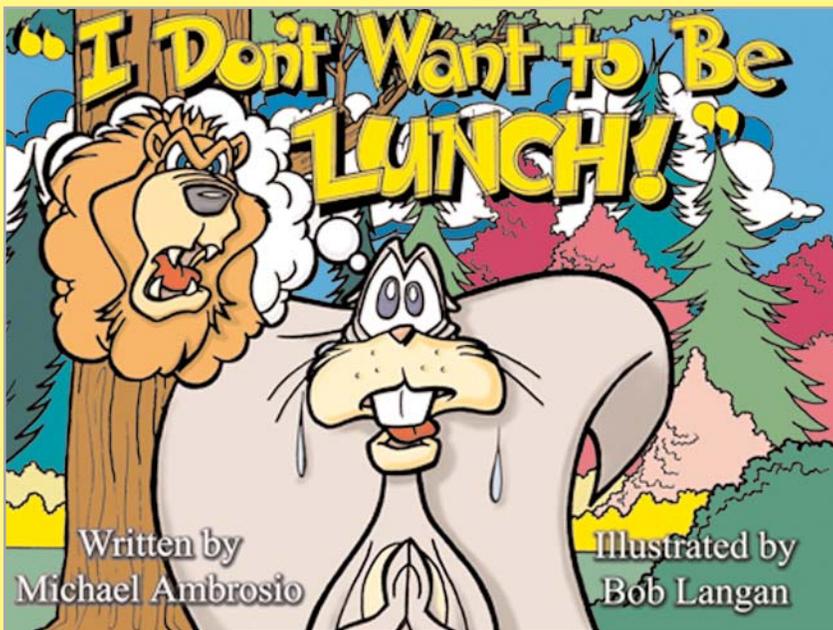


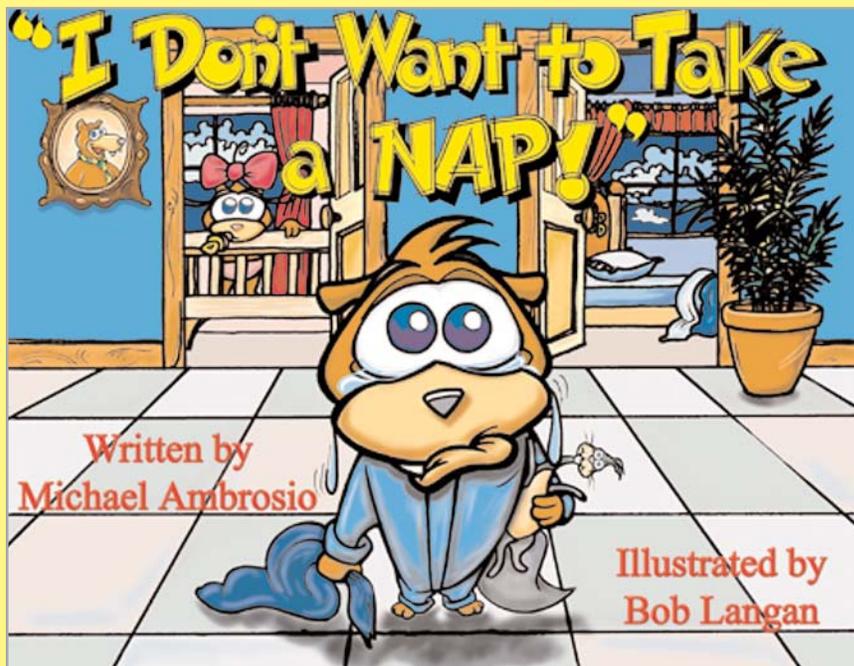
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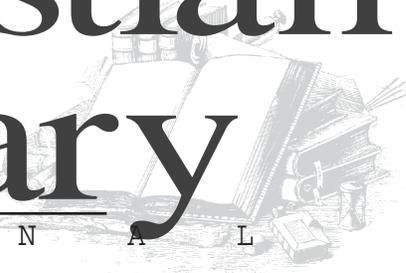
- Reading Along the Timeline
- Indians of the Southwest
- School Librarian's Corner:
Weeding the Library
- Books for the Middle Reader:
Holes
- The Left Behind Series:
A Review



The *Christian Library Journal* invites prospective reviewers and writers to write for information. The *Christian Library Journal* is published bimonthly January through December by Christian Library Services. Subscriptions \$20 per year online. Back issues included. Indexed in *Christian Periodical Index*. Address correspondence to nlhesch@verizon.net, or to Christian Library Services, 302 N. Nile, East Wenatchee, WA 98802. Copyright 2003 by Christian Library Services.

Volume VIII No.3, 2003
ISSN 1097-1262

Christian Library



J O U R N A L

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www.christianlibraryj.org

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 200 titles 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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Cover illustrations from the *I Don't Want To...* books, by Michael Ambrosia, illustrated by Bob Langan (LionX Publishing, 2003; used by permission).

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READING
ALONG
THE
TIMELINE

by
Donna
W.
Bowling

Authors of two different annotated bibliographies have selected significant book titles from a historical perspective and listed them, chronologically, along a timeline. How do they differ? Is one decidedly more useful than the other?

Let the Authors Speak: A Guide to Worthy Books Based on Historical Setting, by Carolyn Hatcher. (Joelton, TN: Old Pinnacle Publishing, 1994. PAP, 0964068117, \$18.95. OP)

In order to provide children with an education that goes beyond mere information, Carolyn Hatcher recommends that we *Let the Authors Speak*. This “guide to worthy books based on historical setting” grew out of Hatcher’s desire, as a homeschooling parent, to help her children “make connections with geography and the life and cultures of the various countries.” To organize her efforts, she began her own computerized book list, arranged by time and place, which ultimately led to this guide of nearly 1,200 titles.

Hatcher provides several pages of instructive introductory discussion that include underlying foundations and suggested uses for the guide. These are followed by four separate listings: two arranged by setting, one by author, and one by title. The first setting list, sorted by century and location, contains realistic historical fiction, biographical and autobiographical accounts, journal entries, and essays. The second setting list includes works in the categories of mythology and legend, fantasy, folk tale, fable, and allegory. Lists appear in table form. Entries in setting and author lists are limited to single rows, comprised of title, author, and columns of coded information representing reading level, type, century, location, and a short comment of five or six words. Reading level codes suggest: age eight and up, age twelve and up, or mature readers. Books designed for younger readers are not listed. Entries in the title index provide only author information.

Hatcher acknowledges her debt to Susan Schaeffer Macaulay’s book, *For the Children’s Sake*, which introduced her to the philosophy of British educator Charlotte Mason. Mason stressed the value of “living books” as opposed to the “twaddle” of ordinary textbooks. More than one-third of the entries indicate titles recommended by Elizabeth Wilson, Gladys Hunt, Barbara Hampton (cf. *What Another Booklist* article), and Marva Collins. Recipients of the Newbery or

Pulitzer Awards

are noted. An additional bibliography and a list of sources appear at the end.

History's stories : a literary timeline, by Kevin D. Washburn & Julia Washburn. (Helena, AL: Make Way for Books, 1998. PAP, \$10.00.)

Research indicates that students retain more historical information when taught using children's literature.

Classroom teacher Kevin D. Washburn and his wife Julia have selected around 600 social studies related titles and arranged them chronologically, by content, in an annotated bibliography, entitled *History's Stories*. This book list furnishes teachers with a resource from which to choose literature that "emphasizes human responses to historical events, providing a significant basis for understanding;" and, thereby, "take students beyond rote memory to meaningful application and integration."

Book layout is reader-friendly, with generous white space and wide outside margins. A plastic spring binding allows large 8 x 11 pages to lie flat. Each entry begins with a bold-face title on a single line, followed by author, illustrator, other credits, publisher, latest copyright date, number of pages, and grade level on the next line. For several titles, accompanying audiocassettes are noted. A paragraph of several sentences briefly describes each book. The date or dates covered in the book, plus a main theme and secondary theme, appear in the wide outside margin. Biographies are placed chronologically, according to the subjects' dates of birth, rather than by the time of their greatest historical impact. Entries for collective biographies are repeated for each biographee, with specific subject's name and pertinent dates listed in the outside margin, under the main theme. Since the entries are arranged strictly by date, different locations and themes are intermingled. A theme index is divided into forty-two main categories that reflect the social studies emphasis. Categories vary from ancient history and cultures; to significant historical events; to contemporary arts, community, science, and sports. Within these categories, each title is listed alphabetically, followed by year(s) and page number(s). Index, also, includes year(s) covered.

Conclusion

Each of these book lists has its own focus. Hatcher began her list with a schooldays concern, but it grew into a list of

"worthy books," appropriate for a lifetime reading guide. The Washburn list is geared to the early years through junior high, with only about five percent of the titles extending to the senior high school level. Only twenty-eight titles are included in both the Hatcher list and the Washburn list, so the lists complement each other. The Hatcher list is broader in type of material and includes twice as many titles as the Washburn list. The Washburn list has many useful titles at the primary level, not found in the Hatcher list.

In spite of their extreme brevity, Hatcher's comments convey much about the titles listed. If appropriate, sections of entries for the Eighteenth, Nineteenth, and Twentieth Centuries are further subdivided into "E" for early or "L" for late, and then all are grouped by location as needed (i.e. continent, nation, state). Books dealing with the American Revolution are grouped together, as are books dealing with the American Civil War. A couple of assigned dates seemed incorrect, but only one title was misspelled.

The Washburn list has very few typographical errors. One author's first name is misspelled, accompanied by a minor factual error in the annotation. One entry is repeated verbatim on the following page. The use of identical, rather than customized, annotations for collective biographies often provides little information about the specific accomplishment of the biographee named in the margin.

Both lists are clearly written from a Judeo-Christian perspective, and are highly recommended for both Christian schools and homeschooling parents. Educators working at the elementary level would especially appreciate the emphasis in the Washburn list. General readers wanting to pursue lifelong learning might prefer the Hatcher list.

Donna W. Bowling, Library, Educational Consultant, Dallas, Texas.

Learning Native American Culture Through Children's Literature : Indians of the Southwest

by Jane Mouttet

In this issue's column Jane shares some books about the Native Americans of the Southwest, including the Ancient Indians. She also includes some classroom tie-ins to some of the books and Web sites where you can learn more about the Natives of the Southwest.

Indians of the Southwest are those who reside in the Four Corners area of the United States. For the most part, the Native Americans covered in this column live in New Mexico and Arizona. The Navajo are the largest tribal group in this area. The first of these columns (Winter 2002) covered only books about the Navajo, but a few more are included here. Also included are a couple of books about the Ancient Anasazi and Mimbres, some of the early ancestors of today's Indians of the Southwest.

In her book, *How to Teach About American Indians*, Karen Harvey suggests some reasons to include Native American literature in classroom or school libraries. She says, "Through time, students, surrounded by the American Indian historical fiction, contemporary

fiction, and informational books, will develop a comprehensive understanding of the diversity and beauty of Indian cultures and a more realistic understanding of Indian people in American history." I hope you will use the information in these columns to provide Native American literature to the young people with whom you work.

My favorites for this column include *Enchanted Runner* and *The Last Snake Runner*. In these books Mrs. Little draws the reader into the culture and history of the Acoma people. While the traditional religious beliefs shared in the story help the reader get a better understanding of the Acoma people, the Christian maturity of the reader should be taken into account. Another of my favorites is *Young Goat's Discovery*. What librarian wouldn't like one of the messages in this book? (Example: If you need information, go to the library.)

I hope you will find something in this listing that you can add to your library or use in your classroom.

APACHE

Apache Children And Elders Talk Together, by E. Barrie Kavasch, photos by J. J. Foxx/NYC. (The Rosen Publishing Group, Inc., 1999, 0823952258, HB, \$18.00, 24p.)

Gr. K-3. Apache culture and beliefs are shared through quotes from young and old alike. The text is illustrated with photographs. The book opens with "I am Apache." In this section, a descendant of Geronimo tells about his life as an Apache boy. As different members of the Apache tribe tell their stories, the reader learns about the Apache bands and clans; their celebrations; the land of the Apache; and Apache family life, food, and religion. Both glossary and pronunciations of difficult words are included.

The Apaches, by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, illus. by Ronald Himler. (Holiday

House, 1997, 0823412873, HB, \$16.95, 32p.)

Gr. 1-4. Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve grew up on the Sioux reservation. She has researched and written about many Native American tribes. *The Apaches* is part of the First Americans series. In it, Sneve re-tells the Apache creation story; provides information about traditional homeland and government; traditional roles of men, women, and children; religious ceremonies; life before and after white men came; and a description of modern Apache life. Index contributes to usefulness as a reference book. Ronald Himler uses watercolors to illustrate items described in text.

NAVAJO

Dinetah: An Early History of the Navajo

People, by Lawrence Sundberg (Sunstone Press, 1995, 0865342210, PB \$12.95, 94p.)

Gr. 5 & up. Lawrence Sundberg wrote *Dinetah* so that his students could study the history of their people. Although not himself a Navajo, Sundberg has taught Navajo children in Arizona and is thorough in his representation of the Navajo viewpoint. From the nation's beginnings, through their dealings with neighboring tribes and non-Natives, to their relocation and subsequent return to their homeland, *Dinetah* covers the history of the Navajo people. Illustrations include historic photographs and drawings by the author. Highly recommended for all Native American collections.

Navajo Code Talkers, by Nathan Aaseng. (Walker and Co., 1992, 0802776272, PB \$8.95, 118p.)

Gr. 5-8. Navajo Code Talkers were a

national secret for many years. Nathan Aaseng tells the story of young Navajo men, who were persecuted by American politicians for speaking their native language. Yet, during wartime, these same young men were ready to serve their country. A group of Navajo Marines were recruited specifically to develop an unbreakable code using the Navajo language, during World War II. Their language is one of the most difficult to learn, and they succeeded. Aaseng tells the story of young men, miles from home, adjusting to a new climate, a foreign culture (the Anglo world), and a war (Navajo traditionally avoid dead things and people). Foreword written by Roy Hawthorne, a Navajo Code Talker. Highly recommended as a World War II reference resource. A wonderful book for reluctant readers who enjoy war stories.

A Rainbow At Night, by Bruce Hucko. (Chronicle Books, 1996, 0811812944, HB, \$14.95, 44p.)

Gr. 1-5. Bruce Hucko, an art teacher on the Navajo reservation, developed *A Rainbow at Night* with the help of his students, ages five through thirteen. Students created art projects and, with the help of Hucko, wrote brief explanations detailing individual aspects of Navajo life. Represented are legends, religion, and the importance of nature, family, and livestock. Activities included encouraging interaction between reader and artwork.

The Warrior's Code, by Dory J. Peters. (Bonneville Books, 2002, 1555176135, PB, \$12.95, 134p.)

YA. Victor, a Navajo Mormon unrestricted by the ancient tribal religious taboos, explores his dead grandfather's past. When he becomes a Navajo Code Talker, Victor sees a different side of what it means to be a Navajo in the white man's world. Dory Peters renders an excellent fictional account of the adversity the traditional Navajo had to overcome to help the Allies, during World War II. Traditional beliefs are seamlessly inserted.

The Winds Erase Your Footprints, by Shiyowin Miller. (Naturegraph Publishers, 2002, 0879612630, PB \$16.95, 335p.)

YA. Juanita, an Anglo, marries Luciano, a Navajo, while both are working in 1930's Hollywood. After marrying, they decide to return to Canoncito, Lu's homeland on the reservation. Life there is primitive and Anglos are not easily accepted, especially as Navajo spouses. As Juanita adjusts to life on the reservation, she is eventually accepted by Lu's family. Shiyowin Miller, a lifelong friend of Juanita, renders an accurate account of Navajo life and religious ceremonies in the 1930's. Drawings by Navajo artist, Chester Kahn.

PUEBLO (GENERAL)

Rat Is Dead And Ant Is Sad, by Betty Baker, illus. by Mamoru Funai (Harper & Row, 1981, 0060203471, HB, 64p. OP)

Gr. K-3. While this book is out of print, it is considered by some a classic. Rat falls in a pot and is silent, so Ant thinks he's dead. Ant tells Jay, "Rat is dead, and I am sad." Because they believe Rat is dead, Jay drops his feathers, Tree shrivels up, Sheep grows thin, River runs dry, Girl breaks her pot, and Mother burns her earrings. None of them bother to check if Rat is really dead. Brother wants to cut off Horse's tail, but Horse refuses and goes looking for Rat. After finding him, the characters are happy again and return to normal, except for Jay, who must wait for his feathers to grow back. Betty Baker adapted this story from a Pueblo tale. Story lacks recognition of a specific pueblo. Colored illustrations by Mamoru Funai.

Secrets of the Stone, written and illus. by Harriet Peck Taylor. (Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2000, 0374366489, HB \$16.00, 32p.)

Gr. 1-3. Coyote and Badger are chasing Jackrabbit when they find a cave. Other animals soon follow. They see petroglyphs, pictures carved into rock by ancient Anasazi, ancestors of the Southwestern Pueblo Indians. When their fire causes ghostly figures in the shadows, the animals believe their ancestors have come to visit them. Coyote dreams he goes back in time to when the petroglyphs were created and sees ghostly spirits. Several pages of text and illustrations may scare the young

reader/listener. Author Harriet Taylor has spent time visiting the Southwest. She uses batik to illustrate her text.

Tales of a Pueblo Boy, written and illus. by Lawrence Jonathan Vallo. (Sunstone Press, 1987, 0865340897, PB, \$5.95, 48p.)

Gr. 3-5. Rabbit, a Pueblo Indian boy, grows up in his grandparent's home. His parents leave him, when they go to work in the city, and are never mentioned again. Each chapter in the book is a complete story about Rabbit, telling some aspect of Pueblo life, including hunting, festivals, and religious ceremonies. Small sketches illustrate the text. Author Lawrence Vallo is a member of the Jemez and Acoma Pueblos, and the stories are based on his childhood.

ANASAZI

The Ancient Cliff Dwellers of Mesa Verde, by Caroline Arnold, illus. by Richard Hewett. (Clarion Books, 1992, 0395562414, HB \$16.00, 2000, 061805149X, PB \$6.95, 64p.)

Gr. 3-7. The Anasazi lived in the Southwestern United States, from about A.D. one to 1300. Caroline Arnold and Richard Hewett have combined their talents to create a photo essay on the Anasazi, who lived at Mesa Verde nearly 800 years ago. Through pictures of the National Park, artifacts, and dioramas, Hewett depicts ancient Anasazi life. Arnold tells the story of the ancient Anasazi, including information about how the artifacts help explain the culture and how archeologists believe the Anasazi lived. Glossary and index included. Recommended as a good resource for students researching the Anasazi.

MIMBRES

A Day With a Mimbres, by J. J. Brody illus. by Giorgio Bacchin (Runestone Press, 1998, 082519178, HB \$22.60, 48p.)

Gr. 3-8. *A Day With a Mimbres* is divided into two sections. The first section, entitled World of the Mimbres, is a basic history reference of the Mimbres people, ancient

Native Americans who lived in Southern New Mexico and Arizona. The second section consists of a fictional account of a day in the life of a Mimbres Indian. J.J. Brody has previously researched pre-historic and historic Southwestern Native American art, as well as worked in anthropology. Giorgio Bacchun's illustrations give the reader an idea of what life may have been like at the time of the Mimbres and Anasazi.

ACOMA

Enchanted Runner, by Kimberley Griffiths Little. (Avon Books, Inc., 1999, 0380976234, HB, \$15.00, 149p.)

Gr. 5-8. Kendall, a twelve-year-old boy, half Anglo and half Acoma, is raised in an Anglo world. When his Acoma mother dies, she leaves him feeling empty and confused about his heritage and his need to run. Kendall's Acoma great-grandfather, whom he has never met, writes and asks him to spend the summer in the Pueblo. Kendall reluctantly agrees, hoping to connect with his mother's spirit. In the short time he is in the Pueblo, Kendall heals the estrangement between his great-grandfather and his family. His great-grandfather, the last living member of the Snake Clan, has been unhappy with his granddaughter, whom he had raised, for marrying outside the Pueblo. Before he dies, great-grandfather accepts Kendall and talks with the tribal elders about initiating him into the tribe. Little gives the reader a glimpse into the lives and rituals of old Acoma.

The Last Snake Runner, by Kimberly Griffiths Little (Alfred A. Knopf, 2002, 0375815392, HB, \$15.95, 202p.)

Gr. 5-8. In this sequel to *The Enchanted Runner*, Kendall's father elopes with a Hispanic woman. Because of the history between the Acoma and Spaniards, Kendall is upset by the marriage. He convinces his older brother to take him to Acoma so that he can sort things out. Kendall, the last member of the Snake Clan, runs to clear his mind. When he enters a crevice, he is magically transported back to the 1600's, a time when the Conquistadors had destroyed Acoma and captured the people. His

appearance gives the ancient Acoma hope. He hears his mother's voice and is encouraged to go home and accept his father's new wife. When he returns to his own time, six months have passed and all he wants is home, so he runs the fifty miles to home. Little closes with her notes on the historical events of the book.

HOPÍ

Hopi Dwellings, by Catherine M. Cameron (The University of Arizona Press, 1999, 0816517819, HB, \$42.00, 160p.)

Catherine Cameron is a professor of anthropology and presents a scholarly reference on the Hopi dwellings. The academic study that led to the book developed from a desire to understand how the early Pueblos grew and declined. In this volume, clues to how and why villages were abandoned and reestablished, over and over, in the pre-historic Southwest are discovered. Detailed research of houses and people at Orayvi [Oraibi], across a period of almost eighty years, uncovered patterns that may explain the people and trends of the ancient Pueblo. Recommended for dedicated students of the Southwest Pueblo Indians.

I Am Native American, by Ana Sage. (PowerKids Press, 1997, 082395014X, HB, \$18.75, 24p.)

Gr. K-3. In this issue of the Our American Family series, a young Hopi tells the story of Native Americans in the United States. The book contains subtle references to the poor treatment historically received by Native Americans. Each chapter contains one page of text and one full-page picture. Topics include reservations, religious activities, clothing, food, and crafts. Ana Sage provides a good introduction to Hopi Indians, but the reader must keep in mind that Native American tribes are as different from each other as are Asians from Europeans.

Meet Mindy: A Native Girl From the Southwest, by Susan Secakuku, illus. by John Harrington. (Beyond Words Publishing, Inc., 2003, 1582700915, HB, \$15.95, 48p.)

Gr. 3-5. Part of the series My World: Young Native Americans Today, *Meet Mindy* was published in conjunction with the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. Susan Secakuku, a Hopi, has written about her niece Mindy, who is Hopi and Tewa. She tells the story of the life of a contemporary Hopi, and how she combines her life off-reservation with the native traditions of her family. Hopi traditions of pottery, growing corn, and religious ceremonies are shared by Mindy. The photographs of John Harrington and the Secakuku family document Mindy's life. Recommended for older elementary students.

Truth is a Bright Star, by Joan Price (Tricycle Press, 1982, 1582460558, PB, \$7.95, 150p.)

Gr. 5-8. In December 1832, as the Hopi were preparing for their winter solstice ceremony, known as Soyal, the Spaniards raided their village. Fourteen Hopi children and the young wife of Wickvaya were kidnapped, taken to Santa Fe, and sold as slaves. Loma is one of the Hopi boys taken. A beaver trapper buys him, and Loma is taken into the mountains to help trap beaver for their pelts. This goes against Loma's upbringing of killing only when there is a need. As the story progresses, the reader is introduced to some traditional Hopi beliefs. Loma's owner is seriously wounded. Loma nurses him back to health, and in the process, the two become friends. With the help of a Taos medicine man and another trapper, Loma and his owner gain a better understanding of each other. Joan Price has had extensive contact with the Hopi, and based her book on an actual event.

Young Goat's Discovery, by Arline Warner Tinus (Red Crane Books, 1994, 1878610384, HB, \$13.95, 32p.)

Gr. K-3. While they are out with their flock of sheep, Jeffrey and his goat discover a picture of a goat carved on a rock. Jeffrey asks his dad about it. Dad is unable to give Jeffrey an answer, but sends him to the library. The librarian finds a book about petroglyphs and the Hopi Indians and reads it to Jeffrey and some other children. They all learn how and why the petroglyphs were made, as well as a bit of Hopi culture and

history. Tinus promotes respect for petroglyphs, as well as showing that a library is a good place to gain information. Her paintings help the reader to visualize petroglyphs. One problem with the story is that Jeffrey's older brother is mentioned twice, before Jeffrey enters the story, and, then, is never mentioned again.

SANTA CLARA

Children of Clay: A Family of Pueblo Potters, by Rina Swentzell illus. by Bill Steen (Lerner Publications, 1992, 082259627X, PB, \$6.95, 40p.)

Gr. 1-4. Part of the *We Are Still Here: Native Americans Today* series, *Children of Clay* contains a brief explanation of the different pueblos in New Mexico. The main focus is on how the Pueblo Indians make their pottery. One family of potters is followed throughout the book, as they speak to the spirit of the clay, then proceed to collect and prepare it to make and fire pots. Unfamiliar words are explained within the text and glossary. Traditional Santa Clara stories included. Rina Swentzell, a Santa Clara Indian, and Bill Steen, married to a Santa Clara Indian, are both familiar with the subject matter.

The Story of Rosie's Rat, by Porter and Rose Swentzell. (La Alameda Press, 1994, 0963190954, PB, \$10.00, 38p.)

Gr. K-3. Rosie's teacher gives away two rats. Rosie doesn't get one of the rats, so her family buys one for her, and another for her brother. While the book does not include much Native culture, it does, however, show that Native American children aren't that different from non-Native Americans. A true story written by the protagonists, members of the Santa Clara tribe.

TAOS

Little Boy With Three Names, by Ann Nolan Clark, illus. by Tonita Lujan (Ancient City Press, 1990, 0941270599, PB \$9.95, 75p.)

Gr. 2-3. Written in 1940, for the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Pueblo series of Indian Life Readers, *Little Boy With Three Names* tells the story of a young boy's summer in the Taos Pueblo. Tso'u has three names. Tso'u is his Taos name; Jose la Cruz is the Hispanic name given to him by the Catholic church; and Little Joe is what he is called at the Anglo boarding school. When he returns to the Pueblo for the summer, his Anglo name is put away with his boarding school clothes. He spends his summer growing toward manhood, as he helps fight a fire, chooses a horse for himself, takes a journey to a sacred lake, and represents his tribe at the Inter-Tribal Ceremonial. Clark worked with the Bureau of Indian Affairs schools for many years. Lujan is a member of the Taos Pueblo.

TEWA

Less Than Half, More Than Whole, by Kathleen and Michael Lacapa, illus. by Michael Lacapa (Northland Publishing, Co., 1994, 0873585925, HB, \$14.95, 40p.)

Gr. K-3. Tony's friends tell him, "You don't look like us. I think you're less than half". That sends Tony on a search for the answer to his question, "What does less than half mean?" His Tewa grandfather helps him to understand that, like an ear of corn made up of different colored kernels form a whole ear, his uniqueness forms a whole person. Michael Lacapa compliments the text excellently by incorporating native symbols into his artwork.

ZUNI

Zuni Children and Elders Talk Together, by E. Barrie Kavasch, photos by A.J. Group and John Becolo. (The Rosen Publishing Group, Inc. 1999, 0823952274, \$14.50, 24p.)

Gr. K-3. The Zuni culture is shared in quotes from young and old alike, and enhanced by photographs throughout the text. In a conversational style, the book starts with I am Zuni, quotes from seven and eight year olds about who they are and what

they like to do. The characters continue, as they tell the reader about the Zuni clan system, celebrations, families, food, language, and land. Pronunciations for difficult words included in both text and glossary.

REFERENCE

Paths of Life: American Indians of the Southwest and Northern Mexico, ed. by Thomas Sheridan and Nancy J. Parezo (The University of Arizona Press, 1996, 0816514666, PB, \$22.95, 298p.)

Paths of Life, a byproduct of a display at the Arizona State Museum, encompasses ten tribal groups: Seri, Tarahumara, Yaqui, O'odham, Colorado River Yuman, Southern Paiute, Pai, Western Apache, Navajo, and Hopi. Sections of twenty-five to thirty pages each, divided by tribal groups, describe historical events and traditional stories. Highly recommended for teachers preparing presentations on Native Americans, older students researching tribal groups, and, though scholarly, even middle school student reports.

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

Multicultural Picture Books: Art For Understanding Others, Volume II, by Sylvia and Ken Marantz (Linworth Publishing, Inc., 1997, 0938865633, PB, \$36.95, 200p.)

Extensive annotated bibliography, including background books and teaching resources, of multicultural picture books. An entire chapter is devoted to Native Cultures of North America. Recommended for educators.

Classroom Connections

Apache Children and Elders Talk Together and *Zuni Children and Elders Talk Together*

- Invite grandparents to the classroom to share what life was like forty to fifty years ago.

Navajo Code Talkers and *The Warrior's Code*

- Have students research other native languages that were used as codes during wartime.
- Have students do further research on the use of the Navajo language during World War II. A good resource for this is *Navajo Weapon*, by Sally McClain (Rio Nuevo Publishers, 2001. 1887896325, PB, \$16.95, 212p.)

Rat is Dead and Ant is Sad

- Read *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* and similar books.
- As a class, create your own story, in which original action causes a chain reaction. Students could illustrate the story.

Tales of a Pueblo Boy

- Keeping in mind the fact that Rabbit's stories are about everyday happenings, have students write a story about something they did when they were younger.

Enchanted Runner

- Discuss with students how they can learn from their grandparents.

The Last Snake Runner

- With students, research the Conquistadors and Juan de Onate.
- Discuss whether or not your research includes the viewpoint of the Acoma and other Pueblo Indians who were conquered.

Meet Mindy

- Discuss with students the differences between their life and that of Mindy, a Native American, who lives in Phoenix, Arizona.

Young Goat's Discovery (these activities are all mentioned in the story)

- Students could draw pictures of the petroglyphs.
- Students could make petroglyphs by hitting a nail against a rock.
- Students could make petroglyphs in clay.

Children of Clay: A Family of Pueblo Potters

- Have students try to make pots or figures like those found in the book.

The Story of Rosie's Rat

- Students can write and illustrate a book about their pet or favorite animal.

Internet Information

APACHE

- <http://www.yavapai-apache-nation.com> is the site of the Yavapai-Apache Nation. There are three useful links within this site. Creation Story links to the traditional Yavapai Apache creation story. Ft. Verde Indians-Old links to the history of the tribe. Ft. Verde Indians-New links to information about the tribe today.
- <http://www.wmat.nsn.us> is the Internet home of the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Includes interesting links to the White Mountain Apache Culture and White Mountain Apache History.

HOPI

- <http://www.hopi.nsn.us> is the official web site of the Hopi Tribe. The links to Culture and History are particularly useful.

ACOMA

- <http://www.puebloofacoma.org>, the web site of the Pueblo of Acoma, has very limited information on the history and culture.

PUEBLOS

- <http://www.indianpueblo.org> is the site of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It contains links to information about the nineteen New Mexico Pueblos.

Jane Mouttet has been a mission school librarian on the Navajo Reservation since 1985. She lives with her husband and three children near Window Rock, Arizona. You can reach her at Jane@NativeAmericanChildrensLit.com. She'd love to hear your ideas on using these books in the classroom.

SCHOOL LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

by Leslie Greaves Radloff



Many of you who manage a small collection will wonder if you should weed your shelves. I asked myself that same question when I managed a collection of fewer than a thousand books. I still ask myself the same question, now that I manage a collection of more than 10,000 books and audiovisual materials. In each case, the answer I've always arrived at has been, 'Yes.' Why? Weeding is a necessary part of librarianship. We dread it, due to the fear of hearing others tell us "Those books were so good." -or- "I always counted on that title for my unit." -or- "It was a great read aloud." -or... Sometimes, there is even fear of getting the material back because it was a donation to begin with. (That happened to me often enough, that I began to take weeded materials home to dispose of them.)

Should you weed? Definitely! Having sound reasons for weeding the collection and a plan to follow before you start weeding, will make the process easier to manage and help answer questions about why you are doing it. First, let me say, no librarian I know pitches books or materials in the dumpster on a whim. The books I've had to throw out have seen heavy-duty use and could no longer be repaired.

Before weeding anything: I consult my collection development plan. This

irreplaceable plan shows me where first to allot my money. Since I work with an automated circulation system that allows me to find the age of areas within the collection, as well as single items, I consult that for information about old titles. The weeding allows room to purchase newer titles that can replace outdated, or worn-out titles.

Reasons for weeding include: age, circulation, and condition of materials. Areas most affected by change, like the sciences, in those 500's and 600's categories, are considered old sooner than areas not as affected by change, like history. Next, due to frequent changes in government and social issues, are the 300's up to 398's. After that, I look at titles covering geography. So many changes occur in some parts of the world, that material is often outdated soon after it's published.

When I weed a specific sections of the Dewey Decimal System, I look at audio visual and reference titles in that number sequence to get an idea of what else needs replacement, and weed there, too. This process insures that a larger portion of my budget is targeted for that area.

What you should weed: Materials that have not circulated for five consecutive years, "shelf-sitters," which take up valuable space and make your shelves look full, defeat the purpose of the school library. We need to put current information into the hands of our clients, the teachers and students who are looking for up-to-date information.

Fiction is weeded using the same criteria: age, circulation, condition, and, to that I add, popularity. Yes, we should all have the award winners, but frankly, many are no longer read by choice anymore, and valuable shelf space can be used for titles that interest today's readers. Put those "too good to toss

forever" items on a special shelf and promote them through book talks.

Technology has been a mixed blessing for libraries. At times, we need to de-access our outdated computers, printers, filmstrip projectors, and the rest because they just pile up. Oh, I hear you saying, "I have a teacher who has to have...." You can fill that in however you like. If you have enough equipment, give the old one to the teacher, or keep one outdated item, i.e. a phonograph player, around. Unfortunately, experience indicates that, if you keep the old stuff, people will not see a need for new, and you'll be making do for longer than you would like. We don't have the children work with quill pens, anymore, and school secretaries are using computers for word-processing, rather than manual typewriters. Library equipment that can no longer be repaired, that we can't find parts for, or that just doesn't work, needs to be weeded.

Print and non-print resources, including magazines, reference books, classroom sets, and technology that no longer serve the purpose must go. This, I admit, is easier said than done. We all have favorite books that we feel no collection should be without. Teachers, too, have their pet titles. What to do? One solution is to weed, and keep the weeded sentimental favorites on a storage shelf (if one is available). Another is to have a book sale, which generates funds for future purchases. Personally, I like the idea of twenty-five cents a book or five for a dollar, but some school administrations cringe at that. If it becomes an issue, suggest a donation of either funds, or a title from your wish list. A third idea is to place the weeded titles on a cart, and let teachers and other interested parties know these are available "for free."

When should you weed? Ideally, you will

want to target a section of the library each year. This is easier to do with your collection development plan in hand. That doesn't mean all your money goes to just one section. It means that more of the money goes to one section each year. A plan might begin with 500's the first year, then go to the 300's the next, and so on...where the need is greatest.

At the end of the school year, I look at my magazine circulation file to determine which magazines have not circulated, and which have seen heavy use. This past year was even more critical. We experienced a large cut in our operating budget, which, in turn, meant that library funds were cut. Some magazines that did not fit into the "support curriculum," or did not circulate, did not get renewed. Another uncertainty with magazines is what to do with and where to store past issues. Some schools keep them for five years, then pass them on to the teachers or students. Other schools keep some titles indefinitely. *Cobblestone*, *Calliope*, *Faces*, and some of the literature magazines fall into that category. Weeding the stacks frees up space for the things that are current and topical.

Once you've weeded, what should you do with the discards? One suggestion is a book sale. Another is to donate the materials to a thrift shop. (My husband bought an old microfiche reader at a library sale, so he could read star data not available in any other format). Some people advocate sending the discards to missions or countries where materials are desperately needed. Whatever you decide, take the materials off the premises, as quickly as possible.

With all that empty space, how do you replace materials? Use your collection development plan. Remember that you have not weeded the entire collection in one fell swoop. You've looked at one area. Designate more of your budget to replace key titles there. If people ask about the empty shelf or shelves, explain what you are doing and why. Often that generates enough conversation to get a ball rolling, and donations coming in.

Always remember that weeding is an important part of collection maintenance. Books that are wedged so tightly into shelves that they cannot be gotten out easily are often overlooked. Books with outdated information do more damage to the learning

process than having to find information in another format or at a different library.

Other ideas for weeding the collection may be found in the archives of LM-NET "Weed of the Month" on the web:

LM_NET@LISTSERV.SYR.EDU
School Library Media & Network
Communications

To subscribe to the list, send the following message to
LISTSERV@LISTSERV.SYR.EDU:

SUBSCRIBE LM_NET Your-first-name
Your-last-name

Also in various textbooks used for teaching librarianship, or on the ALA website:
ala.org.

Persevere. The end results will be worth the effort.

(Editor's note: When I thoroughly weeded the libraries of an entire school district, amid some protest, shelves looked somewhat empty compared to their former packed state, and I wondered at the wisdom of what I'd done. How did the students and staff react? They wondered where in the world I had found so many "new" books. I hadn't, yet. They were looking at books that had been hidden on the crowded shelves. Give it a go! NLH)

Books for the Middle Reader: *Holes*

by Karla Castle

If you are looking for a book to hook a reluctant reader, *Holes* may be the one. If you just like a really good read, *Holes*, again, may be just what you are looking for. Everyone I know, both child and adult, who has read this book by Louis Sachar, has found it impossible to put it down.

