dr., P.O. Box 80, Wheaton, IL
60189. 630-668-8300. C

Vida Publishers, Order Dept.,
8325 NW 53rd St., Suite 100,
Miami, FL 33166, FL 33166.
800-843-2548.

Viking See Penguin
Putnam.

Vine Books See Servant
Publications. C

Vision Press, Order Dept.,
PO Box 1106, Northport, AL
35476.

Waterbrook Press, Order
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Blvd., Suite 200, Colorado
Springs, CO 80918.

Westminster Press, Order
Dept., 100 Witherspoon St.,
Louisville, KY 40202-1396.
502-569-5891. C

William Morrow and Co.,
Order Dept., 1350 Ave. of the
Americas, New York, NY
10019. 212-261-6500.

Word Publishing, Order
Dept., PO Box 141000,
Nashville, TN 37214. 615-
902-3400. C

Wordsong See Boyds Mills
Press.

Zondervan Publishing House,
Attn: Zondervan Church
Source, 5300 Patterson Ave.
S.E., Grand Rapids, MI
49530. 800-727-3480. C

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