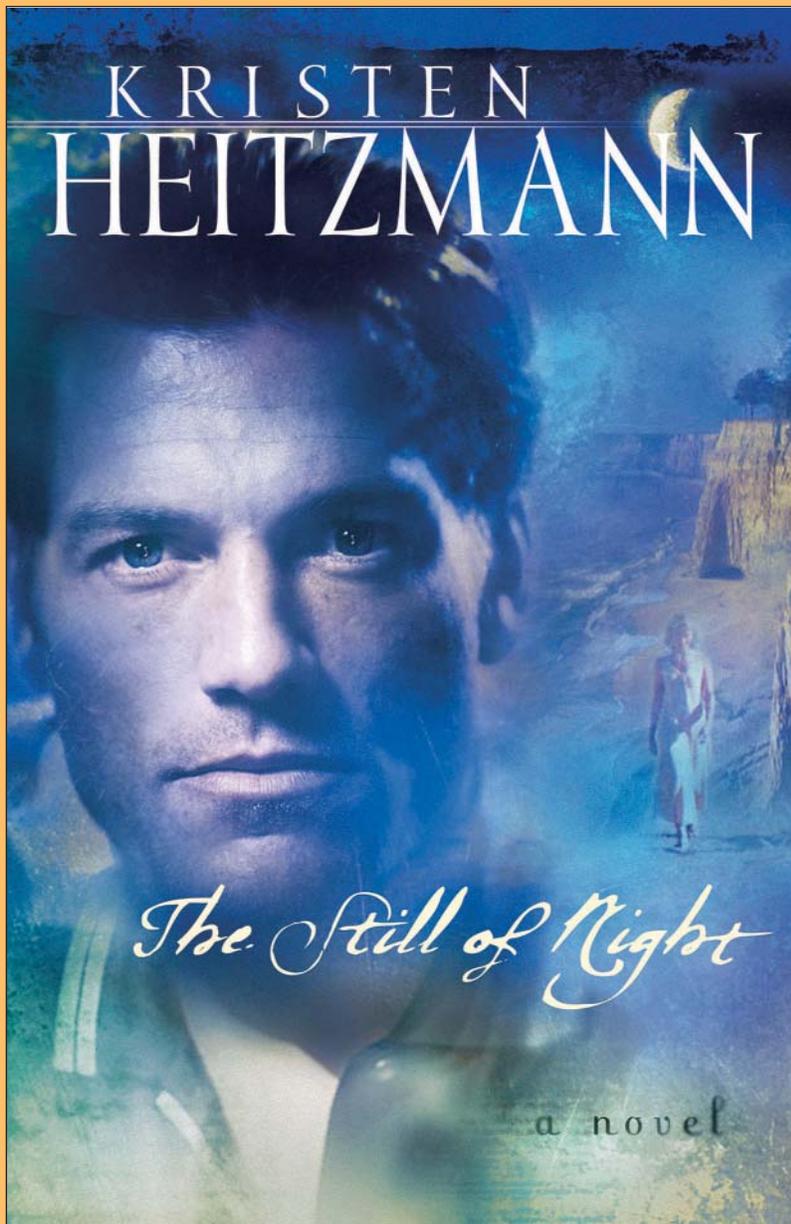
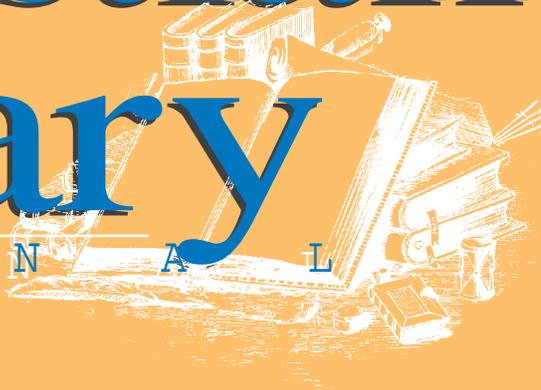


Volume VIII, No.5

October 2003

Christian Library

J O U R N A L



This Issue Features:

- ◆ **Who's Whathisname?
American Literary Characters**
- ◆ **Indians and Eskimos in
Literature**
- ◆ **Navajo Code Talkers in
Literature**
- ◆ **What You See... Part 3
Harry Potter Sees Death**
- ◆ **Reviewing Award-Winning
Titles**

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Phone (509) 782-0911

nlhesch@verizon.net

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Cover illustration, *The Still of Night*, by Kristin Heitzmann. Bethany House, 2003. Used by permission.