The premise of the story may not sound very interesting, but this book is not really about the plotline or a chain of events. So, I could tell you that this is a story about a boy who is arrested for a crime he didn't commit and is sent to an unusual juvenile detention camp, where the boys are required to dig a 5ft by 5ft by 5ft hole each day. The warden is using the boys to look for buried treasure. The main character finds the treasure and lives happily ever after. But that would not tell you what this book is really about.

Holes is about something more. Something I have a hard time putting my finger on. It is about the characters, about being human, about succeeding, despite obstacles, and about choices. It is about Stanley Yelnats, his family history, a convergence of the players in that history, and the resolution of an old gypsy curse. Flashbacks, revealing the story of Stanley Yelnats the Fourth's great-grandfather and the events that led to the family curse, are interspersed perfectly with the current events of Stanley's life. No matter what they do, the men in Stanley Yelnats' family (all named Stanley, which is Yelnats, spelled backwards), cannot seem to be successful. Stanley's grandfather has told and retold Stanley the story of his great-grandfather. It is the family mythology. Stanley the First failed to pay the gypsy's price for the romantic advice she gave him. Stanley the Fourth, unknowingly, gets the chance to pay that price to the gypsy's descendent, Hector, thereby ending the curse. It is about discovering the value of helping someone else without expecting payment or benefit in return. Stanley helps Hector, a boy nicknamed "Zero" because others consider him to be worthless, in a truly unselfish manner. It demonstrates that no man is an island, humans are interconnected, and life is complex.

This is not what I expected from a book about juvenile delinquents. It is not the usual sappy story about the bad kid who sees the light. It's about the average kid who finds his way through the mess that

life hands him.

There is also a clear message against racism. Central to the family history and gypsy curse story is an interracial relationship between school marm, Kate Barlow, and Sam the handyman. Also, the relationship between Stanley and Hector illustrates that skin color should not matter.

The film is faithful to the novel, mainly because the author did the screenplay. Only minor changes have been made in the medium. A fine cast of young actors make the characters come to life and you have not lived until you have seen John Voight's portrayal of Mr. Sir! Sigourney Weaver does a fine job of playing the greedy warden, and Tim Blake Nelson is wonderful as "Mom."

In both the book and the movie, there is a little profanity. Violence is minimal and appropriate to the storyline. *Holes* won the 1998 Newbery Medal, for good reason. I highly recommend that you read the book AND watch the movie.

Holes, by Louis Sachar. (New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1998. HBB, 0374332657, \$17.00, 240p.)

Holes, by Louis Sachar, screenplay; Andrew Davis, director/producer. Disney Pictures, released May 2003. MPAA rating: PG.

THE LEFT BEHIND SERIES: A REVIEW

By Helen Hunter

Christian bookstores across the country featured *Left Behind* at its publication in 1995. It became an immediate sensation. “Thousands of people have come to faith in Jesus through the ‘Left Behind’ books,” writes Diane Eble in *Moody* magazine’s December, 2002 issue, “and thousands more have rededicated their lives to God.”

The series is currently made up of ten novels, with more to come. All are published by Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois. “The formula combines Tom Clancy-like suspense with touches of romance, high tech flash, and Biblical references.” (*The New York Times*) In addition, the stories contain moral questions, and white-knuckle thrills.

The series, by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins, is apocalyptic in nature, and written from a pre-tribulation point of view—meaning that the rapture of the church happens before the tribulation begins. The tribulation—future, doomsday, the end of the world, etc.—as subject matter has long been a popular topic. In the 1970’s Hal Lindsay’s *The Late Great Planet Earth* was a major bestseller, even though it didn’t garner the publicity that the Left Behind series has received. This series has spawned a series of young adult novels, films, audio books, comic books, and calendars.

The plot-driven books are predictable to the depth that you have studied and understand the book of Revelation. The characters are strong, believable, and four-dimensional. The Christians are immature enough in their new belief that they still think, in some circumstances, like unbelievers. The evil

characters are malevolent. The classic battle between good and evil provides the tension. Jenkins breaks the chapters into small sections, switching to different characters and settings. This also builds tension and keeps the reader turning the pages. Most books in series close with a cliffhanger, ensuring an eagerness for the next title. This series is no exception.

The first book in the series, *Left Behind*, from which the series gets its name, tells the fate of those who have literally been left behind after the Rapture of believers from the earth. Rayford Steele, a Trans-Atlantic airline pilot and one of the main characters, soon discovers that a number of his passengers have been taken, their clothing left in their seats. When he tries to land the aircraft, he finds air traffic in chaos all over the world. Upon arriving at his house, Steele discovers that his wife and son are missing, but his daughter arrives home shortly after him.

The author skillfully adds characters centered in Israel, at the United Nations, and in Chicago. Before long a group of men and women, some of who had previously heard but not believed the Gospel trusts Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Nicolae Carpathia, President of Romania, member of the United Nations, and a charismatic leader, is also introduced in the first book and quickly becomes the antagonist.

The second book, *Tribulation Force*, published in 1996, chronicles the gathering of people who have believed in Jesus. We witness their early growth through faith in the Word of God. They fully suspect

Nicolae Carpathia is the antichrist of biblical prophecy. Worldwide disasters, deaths, and the two witnesses prophesying in Jerusalem indicate that the tribulation, spoken of in Revelation, is in full swing. Because of their deep study of the Bible, the group takes the name Tribulation Force, knowing there is still more chaos and bloodshed to come. During this book, World War III erupts.

Nicolae followed in 1997 with readers panting to get an early hard cover copy. This was perhaps the most explosive of the first three books. Rayford Steele, now remarried, his daughter Chloe, and her new husband Cameron “Buck” Williams all play major roles as Tribulation Saints. Both Rayford and Buck are, also, in high positions in the Carpathia organization. This book ends with the opening of the seventh seal, and “the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.” (Revelation 8:6). The seven-year tribulation period nears the end of a year-and-a-half, when prophecy says; “the wrath of the Lamb” will be poured out upon the earth.

Soul Harvest was published in 1998. Rayford and Buck survive a global earthquake in the twenty-first month of the tribulation, but several Trib Saints lose their lives. As the world hurtles toward the trumpet judgments and the great soul harvest, the characters search for truth and life. “Written with the same gripping pace of Tom Clancy and John Grisham,” says Gail Hudson of Amazon.com. “Biblical prophecy is fulfilled at every turn.”

Apollyon, Book Five, is named for the chief demon of the abyss. He will play a major role in the fifth trumpet judgment. Rayford Steele and Buck Williams, charter members of the Tribulation Force, and former employees of Nicolae Carpathia, are now international fugitives. The two witnesses continue to prophesy at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem as the tribulation calendar moves ever closer to the three-and-one-half-year halfway point.

In all of the Left Behind books, the Trib Force studies with Tsion Ben Judah, a Messianic Jew who posts teachings over the

worldwide network. Sometimes, it seems as if some of the decisions made by the Trib Force are rather shallow. This deepened my personal search for what scriptures actually said, but unbelievers or immature believers might accept it as Gospel truth.

Book Six, *The Assassins*, also hit the market in 1999, to immediate rave reviews. It soon reached number two on the bestseller lists of *The New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *Publishers Weekly*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and many others. One kind of weird story line, in this book, is the plan by a member of the Tribulation Force who sees himself as fulfilling a portion of prophecy by assassinating Carpathia.

The Indwelling, Book Seven, and *The Mark*, Book Eight, were both published in 2000—a heavy writing load for Jerry Jenkins. By now, the first three-and-one-half-years of the Tribulation have been completed. The scripture verse from Revelation 12:12 captures the essence of *The Indwelling*: “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.” Satan now indwells Nicolae Carpathia. While he’s spouting “the cause of peace and harmony” and calling black, white, and white, black, the world suffers from the effects of his cruelty.

The Mark is what Christians might expect—the time during the tribulation when all citizens must receive a mark on their forehead, so that they may buy and sell. Reminiscent of the current dictator of Iraq’s handling of his people, Carpathia institutes the use of the “loyalty enforcement facilitator,” a hideous death contraption.

By this time in the series, the storyline seems to move rather slowly. The timeline that Dr. LaHaye sets for each book covers a very short span of time, and the latter books seem to have less “meat” in them. Nevertheless, one can see the forces of good and evil posed to capture the very souls of men and women around the globe.

Book Nine, *Desecration*, tells the story of Carpathia following the very path that Jesus Christ walked to the temple in Jerusalem,

where the horrible desecration takes place. At twenty-five days into the Great Tribulation, and with the lines drawn between Truth and the lie, God inflicts judgment upon those who have taken the mark. At the same time, God’s chosen ones flee for safety to the wilderness. Many exciting battles involve airplanes.

Secular reviewers of the books are now calling them, “Wildly popular—and highly controversial.” (*USA Today*) and “... juiced-up morality tale.” (*Entertainment Weekly*).

When *The Remnant*, Book Ten, hit the streets, I bought it, started it, and frankly, I haven’t finished it. Starting at just one month into the Great Tribulation, it moved so slowly that I couldn’t get into it. Friends, who did finish it, said the same thing—“it was a slow mover. It took a third to half of the book for the storyline to pick up.” The remnant of believers are amassed a million strong in Petra (today’s Jordan). The earth, a wasted shell, staggers under the judgments of heaven. Carpathia continues to kill anyone who does not swear total allegiance to him.

Certainly, this Christian book series has set the world on its ear. More unbelievers have read this set of books, than any others from the Christian market. The books are available in most secular bookstores. One can only hope that the Truth written into the stories has influenced lives in a positive way; perhaps, driving people to the Scriptures to examine for themselves exactly what God said about the “time of the end.” Many readers, having enjoyed a novel by a particular author, may go searching for other titles. With over one hundred fifty books to their combined credit, readers may find Jerry Jenkins and Tim LaHaye good reading in other genres: biography, mystery, contemporary fiction, Bible study, and self help, to name just a few.

Book Eleven, *Armageddon*, set in the seventh and last year of the Great Tribulation, was released in early 2003. Visit www.leftbehind.com to read the first chapter and learn other Left Behind information. And watch the bestseller lists to see what happens to this one.

THE BOOKS IN THE LEFT BEHIND SERIES

by Helen Hunter

All of the Left Behind books are published by Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois. They are available in hardcover and trade paperback. All are available in large print, audiotapes, and CD’s.

Left Behind: A Novel of the Earth’s Last Days, ISBN 0842329110, \$22.99.

Tribulation Force: The Continuing Drama of Those Left Behind, ISBN 0842329137, \$22.99.

Nicolae: The Rise of the Antichrist, ISBN 0842329145, \$22.99.

Soul Harvest: The World Takes Sides, ISBN 0842329153, \$22.99.

Apollyon: The Destroyer is Unleashed, ISBN 0842329161, \$22.99.

The Assassins: Assignment Jerusalem, Target: Antichrist, ISBN 084232920X, \$22.99.

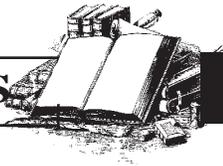
The Indwelling: The Beast Takes Possession, ISBN 0842329285, \$22.99.

The Mark: The Beast Rules the World, ISBN 0842332251, \$22.99.

Desecration: Antichrist Takes the Throne, ISBN 084233226X, \$24.99.

The Remnant: On the Brink of Armageddon, ISBN 0842332278, \$24.99.

Armageddon: The Cosmic Battle of the Ages, ISBN 0842332340, \$24.99.



***B is for bulldozer : a construction ABC* / by June Sobel; illustrated by Melissa Iwai. LCCN 2001006869. San Diego: Harcourt, 2003. HBB, 0152022503, \$16.00. Small children. Rating: 3**

E. Roller coasters--Fiction; Building--Fiction; Construction equipment--Fiction; Alphabet; Stories in rhyme. 32 p.

What young child isn't fascinated by the hustle and bustle of construction action? There are huge trucks, a lot of loud sounds, along with constant movement to watch. Combine construction action with the ongoing development of an amusement park and here is a book that a beginning reader/listener will want to repeat over and over again. *B Is for Bulldozer* is a great introduction to what a big-project

construction site is all about, as Wonderland takes shape before the reader's very eyes.

The author, June Sobel, inspired by her young son's interest in bulldozers and such, created a story that captures the sounds and sights of big trucks and busy builders. Illustrator Melissa Iwai complements the simple rhyming text with soft, vibrant acrylic colors. This concept alphabet book has text and illustrations that flow well, from the asphalt being poured to the zooming of happy children on the completed roller coaster ride.

Among the plethora of books about trucks and construction for young readers, *B Is for Bulldozer* has a winsome appeal that is just as fun to read aloud as it is to listen to. More than just another alphabet book, it has plenty of eye

and ear appeal, encouraging discussion about the different aspects of building, from ground clearing to grand opening.

Pam Webb, Writer. Highlights for Children, School Library Journal, Sandpoint, Idaho



***Bear snores on* / Karma Wilson; illustrations by Jane Chapman. LCCN 28371. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2001. HBB, 0689831870, \$16.00. Small children. Rating: 5**

E. Bears--Fiction; Animals--Fiction; Parties--Fiction; Stories in rhyme. unp.

Bear is exhausted and snuggles down in his den for a long winter's nap. While he sleeps, the

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

- 5 The best you can find on this subject/area- buy even if you have a very small library/small budget
- 4 Very good, strong appeal—buy if you possibly can
- 3 Good, will be useful—buy if you have a bit more money
- 2 Pretty good, nice to add to complement other titles in an area—buy if you have a larger budget
- 1 Poor—Not necessary to purchase

* Outstanding Book of Its Genre

Commonly Used Abbreviations in CLJ Reviews

LCCN Library of Congress cataloging number
 C Canadian Library cataloging number
 ISBN International Standard Book Number

HBB Hardbound book
 PAP Paperbound book
 LIB Library edition
 LGP Large print book
 CAS Audiocassette

CDR CD-ROM
 VID Videocassette
 LLB Loose-leaf binding

wind howls and the snow blows, but Bear sleeps on. A tiny mouse finds Bear's den, starts a warm fire, and begins to pop corn. Bear snoozes on, undisturbed. Hare, badger, gopher, mole, raven, and wren soon join Mouse, and a lively party ensues. All is well, until mouse accidentally sprinkles pepper in Bear's nose. Bear awakens, at once, with a horrid sneeze, a nasty growl, and upset to find a party going on in his own lair, to which he hasn't been invited. The other animals reassure Bear that they have plenty of food and drink and would love to include him in the fun. The party starts with renewed vigor, and continues until all of the animals fall fast asleep, except Bear, who sits holding his new friends in his lap and looks out the cave door at the snowy night.

Bear Snores On, written by Karma Wilson and illustrated by Jane Chapman, is a delightfully charming story with appeal for toddlers through preschoolers. Whether used as a bedtime story or a storytime treasure, Wilson has assuredly made a successful debut. Jane Chapman has illustrated such winning books as *Dora's Chicks* written by Julie Sykes (Tiger Tales, 2002) and the *Big Mouse* and *Little Mouse* duo written by Diana Hendry, *The Very Noisy Night* (Puffin, reprint, 2001) and *The Very Busy Day* (Dutton Books, 2002). Chapman has outdone herself with colorful, bright, and cozy illustrations that draw the reader closer to the friendly, yet realistic looking animals. Light humor is a welcome relief, as both parents and librarians discover this sure-to-be-a-classic, rhythmic tale. Highly recommended for all picture book collections.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Churchville, New York.

***Bubba and Beau go night-night* / Kathi Appelt, Arthur Howard. LCCN 2002006311. San Diego: Harcourt, 2003. HBB, 1552045937, \$16.00. Small children. Rating: 3**

E. Babies--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction; Bedtime--Fiction. 32 p.

Bubba and Beau Go Night-Night by Kathi Appelt and Arthur Howard uses the accent of the southwest to tell the tale of how one little boy and his puppy spend their day. A sequel, of sorts, to *Bubba and Beau Best Friends*, also written by Kathi Appelt and illustrated by Arthur Howard, this is a fun read-aloud. In this episode, Bubba and Beau go to town with their beloved Big Bubba, in his big red truck named Earl. They visit the Feed and Seed, shoot the breeze, buy stamps, thump watermelons and lick raspberry swirl cones from the Freezee Deluxe. And after such a long day, everyone is ready for bed. Big Bubba and Mama Pearl sure are tired, but Bubba and Beau are wide-awake. Going bye-bye is far more to their liking than going night-night. Looks like, in order to get these two settled down, another outing for Earl is in store, which is just fine, because Big Bubba doesn't mind a bit.

Part of this book's appeal is that it's all about a baby's day being told Texas-style. Another is how it is downright entertaining just looking at the crayon-washed, comic-styled illustrations of Arthur Howard, who also illustrates the Mr. Putter and Tabby series by Cynthia Rylant. Although it's difficult to tell if this is a long picture story or a quick chapter book, it really makes no difference, because it still comes out fun, and could easily be squeezed on the shelf.

Pam Webb, Writer, Sandpoint, Idaho. Credits: Highlights for Children, School Library Journal

***Chewy Louie* / by Howie Schneider. LCCN 21106. Flagstaff, Ariz.: Rising Moon, 2000. HBB, 0873587650, \$15.95. Small children. Rating: 5**

E. Dogs--Fiction; Animals--Infancy--Fiction; Pets--Fiction. unpag.

Chewy Louie is an adorable black puppy. However, just as if he'd been called "Nipper," his name is a clue to his behavior. Chewy Louie chews, eats, and devours everything. He eats his dog food, his dog dish, his owner's toy trains, and the train station. When he begins to eat the back porch of their house, the family who owns him becomes a little concerned.

Chewy Louie, written and illustrated by Howie Schneider, is a delightfully exaggerated look at what it's like to live with a puppy. Louie eats absolutely everything he sees. This fact is emphasized by the book's clever, cartoon-like, color pencil illustrations, which highlight the progressive destruction of the house, showing damage not even mentioned in the text.

The text is clever, too. It's short and simple, just a sentence or two per page, but not one word is extraneous. Each line Schneider writes builds on the previous one and makes perfect sense, considering Louie and his fondness for chewing. Each line, also, is hilarious, in a subtle, understated way. The ending, how the family gets Louie to stop chewing, fits perfectly with the rest of the story, and will ring true to anyone who's ever owned a puppy.

Chewy Louie will delight its audience. The book is geared to children aged five to eight. Young children will love hearing of Louie's escapades. Older children will appreciate the wit of the writing and the surprises in the illustrations. Adults will enjoy reading this book aloud. Highly recommend for all collections.

Rosemarie DiCristo, Freelance Writer, The Bronx, New York.

***Clarence goes Out West and meets a purple horse* / written and illustrated by Jean Edman Adams. LCCN 99048293. Flagstaff, Ariz.: Rising Moon, 2000. HBB, 0873587537, \$15.95. Small children. Rating: 4**

E. Pigs--Fiction; Horses--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Ranch life--West (U.S.)--Fiction; West (U.S.)--Fiction. unpag.

***Clarence and the purple horse bounce into town* / written and illustrated by Jean Edman Adams. LCCN 2002073966. Flagstaff, Ariz.: Rising Moon, 2003. HBB, 0873588266, \$15.95. Small children. Rating: 4**

E. City and town life--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Pigs--Fiction; Horses--Fiction; Food habits--Fiction. unpag.

Clarence Goes Out West and Meets a Purple Horse tells the story of Clarence, a bright pink pig who visits a dude ranch and meets Smokey, a boldly purple horse who works at the ranch. They become best friends and do everything together. When Clarence learns Smokey is too old to continue working at the ranch, he worries about his friend's fate.

In *Clarence and the Purple Horse Bounce into Town*, book three in the series, Clarence finally returns to his beloved city apartment, after spending months out west with Smokey and their dog, Edgar, whom they met in book two (*Clarence and the Great Surprise*, CLJ, v.7, no. 2-3). They enjoy city life and are happy to be home, until living in a city without hay and mountain air sickens Smokey. Then, Clarence must decide whether or not to return to the West with him.

Both books are written in short, simple sentences, perfect for children three to six. There's also enough subtle humor to keep adults interested in the story.

Jean Ekman Adams' boldly colored, quirky illustrations nicely highlight her prose, while adding humor. Her drawings of Smokey spread-eagled and taking a siesta, or participating in line dancing, or riding an escalator, will delight children.

Children will enjoy finding out that Smokey is based on a real rescued horse. Both children and adults will, also, enjoy the stories' emphasis on Clarence and Smokey's friendship. An example: Clarence saves Smokey by using his bus money to buy Smokey. He then rides Smokey all the way home. "It might take a long time," the text notes. "Maybe years." Note that Smokey teaches Clarence to play cards. Highly recommended for all collections.

Rosemarie DiCristo, Freelance Writer, The Bronx, New York.

***Ella Sarah gets dressed* / Margaret Chodos-Irvine. LCCN 2002005097. San Diego: Harcourt, 2003. HBB, 0152164138, \$16.00. Small children. Rating: 4**

E. Clothing and dress--Fiction; Individuality--Fiction. unpag.

Ella Sarah, a precocious preschooler, has her own ideas about what she wants to wear today. Her mother suggests she wears a nice blue dress; her father suggests a sporty, play outfit; and her

sister tells Ella Sarah that she looks just plain silly and should wear her sister's hand-me-downs, instead. Ella Sarah insists upon wearing her pink polka-dot pants, dress with the orange-and-green flowers, purple-and-blue striped socks, yellow shoes, and bright red hat with an orange flower sticking out of the top. After she wriggles her way into this colorful outfit, Ella Sarah proudly looks into the mirror at her 'just right' reflection. The doorbell rings, announcing the arrival of her friends. Ella Sarah is greeted with resounding approval from her equally, colorfully dressed guests.

Ella Sarah Gets Dressed by Margaret Chodos-Irvine, is a story about a young girl who is blossoming into a little person with needs and wants separate from Mom and Dad. Young listeners can relate to the need for independence to choose their own clothing, and parents can relate to the discordant visuals often put together by excited youngsters. Although presentation of autonomy borders on disrespect, story is written in easy to understand prose that holds appeal for preschool storytimes and beginning readers. Illustrations are large, bright, and colorful, with multi-cultural appeal. Collage-like style is reminiscent of Ezra Jack Keats' Caldecott Medal winner, *The Snowy Day* (Viking Press, 1962) and Leo Lionni's Caldecott Honor book, *Frederick* (Knopf, 1987). Chodos-Irvine has illustrated picture books written by Janet S. Wong, Theodore Taylor, and others. This is her first book to both write and illustrate. Recommended for all library collections.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Churchville, New York.

***Even firefighters hug their moms* / Christian Kole MacLean; illustrated by Mike Reed. LCCN 2002004449. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2002. HBB, 0525469966, \$15.99. Small children. Rating: 3**

E. Occupations--Fiction; Imagination--Fiction; Mother and child--Fiction. unip.

Meet Big Frank, the Firefighter. No wait, now he's Officer Dave, and he and his police dog are catching criminals and putting them in jail. Is that an EMT? There goes the garbage man! Hold on, now, this boy can do anything! In *Even Firefighters Hug Their Moms*, we meet a boy who spends all day in imaginative play. As he and his sister shift from character to character, Mom cuts in, asking for hugs. Each time the boy is too busy. In the end, though, she gets her hug, and both mom and son enjoy it thoroughly.

Any preschool parent will immediately relate to the pretend play of this boy. Illustrator Mike Reed matches this familiar feel as he shows the boy and girl in different rooms, transforming all kinds of common household objects into amazing occupational tools. The soft muted textures of the illustrations are cute, the people doll-like. Told in first person, by the boy himself, the text is simple and sweet. Author

Christine Kole MacClean's first picture book is a celebration of family fun, definitely one for the cuddling chair.

Karen Brehmer, Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School, Bremerton, Washington.

***Firefighter Frank* / Monica Wellington. LCCN 2002514940. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2002. HBB, 0525470212, \$14.99. Small children. Rating: 3**

E. Firefighters--Fiction; New York (N.Y.)--Fiction. unip.

Firefighter Frank tells the story of a typical day in the life of a firefighter. Frank and his coworkers clean up and check the equipment. They teach a group of school children about fire fighting and fire safety. The firefighters prepare a meal together and they are interrupted by the alarm. At the big fire, each fire fighter has a different job. They bravely work together, quickly, to put the fire out, and Frank rescues a child from a burning apartment building. After the fire, the firefighters clean their equipment before returning to the firehouse. Exhausted, they are thankful for their dinner, even if it is cold, and they are glad they can rest. But they are always ready for the next alarm.

Detailed illustrations, bold and brightly colored, are cartoon-like. The friendly faces will appeal to very young children. Paragraphs appear on the left hand page, bordered by drawings of various objects. The page on the right shows the action of the story. The pictures scream for attention, yet, the text is lengthy enough that some listeners may find it difficult to sit through a group reading. On the back page, Firefighter Frank has listed important safety tips for us to learn.

Monica Wellington offers a nice story with information interesting enough for the preschool crowd. However the scenarios are typical, similar to other books on this theme. There is not much story here, other than the basic outline of a firefighter's duties. It's a fine book to teach children about firefighting, a good read before a trip to the firehouse. However, if you have books on the subject, there really isn't much to set this book apart.

Karen Brehmer, Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School, Bremerton, Washington.

***Five green and speckled frogs* / Priscilla Burris. LCCN 2001049084. New York: Scholastic, 2003. PAP, 0439354897, \$12.95. Small children. Rating: 5**

E. Frogs--Fiction; Insects--Fiction; Counting. 32 p.

What could be livelier than five green and speckled frogs off to a picnic, dining on most delicious bugs? Maybe four green and speckled frogs in the cool pool dining on most delicious bugs; or maybe even three green and speckled

frogs sitting on a log. You guessed it, dining on most delicious bugs.

Young children will giggle gleefully as they follow these brightly clad rompsters boisterously enjoying their summer fun. The fact that they are also practicing counting will not hinder the fun in the least. In *Five Green and Speckled Frogs*, Priscilla Burris, author and illustrator, has not only dressed her fine speckled friends in garish, full color, summer outfits, but she has also accented them and the object of their dining pleasure, the flies, with silvery iridescent glitter for a sparkling retelling of this delightfully crazy rhyme.

Judy Driscoll, Teacher, Christ the King Academy, Poulso, Washington

***How do dinosaurs get well soon?* / Jane Yolen; illustrated by Mark Teague. LCCN 2002006575. New York: Blue Sky Press, 2003. HBB, 0439241006, \$15.95. Small children. Rating: 5**

E. Sick--Fiction; Dinosaurs--Fiction; Stories in rhyme. unip.

How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon? "Does he drop dirty tissues all over the floor?" "Does he fling all his medicine out of the door?" Exploring all the aspects of dealing with the flu, from drippy noses to getting sick in a pail, may not seem funny when one is faced with the problem, but when artist Mark Teague and author Jane Yolen teamed up on this hilarious quest of following dinosaurs through their disease, the result is a great adventure. Mark Teague's flamboyant, acrylic illustrations strike a believable balance between the gigantic size of dinosaurs in human habitations and their very human caretakers. From doctor's office to living room sofa and on to messy bedroom, each dinosaur (and there are eleven different ones identified with their scientific names) confronts a separate aspect of the good, old-fashioned flu in this story sure to make even the youngest runny-nosed reader laugh at his infirmity.

Judy Driscoll, Teacher, Christ the King Academy, Poulso, Washington.



***I don't want to be lunch* / written by Michael Ambrosio; illustrated by Bob Langan. LCCN 2001097860. Folsom, Calif.: LionX Pub., 2002. HBB, 0971608504, \$16.95. Small children. Rating: 5**

E. Squirrels--Fiction; Prayer--Fiction. unip.



***I don't want to take a nap* / written by Michael Ambrosio; illustrated by Bob Langan. LCCN 2002102883. Folsom, Calif.: LionX Pub., 2002. HBB, 0971608512, \$16.95. Small children. Rating: 5**

E. Squirrels--Fiction. unsp.

I Don't Want To Be Lunch is a story about Nutsy, a precocious young squirrel, who loves nuts. When his mother must run some errands, he is told to stay near home, because there is a bear prowling about nearby. Soon after Mom leaves, Nutsy is flying and air skating from tree to tree. Suddenly, Nutsy spots the largest, most delectable looking nut ever and decides he must eat it. All is clear, so Nutsy makes the leap, only to be caught by the hungry bear, determined to make Nutsy his next meal. Nutsy begs and pleads, but to no avail. Nutsy begins to pray, and his rescuer arrives in the form of a gigantic squirrel, which quickly dispenses with the bear. Nutsy realizes his deliverance has come from God and thankfully learns his lesson.

I Don't Want To Take a Nap! is a tale about Bobby, an adorable bear who loves to play outside. When winter arrives and he must take his long nap, Bobby pulls out all the stops to avoid sleep. Mom is patient when Bobby is thirsty, gets wrapped in his blankets, has had a bad dream, among other antics. After several of these excuses to evade sleep, Mom finally loses her patience and calls Papa bear in to help out. Papa bear patiently sets Bobby on his lap, and Bobby immediately begins to be comforted. Soon both Papa and Bobby are fast asleep.

Both books, written by Michael Ambrosio and illustrated by Bob Langan, are delightful stories for preschool to early readers. Language used is simple, understandable, and engages both parent and child. Ambrosio's prose personifies the personal touch of years of making up bedtime stories for his own children. Langan, a fifteen-year veteran of illustration and animation, has chosen a colorful comic book style, similar to illustrations by Jack Kent and Stan and Jan Berenstain, that will attract young eyes. Highly recommended for picture book collections.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Churchville, New York.

***If I had a tail* / by Karen Clemens Warrick ; illustrated by Sherry Neidigh. LCCN 51007. Flagstaff, Ariz.: Rising Moon, 2001. HBB, 0873587812, \$15.95. Small children. Rating: 3**

E. Tail--Fiction; Animals--Fiction. unsp.

If I Had A Tail, written by Karen Clemens Warrick and illustrated by Sherry Neidigh, is a picture book that can also be used as a guessing game for its readers. Seven colorful illustrations of animal tails are presented. The challenge is to guess the animal's identity from the illustration of its tail and from the clues in the text. Full-body drawings of the animal appear on the next two-page spread. The animals portrayed are the alligator, skunk, platypus, lizard, opossum, peacock, and seahorse.

Warrick's text is simple and direct and gives the reader both real and fanciful details about each animal, as when she describes the skunk as

having a bushy black-and-white tail "like a snuggly slipper." Neidigh's gorgeous, full-color illustrations are done in incredible detail. Rendered in gouache and colored pencil and boldly done in mostly greens, oranges, blues, and golds, they beautifully depict each animal in its natural setting.

There may be a limited amount of re-readings in a book like this. After all, once a child guesses the animal's identity a few times, the surprise is lost. But *If I Had A Tail* encourages children to use the ideas in the book to play the tail guessing game with every animal they see. Also, the book's illustrations are lovely enough to encourage children to read it again and again.

Older children will best appreciate the guessing game aspect of the book, but younger children will enjoy having the book read to them and playing the guessing game with an adult. It's a nice book, beautifully produced, and a good addition to most libraries.

Rosemarie DiCristo, Freelance Writer, The Bronx, New York.

***Katie's wish* / Barbara Shook Hazen; illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully. LCCN 2001028254. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2002. HBB, 0803724780, \$15.99. Small children. Rating: 4**

E. Famines--Ireland--Fiction; Emigration and immigration--Fiction; Ireland--History--Famine, 1845-1852--Fiction. unsp.

Katie's Wish is that the potatoes will go away. It's mid-1800s Ireland and that is all the family has to eat. Katie's Mam has died and her Da has gone to America to find a better life. Katie lives with her Grand Da and Grannie. Katie begins to rue her words when, overnight, the potato crop all across Ireland begins to rot. Katie's prize possession is a letter from her Da saying he will send for her soon. She shares this news with her best friend, the family pig, Pig.

Katie is sure her wish brought about Ireland's widespread crop failure. In order to atone for it, she goes out of her way to help her family. Confiding her hopes and fears to Pig, her feelings of guilt only deepen when he must be sold at market. In town, she sees many people who are worse off than they are, hungry and begging for food. They meet the village priest on the way home, a kindly man who has words of encouragement that Grand Da does not want to hear. The priest gives Katie a bag of sweets, but her guilt won't allow her to keep them. She gives them to a beggar woman by the side of the road.

When Grannie becomes ill, Katie is deeply distressed, sure that this, too, is her fault. Upon Grannie's recovery, Grand Da decides he and Grannie will move in with their son. As Katie wonders what will happen to her, Grand Da tells her that cousin Brian will take her to America.

The two set off for the ship that will convey hundreds of immigrants to Boston, joining Katie's Da who is staying with her Mam's sister, Meg.

Illustrator Emily Arnold McCully reflects the seriousness of the situation using subdued watercolors. The story's happy conclusion is punctuated by a change from muted grays and browns to cheerful, more inviting colors.

Christian principles, throughout the writing, are presented without overt preaching, especially that of enduring through suffering. Katie is a well-developed character with whom little girls will identify. This brief glimpse into a dark period of Irish history has some subtle political undertones that will be overlooked by most young readers. Author Barbara Shook Hazen includes an author's note at the beginning of the book that provides historical background, as well as a brief mention of the aftermath of the famine.

Laurie Woolery, Freelance Writer, Cottonwood, California.

***The Little Red Train* / by Carl Sommer; illustrated by Kennon James. (Another Sommer-time story.) 99035277: Houston, 2000. LIB, 1575370611, \$14.95; HBB, 157537014X, \$9.95. Small children. Rating: 3**

E. Railroads--Trains--Fiction; Perseverance (Ethics)--Fiction. unsp.

Three boastful big trains insist the Little Red Train is incapable of doing anything important, but when a blizzard prevents the people of a mountain town from getting food, the big trains refuse to help. It's up to the Little Red Train to save the day.

On the surface, this sounds like a story that's been written many times before, but *The Little Red Train* by Carl Sommer has a twist: try as he might, the Little Red Train can't make it up the mountain alone. Only with the assistance of a kind family from the valley, who helps the Train clear the tracks of snow, can the Train complete his rescue trip.

The Another Sommer-Time Stories are a series of eighteen picture books written to teach positive values and attitudes to children. Each book is complete in itself, with different plots and characters. *The Little Red Train* is a pleasant story with a fairytale look and sound. It is written in simple language that's rhythmic enough to be appealing as a read-aloud, and easy enough for older readers to read to themselves. The story stresses perseverance and teamwork, with a nice lesson about the good things in life taking a little effort. Kennon James' colorful, cartoon-like illustrations should delight children. As a bonus, the book includes the words and music for the "Try, Try, Try" song the Train and townspeople sing. But despite all this and the plot twist, the story really is a familiar

one, and this book may not be a necessary purchase for libraries with tight budgets.

Rosemarie DiCristo, *Children's Writer, The Bronx, New York.*

Miss Hunnicutt's hat / Jeff Brumbeau, Gail de Marcken. New York: Scholastic Press, 2003. PAP, 0439318955, \$16.95. Small children (Elementary). Rating: 4

E. Hats--Fiction; Humorous stories. unsp.

The whole town of Littleton may be of one mind in preparing for the visit from the Queen, but Miss Hunnicutt is having no part in it. Nothing is going to keep Miss Hunnicutt from her routine of shopping at three o'clock on Tuesday. Off to the market she goes, wearing a hat that will not only attract undo attention but proves to be the undoing of the whole town. On her head, Miss Hunnicutt wears an ordinary blue felt hat trimmed in green and yellow ribbons, but extraordinarily it is topped with a live, black and white hen, direct from Paris! Well, Paris or not, no one in Littleton is going to embarrass the town in front of the queen, as nosy Mrs. McSnoot is quick to point out with her bony finger, which the chicken proceeds to bite "fast and hard." Mrs. McSnoot's howls draw the attention of every citizen and animal in Littleton and, as the next fifteen pages illustrate graphically, things go from bad to worse, as the town erupts into catastrophes. The town may be a mess, but Miss Hunnicutt has had the presence of mind to open her goose umbrella and protect her lovely, happily clucking hat. Hardly has the commotion subsided to a low roar, when the Queen's entourage approaches. The limousine stops, as the Queen calls for the prim Miss Hunnicutt in her outrageous hat. What does the Queen's royal guard produce from the back seat of her limo, but an equally outrageous, flowered hat sporting a live turkey! Miss Hunnicutt, who has been insisting throughout the story that she has the right to wear what she likes, and that she won't wear a platypus, or a rhinoceros, or a myriad of other animals, is offered not only a trade of hats with the Queen but an invitation to a bash in the palace, both of which Miss Hunnicutt readily accepts. As might be predicted, soon everyone in Littleton is sporting newly decorated hats of the animal sort, and the town has learned that everyone has the right to be himself or herself.

In *Miss Hunnicutt's Hat*, author Jeff Brumbeau has created a rollickingly fantastic story most likely too long for the average pre-school listener. However, the vibrant, acrylic illustrations by Gail de Marcken transport the reader into the fantasy. Her expressive paintings, which capture so completely the personalities of the characters, are full of the life and action that hold the attention of the primary level crowd.

Judy Driscoll, *Teacher, Christ the King Academy, Poulso, Washington.*

My friend Rabbit / Eric Rohmann. LCCN 2002017764. Brookfield, Ct.: Roaring Brook Press, 2002. LIB, 0761324208, \$22.90; HBB, 0761315357, \$15.95. Small children. Rating: 5

E. Friendship--Fiction; Rabbits--Fiction; Mice--Fiction; Animals--Fiction. unsp.

Winner of the 2002 Caldecott Award, *My Friend Rabbit* is an almost wordless picture book both written and illustrated by Eric Rohmann. A spare story of friendship, which, literally, has its ups and downs, it is told by the ever-patient Mouse who lets readers know, that whatever he does, wherever he goes, Rabbit will be a friend. Mouse receives an airplane as a gift. My friend Rabbit helps launch the plane, with mouse on board, on its inaugural flight, only to have Mouse tumble out and the plane become stuck in a tree. As Mouse tells what happens when Rabbit's best intentions go awry, Mouse's expressions convey his feelings.

Young readers will delight in the colored woodblock illustrations. We watch Rabbit's efforts and exertions as he tells Mouse, "Not to worry, Mouse. I've got an idea!" time and again, with each idea leading to more difficulty. The final illustration, shown on the back cover of the book, lets readers know that friendship endures, even though "Whatever Rabbit does, Wherever Rabbit goes, trouble follows." Rohmann's skillful use of page space, as well as his use of a vertical spread for the center illustration, encourage participation and comments, especially on the final page.

Leslie Greaves Radloff, *Librarian / Media Specialist, Rondo IRC, St. Paul Public Schools, St. Paul, Minnesota*

A nose like a hose / by Jenny Samuels. New York: Scholastic, 2003. HBB, 0439373034, \$12.95. Small children. Rating: 4

E. Elephants--Fiction; Noses--Fiction. 32 p.

Author and illustrator Jenny Samuels is sure to draw giggles from pre-schoolers and kindergarteners alike, as they watch the gyrations of a baby elephant with *A Nose Like a Hose*. Her bright illustrations of "bows on my nose..." which "get caught in my toes" and a myriad of animals waving back when baby elephant demonstrates how he can "wave it around and get lots of hellos", might serve as a challenge for first and second graders to see if they can discover even more uses for a nose like a hose. The fact that singing "...with the crows in a row on my nose" makes "...me sneeze BIG Blows!" should not keep anyone from exploring the possibilities of *A Nose Like a Hose*.

Judy Driscoll, *Teacher, Christ the King Academy, Poulso, Washington.*

You move you lose / by Carl Sommer; illustrated by Kennon James. (Another Sommer-time story.) 99035283: Houston, 2000. LIB, 1575370565, \$14.95; HBB, 1575370050, \$9.95. Small children. Rating: 3

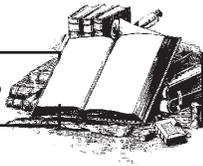
E. Obstinacy--Fiction; Bears--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction. unsp.

Stubby and Prissy, two bear cubs who are brother and sister, fight constantly. When they decide to settle one of their fights with a game of You Move, You Lose, things nearly turn tragic. A pair of raccoon burglars takes advantage of each cub's stubborn refusal to move by robbing their house. Then a wolf attacks a kitten. Will one cub move first, and lose the argument, to save the kitten?

You Move, You Lose, a picture book written by Carl Sommer provides a nice, age-appropriate lesson on the perils of having too fierce a sibling rivalry. Not only do Stubby and Prissy allow the burglars to steal from them and almost allow the kitten to be killed, but also all their friends become disgusted with their constant fighting and threaten to leave them.

The book is part of the Another Sommer-Time Story series, eighteen books meant to teach positive values to children. Each title, has different characters and plots, and can stand-alone. Kennon James' bright and bold illustrations nicely capture the action and spirit of the story, while subtly adding humor for adults reading the books aloud (i.e. the robber raccoons have fuzzy dice on the rearview mirror of their pickup truck). The text is simple enough for its age group (children aged four to eight), while still being entertaining. The story is sweet, and the lesson taught is clear enough to be understood by the youngest end of this group. There's a chance it may seem too sweet for older readers, mainly because of the innocent characters and simple, easily resolved plot. *You Move, You Lose* is more reminiscent of books published decades ago, versus modern picture books which rely on quirky humor for their appeal. It is a nice addition to most collections.

Rosemarie DiCristo, *Children's Writer, The Bronx, New York.*



Fly trap / by Sigmund Brouwer. (Watch out for Joel!.) LCCN 2002010734. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2003. PAP, 0764225839, \$3.99. Elementary. Rating: 2

F. Gifts--Fiction; Birthdays--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 32 p.

Fly Trap is a beginning reader, written for ages six-to-eight. The Biblical theme for this book is John 13:34, "Love one another." Joel and Ricky both want to make special gifts for their mom for her birthday. What can Joel possibly create using Popsicle sticks and a jar of frozen flies? At every step Ricky teases Joel about being a seven-year-old, but, in the end, Joel has the last laugh. A page of suggestions titled "To talk about" completes this short book, part of the Bethany Backyard series.

After recently reading other Sigmund Brouwer books (those written for older readers), it became obvious to me that the author's expertise does not lie in books for younger children. The story is mundane, with so much repetition as to be redundant. It is not highly recommended and in this reviewer's opinion, will prove unappealing to its intended audience.

Ceil Carey, Public Librarian, LTA, College of DuPage. Credits: *Christian Library Journal, Today's Libraries, Plano, Illinois.*

Freedom's wings / by Sharon Dennis Wyeth. (Corey's Underground Railroad diary; 1.) LCCN 59540. New York: Scholastic, 2001. HBB, 0439141001, \$10.95; PAP, 043936907X, \$4.99. Elementary. Rating: 5

F. African Americans--Fiction; Fugitive slaves--Fiction; Slavery--Fiction; Underground railroad--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction; Amherstburg (Ont.)--Fiction; Canada--History--1841-1867--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 112 p.

Flying free / by Sharon Dennis Wyeth. (Corey's Underground Railroad diary; 2.) LCCN 2001093848. New York: Scholastic, 2002. HBB, 0439369088, \$10.95; LIB, 0613455878, \$12.70. Elementary. Rating: 5

F. African Americans--Fiction; Fugitive slaves--Fiction; Slavery--Fiction; Underground railroad--Fiction; Canada--History--1841-1867--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction; Amherstburg (Ont.)--Fiction; Canada--History--1841-1867--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 103 p.

Message in the sky / by Sharon Dennis Wyeth. (Corey's Underground Railroad diary; 3.) LCCN 2002075758. New York: Scholastic, 2003. HBB, 0439370574, \$10.95; PAP, 0439370582, \$4.99. Elementary. Rating: 5

F. African Americans--Fiction; Fugitive slaves--Fiction; Slavery--Fiction; Underground railroad--Fiction; Homing pigeons--Fiction; Amherstburg (Ont.)--Fiction; Canada--History--1841-1867--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 112 p.

In the first episode of Corey's Underground Railroad Diary Series, Corey Birdsong, a slave on a Kentucky plantation, receives his diary from his father, Roland, who has taught him to read in "secreit," for this is against the common law at that time. Corey faithfully keeps his diary, daily writing "his mind," as his father has encouraged him to do, and hiding the book away in its "hidey hole." Corey loves birds, and his father has taught him their names, the birds' calls, and thus, Corey adopts the surname Birdsong for his family.

When the plantation owner, Mr. Hart, decides to sell him down the river, Roland flees during the night and heads north to Canada. Corey wants to follow but his mother, Angel, is fearful for their lives. It is only when Mr. Renfeld, a purported horse buyer who is, in reality, an agent for the underground railroad, arrives looking for Corey, that Corey and Angel, with the help of Mr. Renfeld, flee, via the Underground Railroad, for the Ohio River and freedom in Canada. At the end of book one Corey, Roland, Angel, and new baby sister Star are reunited at Lake Erie.

Book two, *Flying Free*, continues the Birdsong family story as they establish a home in Amherstburg, Ontario, Canada, and become productive members of a free community. Corey begins attending school, a long-wished for event in his life, and his father establishes himself as an accomplished blacksmith in Mr. Bentley's blacksmith shop. Angel helps their meager income with her sewing and becomes known as the best seamstress in Amherstburg. Corey rejoices with the arrival of his long-time friend, Mingo, in Amherstburg as he joins their family in freedom.

In Book Three, *Message In the Sky*, Corey and Mingo determine to bring Mingo's Aunt Queen, out of slavery. Corey longs to have a paying job, like Mingo, but his father says it is more important that he attend school. Finally, Corey gets a small job cleaning up the ferryboat as it docks in Amherstburg, and carrying packages for the captain. He and Mingo begin saving their money to buy Aunt Queen's freedom.

In the meantime, a new family, the Jenkins, comes to Amherstburg and the community begins trying to buy freedom for Mrs. Jenkins and her daughter, who were left behind in slavery. Through several exciting incidents, in which Corey, unwittingly, becomes an

Underground Railroad conductor himself, he is involved with slave catchers on the Ohio side of the border, and must use his hobby of training homing pigeons and all his survival skills to rescue Mrs. Jenkins and her daughter.

Finally, near the end of *Message in the Sky*, Corey and Mingo have the \$125 necessary to buy Aunt Queen's freedom, and they joyfully welcome her home to Canada.

Freedom's Wings (Book One) was named a Children's Book Council Notable Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies, an honor well deserved by author Sharon Dennis Wyeth. The other two books in this series are equally deserving. As with all titles in the popular My America series, these books contain interesting historical data, as well as photographs pertaining to slavery and the Underground Railroad as endnotes.

Judy Driscoll, Teacher, Christ the King Academy, Poulso, Washington.

Hear the wind blow / Mary Downing Hahn. LCCN 2002015977. New York: Clarion Books, 2003. HBB, 0618181903, \$15.00. Elementary (Middle school). Rating: 5

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Survival--Fiction; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Fiction; Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Fiction. 212 p.

Haswell Colby Magruder immediately grabs readers' attention in this Civil War story set in Virginia and told from his viewpoint. For a thirteen-year-old, he shows extraordinary courage, family loyalty, and determination in the search for Avery, his older brother, who is enlisted in the army.

The story begins, however, when a wounded Confederate soldier shows up, barely able to sit on his horse. Haswell persuades his mama to let the man in the house. James Marshall, the soldier, soon returns to health through the good care Haswell, his seven-year-old sister, Rachel, and their mama give him. They constantly watch, for fear that Yankee soldiers will brand them as traitors and kill them.

Before long, three Yankee soldiers do arrive, and life takes a terrible turn at the Magruder farm. Marshall and his horse flee, but the captain sends his two men after him. Mrs. Magruder shoots and kills the captain, then while she and the children hide in a gully, the soldiers return with Marshall's body and set fire to the house and barn. The trauma eventually causes Mrs. Magruder's death.

Haswell and Rachel set off on the captain's big, black horse to Grandma Colby's, "like Mama said." Once they arrive, Haswell knows he must ride on until he finds Avery and can tell him the sorrowful news.

A hard ride, hunger, fear, and time in jail become part of Haswell's search. Through a strange turn of events, one of the soldiers who helped cause the Magruders' heartache gets Haswell out of jail.

Once again, Haswell asks the Lord for help as he rides to the next town. Before long, he finds Avery, wounded and suffering, among many others. The war has ended in Virginia, and the sentry allows Avery to return with Haswell to Grandma's.

Mary Downing Hahn creates scenes as clear as a motion picture. She draws details from careful research, then places believable, likeable characters amidst the carnage of war. Throughout the story, genuine emotion flows from Hahn's meticulous writing.

Hear the Wind Blow has a pleasing appearance and a good feel in the hand. Even adults will find this book a good read.

Betsy M. Hockett, Writer, Teacher, Speaker. Credits: Christian Service Award 2003, George Fox University; 15 books; Newberg, Oregon.

Keats's neighborhood : an Ezra Jack Keats treasury / with an introduction by Anita Silvey. LCCN 2003266772. New York: Viking, 2002. HBB, 0670035866, \$25.00. Elementary (Small children).. Rating: 5

F. Keats, Ezra Jack; Keats, Ezra Jack--Bibliography; Children's stories. 126 p.

Combining stories with notes on the author and his work, *Keats's Neighborhood* has something for both children and adults. An introduction by Anita Silvey gives the reader a brief history of Ezra Jack Keats and his books, particularly the ones featuring Peter, a small African-American boy living in an urban neighborhood. Some of his best known works, such as *The Snowy Day*; *Hi, Cat*; *Whistle for Willie*; and more, are presented, interspersed with reflections from other authors, describing how Keats influenced them.

This wonderful work not only combines ten of Keats' great stories with his original artwork, but also gives us a view of his place in the history of children's books. Children can get to know Peter, his dog Willie, Louie, Jennie, and the other characters that fill Keats's neighborhood, while adults, librarians and writers particularly, get to know the story behind the stories. Artwork from the other authors is shown, also, making this book a gem for its illustrations as well.

Keats's Neighborhood is filled with quality work in literary, artistic, and children's literature

history areas. Keats's work is gentle and appealing, drawing our thinking into this special urban area. There is something for all ages in this book, with elementary age children enjoying the stories, while adults learn from the commentary. Recommended for school, public, and family libraries.

Betsy Ruffin Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas.

Light your candle / by Carl Sommer; illustrated by Kennon James. (Another Sommer-time story.) 99036452: Houston, 2000. LIB, 1575370689, \$14.95; HBB, 1575370190, \$9.95. Elementary. Rating: 3

F. Inner cities--Fiction; City and town life--Fiction. unip.

Light Your Candle is part of Advance Publishing's Another Sommer-Time Story series, eighteen books that attempt to painlessly teach values to children. Each book is complete in itself, with different characters and plots.

In *Light Your Candle*, Stephanie, Lori and Cindy live in a city neighborhood overrun by crime and filled with apathetic adults. They decide to do as much good as possible for one week, reasoning that helping even one person is a positive thing (in other words, lighting even one candle helps a bit). The idea of individuals helping individuals is a marvelous one, and it's a fine lesson to teach children, but when the girls begin instantly solving all their community's problems, the story turns sticky... and possibly dangerous, if real children try what the girls try.

When they confront a drug dealer, he just gets mad and yells at them. When their parents confront him, he runs off in fear. A disruptive school atmosphere is changed, solely, through one PTA meeting, where every parent vows their children will be better behaved from now on. The slum buildings the characters live in are cleaned and fixed, simply because the tenants ask the landlords to fix them. While author Carl Sommer has taught in New York City and "has witnessed some of the tragic events" described in the book, his solutions seem based on wishful thinking.

The characters are suitably multi-ethnic and Kennon Jones' illustrations are realistic, while still appearing upbeat. The story is well told, the girls' motivations are noble, and the lessons taught are wonderful. However, this book might be best for rural and suburban audiences, where the solutions presented would have a better chance of taking effect.

Rosemarie DiCristo, Children's Writer, The Bronx, New York.

Secret in the garden / inspired by Frances Hodgson Burnett's The secret garden; written and illustrated by James Mayhew. New York: Scholastic, 2003. HBB, 0439404355, \$15.95. Elementary. Rating: 4

F. Friendship--Fiction. 32 p.

Taking his inspiration from Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*, James Mayhew, author and illustrator of *Secret In the Garden*, has crafted a beautifully illustrated tale of little Sophie, who falls asleep in her yard while reading Burnett's classic novel. In this dreamy state, Sophie glimpses a shiny object in a nearby tree and, thereby, begins an adventure which brings her a key, which, in turn, opens a door to her own secret garden, where a parade of animal friends eventually leads her to a young girl.

Mary, her newfound friend, teaches her to jump rope, a skill Sophie has been trying to master. Sophie teaches Mary how to make daisy chains. Her mother's voice calling her brings Sophie out of her garden. Trailing her jump rope, Sophie wonders if she has really been sleeping, or if she has indeed found her own secret garden.

The joy in *Secret in the Garden* is not so much the fanciful story, but the beautiful watercolor, impressionist illustrations, which are a feast of color for the reader. Each double-page spread sports a tiny window, which not only frames part of the adventure on the next page, but, when the page is turned, points out small details, such as birds, butterflies, etc. from the painting on the page before. This feature not only draws the reader forward into the story, but, also, calls them back for a second look at the painting on the previous page, thus sharpening observation skills. Recommended for teaching children about impressionistic painting and how it can set the scene for a fantasy such as *Secret in the Garden*.

Judy Driscoll, Teacher, Christ the King Academy, Poughkeepsie, Washington.

There's a monster in the alphabet / James Rumford. LCCN 2001039893. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002. HBB, 0618221409, \$16.00. Elementary (Small children). Rating: 4

F. Cadmus (Greek mythology); Mythology, Greek; Alphabet. unip.

The history of the alphabet is combined with a Greek hero story in the informative and entertaining book, *There's a Monster in the Alphabet*, by James Rumford. The letters are placed in order to tell the story of Cadmus, who comes to Greece, slays monsters, and builds the city of Thebes. The pictorial origins of the letters are incorporated into the story, and the sequence is taken from the ancient order. Notes in the text and at the end provide more information about the ancient beginnings of the alphabet.

The Cadmus story comes complete with Greek gods, monsters, and magic. The illustrations, done in inks, watercolor, and gouache, were inspired by the vase-paintings of ancient Greek artist Psiax.

Though concerned with the alphabet, the book will be much better for older elementary students, than for younger ones. Its details about the origins of the alphabet are interesting. The last page lists the "descendants" of the Phoenician alphabet (English, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic) and could be used in language arts or social studies activities designed by imaginative teachers.

Betsy Ruffin Librarian/Teacher Cleburne, Texas.

***The thief lord* / Cornelia Funke; [English translation, Oliver Latsch]. LCCN 2002021037. New York: Scholastic, 2002. HBB, 0439404371, \$16.95; CAS, 0807209767, \$28.00. Elementary (Middle school). Rating: 5**

F. Runaways--Fiction; Robbers and outlaws--Fiction; Brothers--Fiction; Detectives--Fiction; Venice (Italy)--Fiction; Italy--Fiction. 349 p.

Cornelia Funke's popular adventure, *The Thief Lord*, was first published in her native Germany. The setting is modern, but the story has a taste of an earlier time in Europe. After the death of their mother, twelve-year-old Prosper and his five-year-old brother, Bo, flee from Hamburg, because their entirely unpleasant aunt and uncle, the Hartliebs, plan to adopt only Bo. Refusing to be split up, they choose residence in Venice, a city their mother had always loved and described for them in great detail.

Immediately, they hook up with petty thieves, youngsters like themselves, who have taken shelter in an abandoned movie theater. Though Prosper doesn't really like stealing, he feels he has no other option; he has to look out for Bo. Enter the elusive Thief Lord, a young boy named Scipio who steals jewels from fancy homes and is the leader of this band of ruffians. The plot thickens when the owner of a pawnshop has a special mission for the Thief Lord. A wealthy client wants him to steal a broken wooden wing, the key to completing a magical merry-go-round.

There is a nice build-up of suspense around the identity of the mysterious Thief Lord. The magical element of the carousel seems a bit out of place, since, up to that point, the genre of the book might have been described as realistic fiction. The characters are very likable, including the disguise-obsessed detective, even though he might be considered, by some, a "bad guy."

Although the theme of children stealing as a livelihood is objectionable, there is much more to the story than that. As one middle school reader put it, "If every book a child read was

about stealing, then perhaps parents would have to worry about *The Thief Lord*, but it is only one of many books that will be read by the average young reader." The adventure, the fantasy, and the concept of young people living on their own, without adults, all make this a popular choice for a school or public library.

Ceil Carey, Public librarian, LTA, College of DuPage. Credits: Christian Library Journal, Today's Libraries, Plano, Illinois.

***The unbreakable code* / by Sara Hoagland Hunter; illustrated by Julia Miner. LCCN 95026589. Flagstaff, Ariz.: Northland, 1996. HBB, 0873586387, \$15.95. Elementary. Rating: 4**

F. Navajo language--Fiction; Ciphers--Fiction; Navajo Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--Fiction; Grandfathers--Fiction; World War, 1939-1945--Fiction. unpag.

The Unbreakable Code uses a story within a story to tell the tale of the Navajo code talkers of World War II. John, a Native American boy who is dreading his mother's remarriage, is comforted by the story his grandfather tells him of his adventures as a code talker during the war. The book works best as the story of the code talkers. The remarriage subplot is resolved a bit too quickly.

The book is the size of a picture book but has more text per page. It's geared to children ages six-to-nine, and author, Sara Hoagland Hunter, includes enough detail to thoroughly cover her subject. The Navajos' adventures are portrayed as thrilling, heroic, and supremely patriotic. The reason the code was successful, and how it was used, is explained. The code itself is included in an appendix. The story even touches gently on the prejudices Native Americans faced in this country, and not so gently on the horrors of war. (There's mention of a creek running red with blood, as well as John's grandfather having to 'run over' fallen soldiers during a battle.)

The Unbreakable Code is well written, and would be a nice choice for most libraries. Julia Miller's illustrations, oil paintings done in pale earth tones, deftly capture the flavor of the book. The text contains a fine lesson on perseverance and using cultural pride to get through tough situations. The only possible concern is the part where John's grandfather says he survived the war because he was kept safe by the corn pollen the medicine man told him to carry in his wallet.

Rosemarie DiCristo, Freelance Writer, The Bronx, New York.

***Zathura : a space adventure* / written and illustrated by Chris Van Allsburg. LCCN 2002001751. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002. HBB, 0618253963, \$18.00. Elementary. Rating: 3**

F. Play--Fiction; Games--Fiction. unpag.

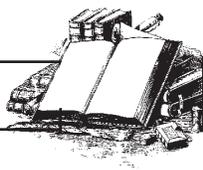
In this sequel to *Jumanji*, brothers Walter and Danny Budwing find another game board in the Jumanji box, this time a space adventure. As

they play, the actions listed on the cards really happen, including meteor showers, defective robots, Zorgon pirates, and more. A twist at the end brings the game to a safe close.

With his typical flair, Chris Van Allsburg has, in *Zathura*, given readers a worthy sequel to the previous, very popular, book. The plot twists and turns its way through surprises and fantasies to the satisfactory ending. The richly detailed black and white illustrations fit well with the story, giving the reader a view of the action that still encourages the imagination.

Those libraries and individuals who own *Jumanji* will want to own *Zathura*, as well. It is a well-done book, both in terms of story and illustrations, with strong reader appeal. Recommended especially for the elementary age children that are its primary target.

Betsy Ruffin Librarian/Teacher Cleburne, Texas.



***Me & God : a book of partner prayers / by Deb Lund; illustrated by Carolyn Digby Conahan.* LCCN 2002151129. Harrisburg, Penn.: Morehouse, 2003. HBB, 0819219118, \$9.95. Elementary. Rating: 4**

242'.82. Prayers. 20 p.

When author Deb Lund entitled her book *Me and God*, she was not simply ignoring the conventions of grammar, but was, instead, looking at relationships from a young child's viewpoint. "Me" is most important, and that is the focus of this small book of ten prayers. Here, young children can explore their relationship with God in the activities of daily life. Each two-page spread presents a Bible verse and one short prayer, which can be recited as a litany.

When friends and I are out at play,

God smiles at me.

When I don't have a perfect day,

God smiles at me.

And in the faces that I see,

God smiles at me.

And in the mirror, could it be?

God smiles at me.

Colorful watercolor illustrations, full of activity, by illustrator Carolyn Digby Conahan have an international feel, making them suitable for any culture group. Children can easily identify with stomping in mud puddles, a dog raising havoc in a sandbox, and a quite messy little boy admiring his soap suds beard in a mirror, making this an enticing book for use with pre-school and kindergarten students in the home, school, or Sunday School classroom. The prayers could also be useful as recitation pieces for a Sunday school program.

Judy Driscoll, Teacher, Christ the King Academy, Poulso, Washington

***Can you guess my name? : traditional tales around the world / [selected and retold] by Judy Sierra; illustrated by Stefano Vitale.* LCCN 2002003509. New York: Clarion Books, 2002. HBB, 0618133283, \$20.00. Elementary. Rating: 5**

398.2. Tales; Folklore. 110 p.

Similarities in folktales from around the world are the idea behind *Can You Guess My Name:*

Traditional Tales Around the World, selected and retold by Judy Sierra. Groups of tales are arranged to show likeness in theme to five familiar stories: The Three Pigs, The Bremen Town Musicians, The Frog Prince, Rumpelstiltskin, and Hansel and Gretel. Stories from five different continents included: Argentina, Japan, China, South Africa, and more, as well as ethnic groups from the United States. Notes at the end add a bit more information to the stories and the cultures from which they originated.

The stories are well chosen and well told for the purpose of the book. They are also fun to read, and it is interesting to compare and contrast the works within each group. The illustrations by Stefano Vitale are done in a variety of styles to suit the story and its cultural background. They are rendered in oil paint on mixed surfaces, lending texture to the pictures.

The stories are suitable for any type of library. Elementary children will probably most enjoy hearing them, even as adults enjoy reading them to children. Teachers who do folktale / fairy tale units or multi-cultural studies should especially consider this book as the stories can be taken in their set groups or chosen to represent various parts of the world. It's a good book with many potential uses.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

***A is for airplane + A es para avion / by Theresa Howell; illustrated by David Brooks.* LCCN 2002031614. Flagstaff, Ariz.: Rising Moon, 2003. HBB, 0873588312, \$6.95. Small children (Elementary). Rating: 3**

468.1. Spanish language materials--Bilingual; Alphabet. unsp.

A is for Airplane by Theresa Howell is an ABC board book with a unique twist: it's a bilingual ABC board book. With one exception, each word Howell chooses to represent cleverly begins with the same letter of the alphabet in both English and Spanish. The one letter that isn't the same in both languages -- ñ -- is represented with a simple, "Name means yam."

The words chosen are surprising and interesting: Washington, D.C., for "W." Karate for "K." Quintuplet for "Q." Hammock for "H." David Brook's vibrantly colorful, cartoon-like illustrations lend charm to the text and will delight youngsters. The book's chunky, square shape will fit nicely into their hands. The bilingual angle is a plus for both English and

Spanish speaking readers. True, ABC board books are common, but *A is for Airplane* is a nicely produced one, and well worth a purchase for a library with extra money, or for one with an English and Spanish clientele.

Rosemarie DiCristo, Freelance Writer, The Bronx, New York

***Math appeal / by Greg Tang; illustrated by Harry Briggs.* LCCN 2002005354. New York: Scholastic Press, 2003. HBB, 0439210461, \$16.95. Elementary. Rating: 5**

510. Mathematics; Mathematical recreations. 40 p.

Work smarter; add using subtraction. This is the challenge of *Math Appeal*, the fourth in the math series by author Greg Tang, sure to challenge young mathematicians to draw on the right side of their brains. Sixteen rhyming riddles, accompanied by the bright, fun-filled computer art of Harry Briggs, lead the reader to visualize the patterns of objects in relation to their numbers. They allow a quick assessment of the greatest sum possible, minus the missing elements. Each problem presented emphasizes the same skill from a different viewpoint. The author has kindly included an answer key at the back of the book for quickly checking the solution, however, he also challenges readers to find more than one way to answer the problem.

Math Appeal is sure to be a hit with teachers of primary level students looking for supplemental math exercises that help children think outside the box. Teachers looking for enrichment activities for high achieving math students could use this book as an inspiration for student-designed math riddles.

Judy Driscoll, Teacher, Christ the King Academy, Poulso, Washington

***Arithme-tickle : an even number of odd riddle-rhymes / J. Patrick Lewis; illustrated by Frank Remkiewicz.* LCCN 2001003228. San Diego: Harcourt, 2002. HBB, 0152164189, \$16.00. Elementary (Middle school).: 4**

513. Arithmetic; Mathematical recreations. unsp.

Arthme-Tickle by J. Patrick Lewis puts fun into math with eighteen number puzzles to solve. Each one is written in rhyming form and involves several calculations. Answers are given on the page, written backwards, so the solver must hold a mirror up to it to check the answers. The riddles include "The Mailman for the 92-Story Building," "The Polka-Dot Pajama

Bird," "Sailing a Bathtub," "The Cat and Dog Letters," and more.

The book is appealing and amusing. The subjects are humorous; the puzzles are designed not only to include math skills, but also thinking skills in the solving. The watercolor and prism colored pencil drawings by Frank Remkiewicz are nicely done, colorful, and add to the fun the puzzles bring.

Arithme-Tickle could be used in any library, though certainly its subject makes it ideal for a school library. Children in elementary grades are the primary audience and should have the requisite knowledge to tackle the puzzles. Reader appeal, combined with curriculum-related enjoyment, makes this a wonderful work.

Betsy Ruffin, librarian/teacher, Cleburne, TexasX

Arctic frozen reaches / Wendy Pfeffer. (Living on the edge.) LCCN 2001007100. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. LIB, 0761414371, \$24.21. Elementary. Rating: 5

591.7586. Zoology--Arctic regions. 36 p.

Deep oceans / Wendy Pfeffer. (Living on the edge.) LCCN 2001008754. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. LIB, 0761414398, \$24.21. Elementary. Rating: 4

591.77. Marine animals; Deep-sea animals. 39 p.

Icy Antarctic waters / Wendy Pfeffer. (Living on the edge.) LCCN 2001007291. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. LIB, 076141438X, \$24.21. Elementary. Rating: 4

591.77'09167. Zoology--Antarctica. 39 p.

Hot deserts / Wendy Pfeffer. (Living on the edge.) LCCN 2002001972. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. LIB, 0761414401, \$24.21. Elementary. Rating: 4

577.54. Desert ecology; Ecology; Deserts. 39 p.

High mountains / Wendy Pfeffer. (Living on the edge.) LCCN 2002003521. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. LIB, 076141441X, \$24.21. Elementary. Rating: 4

599.1753. Mountain animals. 39 p.

Does your library need a science series for grades three to five that will leap off the shelves? Are your students interested in extreme living? Would you like to have a waiting list for science books? If any of the answers to these questions is "yes," you must purchase the five books in the *Life On the Edge* Series from Benchmark Books. The "edges" in the series' title are the environments on earth where it seems as if life barely hangs on. Yet each of these edge environments contain wildlife particularly suited to the harsh conditions. Each cover photo

bursts into the reader's field of vision with an amazing image. Continuing the excellent photography inside, Wendy Pfeffer matches the high standard of the photography with tight, clean text. Each volume begins with a map showing the subject area and a chapter detailing what is unique about that environment climactically and geographically. The next three to five chapters highlight the prominent wildlife existing in such harsh environments. Every volume, then, has a chapter called "Other Animals Adapt and Survive." This chapter gives a quick overview of interesting adaptations of visitor animals. One suspects the author just couldn't resist finding a place for even more amazing photographs. Regardless, from the title to the text, this section provides a wonderful opportunity to show how God has provided animals and environment perfectly suited to each other.

Pfeffer's enjoyable word choices in the text provide illustrations that will stick in the mind. For example, in *High Mountains*, she says klipspringers can leap over a crevice as wide as a school bus is long, and land with all four feet on a spot no larger than a cookie. Any school child now has an exact picture of the tremendous leap and the pinpoint landing. All of the text is concise and informative. There are few wasted words. The photography in each book is great, with the pictures in *Hot Deserts* being truly eye watering. The books are not about the people in the areas and there are no conservation messages implied or blatant. The series is designed specifically to inform and inspire about the wildlife and does it very well.

Although the books do not contain enough information about any one animal to be cited for advanced research, they are so inviting they might prompt further exploration into other resources. Anticipating that, the author has provided a short bibliography in each volume listing books and magazines, as well as some website addresses to visit. Each book also includes an excellent index. Living up to their purpose, these books will engage, inform, inspire, and circulate. Although these are from a secular publisher, there are many departure points in these books for a discussion about God's wonderful plan for each and every creature He made. A wise investment for any library, they are a natural follow-on to the *We Can Read About Nature* series from Benchmark Books profiled elsewhere in this journal.

Kelley Westenhoff, Parent-Librarian, Dominion Christian School, Oakton, Virginia

An Arctic year / by Catherine Nichols. (We can read about nature!.) LCCN 2001006239. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. LIB, 0761414304, \$21.36. Elementary. Rating: 5

591.7'0911'3. Zoology--Arctic regions; Seasons; Arctic regions. 32 p.

One big ocean / by Catherine Nichols. (We can read about nature!.) LCCN 2002003783. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. LIB, 0761414339, \$21.36. Elementary. Rating: 5

591.77. Marine animals; Ecology. 32 p.

A dry place / by Catherine Nichols. (We can read about nature!.) LCCN 2001006240. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. LIB, 0761414312, \$21.36. Elementary. Rating: 5

577.54. Desert ecology; Ecology. 32 p.

Grassy lands / by Catherine Nichols. (We can read about nature!.) LCCN 2002005012. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. LIB, 0761414355, \$21.36. Elementary. Rating: 5

577.4. Grasslands; Grassland ecology; Ecology. 32 p.

In the rain forest / by Catherine Nichols. (We can read about nature!.) LCCN 2002003782. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. LIB, 0761414320, \$21.36. Elementary. Rating: 5

577.34. Rain forests; Ecology. 32 p.

Wetlands / by Catherine Nichols. (We can read about nature!.) LCCN 2002003781. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. LIB, 0761414347, \$21.36. Elementary. Rating: 5

577.68. Wetlands; Wetland ecology; Ecology. 32 p.

One of the joys of spring is to see our kindergarten students starting to read confidently. While colorful illustrations and photographs have drawn them to the science section before, now they are searching for books they can read on their own. The challenge is finding a book that is readable but still has wonderful images inside. Catherine Nichols' series *We Can Read About Nature* has everything early readers want and need. Opening with a list of words to watch for (all animals), each volume takes the reader to a different type of environment, describing it with simple words and illustrating it with brilliant clearly labeled photographs. Not a reference series, but simply an invitation to read about nature themselves, each of the books will gently teach while promoting reading skills.

One Big Ocean, *Grassy Lands*, and *A Dry Place* are straight text; *Wetlands* and *In the Rain Forest* both contain a conservation message in their text. It is not a call to action, merely a gentle reminder that we are all responsible for the preservation of unique environments. A teacher or parent can use these reminders to discuss our stewardship of the gifts God has given us in our world.

Each volume concludes with a two-page section called "Fun With Phonics." Using the language of the particular book, the author challenges the children with phonics-based exercises. Using this with a kindergartner and third grader at the same time, I found puzzles for each of them.

They were pretty easy for the third grader but she still enjoyed the brainwork. They particularly enjoyed the exercises that involved writing on a separate piece of paper and figuring out some clues from the writing. It is unlikely that children would do these without prompting, but they provide a parent or teacher good ideas for boosting these skills. Each volume concludes with fun facts and a short glossary/index for the unfamiliar words.

For a newly independent reader, this series will be a first triumph before the child is ready to move on to chapter books and more challenge. There are at least twelve other books in this series. If you know which topics would round out your collection, and then evaluate whether you need books for this age group (K-3) in those topics, volumes in this series are a wise investment. The Life On the Edge Series books profiled elsewhere in this journal are a natural follow-on for this series.

Kelley Westenhoff, Parent-Librarian, Dominion Christian School, Oakton, Virginia

Fiddle-I-fee / Will Hillenbrand. LCCN 2001001382. San Diego: Gulliver Books, 2002. HBB, 0152019456, \$16.00. Small children (Elementary). Rating: 5

782.421642'13'0083. Domestic animals--Songs and music; Folk songs--United States. unsp.

A farmer and his wife are anticipating the birth of their baby. During the day farm life seems typical, the farmyard full of animal noises, the couple doing their daily chores. At night, however, the animals gather, preparing a musical surprise. When the baby arrives, they welcome it with a moonlight serenade.

The lyrics to the nursery rhyme/folk song "Fiddle-I-Fee" appear at the beginning of this book, along with the traditional tune. Simple verses are common type set, contrasted to the fun barnyard jam sessions, where the text breaks up and curves around the players. Will Hillenbrand whimsically creates the story behind the song. Mixed media painted on (both sides of) vellum produce a multi-textured look. The vivid hues make the illustrations dance. Simple details add to the warmth of the story. Mother's belly grows as time passes. As each farmyard animal appears, a toy gives us a clue as to what animal will come next.

Fiddle-I-Fee is truly a picture book lover's delight. The illustrations complement the song lyrics beautifully, yet it is the pictures that tell us the whole story. Will Hillenbrand uses the same approach to the familiar song *Down By the Station* (Gulliver Books, 1999). For anyone looking for quality books linked to nursery songs, both books are highly recommended. Great for preschoolers, kindergarteners, and for the kid in all of us.

Karen Brehmer Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School, Bremerton, Washington

I spy ultimate challenger! : a book of picture riddles / photographs by Walter Wick; riddles by Jean Marzollo. (I spy books.) LCCN 2002008196. New York: Scholastic, 2003. LIB, 0439454018, \$13.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

793.73. Picture puzzles. 31 p.

Author Jean Marzollo is back with more of her ever-popular riddles to compliment Walter Wick's beautifully detailed photography. This time *I Spy Ultimate Challenger* is offering the answers on the Rainbow Express, in the Treasure Chest Store, a clown's dressing room, Santa's workshop, a chemist's lab, and even outer space, among others. As with other I Spy books in this series, sometimes the most interesting sightings are not the answers to the riddles but the objects noticed in the quest. It seems only fitting that, with the recent collapse of New Hampshire's Old Man on the Mountain, which occurred after this book was in print, the first photo spread of *I Spy Ultimate Challenger* coincidentally includes a profile on the mountain!

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

Sing a song of piglets : a calendar in verse / by Eve Bunting ; pictures by Emily Arnold McCully. LCCN 2001055267. New York: Clarion Books, 2002. HBB, 0618011374, \$16.00. Small children (Elementary). Rating: 4

811'.54. Children's poetry, American; Pigs--Poetry; Months--Poetry; American poetry. 32 p.

Piglets dancing, surfing, hanging out in a hammock, and cavorting in a leaf pile give joyful expression to Eve Bunting's *Sing a Song of Piglets: A Calendar in Verse*. Each two-page spread presents a five-line rhyming verse about the various months that illustrator Emily Arnold McCully brings to cheerful life with a pair of energetic and creative piglets. Seasons and holidays intertwine in the text and art, with clever images presenting each month's name. Piglets skate and ski in winter; garden, fish, and celebrate St. Patrick's Day in spring; engage in various sports during summer; then eat, trick-or-treat, and play into fall.

Sing a Song of Piglets is a delightful picture book. The art and verse are equally strong. Bunting uses expressive verbs that give even more pizzazz to the tongue-pleasing text -- clobber, splatter, hash and mash, skim and slide and swoop and glide. McCully is imaginative; painting each spread's watercolor-type art in novel ways to keep readers alert and eager. Children as old as twelve will take pleasure in the rhythm and pictures in this book. Whether read aloud or silently, the verses sound just as sweet and lyrical, and repeated readings won't set a parent's or teacher's teeth on edge. The underlying joyfulness and exuberance give this book an extra dimension of enjoyment. Be

aware that Halloween is portrayed in October: the piglets dress up as a cat and a bat to treat-or-treat.

Karen Schmidt, Freelance Writer, Marysville, Washington

Five pages a day : a writer's journey / Peg Kehret. LCCN 2002016768. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2002. HBB, 0807586501, \$14.95. Elementary (Middle school, High school). Rating: 4

813'.54. Kehret, Peg; Authors, American; Women--Biography. 185 p.

From early writing attempts as a child (The Dog Newspaper) to her current success (over thirty-five works for children, plus other books), *Five Pages A Day*, by Peg Kehret, is the autobiographical novel of her journey as an author. As we follow that journey, we also learn of her bout with polio as a child, a story recounted in *Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio* (Whitman, 2000); her family, including pets; and how she got started as a writer, with contest entries.

The novel is readable and interesting, in its story of Kehret, both personally and as an author. Many writing tips are embedded as she tells her tale, making it an encouragement to other aspiring writers who read the book. It is also inspirational as we see how she has overcome difficulties to succeed in life. A group of black and white photos are included midway through the book and give a pictorial glimpse of her life and family.

Middle school and high school libraries, as well as individuals interested in writing would do well to consider this book. Schools may want to have others of her books, such as *Small Steps* or *Shelter Dogs: Amazing Stories Of Adopted Strays* (Whitman, 2003), in their collection. The book, especially when taken with other titles mentioned in the text, would make good reading for language arts or creative writing classes. However, it stands on its own as good reading for anyone.

Betsy Ruffin, librarian/teacher, Cleburne, Texas; librarian/teacher, Cleburne, TX



Animals on the trail with Lewis and Clark / Dorothy Hinshaw Patent; photos by William Munoz. LCCN 2001042200. New York: Clarion Books, 2002. LIB, 0395914159, \$18.00. Elementary. Rating: 5

917.804'2. Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806); Animals--West (U.S.)--History--19th century; Natural history--West (U.S.)--History--19th century; West (U.S.)--Description and travel. 118 p.

Lewis and Clark and their men started on a journey into the unknown two hundred years ago this November. Backed by President Jefferson who was at heart a naturalist, they

were charged with cataloging every plant, animal, person, or mountain they came across. When Lewis and Clark returned three years later, our knowledge of America, west of the Mississippi, changed forever. Many books will commemorate that trip; few will rise to the level of this one. *Animals On the Trail With Lewis and Clark* takes the reader with the Corps of Discovery across the prairies, plains, and mountains to the mouth of the Columbia River and back again. Dorothy Hinshaw Patent uses the animals noted and described by Lewis and Clark to travel the same paths, placing the animals in geographical and historical context. Capitalizing on the fact that most children like books about animals, the author teaches lessons in geography and the triumphs and heartbreaks of the journey itself. She has mined the original journeys of the Corps to provide the backdrop for the animals and it works beautifully.

Excellent photographs of animals, Native peoples, artifacts, and terrain by William Muñoz break up the text just often enough to keep it moving forward. The book has a good bibliography for those who want to know more, and an excellent Chronology of Animal Discoveries New to Science sorted by date and location. Concluding with a very nice index, this book will be a great investment for a librarian. Using it over a three-year period a teacher could 'travel with Lewis and Clark' with her classes using the animals to carry the journey forward. Younger children will enjoy it, with the help of a parent, and older children will be able to use it as an enjoyable source of information.

Kelley Westenhoff, Parent-Librarian, Dominion Christian School, Oakton, Virginia

Benjamin Franklin, you know what to say / by Loyd Uglow; illustrated by Greg Budwine. (Another great achiever.) 99035278: Houston, 2000. HBB, 1575371081, \$9.95; LIB, 1575371065, \$14.95. Elementary. Rating: 3

921 (973.3'092). Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790; Statesmen; Printers; Scientists. 48 p.

Benjamin Franklin, You Know What to Say is part of Advance Publishing's Another Great Achiever series, junior biographies about historical figures. It covers all aspects of Franklin's career: his childhood and his apprenticeship to his brother, his inventions and experiments, and his involvement in the American Revolution and with the Constitutional Convention.

Loyd Uglow writes with simple, straightforward language, and places much emphasis on Franklin's honesty and his quest to live an ethical life. The book contains a list of some of Franklin's most famous sayings, and the Constitutional Convention scene mentions a quote of Franklin's where he stresses the country's need for God's help if it is to succeed.

Uglow focuses on the positive in Franklin's life. For instance, while Franklin's rocky relationship with his brother is mentioned, it's not emphasized unnecessarily.

The book is geared to eight to twelve year olds. There's lots of text per page, but there's also an illustration by Greg Budwine, and the vocabulary and style used is suitable for the youngest end of the age group. It's possible, though, that the picture book look would be a turn off for the oldest end of the age group.

Benjamin Franklin, You Know What to Say is a good introductory volume on the life of Benjamin Franklin. It's well-rounded enough to please teachers and older children, yet easy enough for early elementary schoolers to read and enjoy.

Rosemarie DiCristo, Children's Writer, The Bronx, New York

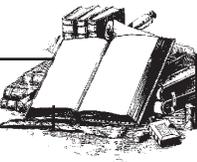
Brazil / Robert Reiser. (Discovering cultures.) LCCN 2001007292. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. LIB, 0761411801, \$24.24. Elementary. Rating: 4

981. Brazil. 48 p.

What makes Brazil Brazilian? Robert Reiser answers this question in his book, *Brazil*. The latest in the series called Discovering Cultures, its very clear text allows children to contrast their own life with what children experience in other countries. Here Reiser covers going to school, holidays, types of food, and what holds the Brazilians together as a nation. He avers that the Portuguese language is the unifying factor for this huge country, but that they, also, share a love for soccer, the beach, Carnival, and children. The author touches on the extreme poverty in Brazil, as well as the common religion, Roman Catholicism, without dwelling on the social ramifications of either topic.

A few individual pages give a special touch to the book including a recipe for a sweet treat, Brigadeiros, and the description of a favorite card game, Domino Didatico. A really nice feature that a teacher can use to bridge the cultural gap is that the author describes *Monica's Gang*, a popular Brazilian children's program on television. He includes a website for North American children to discover it for themselves. The reader can also learn to count in Portuguese, use the glossary of terms, and read short biographies of some famous Brazilians in order to complete his or her survey in Brazil. Strictly a book about culture, the reader will need to go elsewhere for information about history or geography. A short bibliography and good index make this an initial place for an older child writing a report about Brazil, but without any real depth to the facts, is limited to the younger grades for reading material.

Kelley Westenhoff, Parent-Librarian, Dominion Christian School, Oakton, Virginia



All the rave / Tim LaHaye and Bob DeMoss. (Soul survivor series.) LCCN 2002280052. Nashville: W Publishing, 2001. PAP, 0849943205, \$12.99. High school. Rating: 4

F. Raves (Parties)--Fiction. 157 p.

All the Rave by Tim LaHaye and Bob DeMoss is about a Christian teenager who willingly puts herself in harm's way to help her friend. Jodi Adams and her friend Bruce Arnold follow their friend Kate Koffman to a rave to check on her. Even though Kate has recently stopped using drugs, they find her unconscious body with a syringe lying next to her. When they take Kate to the hospital, Jodi brings the syringe with them to be analyzed. While trying to help Kate, Jodi comes upon a drug ring where Bruce works. She is knocked out by a local veterinarian involved in the drug ring and the killing of local teenagers.

All The Rave is an eye opener for anyone who has never been to a rave and does not know the types of things that can occur there. Characters are well developed, allowing readers to understand the personal turmoil Jodi endures because of her commitment to God. I highly recommend this book even though it is shorter than most books for this age group.

Jennifer Siliznoff, Computer Analyst, Avid Reader, Renton, Washington

Croutons for breakfast / created by Lissa Halls Johnson; written by Kathy Wierenga. (Brio girls.) LCCN 2002153700. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2003. PAP, 1589970802, \$6.99. High school. Rating: 5

F. Missionaries--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Venezuela--Fiction. 186 p.

No lifeguard on duty / created [and] written by Lissa Halls Johnson. (Brio girls.) LCCN 2002012874. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2003. PAP, 1589970810, \$6.99. High school. Rating: 5

F. Christian life--Fiction; Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Surfing--Fiction; California--Fiction. 181 p.

Croutons for Breakfast, written by Kathy Wierenga, and *No Lifeguard on Duty*, written by Lissa Halls Johnson, are the two newest editions in the Brio girls series created by Lissa Halls Johnson.

Croutons for Breakfast finds four of the teens on a mission trip to Venezuela, where Hannah and Jacie learn lessons about God and His love for others. Hannah, excited to use her Bible knowledge to bring others to Christ, quickly

realizes her "pat" answers and Christian smugness repel people, rather than attract them to Christ. Through personal heartbreak at failing God, Hannah comes to realize that God is a God of love, not of legalism and rote response. Instead of mandating salvation, she learns to love people into the kingdom. Jacie, excited about the trip, but deathly afraid of witnessing, finds herself ill with bronchitis. Laid up, Jacie has time to think about her commitment to Christ and her fear to surrender all to Him. Through a series of talks with the team leader, Jacie comes to understand that surrender doesn't mean never failing. It means living for God, in spite of failure.

Author Kathy Wierenga paints an accurate picture of a missions trip and the hardships encountered. Her characters are realistic, not full of platitudes or perfectionism. They are genuine, struggling with real problems that teens who want to serve Christ face daily. Instead of preaching, the author gently guides the reader, teaching life's lessons and underscoring the message.

In *No Lifeguard on Duty*, Tyler Jennings, the main male character in the series, tests the waters of worldliness, which, in turn, test his beliefs. On a trip to California to visit his cousin, Chaz, and to surf, Tyler sees his cousin leave his Christian friends behind to experiment with new music and new friends. Soon, Tyler becomes swept up in the same worldly lifestyle. Only gone two weeks, Tyler returns changed, and the Brio team is concerned. After they confront him, in love, Tyler confesses his wrong choices and reconciles with his friends and family, and, more importantly, with God.

Author Lissa Halls Johnson tackles a tricky topic of teens experimenting with the world, and presents plausible characters that love God but fall short. A realistic plot, imperfect characters, and believable dialogue all add genuineness to this book and credibility in the eyes of teens.

Eileen Zygarlicke, Freelance Writer/English Teacher, Grand Forks, North Dakota

Fire and wings : dragon tales from east & west / edited by Marianne Carus ; illustrated by Nilesh Mistry, with an introduction by Jane Yolen. LCCN 2002005792. Chicago: Cricket Books, 2002. PAP, 0812626648, \$17.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

F. Dragons--Fiction; Short stories. 146 p.

Fifteen different authors tell fifteen different dragon tales. The tales are set in Europe, China, India, the Ukraine, Korea, Poland, Japan, and England. The first resembles the traditional Beauty and the Beast. Others are retellings of stories we may be less familiar with. Some aim at teaching truths, others are humorous in nature. A brief introduction by Jane Yolen is included. Brief author biographies are included at the end of the book. All but three of the tales were previously published in *Cricket* magazine or other publications.

The black and white illustrations pay homage to the country of origin in each story and are a delightful and interesting way to experience other cultures, oriental religions and philosophies. Recommended.

Karla Castle, Public Services Librarian, Warner Pacific College, Portland, Oregon

House of sports / Marisabina Russo. LCCN 2001023039. New York: Greenwillow, 2002. HBB, 006623803X, \$15.95. Middle school. Rating: 1

F. Basketball--Fiction; Grandmothers--Fiction; Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Family life--New York (N.Y.)--Fiction; New York (N.Y.)--Fiction. 188 p.

House of Sports, written by author Marisabina Russo, is the story of a young boy's obsession with basketball and the painful journey he must make in realizing life is more than sports.

Faced with spending time with his aged and failing grandmother, main character, Jim, resents the time away from his passion, basketball. Because he is small for his age, Jim feels he needs every advantage he can get to obtain a starting position on his traveling basketball team. However, through the course of their time together, Jim remembers the love he always had for his grandma and changes in his treatment of her. When Nana suffers a stroke and becomes incapacitated, Jim makes arrangements to give the speech she had been preparing. Overcoming his fear of public speaking, Jim gives the speech in her honor.

Although the book has a good message woven throughout, stilted and unrealistic dialogue make parts of the book lack believability. Russo's use of some profanity and inappropriate slang terms diminish its quality. Character development is choppy and stilted as well. The only side of Jim seen throughout the preponderance of the book is that of an angry boy. The subplot overtakes the main plot and with it a totally different character emerges. The

reader begins to wonder if there are two boys named Jim in this book. Although the message of listening to and maintaining relationships with grandparents is positive, the negatives of this book far outweigh it.

Eileen Zygarrlicke, *Freelance Writer/English Teacher, Grand Forks, North Dakota*

***I, Freddy* / by Dietlof Reiche; translated by John Brownjohn. (The golden hamster saga; 1.) LCCN 2002006981. New York: Scholastic Press, 2003. HBB, 0439283566, \$16.95. Middle school (Elementary). Rating: 5**

F. Golden hamster--Fiction; Hamsters--Fiction; Pets--Fiction. 192 p.

Originally published in 1998 in Germany, author Dietlof Reiche's tale of Freddie Auratus (that's short for Freddie the golden hamster) has found a home in America with the help of translator John Brownjohn. If the rest of the series, yet to be published, holds up to this first book, *I, Freddie* should enjoy a long life in the homes of American middle school children. The storyline follows a golden hamster not content to live out his life in the humdrum safety of a cage, as a house pet. He, instead, longs for the Promised Land of Assyria (freedom) as told to him by his Great Grandmother during Saga Hour. This may seem like a simple enough story to satisfy the picture book crowd, but the subtle and, at times, not so subtle humor in *I, Freddie* makes it most suitable for the middle school reader.

When Freddie is finally bought from the pet store for young Sophia, who smells of fresh sunflower seeds, he looks forward to the good life. Only two things thwart his dream: Sophia's mother doesn't like him and seems bent on being rid of him, and he has taught himself to read and has a burning desire to write and converse with humans. How he manages to achieve his goals of living in safety and communicating with humans is the plot of this first book in the Golden Hamster Saga. *I, Freddie* is an easy to read, fun-filled story told with creativity and one which will leave its readers anticipating book two. Humorous pen and ink drawings by Joe Cepeda add even more life to an already lively tale.

Judy Driscoll, *Teacher, Christ the King Academy, Poulso, Washington*

***Land of the buffalo bones: the diary of Mary Elizabeth Rodgers* / by Marion Dane Bauer. (Dear America.) LCCN 2002073344. New York: Scholastic, 2003. HBB, 0439220270, \$12.95. Middle school (High school). Rating: 5**

F. Frontier and pioneer life--Minnesota--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction; Stepfamilies--Fiction; British Americans--Fiction; Freedom of religion--Fiction; Minnesota--History--1858--Fiction. 192 p.

When Reverend George Rodgers leads his family and a colony of Baptist dissenters from England to Minnesota in 1873, life becomes an adventure for fourteen-year-old Mary "Polly" Rodgers. A far cry from the picture of paradise her father paints for her and the eighty colonists who followed him, they face almost unbearable hardships. Mary's diary is a detailed account of the death of her best friend Jane's brother during the crossing. Mary records frozen temperatures and starvation on the train carrying them from New York to Minnesota, plagues of grasshoppers, fire, wolves and strange encounters with Ojibway Indians, to the final loss of Jane on the westward move. At the same time, she examines her own questions of faith and guidance from God in bringing the group to this seemingly cursed land. How Mary is able to wrestle with these questions and come to her own acceptance of her father's choice and her stepmother's love add depth to the story.

An unusual feature of *Land of the Buffalo Bones*, is that not only is it historical fiction based on a real family and a real colony from England, but the family is actually the family of author Marion Dane Bauer. She has written the diary as she thinks her great aunt "Polly" Rodgers might have written it, based on family stories, research in their community in Minnesota, and both Bible and public records. This fact has allowed the author to climb inside the skin of her family and relate. Not only are the physical events of life on the northwestern frontier of 1873, but, also, the faith struggles which the family had to endure as the colonists became disenchanting with their leader, the author's great grandfather, Reverend George Rodgers.

The relationship between author and characters has made this volume in the Dear America series an especially poignant and realistic one. The historical endnotes at the end of the book, which are a trademark of the Dear America series, also contain photos of the author's family, and homestead photos from that time.

Judy Driscoll, *Teacher, Christ the King Academy, Poulso, Washington*

***Legend of the gilded saber* / by Sigmund Brower. (Accidental detectives.) LCCN 2002010720. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2002. PAP, 0764225669, \$5.99. Middle school (Elementary). Rating: 4**

F. Mystery and detective stories; Stealing--Fiction; Hurricanes--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Charleston (S.C.)--Fiction. 128 p.

Legend of the Gilded Saber is a fast-paced, enjoyable mystery, filled with adventure. Written for the eight to thirteen-year-old group, tale features several boys, as well as a girl. Set in the charming city of Charleston, South Carolina, Ricky Kidd and his three friends, Lisa, Ralph and Mike go to visit Mike's uncle, Ted Emmett. Sounds like fun for all involved, but,

when Uncle Ted is arrested for theft the first morning they are in town and then confesses to the crime, everything changes and their trip takes a totally different tone. The Accidental Detectives must find out who really stole the Civil War artifacts from the museum where Mike's uncle is employed. They are convinced he's innocent and set out to prove he's been framed.

This book is moral in nature and mentions church attendance, angels, and heaven. It would be a good addition to any church, school, or public library. *Legend of the Gilded Saber* and the others in this series should be very popular with middle and elementary school readers.

Ceil Carey, *Public Librarian, LTA, College of DuPage, Plano, Illinois. Credits: Christian Library Journal, Today's Libraries*

***No guys pact* / by Beverly Lewis. (Holly's heart; 9.) LCCN 2002152464. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2003. PAP, 0764226169, \$4.99. Middle school. Rating: 4**

F. Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Camps--Fiction; Moneymaking projects--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 160 p.

***Little white lies* / by Beverly Lewis. (Holly's heart; 10.) LCCN 2002152465. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2003. PAP, 0764226177, \$4.99. Middle school. Rating: 4**

F. Honesty--Fiction; Sick--Fiction; Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Stepfamilies--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 160 p.

No Guys Pact and *Little White Lies* by author Beverly Lewis pick up the adventures of Holly and her best friend, Andie, from the Holly's Heart series. In *No Guys Pact*, fourteen-year-old Holly and her friends head to camp. Experiencing trouble with former boyfriends, the girls decide on a no-guys strategy, meaning they won't even talk with their guy friends from church. This soon leads to retaliation from the boys in the form of pranks that cross the line. The two groups, recognizing the destructive behavior, talk about their problems and ask each other for forgiveness.

Little White Lies finds Holly and Andie heading to California to visit Holly's dad. Andie, trying to escape racial slurs aimed at her by a new boy in town, joins Holly for the adventure. On the first day, Andie meets and falls for a Hispanic boy who is quite a bit older than her. Despite warnings by Holly, Andie allows the relationship to blossom quickly, finally learning a valuable lesson at a beach party. Meanwhile, Holly is concerned not only for her friend, but also for her father. When she confronts her stepmom, Holly finds out her father suffered a heart attack two years earlier and that the stress of his job continued to build until he had a second heart attack. Crying out to God to help her father, Holly finds herself encouraging her stepmom to trust God.

Both stories will appeal to the young reader. They have predictable endings and a main character that is strong in her faith. The dialogue and progression of events at times is stilted, but young readers will overlook this. Although touching on the race issue, Lewis does little to develop this line, even though it appears at the outset this will be the main theme. The idea may have been developed to give the book more substance. Unfortunately, it is thinly veiled in the romance plot. However, the plot is believable and will appeal to the younger reader.

Eileen Zygarrlicke, Freelance Writer/English Teacher, Grand Forks, North Dakota

Mid-air zillionaire / Robert Elmer. (AstroKids; 9.) LCCN 2002009664. Minneapolis: Bethany House Backyard, 2002. PAP, 0764226290, \$4.99. Middle school (Elementary). Rating: 3

F. Space stations--Fiction; Inheritance and succession--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Science fiction. 96 p.

Tow-away stowaway / Robert Elmer. (AstroKids; 10.) LCCN 2002009665. Minneapolis: Bethany House Backyard, 2002. PAP, 0764226304, \$4.99. Middle school.(Elementary). Rating: 3

F. Space flight--Fiction; Robots--Fiction; Space stations--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Science fiction. 95 p.

Don your space gear, belt yourself into your seat and take off with numbers nine and ten in the wacky, wild, wonderful AstroKids adventures.

In *Mid-Air Zillionaire*, run-away orphan, Miko, straps on her anti-gravity, tiptoe sneakers, invented by that 'GEEN-ius,' DeeBee, and saves the Apollo Children's Home from the evil designs of that famous zillionaire, Donald Zump. Armed with DeeBee's newest invention, a face changing Macro Protection Force, and fortified by her friends, including the drone MAC, Miko saves the day and learns that real riches don't depend on money.

In *Tow-Away Stow-Away*, Tag, DeeBee's reverse talking, bothersome little brother, manages to evade the older AstroKids and head off to Pluto on his own adventure. To Pluto? Well, not quite; everything on this new space shuttle is run by a bunch of reacting drones. Accompanied by his talking dog, Zero-G, and that ever-helpful drone, MAC, Tag eventually gets them all back to their home space station, Cleo 7, learning along the way that you can't go anywhere that God can't reach you.

Author of several popular series including *Adventures Down Under* and *Promise of Zion*, Robert Elmer writes what kids want to read. He works closely with children, conducting elementary and home school writing workshops. The AstroKids series contains jokes, puns, take-offs on space programs, and hilarious fun. Engaging plots are simple, leading to an easily assimilated moral, based on a Bible verse. Each

book ends with two learning chapters: A Real Space Debrief, which presents interesting space facts; and, The Coded Message, which sends the reader back through the book to ferret out a relevant Bible verse. These books are recommended for family reading and as encouragement to slow readers.

Donna J. Eggett, Freelance Writer, Radford, Virginia



My name is Chloe, by Chloe Miller : a novel / Melody Carlson. (Diary of a teenage girl; Chloe book 1.) LCCN 2002013132. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2002. PAP, 1590520181, \$12.99. High school. Rating: 4

F. Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction; Conversion--Fiction; High schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 279 p.

Sold out : a novel / by Melody Carlson. (Diary of a teenage girl; Chloe book 2.) LCCN 2003005467. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2003. PAP, 1590521412, \$12.99. High school. Rating: 3

F. Bands (Music)--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 300 p.

Chloe Miller, at fifteen-years-old, has what one would call an attitude. She is a self-proclaimed "tough chick," with her urban style and multi-colored hair and piercings. She is also fairly miserable. Not having one friend as she enters high school is part of the reason; another reason is that Caitlin, her brother Josh's on-fire-for-the-Lord girlfriend, has been praying for her. Big time praying—which means Chloe is under conviction. When Chloe does finally give her heart to the Lord, she does it in a big way. She uses her musical talent to start a girl band called Redemption. Along her spiritual journey, Chloe begins to draw many of the teens on her campus to Jesus.

In *My Name is Chloe*, readers learn about the struggles in Chloe's life through her diary entries. She writes about her friends, her family, her peers, her music, and her ongoing commitment to accept the Lord into her life.

Sold Out finds Chloe making up for lost time in her firm commitment to the Lord. Her continued diary entries contend with expectations of other Christians, as well as finding a balance between friendship and relationship with Cesar, in her desires to remain sold out for the Lord. The book ends with Redemption gaining momentum as a band, leaving readers looking forward to the next installment.

Melody Carlson has found a definite niche for teen girls with her series, *Diary of a Teenage Girl*. The Chloe Books are offshoots of this well-received series featuring fifteen-year-old Chloe, as opposite in style from Caitlin, the heroine in the original DTG series, as can be.

Even when Chloe becomes a Christian she does not give up her personal style and questions why people expect her to.

The new Chloe series addresses some controversial issues such as legalism, personal style, Christian music, and witnessing with sound biblical wisdom and humor. If the DTG series is on the shelf, then adding the Chloe books is a definite consideration. However, the Chloe books can stand-alone and would be a great gift for any teen girl searching for answers in this complicated world or for those teens that have an edgy style to their witness.

Pam Webb, Freelance Writer, Sandpoint, Idaho; Credits: Christian Retailing, School Library Journal

The sun, the rain, and the apple seed : a novel of Johnny Appleseed / Lynda Durrant. LCCN 2002010096. New York: Clarion Books, 2003. HBB, 061823487X, \$15.00. Middle school. Rating: 3

F. Appleseed, Johnny, 1774-1845--Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Eccentrics and eccentricities--Fiction. 200 p.

Young John Chapman asks himself, "What will be my life's mission?" He discovers the answer to his question when he visits a man named William Van Kirk. After he enjoys a tasty, crisp apple, John sees workmen dump a great vat of apple seeds into the Monongahela River. "We've no use for them here," Mr. Van Kirk explains.

Johnny trembles and falls to the earth. At last he knows! "I shall gather apple seeds and plant them in the borderlands on behalf of pioneer folk." He sets out with little except a sack of cornmeal, pouches full of apple seeds, and a big Bible. Along the way, he plants the seeds. That first year, little Noah Zane gives John Chapman the nickname, Johnny Appleseed. Sometimes people say, "Yer not right in the head, boy." Johnny replies, "So people have told me. God has made me as I am."

For the next thirty-seven years, Johnny Appleseed tramps a thousand miles, planting apple orchards throughout the Ohio Valley, Indiana, and Illinois. The trees begin to bear abundantly in seven years. Indians capture him, but they do him no harm. He loses fingers and toes to frostbite, and his hair and beard grow ankle length. Once he serves time in jail. Throughout his wanderings, he constantly reads the Bible, gaining an extraordinary knowledge of Scripture. He includes verses in almost every conversation. Johnny Appleseed becomes so famous that even Abraham Lincoln knows about him.

By the time Johnny Appleseed grows old and weary, countless families have survived many winters on apples from trees he planted. He declares, "The sun, the rain, and the apple seed. That's all I've ever needed. The more we share the more we have to share."

Durrant thoroughly researched John Chapman's life, choosing to write it as fiction rather than biography. She felt fiction provided a better framework to present the "uncomfortable fact: John Chapman wasn't right in the head." Readers hear him talking to his "spirit wives," who encourage him along the way.

Descriptive writing within *The Sun, the Rain and the Apple Seed* convinces readers of the deprivations Chapman brings upon himself. Though he may not have been "right in the head," his actions display thoughtfulness and, at times, extreme courage. His selflessness provides a strong role model for readers.

The story becomes hard to follow where Durrant fails to include transitions that help keep the reader on track.

Betty M. Hockett, *Writer, Teacher, Speaker. Credits: Christian Service Award 2003, George Fox University; Author of 15 Books; Newberg, Oregon*

Triss : a tale from Redwall / Brian Jacques; illustrated by David Elliot. LCCN 2001058307. New York: Philomel Books, 2002. HBB, 0399237232, \$23.99; PAP, 0441010954, \$7.99. High school (Middle school). Rating: 4

F. Animals--Fantasy; Fantasy. 389 p.

Triss: A Tale from Redwall is the fifteenth novel in Brian Jacques' Redwall series. The tales are centered around Redwall, an abbey in which various young and old woodland creatures live in peace in the Mossflower mouse kingdom. This story has three disparate groups: runaway slaves, the evil princess chasing them with her servants and a band of freebooters, and adventure-seeking young males meeting in the forest near Redwall. The abbey residents have stumbled onto the long lost hall of the ancient badger lords, Brockhall, only to find it taken over by three poisonous serpents. The groups face off in a battle that unites the Redwallers, the slaves, and the adventure seekers against the princess and her bands. Both groups fight against the serpents to try and gain entrance to Brockhall.

The Redwall series is popular with fantasy-loving students from fifth grade up. It is a mild fantasy with few or no real magical elements, the only ones in Triss being the dream-visions two or three of the animals have. The animals and their lives resemble a medieval historical novel more than anything else. The various dialectic accents of the animals may be hard for some readers to get used to, as well as jumping back and forth between the groups before they come together in Mossflower, but those who like historical fantasy will like this book and the Redwall series in general. A map and a few other black and white line drawings by David Elliot give the reader a better view of the landscape and of the inhabitants of the various kingdoms.

The setting is well-drawn, the characters believable, and the action involving. There is a basic good-versus-evil plot that ends with good triumphing, though not without the death of some of the braver characters. Basically, it is a good animal fantasy tale that will appeal to those who enjoy this genre.

Betsy Ruffin, *Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas*

Tyrant of the Badlands / by Sigmund Brower. (Accidental detectives; 4.) LCCN 2002010719. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2002. PAP, 0764225677, \$5.99. Middle school (Elementary). Rating: 5

F. Mystery and detective stories; Vandalism--Fiction; Kidnapping--Fiction; Gangs--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Alberta--Fiction. 128 p.

Kids in elementary and early middle school won't want to miss *Tyrant of the Badlands*, another adventure of Ricky Kidd and his friends, set in the Alberta Badlands. Looking forward to visiting Grandfather John in the home of the famed tyrannosaurus rex, Ricky is asked to come alone a few days early for a special project. He is immediately transformed into Rocky: black dyed hair, earrings, with a smart mouth and an attitude to match! The change takes a bit of getting used to, but it does the trick, bringing the real vandals out of the woodwork. Why are the bandits trying to force Louise Myers to give up the trailer camp left to her by her deceased husband? That's Ricky's assignment, that and not to get caught or in too deep.

Excitement and adventure will keep readers turning the pages until the climax of *Tyrant of the Badlands*. It is the kind of situation many children would love to be in, playing the part of undercover investigator at the request of an adult. Ricky's faith and trust in the Lord are evident throughout, and he has a chance to testify to his grandfather before the book is over. *Tyrant of the Badlands* will fly off the shelf, with readers begging for more exploits of the Accidental Detectives.

Ceil Carey, *Public Librarian, LTA, College of DuPage, Plano, Illinois. Credits: Christian Library Journal, Today's Libraries*

Virginia bound / Amy Butler. LCCN 2002008722. New York: Clarion Books, 2003. HBB, 0618247521, \$15.00. Middle school. Rating: 5

F. Orphans--Fiction; Indentured servants--Fiction; Pamunkey Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--Virginia--Fiction; Virginia--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775--Fiction. 188 p.

Out of necessity, thirteen-year-old Rob Brackett develops the motto, "Look after yourself and trust no one." Something, however, always gets between himself and his philosophy. In 1627 London, it's the nine-year-old orphan, Nell Cranston. Then it's Kit, a ragamuffin who feigns an ankle injury, and, later in Virginia, the Pamunkey Indian girl, Mattoume. Rob finds

Nell huddled in an alley after her aunt dies. The sight plagues him, but he can't leave her by herself. They manage to beg enough coins for a few bites of food each day. Then one evening Kit, a small lad, cries out for help and, at Nell's insistence, she and Rob help him, only to find they've been tricked. Soon they're on a ship headed for Jamestown, Virginia, as indentured servants.

After 11 weeks at sea, Rob and Nell are sold to the highest bidders. Holt, Rob's new master, shows no mercy to Rob, to Fanshawe, Holt's cousin, or to young Mattoume, who does not speak. Hard work and little food wear them all down. Then one day Mattoume suggests they run away, back to her people. They make plans, but when Rob is hired out to Mr. Stanton, he makes a wonderful discovery: Nell. Now he faces a dilemma. He can stay close to Nell, or keep his promise to run away with Mattoume. As the story unfolds, Rob discovers that life offers more than just looking out for himself.

Amy Butler has done extensive research for *Virginia Bound*, and the historical facts add to this can't-lay-it-down story told in Rob's voice and from his viewpoint. It makes a good read-aloud story families will enjoy together. Butler's first book, she writes well, putting readers in the setting and alongside the characters.

Betty M. Hockett, *Writer, Teacher, Speaker. Credits: Christian Service Award 2003, George Fox University; Author of 15 Books; Newberg, Oregon*

When my name was Keoko / Linda Sue Park. LCCN 2001032487. New York: Clarion Books, 2002. HBB, 0618133356, \$16.00. High school (Middle school). Rating: 4

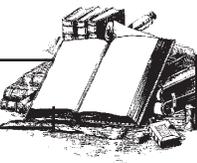
F. Family life--Korea--Fiction; Military occupation--Fiction; Patriotism--Fiction; Courage--Fiction; World War, 1939-1945--Underground movements--Korea--Fiction; Korea--Fiction; Korea--History--1910-1945--Fiction. 199 p.

When My Name Was Keoko, a novel of Korea during World War II, is a compelling narrative told in two parallel voices. Sun-hee and her older brother, Tae-yul, have grown up studying Japanese and speaking it at school. For their entire lifetimes, Korea has belonged to Japan. When the Emperor of Japan decrees that they must take on a Japanese name, it is just one more step toward cleansing them of their Korean heritage.

World War II comes to Korea and Tae-yul leaves home to join the Japanese army. His real desire is to help their beloved uncle, whom the Japanese suspect is aiding the Korean resistance. Sun-hee remains at home, entrusted with life-and-death secrets of a family and a country at war. Thus, Sun-hee and Tae-yul face a myriad of changes in their young lives.

This is an excellent story filled with historical fact interwoven with the powerful chronicle of the lives of two Korean teenagers in the 1940's. Author Linda Sue Park includes a note on Korean terms of address, also an historical note, and a bibliography. Not only will readers be drawn to the story of *When My Name was Keoko*, but it could be used as a resource in schools during a unit on World War II. Highly recommended.

Ceil Carey, Public Librarian, LTA, College of DuPage, Plano, Illinois. Credits: Christian Library Journal, Today's Libraries



Who put lemons in my fruit of the Spirit? : fresh-squeezed insights from the book of Galatians / Martha Bolton. LCCN 2003000247. Ann Arbor: Vine Books, 2003. PAP, 1569552991, \$10.99. High school. (Middle school) Rating: 5

242'.63. Bible. N.T. Galatians--Criticism, interpretation, etc.; Youth--Religious life; Youth--Conduct of life. 284 p.

Who Put Lemons in My Fruit of the Spirit?, a young adult devotional, presents short, pithy lessons that help young people be responsible, yet not "under-the-law," with their Christianity. Grace is the key, and this little book is filled with gracious, godly advice that helps impart wisdom to those everyday sticky situations. The author, Martha Bolton, knows how to present important life lessons, and there are a whopping 75 of them, in short, to-the-point chapters. Each two to three page lesson has a catchy title, such as; Sinking Fast, Holy Circles, and Help, I'm whining and I can't shut up! The short chapters begin with a situation that any young person can relate to. Then Bolton presents a pointed question or two under the heading, "Thoughts to Ponder." Next a clever, target-hitting Bumper Sticker of the Day is given. This is followed by an appropriate section called "Scripture to Stand On" from the book of Galatians. The last part is a short prayer that relates to the lesson being taught and is under the title, "Hello again, Lord..."

The lessons are real, the thoughts heart-changing, and the Bumper Stickers so good you'll find yourself quoting from them. The scripture draws the reader to God's truth with a simple, straightforward verse relating to the specific lesson being taught. With resolve and insight, the final prayers really turn the hearts of the readers to God.

Martha Bolton, the "Cafeteria lady" of Focus on the Family fame, stays true to her calling—a witty, down-to-earth teacher with lessons that may make you say "Ouch, thanks for the reminder!" Short lessons highly recommended for discussion groups, for acting out through short dramas in youth gatherings, or even in family settings. I recommend this book, not only for high school age, but junior high students as well. Although it's certainly appropriate for the individual, its real effectiveness will be seen in group settings and discussions.

Mary McKinney, Editor, Author, Conference Speaker, Educator, Port Orchard, Washington



Get smart : unscramble mind-boggling questions of your faith / by Kevin Johnson. (Early teen discipleship.) LCCN 2002002810. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2002. PAP, 0764224352, \$7.99. Middle school. Rating: 5

248.8'3. Teenagers--Religious life; Christian life. 122 p.



Bust loose : become the wild new person you are in Jesus / by Kevin Johnson. (Early teen discipleship.) LCCN 2002002811. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2002. PAP, 0764224360, \$7.99. Middle school. Rating: 5

248.8'3. Teenagers--Religious life; Teenagers--Conduct of life; Christian life. 122 p.

Get Smart and *Bust Loose*, both by Kevin Johnson, are Bible studies written for young teens. *Get Smart* concentrates on learning how to build one's faith., *Bust Loose* on discovering just how cool being a Jesus Freak really is. In an in-your-face, easy-to-understand writing style, Johnson reaches out to teens, in their lingo, without talking down to them.

Each book is divided into twenty-five Bible studies. Each study is divided into sections, beginning with an anecdote to respond to, replete with questions and Bible verses to provoke thought, and checkpoints along the way to enhance understanding of materials covered. Plenty of opportunities are presented for self or group exploration. The main emphasis of both studies is what Johnson refers to as Empathize—to care about each other; Encourage—to encourage one another in personal walks with God; and Equip—to walk away from each lesson having learned something to help the reader become a better Christian. Perforated scripture cards may be torn out of the back for easy carrying in pocket or purse. Bible quotations are taken from the New International Version, the New Century Version, and the New Living Translation of the Holy Bible.

Kevin Johnson has partnered with Christian authors Josh McDowell and Gary Smalley. While serving as a youth pastor in his home church, Johnson discovered a need for Bible studies that were fresh and appealing to teens. Johnson wrote the Early Teen Discipleship series as a follow-up to his Early Teen Devotional series that included titles like *Could*

Someone Wake Me Up Before I Drool on the Desk? (Bethany House, 1996) and *Why Can't My Life Be a Summer Vacation?* (Bethany House, 1994). Highly recommended for sixth through eighth graders for self or group studies.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Churchville, New York.

A young woman after God's own heart / Elizabeth George. LCCN 2002013479. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House, 2003. PAP, 0736907890, \$8.99. High school. Rating: 4

248.8'33. Teenage girls--Religious life; Girls--Religious life; Christian life; Prayer books and devotions. 220 p.

A Young Woman After God's Own Heart is a teen devotional/Bible Study combined. Elizabeth George's approach has the feel of a gentle, yet wise teacher lovingly guiding those under her to a deeper, more committed life in Christ. The three sections present a progressive study that encourages even the newest Christian to grow and mature.

Part one, "The Pursuit of God," brings wholesome lessons about who we are, along with a good heart-search into Biblical characters. The study shows how God works with our flaws to mold us into what He intends us to be. Each lesson takes the reader on a journey of discovery, starting with learning the importance and delight of God's Word, ending with a reminder that obedience is the key to spiritual growth. Prayer commitment is also encouraged, and following each chapter within the sections is the practical guide, "Things to do today."

The second section, entitled "The Pursuit of God's Priorities," covers the practicalities of home life, friends, school, and service to others. Throughout these useful lessons runs a strong theme: be a young lady who cares for God, for His commands, and generally about putting others ahead of yourself. The section at the end of each chapter, entitled, "Would you like to know more," presents additional scriptures and challenges to encourage growth and God-likeness in the individual.

The third and last section, "The Practice of God's Priorities," encourages the young reader to "kick it up a notch." In other words, the readers now have the knowledge, practical application, and hopefully the desire to be faithful stewards of their Christian walk. Recommended as a group study, where

encouragement, differing opinions, and all-around discussions will enhance and keep the individual on track and maturing in the Lord.

Mary McKinney, Editor, Author, Conference Speaker, Educator, Port Orchard, Washington

Buddhist faith in America / Michael Burgan. (Faith in America.) LCCN 2003040815. New York: Facts on File, 2003. LIB, 0816049882, \$30.00. High school. Rating: 4

294.3'0973. Buddhism--United States; Asians--United States--Religion; ; United States--Religious life and customs. 112 p.

Mormon faith in America / Maxine Hanks with Jean Kinney Williams. (Faith in America.) LCCN 2002156383. New York: Facts on File, 2003. LIB, 0816049912, \$30.00. High school. Rating: 4

289.3'73. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints--United States--History; United States--Church history; ; United States--Religious life and customs. 128 p.

Native American faith in America / Michael Garrett and J.T. Garrett. (Faith in America.) LCCN 2002156384. New York: Facts on File, 2003. LIB, 0816049890, \$30.00. High school. Rating: 4

299'.793. Indians of North America--Religion; Indians of North America--Social life and customs; United States--Religious life and customs. 128 p.

Protestant faith in America / J. Gordon Melton. (Faith in America.) LCCN 2003040814. New York: Facts on File, 2003. LIB, 0816049858, \$30.00. High school. Rating: 4

280'.4'0973. Protestant churches--United States--History; United States--Church history; United States--Religious life and customs. 128 p.

Baptist and Methodist faiths in America / Julie Ingersoll. (Faith in America.) LCCN 2003040819. New York: Facts on File, 2003. LIB, 0816049920, \$30.00. High school. Rating: 4

286'.0973. Baptists--United States--History; Methodist Church--United States--History; United States--Religious life and customs. 128 p.

The Faith in America series celebrates America's religious heritage. Each writer presents one religious tradition, noting the religion's contributions to America's culture, and the American cultural influence on its development. Of particular value are presentation and discussion of both beliefs and practices, as envisioned by the religious adherents, and the challenges and criticisms the particular religion has encountered.

Black and white photographs and illustrations make it easy for high school students and general readers to grasp historical and contemporary facets. Attractive spacing, inserts, boxed columns, and interesting layout make the actual reading easy and seamless. Each book offers a chapter highlighting prominent, leading, or important individuals in the U.S. who are

followers of the religion. Glossary, time line, resources, and index make it easy to locate specific points or see an overview of the religion.

The coverage of each religion and its place and influence in American politics and future prospects makes this a worthy title for inclusion in sociology and political events sections. Recommended for both public and high school library collections.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

Courts and trials : a reference handbook / Christopher E. Smith. (Contemporary world issues.) LCCN 2002155573. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2003. HBB, 1576079333, \$45.00. High school (Adult). Rating: 4

347.73'1. Courts--United States; Trials--United States; Procedure (Law). 280 p.

Media and politics in America : a reference handbook / Guide H. Stempel, III. (Contemporary world issues.) LCCN 2002154378. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2003. HBB, 1576078450, \$45.00. High school (Adult). Rating: 4

302.23'0973. Mass media--Political aspects--United States--History; United States--Politics and government. 283 p.

Both of these titles in the Contemporary World Issues series provide a good starting point for research to understand the social, political, environmental, and economic issues facing the world today. Each book provides a detailed chronology of major events and an index.

Smith, professor of criminal justice and author of 20 books and 80 plus articles on courts, laws, and criminal justice, and Stempel, director of a Survey Research Center and author of 100 plus journal articles, bring expertise and historical perspective to the subject.

A separate chapter presents biographical sketches of people who have played important roles as developers of judicial institutions, legal principles, and court procedures, or in political communication in the United States. This is followed by a chapter devoted to important documents in an A to Z format, highlighting, in the case of *Courts and Trials*, laws, statutes, and judicial decision, and in the case of *Media and Politics in America*, documents and courts cases that structure the rules of political communication.

Groups concerned about courts and trials or active in political communication, are included in a separate directory. This makes it easy for high school students and general readers to have other useful sources for quick review or research.

Recommended for high school libraries, and public library collections on contemporary

issues. Those librarians seeking titles to provide a quick overview, yet, provide avenues for further scholarly research will find these easy to recommend to users.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

The fairy's return / Gail Carson Levine ; illustrated by Mark Elliott. LCCN 2002001681. New York: HarperCollins, 2002. HBB, 0066238005, \$9.99; LIB, 0066238013, \$14.89. Middle school (Elementary). Rating: 5

398.2'0943. Fairy tales; Folklore--Germany. 104 p.

For Biddle's sake / Gail Carson Levine ; illustrated by Mark Elliott. LCCN 2001039287. New York: HarperCollins, 2002. HBB, 0060000945, \$9.99; LIB, 0060000953, \$14.89. Middle school (Elementary). Rating: 5

398.2'0943. Fairy tales; Magic--Fiction; Princes--Fiction. 104 p.

In *The Fairy's Return*, Robin, the baker's son, competes to win the hand of his love, Princess Lark, with the help of Ethelinda, the fairy. Robin and Lark meet by chance and fall in love. Robin loves to tell jokes, and Lark is the only person who will not only let him finish a joke, but laughs as well. Lark is an overly protected princess who appreciates Robin's unconditional friendship. They are separated, however, by their parents' ideas about royalty and commoners. Lark is so distressed by separation from Robin that her father resolves to marry her to the prince capable of making her laugh, which leads to a humor tournament. Here is Robin's big chance. He just has to find a way into the tournament.

Previously, in *The Fairy's Mistake*, Ethelinda's reward and punishment of two sisters did not go as she planned, so she is now avoiding humans in order not to fail again. However, Ethelinda meets up with the lovesick Robin and finds him to be a polite young man and, according to fairy tradition, must reward him. She takes the fairy queen's advice and gives Robin a golden goose, which the queen assures her always works. With his golden goose, Robin gains entrance to the castle. With the help of Ethelinda, he meets three more challenges to win the hand of Princess Lark.

In *For Biddle's Sake* a little girl, nicknamed Parsley because she only eats parsley, is adopted by the fairy Bombina. Bombina is normally a very cranky fairy who deals with every conflict by turning things and people into frogs, but she is charmed by Parsley's smile. Through an unfortunate accident she turns Parsley into a frog. Parsley takes up residence by the stream, where she meets with the king's youngest son, Tansy.

Tansy has two older twin brothers who fight constantly and blame everything on Tansy.

Having twin heirs, the king decides to have a contest between his sons to determine who will inherit the throne. Tansy is allowed to compete as well, because he is not expected to win.

Meanwhile, Parsley has been practicing the magic spells she witnessed while living with Bombina and is successful in getting some of them to work. With the magic, she is able to assist Tansy in winning the contest. Tansy proposes marriage to Parsley the Toad, thereby breaking the spell and returning her to her human form.

What delight in reading fairy tales retold in a creative and witty way! *The Fairy's Return* is one of the six books in the Princess Tales series by Gail Carson Levine. The other titles are the *The Fairy's Mistake*, *For Biddle's Sake*, *The Princess Test*, *Princess Sonora and the Long Sleep*, and *Cinderellis and the Glass Hill*. All are set in the imaginary Kingdom of Biddle. Levine combines and retells traditional folktales in a wonderful new form. Illustrations include a map of the Kingdoms of Biddle and Kulornia, and six action pictures scattered throughout the book. These are pen and ink drawings, very realistic in nature.

Gail Carson Levine is one of the best authors of children's fiction today. These books will enchant all ages, children and parents alike. The series is highly recommended.

Karla Castle, Public Services Librarian, Warner Pacific College, Portland, Oregon

Electric mischief : battery-powered gadgets kids can make / written by Alan Bartholomew; illustrated by Lynn Bartholomew. (Kids can do it.) LCCN C20019036876. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2002. HBB, 1550749234, \$12.95. Middle school (Elementary). Rating: 4

621.31'042. Electric apparatus and appliances; Electricity--Experiments. 48 p.

Do you want to sneak down and get an extra piece of pie tonight? Don't forget your illuminated fork! Are you going to Las Vegas soon? Take some electric dice! Do you need a birthday gift for dad? Make him an electric backscratcher! These projects and more are yours for the asking in the book *Electric Mischief*. Using many things found around the house, as well as a few things one can find at a craft or hobby store, this book explains electricity using a hands-on approach. Beginning simply with making electrical connections and simple switches, the child can quickly move on to using the connections and putting those switches into things to make them move or light up.

With so many distractions these days, and the emphasis on virtual reality rather than actual reality, children are missing the opportunity to learn how to rig things up for themselves. The

delight in building something that actually works is often the impetus for further exploration of a subject, sometimes leading to a life-long interest. Author Alan Bartholomew makes a valiant effort in this book to fill in the gaps in our children's knowledge that used to be filled by kids tinkering on their own. In this, the author is commended. The precise directions and clear illustrations by Lynn Bartholomew give a roadmap for projects ranging from simple to complex. If children do all the projects in this book, they should be ready to apply the concepts independently for their own inventions. There are eight actual projects, and a few pages of further exploration suggestions. Due to the need for an electric drill, X-Acto knife, and hacksaw on some projects, this book will be best for ages 10 and up.

Kelley Westenhoff, Parent-Librarian, Dominion Christian School, Oakton, Virginia

Hitler came for Niemoeller : the Nazi war against religion / by Leo Stein; foreword by Norman Vincent Peale. LCCN 2002193016. Gretna, La.: Pelican, 2003. PAP, 158980963X, \$17.95. High school. Rating: 4

921 (284.1'092). Niemoeller, Martin, 1892-; Lutheran Church--Germany--Clergy--Biography. 336 p.

Much is generally known about Hitler's treatment of the Jews. Less is known about his treatment of Christians and other religious groups. This book by Stein, who when teaching at the University of Berlin was arrested and imprisoned by the Nazi for crimes of treason, recounts the convictions and imprisonment of Martin Niemoeller, the leading force of the German Evangelical Church and one who had dared Hitler.

Reprinted from the original publication in 1942, this work details Hitler's war against any and all religion. Added to this new edition is an excerpt from Voice of Destruction detailing Hitler's views of religion, and the Third Reich's plans for the destruction of religion, along with a 1945 essay by William J. Donovan outlining specifics of this war against religion. As few works focus on the anti-religion focus of Nazi times, this work can enable a better historical understanding, while also giving readers glimpses into the dedication and insights of Niemoeller.

Recommended for history, biography, and religion collections in public libraries.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

Rome : in spectacular cross-section / Stephen Biesty; text by Andrew Solway. LCCN 2002070694. Oxford, Eng.: Scholastic Nonfiction, 2003. HBB, 0439455464, \$18.95. Middle school (Elementary, High school, Adult). Rating: 5

937. Rome--Social life and customs; Rome--Civilization. 32 p.

Stephen Biesty continues his series of cross-section books with a visit to ancient Rome. With simple text written by Andrew Solway as the introduction to each page, Stephen Biesty's intricate, four color illustrations follow young Titus Cotta Maximus, and his father Marcus through a day of home life, street life, and festivals in the city of Rome in the year AD 128. The text is limited to a short paragraph on each page telling what event the Maximus family is partaking in, and explanatory sentences under each detail, jam-packed with history and details of life in Rome. Thus the text serves to draw your eye into the minute details of Biesty's cross-section drawings, which might otherwise be missed by the casual browser.

Titus and his father begin the day in their home, where Marcus is a Senator. They then leave for the day to attend the Festival of Castor and Pollux taking the reader out into the streets of Rome, to the Temple of Jupiter, the Forum, the Coliseum, the docks, the Baths of Trajan, and the races in the famous Circus Maximus, before finally returning home where evening life and a feast in the Maximus household is explored.

Just as Rome wasn't built in a day, neither will the exploration of this book be accomplished in a day. A serious Romophile or an artist intrigued by the art of drawing cross-section works, will spend hours poring over this exhibition of Rome. Stephen Biesty is indeed an expert! The book, in oversized format, also contains glossary and index as aids in reference and quick identification of details.

Judy A. Driscoll, Teacher, Christ the King Academy, Poulsbo, Washington

Colonial life / Rebecca Steffoff. (American voices from--.) LCCN 2002003223. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. LIB, 0761412050, \$32.79. Middle school (High school, Adult). Rating: 4

973.2. United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775--Sources; United States--Social life and customs--To 1775--Sources. 119 p.

The Revolutionary War / Susan Provost Beller. (American voices from--.) LCCN 2001008741. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. LIB, 0761412026, \$32.79. Middle school (High school, Adult). Rating: 4

973.3. United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Sources. 104 p.

The opening of the West / Rebecca Stefoff. (American voices from--) LCCN 2001008681. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. LIB, 0761412018, \$32.79. Middle school (High school, Adult). Rating: 4

978'.02. Frontier and pioneer life--West (U.S.); West (U.S.)--History; West (U.S.)--History--Sources; United States--Territorial expansion. 105 p.

The Civil War / Susan Provost Beller. (American voices from--) LCCN 2002003224. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. LIB, 0761412042, \$32.79. Middle school (High school, Adult). Rating: 4

973.7. United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Sources. 103 p.

World War I / by Adriane Ruggiero. (American voices from--) LCCN 2001008747. New York: Benchmark Books, 2002. LIB, 0761412034, \$32.79. Middle school (High school, Adult). Rating: 4

940.3'73. World War, 1914-1918--Sources; United States--History--1913-1921. 117 p.

World War II / by Adriane Ruggiero. (American voices from--) LCCN 2002003247. New York: Benchmark Books, 2002. LIB, 0761412069, \$32.79. Middle school (High school, Adult). Rating: 4

940.53. World War, 1939-1945. 117 p.

Using excerpts from letters, speeches, newspaper articles, pamphlets, journal entries, and other documents of the time, each title in the American Voices From Series presents the history of the time for grades seven to nine. Also recommended for beginning adult readers. An introduction gives a general overview of the event expanded upon in chapters. One or more chapters make the time a personal journey by meeting those living at the time, via primary documents.

Photographs and illustrations on every second or third page, attractive layout and spacing, library binding with reinforced spines, make it easy to enjoy and stay with the storyline. A colorful timeline; glossary; index; and bibliography of others books, places to visit, videos and websites included for more in-depth study. Each chapter offers a few questions to probe interesting aspects, particular practices, or peoples of the time.

The use of primary documents enables many readers to grasp a level of understanding beyond that of commentary or explanation. This might stimulate not only appreciation but a probe into causes and roles not readily apparent in history overviews (e.g., in the volume on the Civil War, the great impact of the war on American medicine is explored, and in the volume on WWI, a look at the women of the Signal Corps articulates the influence and role of women in the war.

Recommended for public library juvenile history collections, and for adult easy readers. Libraries having The Way People Live series (Lucent Books) or World History Series (Lucent Books) will find American Voices From series lets primary sources determine the course of the commentary with similar quality in terms of photographs. Individual titles of the series can be added, as each title stands alone in content.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida



Charlemagne and the early Middle Ages / by Miriam Greenblatt. (Rulers and their times.) LCCN 2002001973. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. LIB, 0761414878, \$28.50. Middle school (Elementary, High school). Rating: 5

944'.014. Charlemagne, Emperor, 742-814; Kings, queens, rulers, etc.; France--History--To 987; Civilization, Medieval; Holy Roman Empire--History--To 1517. 80 p.

Rarely does a book come along that begs to be a part of your library. This study of Charlemagne is one of those books. Divided into three parts, this book concisely but thoroughly delves into the time period and the ruler himself. The first part discusses the great ruler's life, giving equal time to both less honorable points in his reign and the good things he did. In a lively manner, Miriam Greenblatt shows how Charlamagne's actions and decisions shaped the development of Europe, even in today's world. The second part of the book covers what life was like for everyone during the eighth century from food, to education, to clothing and health. The role of the Christian church is explained with respect for its traditions and the positive impact it had on the society of the day, rather than denigrated through the historical revisionism common in other works.

The third part of the book offers a glimpse at the Carolingians in their own words, using some of the translated documents that still exist. Richly illustrated with photographs, artwork, and artifacts of the period, the book draws the reader in to discover more about the Holy Roman Empire and the man who shaped it. Classical school students will be amused to find that they are pursuing an old and honored method of teaching using grammar, dialectic, and rhetoric. Concluding with a glossary and bibliography, this book will be an excellent asset to your library. There are 11 other books in this series that, if they live up to this one, will be a valuable investment in your students' reading materials. It is most appropriate for third grade and higher.

Kelley Westenhoff, Parent-Librarian, Dominion Christian School, Oakton, Virginia

Days of jubilee : the end of slavery in the United States / by Patricia C. and Fredrick L. McKissack. LCCN 2001057568. New York: Scholastic Press, 2003. HBB, 059010764X, \$18.95. Middle school (High school, Adult). Rating: 5

973.7. Slavery--History; African Americans--History--To 1863; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865. 144 p.

Few books written about the Civil War and slavery in the United States for the middle school reader present the Civil War with as much clarity and simplicity as does *Days of Jubilee* by authors Patricia C. and Fredrick L. McKissack. The McKissacks have chosen to tell the story of the abolition of slavery in the United States from the viewpoint of the slaves themselves. This easy to read narrative is liberally sprinkled with small vignettes, written in the words of the slaves and leaders of abolition who bring the narrative of the war to life. Each vignette appears in a bordered, sepia-toned box resembling a snapshot, which helps to emphasize the snapshot like glimpse into the life of the speaker. In addition, the text is augmented with sepia-toned photographs of slave families, leaders from both the North and South, political leaders of the day, and important documents. In all, the format makes an attractive and enticing setting for this important story.

The McKissacks explain their choice of title for the book in the introduction, noting that, unlike the Fourth of July which celebrates the freedom of our nation pointing to a specific day when that freedom was declared, slaves in the United States celebrated (and, in some places, continue to celebrate) various days of jubilee. Due to the fact that not all of the slaves received the news of their emancipation on the same day, the day that became important for their celebration tended to be the day on which each slave first learned he/she was free. The narrative of the story travels through the Civil War pointing out the events, battles, and turning points that became days of jubilee for blacks in the United States, without overdone technical details.

While it could have been even more interesting (and helpful to a researcher) if the quoted material was footnoted and more of the slaves' narratives had been identified by the slaves' names, it is possible that the original diaries and manuscripts quoted do not contain the actual names of the slaves. Following the narrative, the authors have included a Civil War timeline, extensive bibliography, and an index. Highly recommended for middle school through high school history teachers looking for an uncomplicated overview of the Civil War and Reconstruction that emphasizes the viewpoint of the black community.

Judy Driscoll, Teacher, Christ the King Academy, Poulso, Washington

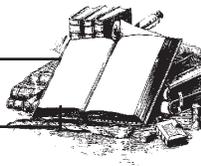
***The Blackfeet* / by Raymond Bial. (Lifeways.) LCCN 2002000910. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. LIB, 0761414169, \$32.79. Middle school (Elementary). Rating: 5**

978.004'973. Sihasapa Indians; Siksika Indians; Indians of North America--Great Plains; Indians of North America--Prairie Provinces. 128 p.

If your library is short on books on individual Native American peoples, this is the series to invest in. *Blackfeet*, by Raymond Bial, provides a thorough introduction to this tribe. Beginning with the Blackfeet creation story and ending with a time line, some biographies, a glossary, and sources for further information, this book encompasses all of the parts of a society that makes a people unique. For example, in one chapter Bial discusses how village life depended on everyone working together, from moving the tipis to caring for the horses to hunting buffalo. One chapter covers warfare, hunting, clothing, jewelry, and handicrafts. A bonus is the recipe for buffalo pot roast!

Chapter 4 discusses the beliefs of the Blackfeet tribe, from worship of multiple gods to medicine men and gambling. Chapter 5 gives the facts of the conflicts between the tribe and the U.S. government. Neither Chapters 4 nor 5 draw any moral conclusions about the topics covered, trusting the readers to draw their own conclusions. Chapter 6 concludes with hope, showing the Blackfeet today. Suggested reading level of this book is third grade and up, but the beautiful photographs and interesting information will be attractive to younger children as well. With help from a teacher or parent, this volume could prompt a life-long study of Native American culture. The Lifeways series includes nineteen other tribes, as well. If getting all of them does not fit your budget, research which tribes lived in your area, and invest in books about those tribes.

Kelley Westenhoff, Parent-Librarian, Dominion Christian School, Oakton, Virginia



After all these years / Sally John. (The other way home; 1.) LCCN 2002003319. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House, 2002. PAP, 0736908811, \$10.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 4

F. Female friendship--Fiction; Vandalism--Fiction; Romantic suspense fiction. 347 p.

Isabel Mendoza is visiting her new friend Gina's office, when Tony Ward walks in. Memories of their long-ago college relationship spring fresh into her mind, as Tony struggles to remember why she is so familiar. She barely hears him tell Gina he is in town to write an article on her fiancé, Christian author Brady Olaffsen. She can't believe they are meeting again, after all these years. Tony Ward is a skeptic. His current goal is to undermine Brady's "too-good-to-be-true" image and expose him to the world as a phony. He attaches himself to Izzy, his pet name for Isabel from their college years. Izzy had put any thoughts of Tony far behind her, along with her sinful past, when she became a Christian and moved to Valley Oaks, Illinois.

Lia Neuman moves into the apartment, above her newly purchased pharmacy, on a dark, rainy evening. While she struggles to get her sleeping seven-year-old niece, Chloe, up the stairs, along comes Cal Hunnington, a big, teddy bear of a deputy sheriff to the rescue. As Lia struggles to get her business going, she begins receiving threatening phone calls. Relying on Cal as both a deputy and a friend bothers his girlfriend, Tammy, whose mother works in Lia's pharmacy.

The message of sin, repentance, and forgiveness is found on nearly every page of Sally John's thoroughly readable book. A tinge of suspense only heightens the reader's interest and hesitation to put this book down until completed. John has done a good job to develop not only the main characters, but the secondary characters as well. The characters' struggles with sin in their lives allow for the gospel to be presented throughout in a non-intrusive, very natural way.

Laurie Woolery, Freelance Writer, Cottonwood, California.

Angels watching over me / by Michael Phillips. (Shenandoah sisters; 1.) LCCN 2002015797. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2003. HBB, 074622705X, \$16.99; PAP, 0764227009, \$12.99. Adult (High school, Middle school). Rating: 4

F. Female friendship--Fiction; Plantation life--Fiction; Fugitive slaves--Fiction; Race relations--Fiction; Teenage girls--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; North Carolina--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction; War stories. 316 p.

Angels Watching Over Me is a story about a young slave girl, Mary Ann Jukes (Mayme), and a young white girl, Kathleen O'Bannon Clairborne (Katie), how they meet, how they endure tragedy together and how they will embark upon survival. This story goes back and forth, from one girl's story to the other, until the girls finally meet. Both girls' families are slaughtered, one before her very eyes, the other while she hides in the cellar. When they stumble across each other, the girls begin to work together to ensure their survival. Several events occur that lead both girls to accept the Lord into their hearts and trust him for help and guidance each step of the way.

Angels Watching Over Me by Michael Phillips is well written and developed. The book ends at a satisfying point, but left this reader wanting more time with the characters. Although not my typical reading genre, I was captivated by the story. Michael Phillips establishes the groundwork for future exciting adventures and growth in the faith of both characters. Since this is the beginning of a series, there is room for further character development. Although I would recommend this book for both adults and teenagers, there are some violent episodes that may be inappropriate for some younger teens. The book does not contain graphic details of these violent episodes and they are used in an appropriate manner for this genre.

Jennifer Silitzoff, Computer Analyst, Avid Reader, Renton, Washington

At close of day / by Joseph Bentz. LCCN 2002152600. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2003. PAP, 0764222090, \$12.99. Adult. Rating: 4

F. Parent and adult child--Fiction; Father and child--Fiction; Secrecy--Fiction; Christian fiction; Domestic fiction. 384 p.

At Close of Day by Joseph Bentz follows the intricate unraveling and ultimate restoration of a modern family, after their aging father lets slip a secret he has held close for more than fifty years. Reeling from the implications of their father's confession, Hugh Morris's grown children face the trauma of rewriting their family's history, and their future, now that the secret has come to light. Hugh has two children by a previous marriage that ended more than 45 years ago. The daughter of that early, disastrous union contacts Hugh and sets off a chain of events that

threatens to unravel two families. Hugh's daughters Jackie, Carolyn, and Pam are stunned by the revelation and what it implies about their father. The questions they have are limitless. Did their Mom know about this? When did it happen? Did their father cheat on their mother?

Bentz's technique weaves together a bold tapestry composed of characters, all flawed, but real and endearing in their own ways and a well developed plot. With an insightful, compassionate pen, the author explores end-of-life issues and the sometimes-comical differences in how family members see each other and themselves. This story is an enjoyable and easy read, with fully developed characters who may resemble someone we know, maybe even ourselves. A long overdue must-read for all caregivers and for anyone with siblings, aging parents, or blended families.

Rick Estep, Media Director, HeavenBound Media Center, Middleburg, Florida

Blink / Ted Dekker. LCCN 2002008734. Nashville: W Pub., 2002. PAP, 084994371X, \$14.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 3

F. Muslim women--Fiction; Middle East--Fiction; Christian fiction. 389 p.

Seth Borders is not your average guy. With an IQ comparable to Einstein's, Seth is a high school drop-out in graduate school, who is suddenly gifted with an amazing power that allows him to see multiple, possible futures. Miriam, a Saudi Arabian princess, has fled her home for America, to escape a forced marriage that will enable a terrorist regime to overthrow the Saudi government. These two are thrown together when Seth foresees her imminent danger, and cultures and religions collide. Seth's new gift provides them with a means of escape more than once, but it soon becomes apparent that evasion will be impossible. Seth's visions are weakened by a lack of sleep, and they must manipulate the future, based on Seth's waning gift, in order to save themselves. Together, they discover that they must put their faith in God and not Allah, reason, or logic.

In the wake of September 11, 2001, and the war on terrorism that has flooded the media, *Blink* by Ted Dekker is a timely novel. Americans long to be educated about the Middle East; Dekker includes in his plot the basic tenets of Islam, shedding light on religious practices. Although both Muslim and Christian religions are examined, God's sovereignty is proven in a test similar to Elijah's in the Old Testament.

Dekker's fast-pace provides an action-packed, suspenseful romance that readers will want to inhale in one setting.

Amanda Ottaway, English Major, Meredith College, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Daughter of China / by C. Hope Flinchbaugh. LCCN 2002003948. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2002. PAP, 0764227319, \$11.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 4

F. Christians--China--Fiction; Women--China--Fiction; China--Fiction. 278 p.

Daughter of China by C. Hope Flinchbaugh is a profound work of fiction. Mei Lin wants what every teen girl desires, an education, good friends, and love. Yet, her faith could cost her all of her dreams. Mei Lin is forced to decide whether to continue to meet with other believers in secret, after her pastor is caught, beaten, and forced to work in a labor camp. She is arrested when she is caught sharing the good news, that Jesus is a gracious Savior, and that there is a "good" heaven for those who follow him.

Daughter of China is not a comfortable read, but it is powerful. It challenges us to look at our own lives and the meager sacrifices that have been asked of the American church. It draws the reader into the heartbeat of a young woman who is beaten, bruised, starved, and, yet continues to pour herself out like an offering, sharing her love for Christ with other prisoners. Flinchbaugh is not only a gifted writer, weaving a story that you simply can't put down, but she is passionate about her subject. Her grasp of details is based upon years of serving as a journalist for the persecuted church representing believers who do not have a voice. *Daughter of China* has the potential to shake us into the realization that our faith is based upon more than an Americanized version of Christianity. Highly recommended for every believer, for generations to come.

Beth Estep, HeavenBound Media Center, Middleburg, Florida

Daughter of the loom / Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller. (Bells of Lowell; 1.) LCCN 2002152591. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2003. PAP, 0764226886, \$12.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 3

F. Women--Massachusetts--Fiction; Women textile workers--Fiction; Lowell (Mass.)--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 382 p.

Set during the Industrial Revolution in 1828, *Daughter of the Loom* by Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller weaves the tale of twenty-year-old Lilly Armbruster. Newly orphaned and nearly penniless, due to a philandering older brother, Lilly applies at the Lowell, Massachusetts, Appleton Textile Mill, an institution she hopes she can destroy. Lilly has hated the Boston Associates, who, in the name of progress, founded the textile industry in her East

Chelmsford countryside; renamed the town Lowell, in honor of their visionary Francis Cabot Lowell; and bought up the farmers' land. As if that wasn't bad enough, the young man she had intended to marry, Matthew Cheever, her friend since childhood, has seemingly forsaken the farm lifestyle she so longed for and "gone over to the other side," becoming a protégé of the Boston Associates. As she learns the ropes of the textile mill in the spinning room, Lilly has to deal with the harassment of her supervisor, Thaddeus Arnold; living in a company boarding house; and sharing a bedroom with seven other girls, none of who seem to her to be kindred spirits. In time, she befriends one of the girls, Nadine, and is able to share her faith and establish a friendship with her. She also finds a friend in the boarding house keeper, Miss Adelaide Beecher, notorious for her bad cooking, but a true kindred spirit willing to share her faith, as well as, take instruction in cooking from Lilly. During the year of time the book encompasses, Lilly becomes involved in sabotage at the mill. When she realizes that someone besides her is out to destroy the mill, Lilly switches from saboteur to investigator. Lilly begins to see the folly of trying to stop progress, makes amends with her intended fiancé, and peace with her wayward brother. Most importantly, she has learned the value of being able to forgive.

Peterson and Miller paint an interesting picture of this historical period in America. Although focus is on the unjust treatment of mill workers, depiction of the grueling atmosphere, in which mill workers worked and lived, is not as graphically illustrated as many historians have portrayed it. Intrigue, compassion, despair, humor and romance make the story an enjoyable, if not completely believable, read.

Judy Driscoll teacher Christ the King Academy, Poulso, Washington

Destiny Junction / Michael Phillips. LCCN 2002280683. Shippensburg, Pa.: Destiny Image, 2002. PAP, 0768420628, \$13.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 4

F. City and town life--Fiction; Christian fiction. 255 p.

Destiny Junction is the typical, unexciting small town, with all of the usual emotional undercurrents. Some occupants the reader may recognize include: 1.) the geeky high school student who hates everyone and wants to commit suicide; 2.) the housewife who prays for a problematic husband, unaware he has lost their life savings and is having an affair; 3.) the loving couple facing cancer; and 4.) the prodigal's daughter.

Lynne Jefferson, a pastor's daughter is murdered, while praying for a life-hardened, homeless man. Her kind words and good deeds have affected so many lives that her memorial service is packed. As her father focuses the

service on Lynne's love of people and desire to introduce them to her greatest love, Jesus Christ, each person is struck by different facets of the message and prompted to be honest with themselves about their own lives. Some refuse God's calling, but many are led to a true relationship with the Lord.

Destiny Junction by Michael Phillips is a story about a small town of individuals who are used to going through their daily routines, bearing their burdens, and avoiding shake-ups. Phillips, well-known for his work with George MacDonald's writings, team writing with Judith Pella, and solo spiritual non-fiction, shows his depth of experience turning complicated lives into concentrated clips that form a panoramic view of the town folk. He presents God as a non-denominational Being who sees individuals, rather than merely brown paper bags, generically waiting to be filled. Though, at times, didactic, the story resembles an elongated salvation tract or pre-Bible study tool for new Christians. Fans of *Chicken Soup for the Christian Woman's Soul*, edited by Jack Canfield, et. al. (Health Communications, October 2002) will enjoy the similarity to an expanded episode.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Churchville, New York.



Directed verdict / Randy Singer. LCCN 2002007027. Colorado Springs: WaterBrook Press, 2002. PAP, 1578566339, \$13.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 5

F. Americans--Saudi Arabia--Fiction; Religious tolerance--Fiction; Missionaries--Fiction; Deportation--Fiction; Saudi Arabia--Fiction. 485 p.

The story opens with an almost shocking portrayal of a Christian couple being tortured for their beliefs in Saudi Arabia. Deported under false charges, Sarah Reed, now a widow with two young children, tries to piece her life back together in the States, only to find she is denied her husband's life insurance benefits. Sarah turns to attorney Brad Carlson, after he successfully and brashly defends her pastor in a pro-life case. Brad, not content to simply pursue her due compensation, decides to do the unprecedented, sue the nation of Saudi Arabia for their criminal persecution of the Reeds. The depths of evil are explored as the feared Muttawa is taken on. The pursuit of true justice is mingled with the sometimes-skewed altruistic standards of preserving legal protocol at all costs. Treachery, deceit, brilliant legal action, and notable characters make *Directed Verdict*, the debut entry of Randy Singer, an exceptional read. Although there are passages when the witnessing almost slows down the plot, there are some powerful insights into what it means to serve the Lord under severe persecution.

The author's background as trial lawyer and his work for the American Center for Law and Justice, as well as the North American Mission Board, serves him well. His novel is a stunner in legal detail and how the justice system functions. Beyond the legal expertise, Singer is a talented writer in that he is able to break away from stereotyping characters and, instead, create individuals within his story. Grisham fans will not be disappointed.

Pam Webb, writer. Credits: *School Library Journal*; *Christian Retailing*; Sandpoint, Idaho

The DMZ / Jeanette Windle. LCCN 2002003591. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2002. PAP, 0825441188, \$15.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 3

F. Americans--Colombia--Fiction; Missing persons--Fiction; Colombia--Fiction; Political fiction; Suspense fiction. 512 p.

More than a decade after the end of the cold war has chilled the Marxist rebel movements around the world. One hot spot remains...Colombia. The unexplained deaths of three U.S. citizens draw the attention of the world to the Colombian demilitarized zone. Are the local Colombian rebels responsible? Or is a deadly Middle Eastern secret cloaked by the jungle canopy of the DMZ?

Julie Baker, a young journalist, is part of the media, medical, and political contingent sent to investigate the deaths, but she has a personal agenda, as well. Her missionary parents died in Columbia, and she is seeking answers, in hopes of reconciling her feelings with the haunting memories from her past. Julie soon learns that, besides the mysterious deaths of the three Americans, a sophisticated military aircraft has disappeared, and the FARC guerrilla rebels, who roam the jungles of Columbia, are considered prime suspects. After being taken hostage by a group of rebels and hidden in the rainforest, she teams up with a guerilla soldier, Enrique Martinez, who saves her from death. Do they have enough time to uncover the deadly secret in the jungle? Julie must set aside her own fears and heed God's call for self-sacrifice to face her past, and her uncertain future.

Rick Estep, HeavenBound Media Center, Middleburg, Florida

English ivy / Catherine Palmer. (HeartQuest.) LCCN 2001005635. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2002. PAP, 0842319271, \$9.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 4

F. England--Fiction. 322 p.

Ivy Bowden is about to turn twenty-one and marry Nigel Creeve, a man chosen by her adoptive father. She is a woman who looks on the bright side of every situation, and true to her nature, she does so as she contemplates her wedding. When robbers waylay her and her younger sisters, as they walk to the village, Ivy

is wounded. Her sister runs for help, bringing a gentleman back with her. Ivy is swept up into the powerful arms of the dashing Colin Richmond, recently returned from India, and taken to convalesce at his family's nearby estate.

Under Colin's watchful care, Ivy regains her health. She also learns that her true parents died when she was a small child. Her real father left instructions that she marry John Frith, the philandering son of his business partner. Now Ivy must choose between the worthless Frith and her betrothed, Creeve. To make her decision more difficult, she also finds her admiration and respect for Colin growing into love. Ivy struggles to discern God's leading in the situation. Colin returns her feelings but thinks that, if he is to honor God, a future together is impossible.

English Ivy, a light romantic novel by best-selling author, Catherine Palmer, is set in 19th century rural England. Readers might expect a more substantial work from the Christy Award-winning Palmer, following her well-received, autobiographical novel, *The Happy Room*. Though *English Ivy* is not a novel of depth, it is reminiscent of light romances written in the early 19th century. It embraces the delights of village life and gossip; an assertive mother; a group of younger sisters who find nothing so important as the color of ribbons on a bonnet; a handsome, mysterious hero; and a nearby, elegant manor. *English Ivy* is a gentle romance to curl up with on a rainy afternoon.

Cathy Elliott, Writer, BS, CSU Chico, Anderson, California. Credits: *Stories for the Heart*, *The Upper Room*

Exile of Lucifer / D. Brian Shafer. (Chronicles of the host;1.) LCCN 2002141110. Shippensburg, Pa.: Destiny Image, 2002. PAP, 0768420997, \$13.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 3

F. End of the world--Fiction; Bible--Prophecies--End of the world--Fiction. 319 p.

Unholy empire / D. Brian Shafer. (Chronicles of the host;2.) Shippensburg, Pa.: Destiny Image, 2002. PAP, 0768421608, \$13.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 3

F. End of the world--Fiction; Bible--Prophecies--End of the world--Fiction. 295 p.

Rising darkness / D. Brian Shafer. (Chronicles of the host;3.) Shippensburg, Pa.: Destiny Image, 2002. PAP, 0768421772, \$13.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 3

F. End of the world--Fiction; Bible--Prophecies--End of the world--Fiction. 318 p.

This series develops a view of the angelic realm based on Biblical descriptions of angels and their activities. Similar in style to, yet more difficult to play out than, *Lord of the Rings* by J. R. R. Tolkien, *Chronicles of the Host* portrays events in the heavenly realm from the fall of

Satan to the victorious birth of Christ. The principal characters are Lucifer, Michael, and Gabriel. Also, included in the series is a host of subordinates of both fallen and faithful angels, lieutenants and teaching angels; and angels of war and those of worship, all of who knew each other before the fall. The Lord is depicted as a constant factor, but intervenes only at key points.

In the first book, the subtle self-deception that blinded Lucifer and his followers is presented. The exile is seen, by Satan, as a setback, and the stage is set for him to establish himself on Earth by making sure "the seed" that will bruise his head never arrives. In book two, the stories of Cain and Abel through the rebellion of Korah in the wilderness, unfold. In the story of Abraham and Isaac, the angels are mystified by God's order for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, but relieved to provide help, stopping the knife just in time. Book three follows the events from Jericho to the prophetic time of Daniel. On the eve of Christ's birth, while Satan tries to prevent the fulfillment of the promised "seed," angels protect Joseph and Mary. The birth of Jesus is celebrated, but with an ominous ending that implies a battle over Jesus' death and resurrection.

Shafer effectively uses literary tools of both flashback and flashforward for jumping between the unseen world of angels and the human conversations the angels observe. The thread of Jesus as "the seed" keeps the three books moving. Recommended for youth and adults prepared to examine mysteries of good and evil that cannot be fully resolved in this life, but that add to the adventure of the Christian faith.

Greg Boyer, Freelance Writer and Training Developer, Bowling Green, Ohio

Face to face / Linda Dorrell. LCCN 2002005441. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003. PAP, 0801064252, \$11.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 4

F. Women alcoholics--Fiction; Recovering alcoholics--Fiction; Mothers and daughters--Fiction; Sheriffs--Fiction; Christian fiction; Mystery fiction. 224 p.

Wanda Hunter, a recovering alcoholic, longs to find her daughter, Kendall, who ran away as a teenager to escape her mother's drinking binges and neglect. Wanda receives an encouraging note from her daughter and decides to look for her. She wants to ask forgiveness from the girl for the way she treated her as a child. When Wanda arrives at her daughter's address, Kendall has vanished. Her friends feel there are suspicious circumstances surrounding the disappearance. Wanda calls her ex-husband to see if he has had any contact with Kendall. Upon trying to get the police involved, Wanda finds the authorities reluctant to get involved in cases of missing adult children. Soon, the two estranged parents travel from Florida to South

Carolina, following a trail of clues pieced together from Kendall's uncollected mail and journals found in her home. In South Carolina the couple seeks the help of Bruce Yeats, a discouraged, disheartened sheriff's detective in the midst of his own separation and looming divorce. Yeats agrees to help, but must first solve the case he is working on and discover the identities of two victims; one, the decomposed body of a woman, and the other, a woman who lies in a coma in the hospital.

Linda Dorrell's second novel, *Face to Face*, catches the reader on page one and ends with a unique twist of suspense and emotional drama. The author presents an unflattering description of our local police in the area of parents trying to find missing adult children. However, her description of a forensic artist recreating a true-to-life model out of a decomposed body is fascinating. Dorrell lives in South Carolina, where most of the story takes place. Her first novel is *True Believers*. Recommended for young adults.

Maxine Cambra, Freelance Writer, Editor, Member of SCBWI, Anderson, California

***Finding Ruth* / Roxanne Saylor Henke. (Coming home to Brewster; 2.) LCCN 2002009430. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House, 2003. PAP, 0736909680, \$10.99. Adult. Rating: 3**

F. First loves--Fiction; North Dakota--Fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. 380 p.

The second installment in novice novelist Roxanne Henke's *Coming Home to Brewster* series, *Finding Ruth* uses several characters' voices to follow the journey Ruthie Hammond takes in her discovery of what really matters. As co-owner of a radio station in the farm town of Brewster, North Dakota, Ruthie and her business partner/live-in boyfriend Jack experience financial woes. Ruthie has wanted to escape Brewster since high school, when she jilted her boyfriend, Paul, in her urge need to get out of town. Now, 20 years later, Paul returns to Brewster, the radio station goes under, and Ruthie finally grabs her dream: a radio job in a major city. It's not long before Ruthie realizes the dream is an empty cup, while the fullness of her life is really back in small town Brewster.

Forgiveness, honesty, finding the values in life that are worth pursuing, faithfulness to family and friends are all facets of Henke's tale of Ruth. The various perspectives of Ruthie, Jack, and Paul add extra interest to the story, while giving readers a chance to see themselves in one or more of the characters. Teens and young adults, as well as women who feel they have given up dreams for the sake of others, will especially identify with Ruthie's single-minded ambition to find her destiny, anywhere, but in her own hometown. While providing a good story with believable characters, Henke motivates readers to reassess their own choices and acknowledge

God's grace in the form of second chances. Fans of Henke's first book, *After Anne*, will be pleased to revisit Brewster. Caution: sensitive readers might be uncomfortable with Ruthie's co-habitation with Jack.

Karen Schmidt, Freelance Writer/Editor, Marysville, Washington

***A greater glory* / James Scott Bell. (The trials of Kit Shannon; 1.) LCCN 2002152594. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2003. PAP, 0764226452, \$12.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 3**

F. Women lawyers--Fiction; Los Angeles (Calif.)--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction; Legal stories. 301 p.

The early part of the twentieth century was a colorful and fascinating part of Americana. Everything was changing, from modes of transportation to traditions. One great change was how many women were enabled to become more independent, a change not always embraced or appreciated by society. Kit Shannon, a woman attorney practicing in early Los Angeles, is the protagonist in James Scott Bell's *A Greater Glory*, the first installment in the forthcoming series, the *Trials of Kit Shannon*. Kit is a brash, beautiful Irish lawyer, who doesn't have to practice law (due to a sizable inheritance from her aunt), but feels challenged to take on nearly impossible cases. She boldly does her own investigating, and, with the able assistance of her secretary/escort Corazon Chavez, Kit manages to get herself into enough predicaments to briskly move the plot along. In this episode, Kit defends a man accused of a murder he certainly looks like he is guilty of. What makes the case even more interesting is that the prosecuting attorney is also a woman with a competitive streak. A side plot revolves around Kit's fiancée Ted, whose interest in flight gets him accused of being a spy. The climatic ending is neatly tied up, so Kit can be ready for her next case.

Author of several legal thrillers, one of which garnered him a Christy Award, Bell, in this case, does not offer readers much of a challenging plot. Kit Shannon is an interesting and charming heroine with greater possibilities. Although characters are not fully fleshed out, Bell uses some interesting twists and devices, such as the inclusion of historical figures like Houdini, to enhance his storyline.

Pam Webb, Christian Retailing, School Library Journal, Sandpoint, Idaho

***Heart of a Lion* / by Gilbert Morris. (Lions of Judah; 1.) LCCN 2002010226. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2002. PAP, 0764226819, \$11.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 4**

F. Noah (Biblical figure)--Fiction; Bible.O.T.--History of Biblical events--Fiction; Noah's ark--Fiction; Deluge--Fiction. 320 p.

The first book in the *Lions of Judah* series, *Heart of a Lion*, by Gilbert Morris, opens in an ancient world of fresh, pristine lands, where one would hope to find compatible inhabitants. Yet, two distinct types of people emerge: those who serve the Lord God, and those who belong to corrupt sin-filled tribes about to bring judgment down upon themselves. The main character, Noah, begins his life-long journey in a wholesome, safe environment. As he grows, Noah is thrust into the world of temptation and deceit. Noah meets Lomeen, a beautiful woman from a neighboring pagan tribe. Although he is attracted to her, Lomeen's blatant idol worship and evil practices cannot be reconciled with serving the one true God. Unfortunately, his disobedience in witnessing even a small part of the tribe's celebrations thrusts Noah into a life-long battle of temptation with Lomeen and all she represents. Despite this on-going battle, Noah desires to know and walk with God. With a heart-cry to hear from the Almighty, Noah finally pieces together a formidable mandate, the building of the Ark. Encouraged by his grandfather, Methuselah, and bolstered by his sons' commitment to work with him, Noah begins the long process of building, amidst much ridicule and scorn. He is bolstered by Methuselah's presentation to him of an ancient family heirloom, a medallion with the picture of a lion upon it. This reminds Noah of his mandate from God, and that he is chosen to represent the King with the heart of a lion.

Gilbert Morris presents an interesting, if somewhat tedious, account of Noah and his sons. Morris writes in his usual flowing style, yet the storyline itself is presented from a rather conventional viewpoint. Unlike the Genesis account, rain is a common occurrence to the earth's inhabitants, not a first-time event; and Noah throws the ramp off the Ark, so no one else can enter. Yet, the Lord God shuts the upper door and the waters from the deep break open upon the earth in the final judgment. An interesting "bonus" is that the author continues the story beyond the Flood, and provides a satisfying conclusion, Noah enjoying his grandchildren in the brand new world.

Mary McKinney, Author, Educator, Editor, Speaker, Port Orchard, Washington

***The hope before us* / Elyse Larson. (Women of valor; 3.) LCCN 2002002573. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2002. PAP, 0764223763, \$12.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 3**

F. World War, 1939-1945--Medical care--Fiction; World War, 1939-1945--France--Fiction; World War, 1939-1945--Women--Fiction; Americans--France--Fiction; Women spies--Fiction; Sisters--Fiction; Nurses--Fiction; France--Fiction. 352 p.

In *The Hope Before Us* by Elyse Larson, Marge Emerson, a nurse, and her sister, Em, a war correspondent, reunite in France, under unusual circumstances. Brad Cummins, an official with

the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), approaches Em in Paris. He offers her a courier position with OSS. Marge, working in a field hospital, is surprised when Em enters the hospital where she is on duty. Through a series of events the two sisters unite to impede a plot against a family escaping to Switzerland. Their faith helps them through this daring rescue.

This book is third in the Women of Valor series by Elyse Larson, and is worth reading. Its plot is exciting, filled with romance and intrigue. It is a reminder of the tragedies of the Nazis and the war with Germany.

Pam Burns, Librarian, Promise Land Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida



The Jerusalem scrolls / Bodie and Brock Thoene. (Zion legacy; 4.) LCCN 2001017902. New York: Viking, 2001. HBB, 0670030120, \$24.95; PAP, 0142001511, \$13.00. Adult (High school). Rating: 5

F. Israel-Arab War, 1948-1949--Fiction; Jews--Palestine--Fiction. 272 p.



Stones of Jerusalem / Bodie and Brock Thoene. (The Zion legacy; 5.) LCCN 2001046560. New York: Viking, 2002. HBB, 0670030511, \$24.95; PAP, 0142001880, \$13.00. Adult (High school). Rating: 5

F. Israel-Arab War, 1948-1949--Fiction; Jews--Palestine--Fiction; Religious fiction; War stories. 266 p.



Jerusalem's hope / Bodie and Brock Thoene. (Zion legacy; 6.) LCCN 2002022959. New York: Viking, 2002. HBB, 0670030848, \$24.95; PAP, 0142003573, \$13.00. Adult (High school). Rating: 5

F. Jews--History--20th century--Fiction; Israel-Arab War, 1948-1949--Fiction; Israel--History--1948-1967--Fiction; Jerusalem--Fiction. 264 p.

In *The Jerusalem Scrolls*, Bodie and Brock Thoene's fourth novel in the Zion Legacy Series, it is May 1948, and Jerusalem's Old City has fallen, its defenders taken away to captivity to Amman, Jordan. Moshe Sachar, Haganah Commander of the Old City, escapes to secret tunnels beneath the Temple Mount with simpleminded Alfie Halder to find and protect the sacred scrolls. Moshe reads the passionate love story of Marcus Longinus, Roman centurion, and Miryam Magdalen, Jewish harlot. Marcus is torn between duty to Rome and love for his lady. Disturbed by her mother's suicide and alienated from family, Miryam accepts Marcus' frequent clandestine visits over her wall.

She hears the teaching of Yochanan the Baptizer and Yeshua's kind words. Narrowly missing Yeshua several times, it is only after aborting and leaving Marcus' baby burning on the pagan altar that Miryam is trapped in adultery and thrown before Him. Receiving His tender forgiveness changes her life.

In *Stones of Jerusalem*, fifth novel in the Zion Legacy Series, Moshe reads the scroll "Blessed Are You Who Mourn." Bodie and Brock Thoene introduce the heartwarming adventures of three brave little boys, who encounter danger and miracles and develop a relationship with Yeshua. Abandoned in the stone quarries of Jerusalem, seven-year-old Avel Lo-Ahanah (Mourner not loved) vows to find bar Abba, the Zealot, and fight against Rome to avenge his friend's death. Avel meets Ha-or Tov (Good Light), a blind beggar boy of ten, and Emet (Truth), a sickly, five-year-old, deaf mute, whom he nurses back to health. Suffering harsh treatment in bar Abba's camp, the boys search for the kind Yeshua of Nazareth. Yeshua shares Avel's lunch with thousands of people, raises Avel's friend, Deborah, from the dead, and restores Emet's hearing and speech. His gentle touch enables Ha-or Tov to see the true Light. Avel, the Mourner, receives comfort in the love of a new Father and a new name, Haver bar Yeshua, Friend to the broken-hearted, Son of Yeshua.

In *Jerusalem's Hope*, the sixth novel in the Zion Legacy Series, Moshe reads a third scroll: "The Lamb of Migdal Eder." The story opens with Yeshua answering his little sons' questions: Where does God live? Where do souls go? What is faith? He gives Avel, Ha-or Tov and Emet a mission; they are to go with a message directly to Chief Shepherd, Zadok of Bethlehem, and wait there for Yeshua. Living with Zadok, the boys learn shepherding, get involved in the lamb birthing process, and help slaughter Passover lambs. When Pontius Pilate sends Marcus Longinus to Bethlehem to supervise an aqueduct-building project, the three get caught up in clashes among stonecutters, shepherds, and Bar Abba's rebels. Later, in Jerusalem, rebels ambush Zadok and Avel among throngs pushing their way to the Temple sacrifices. Fierce fighting breaks out among Roman centurions, irate Jews, and Zealots. Marcus, having lost hope for Miryam, engages his bitter enemy, Praetorian Vara, while Pilate makes a pathetic attempt to restore order. Yeshua comes to Zadok as He promised, revealing a long-hidden secret. Yeshua, the Hope of Jerusalem, will not enter the city this Passover--"next year in Jerusalem!"

These three page-turners are must-reads. *The Jerusalem Scrolls* is for mature readers. Lust abounds, but steamy scenes are discreetly drawn. The authors masterfully portray the agony of ambivalence in abortion, the consequences of choice, and the Savior's great love and forgiveness. Messianic Scriptures,

woven into dialogue, teach rather than preach. *Stones of Jerusalem* and *Jerusalem's Hope*, recommended as good read-alouds that can be shared with pre-teens. The righteousness of Christ and the gospel message in the lambing activities described in *Jerusalem's Hope* are clearly presented. In an authentic historical context, Bodie and Brock Thoene give adult readers a deeper awareness of the social issues leading up to the Passover and the Crucifixion of the Lamb of God.

Rhonda Marie Lackey, Writer/Teacher/Librarian, Tukwila, Washington



Julia's hope / Leisha Kelly. LCCN 2002004759. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 2002. PAP, 080075820X, \$12.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 4

F. Abandoned houses--Fiction; Home ownership--Fiction; Storms--Fiction. 318 p.

Julia's Hope by Leisha Kelly centers on a family who is left with nothing but a promise of a possible job, if they can get there. The Worthams, among the first of many families deeply touched by the Great Depression, set off for Illinois, from Pennsylvania, on foot. Samuel, used to being able to provide well for his family, is shamed by the circumstances they are in. Julia, his wife, is determined to shield their two children from the starkness of their situation through her cheerful resourcefulness. Caught in a storm, they are forced to seek shelter in an abandoned farmhouse. As the storm continues, Julia is entranced by the farmhouse and looks into making it more than a temporary shelter. Seeking out the owner, the Worthams find the ailing widow, Emma Graham, who surprises them by allowing them not only to stay on the farm, but decides they can have it free and clear when she dies. The grateful Worthams convince Emma to move on the farm with them. Emma's neighbors and friends are suspicious of the Worthams, believing they are only interested in duping Emma out of her property. Whether or not Julia's hopes of having a home, once again, will be crushed, makes for a realistic, engaging story.

Debut author Leisha Kelly provides a first novel that leaves the reader anticipating her next book. She unfolds the story through the voices of Julia, Samuel, and, occasionally, Emma, so the reader gains a deeper perception of each character. Her approach and style are quite appealing, with no overt preaching or heavy-handed witnessing. Fans of novels rich in characterization and plot, with subtle Christian themes, such as the Miss Read books, or the Mitford series, will want to include *Julia's Hope* in their collection. A definite gift consideration as well.

Pam Webb, writer, Christian Retailing, School Library Journal, Sandpit, Idaho



The last guardian / Shane Johnson. LCCN 43867. Colorado Springs: WaterBrook Press, 2001. PAPER, 1578563674, \$12.95. Adult (High school). Rating: 5

F. End of the world--Fiction; Christian fiction; Fantasy--Fiction. 510 p.

In 3496 B.C., Parmenas, the last Guardian of the Gift, a small cylindrical object in an animal skin pouch, is tired of running from the Darklord. Although he is killed for his faith, Parmenas dies knowing he has completed his mission. Nearly six thousand years later, another man, T.G. Shass, is chosen to be the Guardian of the Gift. T.G. is bitter about the loss of family and friends, and wants nothing to do with this Gift, or its mission. Unfortunately, T.G. has no choice in the matter. Demons from the Darklord's army have tracked T.G. down and are kidnapping and killing people around him. T.G. stumbles into a time travel adventure to the planet Noron, discovers its depravities, and returns home to find twenty Earth years have passed. All is not well on Earth, and T. G. must travel back to Noron. With the help of a Heavenly Being, the Gift, and his renewed faith in God, T.G. faces and conquers the Darklord's army, saves the Earth, and rescues the good beings left on the planet Noron.

The Last Guardian by Shane Johnson is a time travel fantasy about human weaknesses and strengths, honor, and the affects our decisions have on those around us. Johnson is careful to point out that, although the interspersed Biblical scripture is true, the story is fiction, and the protagonist is not a pseudo-messiah. Over twenty years in the making, this novel was worth the wait. Similar in style to the *Out of the Silent Planet* trilogy by C. S. Lewis (Scribner, reprint, 1996) and *Song of Fire* by Joseph Bantz (Thomas Nelson, 1995). Allusions to sexual depravity and some violence included representing degraded society and demonic encounters. Highly recommended for all adult collections.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Churchville, New York.

The last jihad: a novel / Joel C. Rosenberg. LCCN 2002014312. New York: Forge Books, 2002. HBB, 0765307154, \$24.95; LgP, 078625626, \$29.95; PAPER, 0765346435, \$7.99; CAS (abridged), 159086638X, \$19.95; CAS (unabridged), 15906636, \$29.95. Adult (High school). Rating: 4

F. Petroleum industry and trade--Fiction; Terrorism--Prevention--Fiction; International relations--Fiction; Middle East--Fiction; Political fiction; Suspense fiction. 352 p.

Crunched into a tight publishing deadline as the war in Iraq heats up, this first novel by Joel Rosenberg couldn't be more timely, or more popular. The fast-moving mystery involves terrorist attacks against the President's motorcade in Colorado, Buckingham Palace in

London, and other sites in Paris, and Riyadh. In this real time blur between reality and fiction, the villain is the butcher of Baghdad.

Rosenberg's characters are totally believable, and his chilling plot twists, especially after 9/11, leave the reader second-guessing what will happen next. Jon Bennett, the main character, a shrewd, young, Wall Street strategist gets tapped by his former employer, now the President of the United States, for an important job in the Republican administration. Binding the story even tighter is the fact that Bennett's political beliefs are nearly opposite to those of the President's. When the Prime Minister of Israel issues an ultimatum that the U.S. declares war on Iraq, or they will, the American President rises to the occasion. Filled with espionage and counter espionage, prayer and deep friendships, this book is a riveting reading.

Helen Hunter, Writer, BA, Mount Mercy College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Credits: TCW, Moody, Mature Lifestyles

The little sparrows / by Al and JoAnna Lacy. (Orphan trains trilogy; 1.) LCCN 2002013130. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2003. PAPER, 1590520637, \$11.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 4

F. Homeless children--Fiction; Orphan trains--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; New York (N.Y.)--Fiction; Christian fiction; Western stories. 355 p.

The Little Sparrows by Al and JoAnna Lacy, a story of several children placed, by member of the Children's Aid Society, on an orphan train headed to San Francisco, is one of the most touching stories I have ever read. Kearney, Cheyenne, Rawlins, Reno, Sacramento, San Francisco. At each train station, a few lucky orphans, from the crowded streets of New York City, receive the fulfillment of their dreams...a home and family. Yet, it is not just the orphans whose lives are mended. Follow the train along and watch God's hand restore love and laughter to the right family at the right time. The most touching tale is about five-year-old Jimmy Kirkland. Abandoned at birth, he also has had to endure lisping and stuttering impairments. At every stop Jimmy is rejected. In those days, when a person stuttered, s/he was considered retarded, and no one wanted a child who wasn't perfect or would be an extra burden, rather than help. This little guy will make you cry. Other tales include: three children, Mary, Johnny, and Lizzie, whose parents are believed to be drowned and who, against all odds, are determined to stay together; and Josie, a tomboy whose mother and brother died in childbirth and whose dad was killed when he fell while working on the Brooklyn Bridge.

Al and JoAnna Lacy reaffirm that God has a plan for everyone, reminds the reader not to question his motives, just to do his bidding, and encourages the reader to count his/her blessings. Recommend reading for all age groups. This is

a wonderful, easy, touching read. I can't wait to read the next one!

Rick Estep, Freelance Writer/Editor, Marysville, Washington

4Looking for Cassandra Jane / Melody Carlson. LCCN 2001007060. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2002. PAPER, 084324098X, \$11.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 4

F. Abused children--Fiction; Children of alcoholics--Fiction; Adult child abuse victims--Fiction. 359 p.

Set in the turbulent '60s/'70s, *Looking for Cassandra Jane* by Melody Carlson is a captivating story of a young teenage girl who desires love and acceptance. Early on, due to having no mother and an abusive, alcoholic father, she learns to become self-reliant. Cass eventually ends up in a foster home, where she is, more or less, a live-in maid. She becomes involved with a small Bible study group that becomes part of the Jesus Freak movement. Cass and the others find themselves caught up in their leader's dream of moving to California to start his own farm. However, idealism gives way to legalism that ultimately leads to a cult-like existence, complete with guard dogs and barbed wire. Cass is rescued by childhood friend, Joey Divers, who is able to set her on a genuine faith journey. Although the ending is somewhat predicable, it is nevertheless an appropriate closure to Cassandra's search to find true happiness.

Veteran author Melody Carlson, once again, captures the voice of a young woman, through prose and realistic characters and situations. Even though Carlson has a penchant for parenthetical enclosures, the story flows well and is a refreshing portrait of a young woman in search of her family and faith. Recommended for retro-charismatic-Jesus-Freak collections for teens through adults, those who enjoy self-journey stories, and fans of Carlson's *Diary of a Teenage Girl* series.

Pam Webb, Freelance Writer, Sandpoint, Idaho; Credits: Christian Retailing, School Library Journal

Lullaby / Jane Orcutt. LCCN 2001006433. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2002. HBB, 0842354050, \$12.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 5

F. Teenage pregnancy--Fiction; Childlessness--Fiction; Adoptees--Fiction. 193 p.

Lullaby by Jane Orcutt offers a tender, heart-wrenching look at motherhood from two perspectives. Pregnant at the age of fifteen, Merrilee Hunter is hopeful of her future with her single mother helping her raise her child. Until her mother dies, that is. Now a victim of the town's scorn, she leaves the hometown in Texas and heads for Austin, where she plans to give the child up for adoption. Dr. Steven & Nora Rey have always wanted children, but have found, after testing, that Nora is infertile. Thinking their dreams are shattered, they are introduced to Merrilee and find she just may be the answer to

their prayers. Nora falls in love with not only the idea, but also Merrilee. As Nora and Merrilee form a lasting bond, what will it mean when it comes time to hand over the new child? When the unexpected happens, a surprise twist, Nora, Steven, and Merrilee must ponder God's will.

Genuine characters and the steady paced, highly emotional narrative make for both a quick and poignant read. Those who have had children will sympathize with Merrilee's inner conflicts, and those who have adopted will easily relate to Nora.

Rick Estep, Media Director, HeavenBound Media Center, Middleburg, Florida

Mission compromised : a novel / Oliver North; with Joe Musser. LCCN 2002727231. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2002. HBB, 0805425500, \$24.99; LgP, 1587243857, \$30.95: PAP, 00605584X, \$7.99; CAS, 0805425500, \$24.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 5

F. United States--Fiction; Marine Corps--Fiction; Terrorism--Prevention--Fiction; Washington (D.C.)--Fiction; Middle East--Fiction; Suspense fiction. 605 p.

Mission Compromised: A Novel by Oliver North appears to be based in questionable fact. It is a novel about truth, treason, and stolen honor. The main character, Major Peter Newman, a U.S. Marine, is hand-picked by the White House for a dangerous, clandestine, operation to hunt down and eliminate terrorists before they attack the United States with weapons of mass destruction. Set against an Iraqi background, the characters that make up the hierarchy of government appear precisely as we have discovered them during the recent war with Iraq. When the questions and the coincidences of the operation become too much for Newman, North plays a role in his own book as Major Newman's seasoned advisor. The plot is compelling, developed through short chapters including the miserable musing of Major Newman's wife, the nightmarish web of intrigue in which her husband has become involved, and the inside scoop on Iraqi, Israeli, and American military intelligence. The inclusion of betrayal, revenge, and the imbedding of several Christians add to the tension of this page-turner.

If there is a negative about the book it is the plethora of acronyms used to identify the many government offices and agencies. Fortunately, North has provided a glossary to help the reader better understand the operations and intelligence community.

Helen Hunter, Writer, BA, Mount Mercy College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Credits: TCW, Moody, Mature Lifestyles

Necessary measures / Hannah Alexander. ((Healing touch; 2.)) LCCN 2002010726. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2002. PAP, 0764225294, \$11.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 4

F. Single fathers--Fiction; Physicians--Fiction; Hospitals--Fiction; Romantic suspense fiction; Christian fiction; 349 p. 352 p.

The focus on emergency room action and the personal lives of the doctors and nurses who work there continues in *Necessary Measures*, the sequel to *Second Opinion*, from the Healing Touch series by Hannah Alexander. The story centers around ER nurse, Lauren, who moves to put distance between her and her loving, but interfering family, and on widowed Dr. Grant Sheldon who relocates with his teen twins to settle into what he hopes will be a quieter, safer environment. However, there is a vicious ring of methamphetamine manufacturers and sellers whose influence is casting a long shadow on the, otherwise, picturesque town of Dogwood Springs. While Lauren and Grant deal with the medical effects of this pernicious drug, they must also contend with cantankerous staff administration, strained friendships, unexpected family death and illness, along with their blossoming romance.

The author is actually the combined writing efforts of husband and wife Melvin and Cheryl Hodde, an ER physician and a researcher, respectively. This proves to be a dynamic collaboration, adding credibility to medical details. While the character drama is at times melodramatic, it is not overdone, and there is a balance of action with all the characters portrayed. For those who are interested in emergency drama series with strong characters such as Terri Blackstock's *Newpointe 911*, this will be an addition to their reading list. The writing team of Hannah Alexander is a welcome addition to the enlarging field of contemporary Christian fiction as they combine real-life drama with credible plot and characters.

Pam Webb, Freelance Writer, Sandpoint, Idaho; Credits: Christian Retailing, School Library Journal

The poet and the pauper / by George MacDonald ; edited by Michael Phillips. Contents: The baronet's song -- The shepherd's castle. LCCN 2002001526. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2002. PAP, 0764226592, \$12.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 3

F. Child witnesses--Fiction; Mute persons--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Highlands (Scotland)--Fiction; Christian fiction. 416 p.

The Baronet's Song tells of the adventures of the lovable, mute street urchin, Sir Gibbie. He wanders the city streets, until he witnesses a murder. Gibbie then runs away to the countryside, where he makes friends with a cowherd, Donal Grant, and is greatly instrumental in saving the entire town from a flood. After experiencing much abuse at the

hands of the Master of the area, a greedy heartless laird, it is discovered that Sir Gibbie is none other than Sir Gilbert Galbraith, true heir to the land and its people. Sir Gilbert Galbraith marries the previous laird's lovely daughter, upgrades the land and living conditions for the people, and all is well.

The Shepherd's Castle is about Donal Grant, poet, scholar, and dear friend of Sir Gilbert Galbraith. Donal seeks work at an unwelcoming village, but soon makes friends with the local cobbler and his wife. They love the Lord, and seeing His hand on Donal's life, take Donal in as their own. Donal is hired at the castle to tutor Lord Morven's youngest son, and, while there; he solves the mystery of a madman, saves the lady fair, and helps document the castle's sordid history. Through all of the suspense and adventure, Donal is not shaken from the great faith in Jesus, his mother taught him as a youth.

The Poet and the Pauper, written by George MacDonald and edited by Michael Phillips, contains two classic tales derived from the original 1879 Scottish chronicles highlighting the adventures of Sir Gibbie and Donal Grant. The reading is slow moving, but rhythmic and oozing with fireside charm. MacDonald is gifted at his rich portrayals of people, their surroundings, and lifestyles of Victorian Great Britain. Phillips' condensed renderings are seamless. Recommended as Christian substitute for some of the harsher academic classics.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Churchville, New York.

The proposal / Lori Wick. (The English garden; 1.) LCCN 2001039812. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House., 2002. PAP, 0736905588, \$10.99; LGP, 078624545X, \$26.95. Adult (High school). Rating: 3

F. Guardian and ward--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; England--Fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. 297 p.

The rescue / Lori Wick. (The English garden; 2.) LCCN 2002004553. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House., 2002. PAP, 0736909117, \$10.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 3

F. England--Fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. 297 p.

Author Lori Wick transports readers from familiar territory of the American 1800's, to the same time period across the pond in England. Her series, *The English Garden*, is set in England. With a strong Christian message of salvation in each book, Wick introduces the reader to characters in book one and continues readers' acquaintances with those characters in Book Two.

In *The Proposal*, wealthy bachelor William Jennings, estranged from his born-again sister, seeks out her counsel when three orphaned cousins are thrust into his care. Jennings meets

the beautiful, single, neighbor lady, finds Christ and the two get married. A predictable story line but entertaining, nonetheless. The strength of the series lies in the manner in which Wick artfully presents the reality of needing a relationship with Christ. This uncompromising view has characters grappling with their own feelings, in light of the gospel.

The Rescue continues in the same manner *The Proposal* left off. Introducing a few new characters, Wick constructs a fairy-tale-ending plot that will satisfy her fans. With few twists of plot, the author spins a predictable tale of romance and continues her strong message of a personal relationship with Christ. Recommended for Wick fans and those who enjoy predictable, historical romances.

Eileen Zygarricke, Freelance Writer/English Teacher, Grand Forks, North Dakota

***The rescuer* / Dee Henderson. (The O'Malley series ; bk. 6.) LCCN 2003001409. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2003. PAP, 1590520734, \$12.99; CAS, 1590521137, \$19.99; CDR, 1590521145, \$24.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 3**

F. Tornadoes--Fiction; Kidnapping--Fiction; Allied health personnel--Fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. 344 p.

Stephen O'Malley is on the run, after his sister's death from cancer. He cannot believe in the God she trusted her life to, the God all his brothers and sisters have come to know. Feeling the "odd man out," frustrated, grieving, and burned out, he leaves his job as a paramedic and drifts around Arizona for awhile. The impending birth of his first nephew draws him back to the family, and he renews a relationship with Meghan, an old friend. Although she is physically blind, she is spiritually sighted, and never stops praying for Stephen's salvation. Slowly Stephen, who has always been the one rescuing others, allows himself to be rescued from sin by the ultimate Savior. The story comes to an exciting finish as Stephen and Meghan find themselves in the midst of a sophisticated jewelry theft, a kidnapping, a tornado, and the untimely birth of Stephen's nephew.

The Rescuer, Book Six in Dee Henderson's acclaimed O'Malley series, wraps up all the loose ends; Stephen is the last O'Malley to trust the Lord, and to find his soul mate, and the remaining siblings get married at the end of the story. *The Rescuer* is less intense than the previous books in the series; the "mystery" subplot feels more like an add-on than a vehicle to help advance the plot, and readers are not prepared for Stephen's somewhat anti-climactic conversion, given his initial strong resistance. The book is a good read, however, with Henderson's typical excellence in character development and relational dynamics. Her detailed descriptions of Meghan's life as a blind woman ring particularly true, as do her struggles

to keep her heart safe from the temptation to give into a relationship where she would be unequally yoked spiritually. Henderson fans will enjoy this book.

Sherril Beeler, Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon.

***Riptide* / Lorena McCourtney. (The Julesburg mysteries ; 2.) LCCN 2002006204. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 2002. PAP, 0800757777, \$12.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 4**

F. Twins--Fiction; Oregon--Fiction; Christian fiction; Mystery fiction. 336 p.

Sarah has only known her twin, Julie, from whom she was separated at birth, for a few months. Sarah and Julie decide to buy an old, haunted theater, called the Nevermore, and find themselves drawn into a riptide of mystery, romance, and death. Nick, a Christian construction worker, meets the twins by placing a bid to remodel the Nevermore for them. On the way home from viewing a sample of Nick's work, Sarah stops at the local store for a snack, while Julie stays sleeping in the back seat of the SUV. Sarah innocently witnesses a robbery and murder of the store's proprietor. The killer then steals Sarah's SUV, complete with Julie sleeping in the back seat. When Julie is found brutally murdered in an alley, behind the Nevermore, Sarah begins to think there may be some connection to their projected purchase of the theater. Sarah is not naïve enough to believe the killer to be a ghost, and is determined to avenge her sister's murder. In between investigating Julie's old boyfriends, drug deals, and suspicious policemen, Sarah and Nick fall in love. The surprise ending satisfies the reader, as justice prevails and the good guys escape into each other's arms.

Riptide by Lorena McCourtney, Book Two in The Julesburg Mysteries series, is a suspenseful story about twin sisters brought together by a well-meaning grandmother, who never dreamed their relationship would lead to murder and mayhem in the tiny town of Julesburg, Oregon. McCourtney's writing experience has ranged from agriculture to romance, with much in between. Now, with this second novel in the genre of Christian suspenseful romance, she has proven, once again, her versatility as a writer. Recommended for Christian mystery collections.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Churchville, New York.

***Sandpebbles* / by Patricia Hickman. (Women of faith.) LCCN 2002016722. Nashville: W Publishing, 2002. PAP, 0849943000, \$12.99. Adult. Rating: 3**

F. Christian fiction. 317 p.

Sandpebbles by Patricia Hickman portrays a recently widowed woman, March, who has a problem with letting go of the past. March goes

through many struggles with her son, father, business and the search for a new pastor at their church. The book starts with March taking her son Mason to his father's grave. Mason, as well as March, is fighting to deal with the death of Mason's father. March's father is the pastor at their local community church. She helps with church business. Upon March's arrival home from visiting her husband's grave, a pastor is staying in her father's beach house. March struggles to build a relationship with the pastor and his family. March is unaware of her father's desire to retire from the church, but has a hard time accepting the fact. When her father has a heart attack, March begins to understand the necessity of a replacement pastor for his church. March, also, owns a small, local newspaper. March meets a woman on a plane that has always desired to own her own newspaper. In the end, March is left with many decisions to make concerning her future. It is interesting to follow her progress through her trials.

Patricia Hickman has mastered character development. This is a fantastic story with grief, sorrow and a need to let go of the past. I applaud Patricia Hickman with her work in this book.

Jennifer Silizhoff, Computer Analyst, Avid Reader, Renton, Washington



***Satan's ring : a novel* / John F. Bayer. LCCN 2002512952. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2002. PAP, 0805424318, \$12.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 5**

F. Governors--Fiction; Hate groups--Fiction; Suspense fiction. 313 p.

Three migrant workers are brutally murdered on a deserted road. A young medical student is run down in the street. The governor and his head advisor are nearly killed in a car accident. When Andrew Chapman, an officer of the state's Criminal Investigation Division is called in to investigate, he begins to connect these actions to mysterious murders of minorities from all over the state. A hate group, the Brotherhood of the Ring, kidnaps and kills, using misquoted scripture as justification for what they deem "racial purification." The Brotherhood, of which, in his youth, Andrew Chapman was a member, started out as a sorority for teen pranksters, but has blossomed into a powerful tool for evil. Chapman, joined by the local sheriff, newspaper publisher, an old flame, and a Bible believing, praying nanny, races to uncover the Brotherhood's most diabolical scheme yet. Secretly referred to as Operation Resurrection, this all out war on humanity, involving members from the lowest levels of society to the highest ranking political figures of the state, must be stopped before more people get hurt.

Satan's Ring by John F. Bayer, is a powerful story about how the Enemy uses the naïveté of the main characters and nearly wins the ultimate

battle between good and evil. The intense delivery of this tale may not be for every reader, but mature young adults could benefit from the lessons taught. Bayer, a veteran of the U.S. Navy and author of *Necessary Risk* and *The Omega Deception*, along with other political suspense novels, has proven his gift for unearthing the diabolical from the seemingly harmless. The reader is reminded that few things appearing to be free really are. Contains no heavy doctrinal undercurrents. Recommended for both High School and public libraries.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Churchville, New York.

***The senator's other daughter* / Stephen Bly. (The belles of Lordsburg; 1.)** LCCN 11620. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2001. PAP, 1581342365, \$11.99; LgP, 0786240261, \$26.95. Adult (High school). **Rating: 4**

F. Presidents--Election--Fiction; Fathers and daughters--Fiction; Political campaigns--Fiction; Iowa--Fiction; Legislators--Fiction; New Mexico--Fiction. 236 p.

***The general's notorious widow* / Stephen Bly. (The belles of Lordsburg; 2.)** LCCN 2001002091. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2001. PAP, 1581342802, \$11.99; LgP, 0786240237, \$26.95. Adult (High school). **Rating: 4**

F. Women pioneers--Fiction; Widows--Fiction; New Mexico--Fiction. 231 p.

The Senator's Other Daughter, premiere book in Stephen Bly's newest series, *The Belles of Lordsburg*, opens with Grace Denison heading to Lordsburg, New Mexico, a small railroad town where people hide until the world stops looking. Looking for a life of peace and seclusion as an unknown, this town offers a place to send black sheep, skeletons in the closet, rebellious sons and wayward daughters whose secrets could ruin a father's precious political career. While her mother, sister, and brother-in-law run her father's 1885 presidential campaign, she escapes the political whirlwind to seek peace, but, instead, encounters a mysterious man, who is either mythical hero or cold-blooded murderer and who will change her life forever!

The General's Notorious Widow, Book Two of *The Belles of Lordsburg*, finds Lixie Miller fleeing to Lordsburg, New Mexico, to escape the scandalous death of her husband, in another woman's bed! No matter what Lixie does, she always finds herself surrounded by male friends and acquaintances, but she only half enjoys the attention. That is, until a nosy writer comes along and wants to turn her life story into a dime novel. Attempts to ditch this man fail repeatedly, but she can continue shooting him down without many hassles. After months of depression and dull routine, an interesting attorney comes from Santa Fe just to meet Lixie, and leaves just as quickly as he came. Life is

never as calm as Lixie wants it, however. Soon a dangerous outlaw is in town. A young Apache girl is injured and adopted by Lixie, but no one knows where this girl came from, or when her tribe may show up, on the warpath. Without a viable means of communication, can Lixie and the young girl figure out where the girl belongs? Can Lixie forgo her mothering instincts and let the girl go when the time comes? Suddenly Lixie has a purpose, but the dangerous circumstances unfolding around her threaten to take it away.

Rick Estep, Media Director, HeavenBound Media Center, Middleburg, Florida

***Stallions at Burnt Rock : a novel* / Paul Bagdon. (West Texas sunrise.)** LCCN 2002011454. Grand Rapids: Revell, 2003. PAP, 080075798X, \$11.99. Adult (High school). **Rating: 3**

F. Women horse owners--Fiction; Women ranchers--Fiction; Ranch life--Fiction; Texas, West--Fiction; Christian fiction; Western stories. 191 p.

***Long road to Larosa : a novel* / Paul Bagdon. (West Texas sunrise.)** LCCN 2002014648. Grand Rapids: Revell, 2003. PAP, 0800758153, \$11.99. Adult. **Rating: 3**

F. Sheriffs--Fiction; Texas, West--Fiction; Christian fiction; Western stories. 192 p.

It is ten years after the civil war and times are violent, exciting, challenging. In the midst of this era, *Stallions at Burnt Rock* introduces us to career horse ranch owner, strong-minded Lee Morgan. She and a neighboring horse rancher decide the best way to advertise their horses for sale to other ranchers is to stage a grueling horse race between their two best horses. Unknowingly, they set the stage for gamblers, gunslingers, and violent civil war veterans to grievously wound the area, breaking many hearts. Only quick drawing, calm Marshall Ben Flood stands between the good citizens and the desperados. Lee faces the tragic death of a friend, copes with evil in varying forms, is threatened with the loss of her ranch, makes the ride of her life, and embarks into the adventure of love.

Long Road to LaRosa is another episode in the life of horse rancher Lee Morgan and Marshall Ben Flood. Zeb Stone leads a violently cruel band of desperados. In order to force Ben Flood into a gun fight to settle an old grudge, Stone robs the local bank, and, knowing that Ben is growing fond of her, kidnaps Lee Morgan. The old grudge brings memories that threaten to destroy Ben. Lee is anything but a docile hostage. With stunning horsemanship, coping with great violence and wickedness, Ben and Lee face the challenge of a lifetime.

Having written for the general market, Paul Bagdon, a former rodeo competitor, now turns his hand to Christian writing. The hero, Ben Flood, and heroine, Lee Morgan are both

Christians, living, speaking, and coping in accordance with their beliefs. The personalities of the main characters develop believably throughout each story. Bagdon's rodeo experience adds relevancy and color to these cowboy romances. Easy to read, these novels carry the reader from action to action. The plots are interesting and culminate in credible denouements. *Stallions at Burnt Rock* and *Long Road to LaRosa* are recommended for all libraries.

Donna J. Eggett, Freelance Writer, Radford, Virginia

***The tender vine* / Kristen Heitzmann. (Diamond of the Rockies; 3.)** LCCN 2001005675. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2002. PAP, 0764224174, \$12.99. Adult (High school). **Rating: 4**

F. Triangles (Interpersonal relations)--Fiction; Italian American families--Fiction; Rocky Mountains--Fiction. 382 p.

Kristen Heitzmann's *Diamond of the Rockies* trilogy includes *The Rose Legacy*, *Sweet Boundless*, and *The Tender Vine*. In *The Rose Legacy*, Carina Maria DiGratia defies her father by refusing to undergo an arranged marriage. Knowing this means she must leave her wealthy, close-knit family, Carina travels to Crystal, Colorado. There, she becomes an innocent pawn in an underhanded scheme and Quillan Shepard, a hero to the underdog, rescues her by way of the altar: a marriage in name only.

Sweet Boundless carries the most memorable story of all three books. Carina and her husband, Quillan, struggle through the terror and humiliation of his childhood abandonment. As the shadows of his father's disgrace lift from Quillan's shoulders, a tender, everlasting love blossoms between him and Carina. *Library Journal*, Apr. 1, 2001, writes that *Sweet Boundless* belongs on the shelves next to Stephen Bly and Brock Thoene.

In *The Tender Vine*, Carina acknowledges she must make amends with her family in California. She and Quillan journey to her home in Sonoma, but the powerful DiGratia family does not extend the welcome Carina expects. The DiGratias perceive Quillan as an opportunist, who has married Carina for the family fortune. Quillan leaves Carina with the DiGratias and sets out to prove his worth. But neither Quillan, nor Carina realize the dark seeds of evil, woven into the DiGratia family, that threaten their joy-filled marriage.

A well-received writer, Heitzmann has two historical romance series and two contemporary novels in bookstores. Her third contemporary novel will be released in February 2003. Readers who enjoy Tracie Peterson and Lori Wick will enjoy Heitzmann's books. Libraries find it hard to keep her historical romances on their bookshelves.

Maxine Cambra, Freelance Writer and Member of SCBWI,
Anderson, California

Thin air / Bette Nordberg. LCCN 2002008681. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2002. PAP, 0764223984, \$11.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 3

F. Survival after airplane accidents, shipwrecks, etc.--Fiction; Women--Washington (State)--Fiction; Recluses--Fiction; Rainier, Mount (Wash.)--Fiction; Christian fiction. 317 p.

Beth Cheng, a Japanese American wife and mother, becomes stranded on a snowy mountain after a small plane crash, in Bette Nordberg's novel, *Thin Air*. Trying to survive, she cares for a fellow passenger who soon dies, then focuses on her own survival. A heavy snowstorm delays a rescue team, so Beth decides to walk down the mountain and rescue herself. She doesn't know that a hermit, who is also a Vietnam veteran, calls the mountain his personal territory. The feminine crash victim and the loner mountain man end up together in his cabin, where they forge a precarious bond, after he tends to her serious injuries. Both their perspectives and beliefs about God and humankind are tested until the conclusion brings a happy ending.

Nordberg has worked hard to see through the eyes of several diverse characters including Beth, her pastor husband Allen, and Dennis Doyle, the ailing Vietnam vet who wants to live out his life alone. The story moves somewhat sluggishly through the middle with many predictable turns until the tidy ending. Beth's reactions to her dangerous predicament seem unrealistically mild, while Doyle's volatile emotions are better portrayed. The main allusions to Christianity and spirituality are in Allen and Beth's prayers that are mostly pleas for help, prayers common to unbelievers in dire circumstances. Overall, *Thin Air* is a novel that causes the reader to consider what their own responses and choices if found in a similar situation, and reminds the reader to thank God for protection. It also sheds light on some of the struggles veterans in returning to daily life after the awfulness of war.

Karen Schmidt, Freelance Writer, Marysville, Washington

Three / by Ted Dekker. LCCN 2003003818. Nashville: W Pub., 2003. HBB, 0849943728, \$19.99; CAS, 1589262646, \$34.99; CDR, 1589262654, \$39.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 5

F. Romantic suspense fiction; Christian fiction. 336 p.

Meet Kevin Parson, a first year seminary student, whose conversation about evil with one of his professors opens the book. "Can a man remove himself beyond the reach of evil?" Parson asks, digging for information for a paper he's working on. Virtually from that point on Parson becomes enmeshed, enveloped, and engaged in evil beyond imagination, fighting

against it all the way. The reader learns that Parson's aunt adopted him at the age of one, after he lost his parents in an auto crash. She and his uncle, severely messed up themselves, raised him with his mentally retarded cousin. Reaching adulthood required perseverance and unusual coping skills. Parson clings to his "relationship" with the young neighbor girl, Samantha, with whom he has grown up. Samantha is the essence of love and purity. The antagonist, Slater, is the essence of evil. He becomes a hated figure, as Dekker engages the reader in Slater's puzzles and rhymes, all of which include threats of great harm to Parson and Samantha. Each threat and event involves the number three or a multiple thereof. Bombs blow up a car, a bus, and the seminary library. The local police, the FBI, and the CBI (California Bureau of Investigation) investigate the crime. The number three plays into the story in several other ways, not the least of which is the relationship between Parson, Slater, and Samantha.

Three by Ted Dekker is an intense thriller to be read before bedtime at your own risk! Dekker is a masterful storyteller. From one page to the next you are left to wonder is Parsons a victim, or is he involved in what is going on? If you are looking for a strong Christian testimony, you won't find it here. The only person with visible beliefs is the seminary professor, though the main character calls out to God on occasions when he is in deep trouble. Recommended for public library collections.

Helen Hunter, Writer, BA, Mount Mercy College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Credits: TCW, Moody, Mature Lifestyles

A time to dance / by Karen Kingsbury. ((Women of faith series.)) LCCN 68538. Nashville: W Publishing, 2001. PAP, 0849942829, \$12.99. Adult. Rating: 3

F. Marriage--Fiction; Family life--Fiction. 322 p.

A time to embrace / by Karen Kingsbury. ((Women of faith series.)) LCCN 2002009298. Nashville: W Publishing, 2002. PAP, 0849943477, \$13.99; LgP, 0786250119, \$27.95. Adult. Rating: 3

F. Coaches (Athletics)--Fiction; School sports--Fiction; Marriage--Fiction. 315 p.

A Time to Dance by Karen Kingsbury is the first episode of the Women of Faith series introduced John and Abby Reynolds, who, at the end of the book, miraculously, finally listen to God and are rewarded with a restored marriage. The story meanders through questions of faithfulness and loyalty, neither character really wanting a divorce.

A Time to Embrace by Karen Kingsbury is the sequel to *A Time to Dance*. In this second installment, the saga continues with John and Abby now completely in love again. John encounters trouble from parents of his football players. After a freak accident, he finds himself

paralyzed from the waist down, unable to walk, to coach, or even to relish the newfound love and trust between himself and Abby. This story involves a plot to cancel John's coaching contract and a tough contemporary issue with the Reynolds' college-age son.

Characters in both books lack fullness and depth. Classic of Kingsbury novels, quick answers to prayer and miraculous healings clear up problems that would, otherwise, make the characters more real but that end the book on a happily-ever-after note. Kingsbury's dedications, "Author's Notes," and her "A Word to Readers" often have more real depth than her stories. Recommended for die-hard fans and those who enjoy predictable romantic dramas.

Helen Hunter, Writer, BA, Mount Mercy College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Credits: TCW, Moody, Mature Lifestyles

The trial / Robert Whitlow. LCCN 53397. Nashville: W Publishing, 2001. PAP, 0849916429, \$13.99; CAS, 1589260910, \$29.99; CDR, 1589260929, \$34.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 4

F. Christian fiction; Legal stories. 445 p.

Robert Whitlow's second novel, *The Trial*, tells how attorney Mac MacClain is presented with the seemingly impossible task of defending Pete Thomason, a young adult arrested for the murder of his girlfriend. MacClain wants to believe Thomason's claim of innocence, but a defense riddled with problems makes it increasingly harder to believe in an elusive truth. MacClain's personal life is also permeated with problems. When both his own journey and the criminal case become the focus of a prayer group at the local church, a heritage of passionate prayer and answers from God become critical to the outcome of the case and the lives of Thomason and MacClain.

Suspense, drama, and deep pondering about life and faith weave through this very well written contemporary novel. Whitlow's storytelling skill has matured and improved since his first novel, *The List*. In his characters, plot, sub plots and setting, he holds the reader's attention with realistic dialogue and interactions. The role of the women's prayer group is intriguing, and even more important, relays its own message about the potency of fervent, God-directed prayer. Readers may well find their own prayer lives challenged and stimulated by this fictional knot of believers and the outcomes of their efforts. *The Trial* is an example of good storytelling, leaving readers encouraged and thoughtful about the state of their own faith and how God uses others in our lives.

Karen Schmidt, Freelance Writer/Editor, Marysville, Washington



A warmth in winter / Lori Copeland and Angela Hunt. (Heavenly Daze series.) LCCN 2002510065. Nashville: W Publishing, 2001. PAP, 084994306X, \$13.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 5

F. Maine--Fiction; Christian fiction. 274 p.

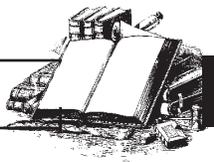
There is a legend that Angels help the townsfolk on the Island of Heavenly Daze, located just off the shore of Ogunquit, Maine. Some folks sure could use Heavenly intervention in their lives. For instance, Bobby and Brittany have an alcoholic Daddy, who occasionally beats them when he is drunk. One day, Daddy goes out to look for a job, and the children get a visit from Salt Gribbon, the grandfather they never knew existed. Horrified that his son could be such a lousy dad, Salt convinces the children to come home to live with him. Unfortunately, Salt soon realizes that he, too, was a lousy dad.

Then there's Stanley Bidderman who deserted his wife, Vernie, twenty years ago, and, now, wants to fix their marriage. Vernie, the strong-willed owner of the general store, is so flabbergasted that she can't even focus enough to prepare her order for the town's winter stores.

There is a legend that Angels help the townsfolk on the Island of Heavenly Daze. Recent events have caused locals to believe there may be some validity to this legend. For instance, Salt Gribbon, the lighthouse keeper, is now approachable, which is a vast improvement upon his history of shooting at visitors with a mixture of rock salt and lima beans. Vernie Bidderman is blushing like a schoolgirl these days. And engagements, weddings, and just plain family togetherness seem to be popping up all over.

A Warmth in Winter by Lori Copeland and Angela Hunt is a delightful story about God's loving intervention. Copeland and Hunt, each known for her experience at weaving tales that both entertain and pack a punch, have certainly not let their readers down in this third episode of the Island of Heavenly Daze series. Highly recommended for all collections.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Churchville, New York



Neal-Schuman authoritative guide to kids' search engines, subject directories, and portals / Ken Haycock, Barbara Edwards, Michelle Dober. (Neal-Schuman netguide series.) LCCN 2002035766. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2003. HBB, 1555704514, \$55.00. Adult. Rating: 5

025.04. Web search engines--Evaluation; Web search engines--Directories; Web portals--Evaluation; Web portals--Directories; Children's Web sites--Evaluation; Children's Web sites--Directories; Internet and children. 236 p.

While much has been written about print, video, and audio media for children, teachers and librarians have had few tools to critically appraise electronic search tools in terms of electronic resources available for young people. *Neal-Schuman Authoritative Guide to Kid's Search Engines, Subject Directories, and Portals* fills that void, enabling teachers, librarians and parents to become more familiar with resources available for grades 4-9, ages 9-14.

Using criteria and standards reflecting the information-seeking behaviors of young people, and assessing age-appropriate search engines and subject directories, the authors identify and evaluate 60 search engines, subject directories, and portals designed for young people. This timely resource gives concrete suggestions and examples of notable sites for young people and quick references to steer children to accurate and age-appropriate information on the Internet. A chapter focusing on critical issues facing children's use of the Internet deals with filtering, privacy, and commercialization.

This guide is recommended for school librarians and teachers, for public library children's collections and as an Internet searching tool.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding, Library Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers Beach, Florida.

Firefly : the many faces of courage / Rich Hughes. LCCN 2001093582. Enumclaw, Wash.: WinePress, 2002. PAP, 1579214002, \$16.95. Adult. Rating: 3

179'.6. Courage. 473 p.

Nonstop action and detail, that will satisfy any Revolutionary War buff, make *Firefly* difficult to set aside. Rich Hughes quotes from notes written by Jason Parker de Montay, an investigative writer/reporter commissioned by George Washington to document the unsung heroes of the war. Quotes from Paul Revere, Samuel Adams, and others conclude several chapters.

The principal characters in the story include Travis Danvers, a schooner captain, Betsy Haber, a farmer, Pompey, a freed slave, frontiersman Ansom Chandler and an assortment of Tories, generals, doctors, and soldiers. *Firefly* offers multiple perspectives on the war and insight into how each of us can contribute mightily through small but courageous acts. It stands apart from other fictionalized accounts with its focus on the many unheralded events that supported an American victory.

Hughes' language is inconsistent, his characters speak Colonial English and use modern phrasing; it is not distracting enough to be a problem to readers. The only scene that may be offensive to some readers is the final chapter in which unmarried Elizabeth seduces Ansom.

Cynthia Washington, Review columnist for *Christian News Northwest*, Newberg, Oregon.

The illustrated survey of the Bible / Derek Tidball with co-writers Peter Cotterell [et. al.]. LCCN 2002002447. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2002. HBB, 0764227459, \$18.99. Adult. Rating: 5

220.6'1. Bible--Outlines, syllabi, etc.. 256 p.

If readers want to buy one book to begin their Bible resource library, this is the one. In just 256 pages, the authors examine the entire Bible, book by book. The goal of the writers is to keep each section on each book to approximately four pages. While not a commentary per se nor a detailed survey text, this book combines those elements with a fast delivery that allows the reader to grasp the essence of each book of the Bible without being weighed down in a book study. Each book of the Bible begins with an introduction, then gets directly to the essence of the material. A formal outline of the book helps the student to see the big picture of how each book fits in the Bible. The message of the Bible book is discussed succinctly, and the application section helps focus the student on lasting truths. The last section, key themes, provides the student with a beginning point of further study.

Including remarkable photos and detailed maps this resource uses the eye gate to enhance learning. The conservative nature of the book will be beneficial for most denominations. Sunday school teachers will enjoy the ease of use and plethora of information. Highly recommended for every church library and every student's library.

Bianca Elliott, Educator, Contributor to the *Latino Heritage Bible*, Linwood, Kansas.

The message : the Old Testament history books in contemporary language / Eugene H. Peterson. LCCN 2001042578. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001. HBB, 1576831949, \$23.00. Adult (Middle school, High school). Rating: 4

222'.105209. Bible. O.T. Pentateuch. 350 p.

From the moment God tells Joshua to, "Get going...I'll be with you," through to when Haman gets hung on his own gallows, *The Message : Old Testament History Books in Contemporary Language* presents engrossing biblical history. The reader will not be able to lay down this book. In the language of today, and in the participant's, rather than the historian's voice, Jewish history becomes high adventure. People, like you and me, face, botch, and overcome ageless problems, finding workable solutions during their walk with our actively present God. A short, interesting Introduction to the History Books opens this volume. The main body contains the twelve Old Testament history books, each with a brief, intriguing introduction. The books retain their chapter numbers, paragraphs contain no verse numbers, and divisions are, instead, made between main stories.

Pastor, Author, Professor Emeritus in Spiritual Theology Eugene Peterson is well known for his earlier Bible translations in his *The Message* series. He brings scholarship, theological wisdom, sensitivity, and discernment to these translations. Utilizing correct grammar, a fine poetic sense, and empathy gained from years of teaching, *Old Testament History Books* is a true translation of God's Word. A listener with a King James Version will be able to follow the reading of this version. The title page contains this statement: "The Message is a contemporary rendering of the Bible from the original languages, crafted to present its tone, rhythm, events and ideas in everyday language." This does admirably. *Old Testament History Books* will be useful: in the Old Testament history class for school or church, as a personal devotion book, in both public and private libraries, as a gift for readers from Middle School through Adult, for home school projects, and in public readings.

Donna J. Eggett, Writer, Radford, Virginia.

Holiness to the Lord : a guide to the exposition of the book of Leviticus / Allen P. Ross. LCCN 2001052840. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002. HBB, 0801022851, \$32.99. Adult. Rating: 4

222'.13077. Bible. O.T. Leviticus--Commentaries. 496 p.

This commentary on the book of Leviticus does not read like other commentaries. It has the feeling of a college class led by a live professor. Every aspect of the text invites the reader to delve deeper into this rich book of the Bible. The book's goal is to emphasize exegesis and correct doctrine from the Biblical text. Ross' uses of outlines and discussion format allow the reader to reach his or her own conclusion regarding each passage. The purpose of "revealing how God used these laws, rituals, symbols, and events to prepare for the complete revelation of Jesus Christ" is wonderfully met.

Most chapters follow a similar format of introduction; theological ideas; synthesis, including summary and outline of the passage under consideration; exposition of text; concluding observations; and a detailed bibliography. The notes at the end of every page are never overwhelming but help the reader to immediately encounter the meaning of problematic passages. Each page is set for ease of reading. The flow of the text aligns with the Bible with a smoothness not seen in older commentaries such as *Wycliffe's Bible Commentary*. While conservative in nature, discussion occurs concerning other possible interpretations of the passages. Many pastors will benefit from this book in their collection, as parts are similar to the outlines of Spurgeon's sermons. Others could read this book devotionally or as a study and grow in the faith.

Bianca Elliott, Educator, Contributor to the Latino Heritage Bible, Linwood, Kansas.

Spiritual living in a secular world : applying the book of Daniel today / Ajith Fernando.
Grand Rapids: Monarch, 2002. PAP, 1854245783, \$11.99. Adult. Rating: 5

224'.507. Bible. O.T. Daniel--Commentaries; Bible. O.T. Daniel--Devotional use; Bible. O.T. Daniel--Study and teaching. 192 p.

Sometimes we can see our own culture best from the perspective of someone outside of that culture. Such is the case with this book. Fernando, who works with Youth for Christ in Sri Lanka, using the example of the life of Daniel in the Old Testament, makes the reader consider how to face a secular society. Fernando's powerful little book presents the seven-part series of his teaching at the 97th annual Maramom Convention in India. While first presented in 1992, this material, in book form, arrived in 2002. As truth is timeless, so is this book. While not designed to be a commentary on the book of Daniel, it has many of the characteristics of a commentary, such as a brief analysis of Daniel's time and, then, considerable space is given to life application in today's society. Another wonderful aspect of this book is the author's heart's desire to reach normal people in the world. Whether readers are dentists, attorneys, homemakers, or

whatever, they will close this book feeling a validation of their profession and the insight into how to make a difference for Christ in their sphere of influence.

Doctrinally conservative and tied directly to the Bible, this book is a great read and ready reference. Each chapter ends with study questions designed to drive home the chapter's message. The study questions are written to align with specific verses, which is a bit unusual for a study guide and is not seen in commentaries. The endnotes are a wealth of continued study resources. Especially striking about the book is the global references. This is not only a listing of North American writers, but also a sample of the great minds from around the world. While pastors will benefit from this book, this is for those in the trenches. A great book for Bible studies of any size or individual study. A must read!

Bianca Elliott, Educator, Contributor to the Latino Heritage Bible, Linwood, Kansas.

Victory at Jerusalem. Worcester, Pa.: Vision Video, 2003. VID, 1563646463, \$19.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 4

232.96. Jesus Christ--Biography; Jesus Christ--Resurrection; Jesus Christ--Crucifixion. 70 min.; color.

On location in Jerusalem, Pastor Ronald Kelly retraces the sites and events of Jesus Christ's last days. The documentary covers the events of Jesus' arrest, betrayal, abandonment, scourging, crucifixion, and resurrection.

The color video highlights the sites as they are today. When there is conjecture or the site or place is not as it was in Jesus' time, realistic views in paintings, illustrations, or current places/sites likely to be as they were in Christ's time are utilized. One gets a feeling of being there. The viewer, through inviting camera angles, music, and excellent commentary by Kelly (both in tone and approach), is able to sense part of the wonder, majesty and worship embodied in Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection.

Recommended for high school to adult, and for public library collections on the Holy Land and early Christian places and events.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding, Library Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers Beach, Florida.

You are anointed / Barbara Wentroble.
LCCN 2001037103. Ventura, Calif.: Regal Books, 2001. PAP, 0830727582, \$10.99. Adult. Rating: 4

234'.13. Anointing of the Holy Spirit. 175 p.

To some, the spiritual equipment to fulfill the purpose of their lives is given through what they call the anointing. In the Old Testament oil was symbolic of being rubbed with the Holy Spirit. In this book, *You Are Anointed*, by Barbara

Wentroble, the author writes to clarify how, by anointing us, Jesus wants to make us "slippery with the anointing on himself, so that we slip into his full purpose for our lives". Organized in chapters with discussion questions, the book would be good for small group discussions and home study. The author uses ample scripture to illustrate, as well as stories from her family and years of ministry. Examples of prayer and suggestions for the nurture and growing of an anointing are woven throughout.

God's grace through the anointing enables and positions people to be used by God to extend his kingdom into every arena of life. As we allow the presence and image of Jesus to be deposited in greater ways through obedience, the presence and power of God is released, and we trust in His abilities not ours. Anointing enables believers to do what they can't do on their own. We can increase our anointing, and we can pass it on. Part of the equipping of believers is the transferal of the anointing. Equipping the believer with character for ministry and power for producing the fruit are both functions of the Holy Spirit. New Testament believers have anointing to do Jesus' ongoing work. The anointing doesn't leave. Various types of anointing meet God's purposes. The author defines each and gives suggestions about how to develop them.

The author details various manifestations of anointing, including faith for the use of any anointing. "God planned for signs, wonders and miracles to be the norm in the lives of Christians."

Carol Taylor, M.S.W., Poulsbo, Washington.

The case for faith : a journalist investigates the toughest objections to Christianity / Lee Strobel.
LCCN 57216. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000. HBB, 0310220157, \$19.99; PAP, 0310234697, \$12.99; PAP, 031024188X, \$8.99 (student edition); LgP, 0786248289, \$27.95; CAS, 0310234751, \$17.99 (abridged); CAS, 0310248256, \$39.99 (unabridged); CDR, 031024787X, \$44.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 5

239. Apologetics. 300 p.

Lee Strobel is a seasoned investigative journalist with a law degree. Responding to issues raised in an interview with an evangelist who had become an agnostic, Strobel examines several troubling objections that challenge the existence of God. In *The Case for Faith*, he addresses what he sees as "The Big Eight:"

- 1.) Since evil and suffering exist, a loving God cannot.
- 2.) Since miracles contradict science, they cannot be true.
- 3.) Evolution explains life, so God isn't needed.
- 4.) God isn't worthy of worship if he kills innocent children.

- 5.) It's offensive to claim that Jesus is the only way to God.
- 6.) A loving God would never torture people in hell.
- 7.) Church history is littered with oppression and violence.
- 8.) I still have doubts, so I can't be a Christian."

As in his earlier book, *The Case for Christ* [CLJ 4, (2/3):81, 1999], Strobel interviews eight recognized experts, most with Ph.D. degrees, to get their responses to these objections to faith in God.

Each chapter begins with two short relevant quotations, one by a skeptic, and one by a Christian. Strobel uses a disarmingly informal narrative style, with many direct quotations from his taped interviews and frequent observations about accompanying tone and gestures. Yet as an interviewer, he approaches each issue with blunt, challenging questions and follow-up discussions leading to a well-organized and persuasive argument. Each chapter ends with a few "questions for reflection" and "more resources on this topic."

In his "Conclusion: the power of faith," he clearly supports the validity of faith in God, observing that many times intellectual objections mask deeper issues of the will. An appendix summarizes the earlier book in which Strobel recounts the evidence that led him from atheism to personal faith in Christ. A list of citations, meticulous end notes, and an index is included. Highly recommended for all libraries, and for skeptics.

Donna W. Bowling, Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics, Dallas, Texas.

***Divorce & remarriage / Guy Doty.* LCCN 2001007885. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2002. PAP, 0764227262, \$12.99. Adult. Rating: 5**

241'.63. Divorce--Biblical teaching; Remarriage--Biblical teaching; Divorce--Religious aspects--Christianity; Remarriage--Religious aspects--Christianity. 158 p.

If you're looking for a "simple" Christian answer to the question of whether or not remarriage is permissible after divorce, you'll find it in this book. But it is not a simple book to read. Doty has certainly done his homework, beginning at the beginning with the fourteen centuries of divorce law before Jesus.

He then takes Jesus' divorce laws in Matthew 5:23 and 19:9 and compares and contrasts it with the Old Testament scriptures. In separate chapters Doty takes specific words of Matthew 5:23, like "put away," "except it be for fornication" and "fornication" and gives Biblical understanding to each of them, making use of the Greek transliteration and contexts. He also includes separate chapters covering the Apostle Paul's references to divorce and remarriage in Romans and 1 Corinthians.

There is apparently a disagreement in Christendom between the separation-interpretors and the divorce-interpretors. Doty falls on the side of the divorce-interpretors and backs it up with Scripture and word studies from numerous expository dictionaries. He points out that some teachers "give no proof for their dogmatic statements." He also states "when a man has proof, he doesn't have to be dogmatic, all he has to do is to submit his evidence."

The book is completed with chapters reviewing what the "church fathers" have said, replying to objections, and summarizing his findings. A good bibliography completes the book.

Pastors will find *Divorce & Remarriage* helpful in answering questions and counseling their flocks. For the layperson, there are certainly answers, when study is carefully read in conjunction with continued reference to the Bible. Doty explains at the very beginning of the book why he uses so many sources. His purpose is to draw from a wide range of authorities. While many of his sources are repetitive, he includes them so that no one can question his objectivity. So you can rest assured that his research and exposition is thorough! A good book for church libraries.

Helen Hunter, Mount Mercy College, BA English/Writing, Church Librarian, Freelance Writer and Author.

***The light of home / John Trent; paintings by Thomas Kinkade.* LCCN 2002003157. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House, 2002. HBB, 0736910174, \$22.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 3**

242. Family--Religious life; Family--Religious aspects--Christianity. 117 p.

Ten building blocks that can strengthen a family's foundation and give it encouragement to keep working at interpersonal relationships is the grid-work on which Dr. John Trent develops *The Light of Home*. Page after page of engrossing paintings by Thomas Kinkade adds to the appeal of this inspirational title that could double as a gift book.

Trent prefaces *The Light of Home* with a reminder of the tremors the nation experienced on September 11, 2001. He then proceeds to carry home his thesis that strong families make for a strong America.

Plentiful anecdotes and occasional Scripture references re-enforce Trent's ten points: moving beyond mistakes, giving time for close relationships, serving and sharing in marriage, "being there" for and affirming courage in one's children, forgiveness and reconciliation, valuing senior citizens, remembering to smile, and the need for strong faith along with prayerfulness.

The engaging and emotionally warm writing of John Trent competes for attention amidst the landscapes and beaconing windows in Thomas Kinkade's renowned art. *The Light of Home* is

well written and uplifting, using many cultural nuances to underscore the thesis that strong families make the nation itself strong. Readers will finish the text with a boost of energy for making the most of family ties. Engaged and newly married couples, established families and grandparents all will appreciate the sentiments and ideas Trent offers.

Karen Schmidt, RN and Freelance Writer, Marysville, Washington.

***Seeking his face : a daily devotional / Charles Stanley.* LCCN 2002005957. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2002. HBB, 0785272992, \$19.99. Adult. Rating: 3**

242'.2. Devotional calendars. unip.

Pastor Stanley writes this topical daily devotional. Each month Stanley explores a new divine encounter over the days of that month. Using verses and life experiences Stanley helps the reader to draw closer to the Lord. The topics discussed are encounters with God, emotional healing, forgiveness, the cross, Christian devotion (prayer, worship, and the word), intimacy, spiritual growth, grace, trials and temptations, personal ministry, adversity, and God's plan for the future. People familiar with Stanley's ministry will be drawn to and rewarded with reading this book. In short, picturesque devotions the reader is helped to consider how to handle the twelve month challenges to encountering God and His love for them.

Readers of all types and persuasions will enjoy the book. Individuals, rather than groups, are the target audience for this text.

Bianca Elliott, Educator, Contributor to the Latino Heritage Bible, Linwood, Kansas.

***Praying the attributes of God : a guide to personal worship through prayer / Rosemary Jensen.* LCCN 2002006249. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2002. PAP, 0825429420, \$11.99. Adult. Rating: 4**

242'.8. God--Attributes--Meditations; Prayers. 176 p.

Rosemary Jensen is an experienced writer on prayer, having been the director for Bible Study Fellowship International. She is currently the general director of the Rafiki Foundation. This devotional focuses on 31 attributes of God. Though there are more attributes of God than these, those selected by the author allow the reader to contemplate a few attributes, rather than lose an appreciation of God in trying to discuss them all. The outline of the chapters follows the ACTS acronym (adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication) format. The chapters include carefully selected verses from different translations and paraphrases. The confession section is a paraphrase of some Scriptures intermixed with the author's feelings. The thanksgiving section is again a compiling of selected verses and author's works.

The book is perfect in size and is very attractive, as well as has good fonts and room to read and write. The theology is conservative with well-chosen attributes. The major uniqueness of this book is its intermingling of Bible study and personal journal. This intertwining will make it a useful book for many people.

Bianca Elliott, Educator, Contributor to the Latino Heritage Bible, Linwood, Kansas.

How people grow : what the Bible reveals about personal growth / Henry Cloud, John Townsend. LCCN 2001045575. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. HBB, 0310221536, \$19.99; PAP, 0310245699, \$12.99. Adult. Rating: 3

248.2. Self-actualization (Psychology)--Religious aspects--Christianity; Christian life--Biblical teaching. 366 p.

In *How People Grow*, Doctors Cloud and Townsend present their combined knowledge and experience garnered from their research and clinical work in group counseling and personal growth. This book is divided into five sections, each with several chapters. The first section deals with how the doctors arrived at their theories, including their own efforts at personal and spiritual growth. The sections which following progress from tying their ideas into the Bible, through their theories, into the path of growth. Every chapter and idea is liberally illustrated by scripture and by personal anecdotes from their clinics. Most anecdotes arise from people with major problems. Each new area of thought presented is concluded with Tips for Growers and Facilitators. A useful index rounds out this book.

Authors, speakers, and cofounders of their own chain of clinics, Psychologists Cloud and Townsend have worked diligently at forming their own theories about group counseling for life-long growth. They present their ideas clearly. Much scripture is used to back their theories. The thinking reader will want to decide for himself if the scripture is correctly applied. This book is aimed at group counseling. Possibly, some parts may be applied to one-on-one counseling, or an individual's personal growth. Many other books have been written in this genre, including the classic *Spiritual Depression : Its Causes and Its Cures* by Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones. *How People Grow* will be useful as an adjunct to other counseling and growth books.

Donna J. Eggett, Writer, Radford, Virginia.

Intercessors / Elizabeth (Beth) Alves, Barbara (Tommi) Femrite & Karen Kaufman. LCCN 59249. Ventura, Calif.: Regal Books, 2000. PAP, 0830726446, \$11.99. Adult. Rating: 3

248.3'2. Intercessory prayer--Christianity. 271 p.

With a foreword by Dutch Sheets and Bill Bright these women have strong support. Alves is the founder and president of Intercessors International and author of *Becoming a Prayer Warrior*. Femrite is the executive vice-president and has a prophetic ministry to the nations. Kaufman is a freelance writer who helps others find inner-healing. These three women challenge readers to a deeper more powerful prayer life. Basic contentions, such as each believer can contribute to the body, are presented. There are several types of intercessors. People may be called to one or more of the following intercessory categories: issues, life, soul, personal, financial, mercy, crisis, warfare, worship, government, people group and Israel, and prophetic.

The strong charismatic and faith emphasis is prevalent throughout the book. Examples of each type of intercessor, along with successes and warnings, are useful and direct. The personal reflection at the end of each chapter has questions to help the reader know if this is their gift. The last chapter references "smart bomb" praying, which is an intriguing idea.

Short, powerful chapters are interspersed with dynamic examples of the work done by intercessors. While the overt push of spiritual activity may offend more conservative readers, the authors endorse active engagement by the intercessors. Other intercessory prayer books are not as focused on items such as worship experiences, the arts, and other corporate expressions, like private time. This book will help people to think outside the box of traditional intercessory prayer.

Bianca Elliott, Educator, Linwood, Kansas.

Teach me to pray, rev. and updated / Andrew Murray. LCCN 2002002803. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2002. PAP, 0764225960, \$7.99. Adult. Rating: 4

248.3'2. Prayer--Christianity. 240 p.

This newly edited and updated version of Andrew Murray's *With Christ in the School of Prayer* and *The Believer's School of Prayer* is well done and useful to introduce the new generation to the Murray's work. *Teach Me to Pray* was first published in 1982. After having read the 31 daily lessons on prayer, the reader will have been taught more about prayer than many courses taught in seminary. This update stays true to the original work as I compared it with the copy I had. There are no compromises for the information originally written a long time ago. The effort necessary by an individual involved in any kind of effective prayer life is not glossed over in this new edition. The reader will finish the book well informed regarding this critical aspect of a Christian's life. The essence of this work is to introduce modern readers to the timeless truths taught by this master of prayer.

Bianca Elliott, Educator, Contributor to the Latino Heritage Bible, Linwood, Kansas.

Abiding in Christ / Andrew Murray. LCCN 2002155876. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2003. PAP, 0764227629, \$7.99. Adult. Rating: 3

248.4. Meditations; Christian life--Reformed authors. 192 p.

To abide in Christ means more than just accepting Christ as Savior, more than frequent Bible readings, more than fellowshiping with other Christians, even more than regular church attendance. To abide in Christ means to habitually seek a more intimate relationship with Him through devoting quality time to Him. In this purse-size devotional of exhortations, each averaging five pages, the reader is shown, step-by-step, the basic areas in which a closer relationship with Christ is imperative to spiritual growth. Divided into daily homilies that span a month, each day has a new scripture and message to meditate on that presents new spheres for focus. Some examples include: Day 2-the reader is reminded that perfect rest is established only through complete surrender to the Lord; Day 14-prompts the reader to work, not overwork, for daily bread, and reminds us that God, not striving, is our provider; Day 22-proposes to the reader that God's love is the same "yesterday, today, and forever," and that He realizes we are all sinners and opens His arms of love to us anyway; and Day 31-reiterates that, if we will draw closer to Christ, the Lord has done all the work to allow us to shed shame and claim victory in Him.

Abiding in Christ : A Classic Devotional Edited for Today's Reader by Andrew Murray is a collection of mini-sermons to begin or enhance daily Bible readings. Murray shares what he has learned to cultivate in his ceaseless walk with Christ. Although repetitive in nature, the author presents his message in easy-to-understand prose. During the 1800s, as missionary and pastor in Africa, Murray wrote several spiritual self-help and devotional books that still ring true for readers today. Recommended for self-study.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Churchville, New York.

He came first : following Christ to spiritual breakthrough / Rod Parsley. LCCN 2001044954. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2001. HBB, 0785265715, \$19.99. Adult. Rating: 3

248.4. Christian life. 205 p.

The sons of Perez, warriors in the Old Testament, were afraid of nothing because they trusted God to fight their battles with them. In our daily battles against poverty, depression, and diseases, God's Word teaches us how to lead victorious lives.

Divided into five sections, Parsley opens with an outreach to new Christians and nonbelievers.

He gives a plethora of examples of "breakers," those who have triumphantly persevered beyond the World's view of the impossible. The remaining four sections, divided into different characteristics necessary for maintaining a successful life, are: 1.) Virtue, dedication, and obedience to God's purpose, getting to know Him through His Word, practicing His principles, and being "possessed" by the Holy Ghost; 2.) Valor, being courageous enough to pursue, through faith, a personal relationship with God, consistent intake of His Word, and emulation of others successfully pursuing the same goals; 3.) Vigor, the strength to go to God, rather than self, for answers throughout crisis situations; and 4.) Overpowering Wealth, the revolutionary capacity to be a "breaker" in the financial realm, realizing that wealth received by the believer is not for selfish use, but for God's use.

He Came First: Following Christ to Spiritual Breakthrough by Rod Parsley is written to encourage both believer and nonbeliever that God's ways are hope and life in an otherwise dead and defeated World. Parsley is pastor of the World Harvest Church in Columbus, Ohio, and hosts Breakthrough, a daily and weekly broadcast. Although Parsley holds nothing back in his delivery, which contains definite Pentecostal overtones, his skill as an experienced speaker is obvious. His use of anecdotes, scripture, and expansions on Biblical events, give a clear picture of what it takes to become a "breaker." Notes are helpful. Recommended for spiritual self-help and small group Bible studies.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Churchville, New York.



Soldiers of the kingdom : reclaiming the world for God / Kirk W. Hunt. Oro Valley, Ariz.: CadreMen Press; order direct: www.cadremenpress.com, or PO Box 69182, Oro Valley, AZ 85737., 2002. PAP, 0972617930, \$11.95. Adult (High school). Rating: 4

248.8. Men--Religious aspects--Christianity. 149 p.

Soldiers of the Kingdom is written for Christian men who sail out of the safe harbors of home and church into the violent waves and killing cold of modern society. Using the language and setting of battle, from boot camp to situation briefing and battlefield to mission and weapons, men in the front office or workshop, building site or sales counter, schoolhouse or jailhouse, retired or in transition, are invited to become leaders and sources of light in their communities.

By feeding on a study of the Bible, the Christian man, like the recruiter of the armed services, operates through relationships. In the spirit of Matthew 10:16 the reader is given insight and challenge to go forth as sheep (with battle

techniques and mindset) in the midst of wolves (the corrupt culture), wise as serpents (knowing, learning and living on Scripture) and harmless as doves (going out to people). Kirk, a fellow soldier and laborer in aerospace manufacturing, not only achieves his aim of helping to prepare Christian men as soldiers of our Lord but also provides a context and encouragement for women, as they prepare for spiritual battle and rescue missions. The first book published by CadreMen Press, *Soldiers of the Kingdom* well exemplifies this publisher's name, giving structure for building a vital cadre of dedicated Christians.

A multifaceted, multi-purpose book, Kirk's work helps mentoring men, offers pertinent today-oriented Bible study for teenage through adult, serves as an interesting theme for summer camp and VBS, and includes useful anecdotes for the preacher and teacher. With such a wide audience, this is recommended for public library collections offering quality works in scriptural understanding, culture and church, and American Christianity. It can serve as a companion to Bunyon's *Pilgrim's Progress* or Elliot's *Through Gates of Splendor*.

Leroy Hommerding, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District
Donna Eggett, Radford, Virginia.

Healing for the heart : the hope of full surrender / Cheryl V. Ford. (Women of the Word.) LCCN 2001001182. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2001. PAP, 1581342608, \$13.99. Adult. Rating: 4

248.8'43. Women in the Bible--Biography; Christian women--Religious life. 237 p.

Healing for the Heart: The Hope of Full Surrender, by Cheryl V. Ford, is written to address a core issue facing the church today: the issue of self worth in women. To do so, Ford personalizes the stories of ten different women of the Bible, each of which suffers unique crises, in order to prove her premise that women truly do hold a very special place in God's heart. Even through the most devastating crisis, God is here to love, to care for and about women, and to demonstrate our importance to Him. Examples include ordinary women from the Bible: Hannah, who was unable to have children; Hagar, a slave who bore a child for her mistress, then was persecuted for being obedient; and Naomi, who, lost her husband and two sons within a short amount of time. Using scriptural references, hymns, poems, and famous quotes, Ford encourages women to look past their pain to God's big picture for their lives.

Both beginners and advanced readers will benefit by reading this flexible study set up for either self-help or group sessions. Sections are broken down into three basic segments. The first segment, steeped in scriptural backing, tells about the woman, crisis faced, and God's victorious resolution for her life. The second segment relates type of crisis to modern day

challenges and encourages reader to press into the Father for healing, guidance, and personal victory. The third segment presents short, thought-provoking questions designed to motivate the reader to do a spiritual self-health test. Appendix A: Prayer of Full Surrender and Appendix B: composite of pertinent scriptures used, are helpful references. Recommended for Christian women's study groups and spiritual self-help collections.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Churchville, New York.

20 surprisingly simple rules and tools for a great marriage / Steve Stephens. LCCN 2002010949. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2003. PAP, 0842362037, \$9.99. Adult. Rating: 3

248.8'44. Marriage--Religious aspects--Christianity; Spouses--Religious life. 134 p.

In his work with hundreds of couples over the past 25 years as a psychologist specializing in marriage and family issues, and from 18 years of marriage, Stephens has highlighted twenty practical rules to make a marriage better. Each chapter explains one of the rules, shows why it's important, and runs the rule through the grid of the Holy Bible. One example is rule 1, 'make your spouse a priority,' that shows how, in the life of one couple, one partner needed to turn down overtime at work to allow more home time with the spouse. This rule is related to Ephesians 5:33, along with four practices to consider in making this rule an everyday effort.

Readers will enjoy the clear, to-the-point discussion, and prayers in each chapter for strengthening one's marriage. The chapters lend themselves to a busy life, and can be read separately, in five-minute slots of time. The book's size makes it easy to stuff into a bag or keep in the car.

Recommended for larger public library collections, self-help guides, and/or religious studies on marriage. Small and medium sized libraries having Stephens' earlier *Lists to Live By for Every Married Couple* (Multnomah Publishing, 2001) might add this one if they have active circulation on the first one. Those familiar with the titles Stephens co-authored or compiled with others, e.g. *Lists to Live By for Everything* (Multnomah, 1999), *Lists to Live By: the Second Collection* (Multnomah, 2001) will find a similar approach here.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers Beach, Florida.

Power in no other name : overcome life's problems God's way : a spiritual journey of truth, hope, and freedom / by Dong Jim Kim and Steve Hannett. LCCN 2002031826. Shippensburg, Pa.: Ragged Edge Press, 2002. PAP, 157249333X, \$14.95. Adult. Rating: 4

248.8'6. Christian life; Suffering--Religious aspects--Christianity. 177 p.

Filled with scripture and uplifting testimonies, this down-to-earth book promises to help you re-evaluate your understanding of how the Christian should live. *Power in No Other Name* presents God's plan to the new believer, as well as encouraging the well-seasoned saint. Many Christians don't realize how to allow our spiritual walk to impact our every day life. The authors, Grand Master Dong Jin Kim and Reverend Steve Hannett, present a straightforward, simple view of the Bible, and demonstrate how faith and trust in the truth of the Word can set the captive free. This is true in reaching the unsaved as well as for every other aspect of life, be it physical healing, emotional trauma, or the need for provision.

The promise to take you on "a spiritual journey of truth, hope, and freedom," plays out on every page. Within their ministry, entitled Conquerors in Christ, the authors impart powerful and unique insight into the battles we face and how to be victorious in Christ. A surprising aspect of the book is that Dong Jin Kim is an instructor of Tae Kwon Do, and it is often from this backdrop that he ministers to those who have never responded to the call of Christ. With simple faith in their newfound Savior, they discover that Jesus truly can set them free, both spiritually and physically. This book is a step-by-step guide that can lead you to a fuller understanding of who you are in Christ and how you can release the "power that works within you".

This is recommended reading, not only for those seeking a Savior, but also for those intent on pressing in closer to the Lord, and discovering His power to save, heal, and deliver.

Mary McKinney, Author, Editor, Speaker, Port Orchard, Washington.

Artisans of peace : grassroots peacemaking among Christian communities / edited by Mary Ann Cejka and Thomas Barnat. : Orbis Books, 2003. HBB, 1560754632, \$25.00. Adult. Rating: 4

261.873. Christian life; Peace; Christianity and justice. 312 p.

Cejka and Barnat introduce the reader to the worlds, the words, and the actions of ordinary Christians coping with extraordinary violence. They focus on the often invisible makers of peace, at the grassroots level, who have a wealth of experience in everyday peaceful coexistence and considerable experience in dealing concretely with periods of violence and its effects.

Seeking to advance the current understanding of the peacemaking role of cross-cultural Christian missions, *Artisans of Peace* is noteworthy in the care and scholarship brought to the data. Really listening to the Christians over a three-year

period, one hears from those directly involved, and their comments are carefully reflected upon. In addition, the insights cover cultures in places as diverse as Guatemala, Northern Ireland, the Philippines, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, the Southern Sudan, and gang violence in the United States. While not pretending to offer an integrated theology of peace for any one place, the discussion highlights important factors in developing any local theology: concepts of violence and peace, scripture as a resource in peacemaking, the ministry of leadership in peacemaking, and obstacles to peacemaking.

Recommended for public library collections seeking to illuminate the practical and healing work of Christian communities in facing conflict and violence. The case studies and thematic essays enable educators, scholars, and informed citizens to see behind the headlines. A perfect companion to *The Ambivalence of the Sacred* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2000), *Moving Beyond Sectarianism* (Columbia Press, 2001), and *Between Vengeance and Forgiveness* (Beacon Press, 1998).

Dr. Leroy Hommerding, Library Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida.

The Jesus plan : breaking though barriers to introduce the people you love to the God you love / Bruce Roberts Dreisbach. LCCN 2001046788. Colorado Springs: Waterbrook Press, 2002. PAP, 1578564352, \$13.99. Adult. Rating: 4

269'.2'0973. Evangelistic work--United States. 294 p.

In *The Jesus Plan*, Bruce Roberts Dreisbach presents a new way of looking at witnessing, one that is relationship and small group driven, rather than mainline church run. He tells of his own struggle with traditional evangelism, as churches failed to reach the unchurched around them with the methods that they were using. With a friend, he begins praying and seeking a new paradigm for reaching the lost. This results in the New Life concept, focusing on relationally driven witnessing, and small group discipleship/mentoring. A description of this ministry and its principles is the focus of the last part of the book.

The book is well written and thought provoking. Dreisbach gives a clear Biblical basis for his approach and seems sound in his salvation theology and desire to reach the lost for Christ, though some comments about traditional churches may be controversial. It is also written from a very personal viewpoint, as he tells of his own questions, frustrations, and search for answers. He clearly lays out the basic principles of the ministry, with stories to illustrate most of them. Questions for small group study and discussion are included at the end. An address and email are also given for readers to request more information on the ministry.

The book is best suited to a church library or for individuals interested in evangelism, missions, or witnessing. It is a book designed to make the reader think and seek Biblical answers to the needs of today's culture. As such, college ages and up will be its audience, and they should read it with Bible near by. Be prepared to read and reflect.

Betsy Ruffin, librarian/teacher, Cleburne, Texas.

The veil is torn. (The Christians : their first two thousand years; 1.) LCCN C2001911625X. Edmonton, Alb.: Christian History Project, 2002. HBB, \$39.95. Adult. Rating: 4

270.1. Church history--Primitive and early church, ca. 30-600; Paul, the Apostle, Saint; Persecution--History--Early church, ca. 30-600. 288 p.

A pinch of incense. (The Christians : their first two thousand years; 2.) LCCN C20029105773. Edmonton, Alb.: Christian History Project, 2002. HBB, \$39.95. Adult. Rating: 4

270.1. Church history--Primitive and early church, ca. 30-601; Persecution--History--Early church, ca. 30-600. 288 p.

These are the first two volumes in a projected twenty-volume set covering Church History from the time of Christ to the present day. *The Veil is Torn* covers the years thirty to seventy AD, and *A Pinch of Incense* covers the years 70 to 250 AD. The Christian History Project writing team consists of eminent journalists, rather than theologians or history professors, which makes for very readable chapters. A two-member committee of historians or theologians to whom all text is submitted composes each volume. Each committee consists of one representative from the Evangelical tradition and one from the Catholic or Orthodox traditions. Veteran Canadian journalist, Ted Byfield, is the overall editor.

The stated goals of the series are to describe the foundations of our American societies, to show that our cultural origins are substantially Christian, and to counter the widespread endeavor that seeks to divorce us from our roots. In order to achieve these goals, the history of Christianity is told from the beginning.

This series should not be compared with some of the excellent dictionaries of Christian history that are available today. It is formatted as a narrative, rather than a reference book. There are about ten main chapters in each volume, dealing with key personalities and issues. Then there are two or three sidebars in each chapter, that expand on the matters or people referred to, but for which a discussion in the main chapter would be a distraction. These sidebars yield many valuable insights.

There are good indexes and bibliographies to help the reader. Illustrations are varied and bold. All in all, this series will be the sort of addition

to a church library that will attract Christian laymen and help them gain a much greater sense of the amazing Christian past that has so influenced our culture today.

Rodney Stent, Former Missionary to Pakistan, Adult Sunday School Teacher, Dallas, Oregon.



Rachel smiles : the spiritual legacy of Columbine martyr Rachel Scott / Darrell Scott, Steve Rabey. LCCN 2002512716. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2002. PAP, 0785264728, \$13.99. Adult. Rating: 5

277.3'0829'092. Scott, Rachel (Rachel Joy); Columbine High School (Littleton, Colo.)--Students--Biography; Christian biography--Colorado; Christian teenagers--Colorado--Biography; High school students--Colorado--Biography; Christian teenagers--Religious life. 181 p.

There are some events that simply shock and transform a nation so that it is forever changed. The Columbine High School shootings that took place on April 20, 1999 is one such event. Although there had been prior school shootings in other schools and at other times, there was such a pervasive horror about Columbine, that it caused a nation to stop and grieve for the loss of so many young lives, struck down so violently. One of those young lives was Rachel Scott, considered a martyr, since she was shot for her profession of faith. Yet, out of Rachel's death much life has flourished. The sequel to Rachel's Tears covers what has transpired since Rachel's untimely death. And, yet, was it untimely? The uncovering of Rachel's many writings seems to indicate she knew she was here for just a season. Now, we are able to see how Rachel's tears have turned into Rachel's smiles.

Rachel's father, Darrell, with the help of Steve Rabey, has continued Rachel's story. It is one of wonder and encouragement. Darrell wrote a second book, *Chain Reaction*, which explored Rachel's philosophy of life. She believed how a chain reaction would form from one person going out of their way to show compassion and that a little kindness can go a long way. For the past two or so years, Darrell has traveled the world speaking to groups about Rachel's philosophy, going on TV, speaking with schools and other large audiences. In *Rachel Smiles*, he shares how his daughter's death has impacted thousands of lives, infusing life, encouragement, and inspiration through her philosophy of compassion and kindness.

Poignant, gripping and amazing are just few of the words that come to mind after reading this latest account of Rachel Scott's influence upon the nation and world. This is a must consideration for the biography section, as well as one for contemporary history. Columbine made a lasting impression upon us, as will Rachel Joy Scott.

Pam Webb, writer. Credits: *School Library Journal*; *Christian Retailing*, Sandpoint, Idaho.

Flannery O'Connor : spiritual writings / edited by Robert Ellsberg; introduction by Robert Giannone. (Modern spiritual masters series.) LCCN 2002152355. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2003. PAP, 1570754705, \$15.00. Adult. Rating: 4

282. Spiritual life--Catholic Church. 173 p.

Flannery O'Connor: Spiritual Writings, the latest edition to the Modern Spiritual Masters series (earlier ones included Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Evelyn Underhill & Mohandas Gandhi) focuses on O'Connor's contributions as a novelist, storywriter, and spiritual writer. Ellsberg, as editor, has masterfully arranged interconnecting excerpts from the wide range of O'Connor's writings (1925 to 1964) to enable the reader to understand the spiritual aspiration combined with faith coming through as continuum, ranging from acceptance of the gift, through struggle to retain it, to its loss.

The lack of intellectual pretense and, more appealing, no spiritual pretense may draw readers to appreciate not only this informal biography but, also, the restorative and reflective insights into our relationship with God. This anthology gives witness to O'Connor's wisdom as a spiritual guide, covering topics such as the relation between faith and art, the church, and the role of suffering. In addition, one grasps how, as a novelist, she tried to write about the human encounter with God, making it both understandable and credible to the reader.

Recommended for public library collections of influential Christian writers, modern spiritual guides, and American writers.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding, Library Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers Beach, Florida.

No God but God : a path to Muslim-Christian dialogue on God's nature / A. Christian van Gorder. (Faith meets faith.) LCCN 2002014780. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2003. PAP, 1570754640, \$25.00. Adult. Rating: 4

297.2'11. Jesus Christ--Islamic interpretations; God (Islam); God--Biblical teaching; God--Comparative studies; Islam--Relations--Christianity; Christianity and other religions--Islam. 204 p.

This enlightening discussion seeks to enable Christians to better share Christianity with Muslims, while equipping the reader with a comprehensive knowledge of Islam, including a familiarity with the history of Christian-Muslim encounters. This introduction is done in the context of relating Christian theology to the Islamic concept of God and the Muslim perception of Jesus.

Gorder, professor of religious and intercultural studies, and author of *Three-Fifths Theology: Challenging Racism in American Christianity*

(Africa World Press, 2002), frees, via clear and illustrative discussion, a path for dialogue between the two faiths. An index of Qur'anic reference and one of Biblical references lets the reader go back to various points that are sure to come in as dialogue progresses in the everyday world.

Recommended for religion collections in all public libraries, especially where collections need a work to be beyond introductory information, and get into helpful approaches to make interfaith dialogue productive and feasible.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers Beach, Florida.

A parent's guide to preventing homosexuality / Joseph Nicolosi and Linda Ames Nicolosi. LCCN 2002009337. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2002. PAP, 0830823794, \$15.00. Adult. Rating: 4

306.76. Sexual orientation; Gender identity; Homosexuality. 252 p.

A Parent's Guide to Preventing Homosexuality deals with a crucial issue. Its 254 pages are filled with information particularly geared to the parent(s) of boys that are suffering with the issue of what is called sexual identity disorder. Although one chapter is aimed at girls, and many of the precepts and ideas can be related to girls, the majority of this guide is targeted to boys and young men. The authors are speaking to concerned parents that want to foster healthy heterosexual children. Joseph and Linda Ames Nicolosi provide insights for identifying potential developmental roadblocks and give advice to parents for assisting their children to securely identify with their gender. They believe in providing a firm and traditional masculine identity for boys who are lacking such a role model. Many recollections from ex-gay men and women are told, giving hope to those struggling with gender-identity conflict or seeing this struggle in their children, some who are very young.

A Parent's Guide to Preventing Homosexuality comes highly recommended by many in the fields of psychiatry and psychology. Footnotes from the chapters fill almost fifteen pages. Reading it as a lay person, it is understandable but not an easy book to read. It is more a textbook to be studied. The book contains many practical ways to help the child caught in gender conflict, ideas for the parents themselves, and specifics for the children. It is not told from a religious or Christian point of view, but for the parent, concerned that their child may be pre-homosexual, this book could prove invaluable.

Ceil Carey, Public librarian, LTA College of DuPage. Credits: *Christian Library Journal*, *Today's Libraries*, Plano, Illinois.

10 essentials of highly healthy people / Walt Larimore with Traci Mullins. (Christian Medical Association resources.) LCCN 2002151181. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. HBB, 0310240271, \$19.99. Adult. Rating: 4

513. Health--Religious aspects--Christianity; Health behavior. 300 p.

Experienced Christian physician, Walt Larimore, asserts that the best health requires a continual balance of the physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual "wheels," or aspects of one's life. His prescription for attaining and maintaining one's best health involves proactive self-care, practicing forgiveness, reducing stress, fostering strong relationships, establishing a good self image, nurturing dreams and tending one's spirituality. Through myriad anecdotes of patients he's treated, Scriptural notes, and medical facts, Larimore lays a grid of the *10 Essentials of Highly Healthy People* and describes how to improve unhealthy or weak aspects of one's life. The first two chapters discuss the traits of a highly healthy individual and explain the four wheels. Then Larimore expands on each "essential" in its own chapter. The appendix has an in-depth relationship questionnaire and a spiritual life profile.

Reader-friendly and full of realistic ideas for improving many facets of one's health, Larimore's book is a sound how-to guide to health improvement. He provides tools to assess readers' health, gives liberal doses of encouragement, offers short thought-prompting blurbs in sidebar-style boxes and liberally writes of real people dealing with all manner of bodily, emotional, relational and spiritual dysfunctions, who have successfully improved or who have suffered from not trying to change. His own story at the book's beginning of health and suffering adds credence to his advice. Most readers will find information with practical take-away value. Larimore is adept at talking to laypeople about health. He is a frequent radio and TV guest, as well as vice president of the Medical Outreach, for Focus on the Family.

Karen Schmidt, RN and Freelance Writer, Marysville, Washington.

Frugal families : making the most of your hard-earned money, 2nd ed. / by Jonni McCoy. LCCN 2002152386. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2003. PAP, 0764226142, \$10.99. Adult. Rating: 4

640. Consumer education; Home economics. 240 p.

In *Frugal Families*, Jonni McCoy gives practical advice for those wishing to cut expenses and save money. Areas covered include vacations, holidays, and large purchases like cars and appliances, insurance, and more. There are also sections dealing with making money at home and with teaching children financial responsibility. Each chapter is filled with sensible tips that can help families cut costs, while still maintaining an enjoyable

lifestyle. Resources at the end of each chapter and the book list books for further reading. An index is included.

This book continues the theme of McCoy's work, *Miserly Moms*, that is adequate family living on one income. She briefly discusses the decision for a mother to stay home with the children, then proceeds to the sections giving advice on saving money while still having a nice life. The book is practical and useful, with tips to guide anyone desiring to cut expenses. Useful lists, recipes, and addresses are included in the appropriate sections, giving even more useful advice.

Frugal Families is appropriate for any kind of library, but will be especially good for individual families, its target audience. It should have a particularly strong appeal in these times of economic uncertainty. It is an excellent work on this topic - being frugal without being cheap or shoddy. Married or single, college age or senior citizen, adults can learn from McCoy's valuable tips, tested on her own family. Anyone wanting to spend less and save more should consider this book.

Betsy Ruffin, librarian/teacher, Cleburne, Texas.

Some fruits of solitude : wise sayings on the conduct of human life / William Penn; edited into today's English by Eric K. Taylor. LCCN 2002006860. Scottsdale, Pa.: Herald Press, 2003. PAP, 0836192052, \$8.99. Adult. Rating: 5

818'.102. Conduct of life--Early works to 1800. 167 p.

This edition of *Some Fruits of Solitude* is a library in itself. The first two chapters are explanatory: an interesting Editor's Preface; a Historical Introduction, outlining the life of William Penn, the seventeenth century Quaker founder of the "Holy Experiment" in Pennsylvania. Next come Penn's two books of adages: *Some Fruits of Solitude*, and *More Fruits of Solitude*. Using a gentle pen, the editor, Eric Taylor, has updated the language of these books. Penn's reflections are Bible anchored, reminiscent of the Biblical book of Proverbs. As in Penn's original books, all proverbs are gathered into sections according to subject. The Table of Contents lists each of these sections for ease of reference. Endnotes add relevant information to Penn's biography and identify the Bible passages from which Penn quotes.

Three hundred years ago William Penn wrote, "I have tried to produce something as generally beneficial as possible..." (pg. 119) Certainly the test of time has proven that he did. Author and teacher, Editor Eric Taylor comments on *Some Fruits of Solitude*, "Penn stands as a man of vision, a man of wisdom, and more than anything, a man of integrity." (pg. 38) Functioning as both textbook and meditation

aid, this new edition of Penn's classic is recommended for all libraries, and for English and history classes. Of interest to a wide range of readers, middle school to adult, speakers, preachers, and teachers will want to add it to their reference shelf. It will make a thoughtful graduation gift.

Donna Eggett, freelance writer, Radford, Virginia.

Reluctant Saint : Francis of Assisi. Worcester, Pa.: Vision Video, 2003. VID, 1563646501, \$19.99. Adult. Rating: 5

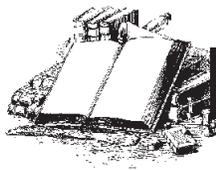
921 (271'.302). Francis, of Assisi, Saint, 1182-1226. 60 min.; color.

Filmed on location in Italy, *Reluctant Saint* is based on the biography of Saint Francis of Assisi by Donald Spoto. Robert Sean Leonard provides the voice of Saint Francis, with additional narration by Live Schreiber. The story effectively moves to show how a wealthy playboy, full of turmoil or questions, is drawn to hear the voice of God beckon him to reform, defend, and serve the poor, respect nature and the earth, and be drawn into a faith engaging his whole being. God's wondrous workings are evident in how Francis draws others to sense what God can make possible.

Particularly noteworthy, is Saint Francis' religious longing and relationship, the center of the entire story, intermingled with an interesting, fast-pace drama. The sixty-minute documentary seems shorter and presents a Francis both humanly intriguing and captivating in the insights faith makes possible.

Highly recommended for public library collections in faith and values, religion, biography, and/or historical events/persons. The story is one reaching senior high to adult.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding, Library Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers Beach, Florida.



***Environmental issues on file / the Diagram Group.* (Facts on file science library.) LCCN 2002028591. New York: Facts on File, 2002. LLB, 0816047383, \$185.00. Reference (High school, Adult). Rating: 4**

363.7'002'1. Environmental sciences--Study and teaching--Audio-visual aids; Pollution--Study and teaching--Audio-visual aids. 1 v. (various pagings).

With nine principal sections and a comprehensive index, students and teachers have at their fingertips up-to-date environmental facts and figures within this resource by the Diagram Group. These provide a guide to the range of environmental issues, e.g., land degradation and habitat loss, or pollution of the lands and seas. As a learning tool for understanding the terminology and underlying scientific principles, much is covered, such as atmospheric pollution, recent environmental disasters, consequences of global population growth, plus geologic and meteorological disasters. The close to 300 reproducible maps, diagrams, and data sets offer easy to understand information, e.g. under terrestrial and marine pollution, an outline of the world's countries' emissions of organic water pollutants graph is found, and one focusing on sources of pollutants entering the sea.

Public high school libraries can provide this as a comprehensive science resource complimenting science curriculum. Public libraries needing environmental issues research material have a wealth of information in this stand-alone reference, making it a consideration for all size libraries. Homeschoolers have visual access to a myriad of explanatory diagrams and summaries, and an appendix of Internet resources within this volume, *Environmental Issues on File*.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding, Library Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

***More science projects for all students / Judith A. Bazler.* LCCN 2002001463. New York: Facts on File, 2002. LLB, 0816045186, \$185.00. Reference (Elementary – High school). Rating: 4**

507'.8. Science--Experiments; Science--Laboratory manuals; Science projects. 1 v. (various pagings).

More Science Projects for All Students by Judith A. Bazler, Ed.D., is a collection of science projects for supervised usage. Bazler uses creative lab applications to encourage both teachers and students to develop a hands-on learning approach to science. Projects contain reader appeal. Some examples of questions to solve include: 1.) How can zoologists determine animal populations, using an empty shoebox,

sugar cubes, and a magic marker? 2.) How much does air weigh?

Format follows author's previous publication, *Science Projects for All Students* by Mary Jean Blaisdell, et.al. (Facts on File, Inc.; Ringbound edition, January 1998), but with modifications added for students with visual and/or motor impairments. Appendix includes useful charts, helpful hints, adaptations, bibliography and glossary. Index is accurate. Projects are divided by science type, including Earth, Weather, Life, Physical, and Space sciences, then organized into consistent segments that define purpose; vocabulary; materials needed; experiment; observation questions and data table. The three-ring binder allows for easy removal and replacement of sheets for copying. Adaptations include use of larger, more colorful and textured objects, and large print. Students have the opportunity to learn everything from how to develop their personal field guides from scratch, to safety precautions, to conclusions that whet the appetite for further explorations. Projects start out basic, easily performed by fifth to seventh graders, and progress to more difficult levels that are appropriate for eighth to tenth graders.

Facts on File is a well-known publisher of a variety of teaching materials used in both school and public libraries. The company is known for factual information with few, if any, biases, presented in clean, age-appropriate vocabulary. Although illustrations are not in color, they are large, clear, and easily understood. Recommended as a reference tool for classroom application, home schooling, and all school and public libraries.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Churchville, New York.

***Space and astronomy on file / the Diagram Group.* (Facts on file science library.) LCCN 2001024663. New York: Facts on File, 2001. LLB, 0816045453, \$185.00. Reference (Middle school – Adult). Rating: 3**

520. Astronomy; Space sciences. 1 v. (various pagings).

Space and Astronomy on File is a comprehensive, one-volume encyclopedia of scientific data about all aspects of the cosmos. The material is presented in a clear, concise manner under a series of well-labeled headings. Included within its pages are the three leading theories regarding the origins of the universe, facts and figures about each planet and their moons, detailed chronologies of the history of

the study of astronomy through the year 2000, as well as information about exploration of our solar system by both the United States and the Soviet Union.

Included are many diagrams, charts, and lists of details as known about the universe. Presented in rough outline form in a three-ring binder, it will arrive unassembled with dividers and body of the book packaged individually. Pages may be copied for "non-profit, educational, or private use" under the reproduction certificate included in each volume.

Space and Astronomy on File could be a valuable resource for middle school and high school libraries as an aid to collecting statistics for reports.

Laurie Woolery, Freelance Writer, Cottonwood, California.

***Proposal planning and writing, 3rd ed. / Lynn E. Miner and Jeremy T. Miner.* LCCN 2002025791. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2003. HBB, 1573564982, \$39.95. Reference (Adult). Rating: 5**

658.15/224. Proposal writing for grants--United States. 205 p.

Lynn and Jeremy Miner, active in seeking grants, are partners in a consulting group specializing in training grant seekers. Public and private institutions or organizations can find much useful information in this step-by-step guide. Specifics include finding public grant funds at the national and state level, and private funds via foundations. Practical leads are offered by helping grant seekers become aware of directories, databases, web sites, and resources to locate a government or private program for funding requests.

One chapter offers letter proposals for contacting private and corporate foundations, and several chapters concentrate on writing government proposals. The closing section deals with writing and editing techniques, and grant review decisions.

Of particular help for small and medium sized public libraries that can afford only a few grant seeking resources. All collections can benefit, as the advice and directions offered enable novice grant seekers to see an overview with specifics to get moving.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding, Library Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Ft Myers Beach, FL

***Geography on file.* New York: Facts on File, 2003. LLB, 0816051070, \$195.00. Reference (High school, Adult). Rating: 5**

912. Atlases; Geography--charts, diagrams, etc.. 1 atlas (1 v.) : maps.

Geography On File is designed to provide students, teachers, and librarians with a comprehensive collection of reproducible maps, graphs, and statistical charts to clarify physical geography. One can find simple graphs, e.g., continents in each hemisphere or standard time zones, or world climates to detailed, helpful charts like demography summary for each country of the world, or a physical summary (capital, land area, terrain, weather) for each country. In addition, there are regional coverage maps devoted to North America, Latin America, Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States, North Africa and Southwest Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Realm, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

The index enables the researcher to find dams in Argentina, fertilizer use in Algeria, railroads in Central America, urban population of Israel, literacy rates in Oceania, or zinc available in the Pacific Realm. The updated maps, timely topics (e.g., protected lands, personal computers) and detailed regional coverage makes these loose-leaf maps and charts a treasured resource sure to be used easily by many teachers and students, and general readers. Highly recommended for all public and high school libraries.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding, Library Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers Beach, Florida

***Junior state maps on file.* LCCN 2002031026. New York: Facts on File, 2002. LLB, 0816047529, \$185.00. Reference (Elementary, Middle school). Rating: 4**

912.73. United States--Maps; United States--Maps, Outline and base. 1 v., loose-leaf.

The Facts on File *Junior State Maps on File* is a good resource for a teachers' reference section in a school library, or the children's reference section of a public library. The sturdy loose-leaf notebook contains about 250 reproducible maps. The opening section contains maps of the United States as a whole, as well as regional maps. The remaining seven sections, divided by regions, contain state maps and a page of state facts for each state and the District of Columbia. For each state there is a map of major cities, an outline map, a map of physical features, a map showing the industry of the state, and one showing the agricultural products. Of the three states I am most familiar with, all three had omissions on the industry and agricultural maps. In spite of these omissions, the Facts on File *Junior State Maps on File* is a good reference book for those who teach about the 50 states.

Jane Mouttet, School Librarian and Writer Window Rock, Arizona. Credits: BookLinks, Shine Brightly.

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