What You See . . .Part 3 Harry Potter Sees Death

by Donna Bowling

***Harry Potter and the goblet of fire* / by J.K. Rowling ; illustrations by Mary GrandPre. LCCN 00131084. New York : Arthur A. Levine, 2000. Hardbound, 0439139597, \$25.95.**

F. Wizards--Fiction; Magic--Fiction; Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry (Imaginary place--Fiction); Schools--Fiction; England--Fiction; Fantasy. xi, 734 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

***Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* / by J.K. Rowling ; illustrations by Mary GrandPre. LCCN 2003102525. New York : Arthur A. Levine, 2003. Hardbound, 043935806X, \$29.99.**

F. Wizards--Fiction; Magic--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Coming of age--Fiction; England--Fiction; Fantasy. xi, 870 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-8 (9-Adult) / Rating: 4, with reservations, for Christian families (Not recommended for Christian schools)

Recommended with caution. Because of content referring to "witchcraft," these books are only for readers firmly grounded in the dangers of the occult, and with prayerful parental guidance. There are occasional incidents of crude humor and situational ethics. But the story provides several opportunities to observe "redemptive analogies."

This past summer our local newspaper ran a feature article, "Don't break The Spell. Already zipped through the new Harry Potter? Keep the magic going with these other enchanting tales..." (*Dallas Morning News*, July 16, 2003, pp. E1, 2). A number of children and other interested readers had suggested over thirty additional fantasy titles or series. In addition to older works by well-known authors such as Lloyd Alexander, Lynne Reid Banks, Susan Cooper, Norton Juster, Madeleine L'Engle, C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, and T. H. White, I found several newer works, including the *Artemis Fowl* series by Eoin Colfer. [See also p. 15-16] With such a continuing impact by the Harry Potter series, I wondered what I might see in the latest Potter books.

The Harry Potter books by J. K. Rowling have become a major phenomenon in the publishing world that has stimulated much discussion and dissension among Christians. In Winter 2000, the *Christian Library Journal* offered Sylvia Stopworth's reactions to the first three books in Rowling's fantasy series in an article, "What about Harry Potter?" Since that

time, two more books have appeared, leaving avid readers eager for the arrival of the last two in the projected series of seven books. The later books are much longer than the three earlier ones, so that each of these latest titles is at least as long as two of the earlier books combined. These newer books add considerably to our perspective on the Harry Potter series and its place in the field of children's literature.

At age 11, orphan Harry Potter is surprised, but pleased, to learn that he has been accepted as a student at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. His unpleasant uncle and aunt had tried to keep from him any knowledge of the existence of magic or the wizarding community. But among wizards, Harry is famous as the Boy-Who-Lived. When the Dark Lord Voldemort murdered Harry's parents, his attempt to kill Harry was repelled by his mother's sacrifice, leaving Harry with a scar on his forehead. The Dark Lord's power and body were destroyed, but his evil spirit remained alive. Each of the books in the Harry Potter series tells of Harry's adventures during one year at Hogwarts. Among the major characters at Hogwarts are the wise headmaster Albus Dumbledore, and Harry's special friends, Ron and Hermione. During his first three years at Hogwarts, Harry and his friends manage to thwart the Dark Lord in his attempts to kill Harry and return to power.

By the end of his third year at Hogwarts, Harry has found that things are not always as they seem. The escaped prisoner from Azkaban is proved innocent of betraying Harry's parents. Instead, a transfigured "animagus" wizard that had been disguised as Ron's pet rat for twelve years turns out to be the traitor and murderer. This theme reappears in Book Four, when the trusted professor of Defense against the Dark Arts proves to be an imposter. However, the bitter, antagonistic professor of Potions emerges as Dumbledore's ally against the Dark Lord.

Rowling predicted that the later books would be darker as Harry grows older to face greater perils. Book Four, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, begins with Harry's intense dream of a brutal murder committed by the Dark Lord many miles away. When the school year gets underway, Harry finds himself unexpectedly entered in a Tri-Wizard competition where he faces

many dangers. Much of the light-hearted, sometimes crude, humor in the earlier books gives way to Harry's serious concern for self-preservation. While cheating has been a traditional part of the competition, Harry makes an effort to keep other competitors on an even footing. Because of this desire for fairness, Harry encourages his fellow-student Cedric to join him in victory at the end of the contest. Instead, Cedric is killed, but Harry escapes again, wounded but alive, from the Dark Lord. Harry's blood contributes to the Dark Lord's return to power, but the Dark Lord's pride leaves Harry a slim opening to retrieve Cedric's body and return to Hogwarts. Since Harry is the only personal witness to the dreadful graphic scene in which the Dark Lord returns to power and gathers his faithful evil servants, only the Headmaster Dumbledore and a few of Harry's friends are willing to believe his testimony.

In Book Five, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, Dumbledore has regathered a group of faithful allies in his struggle against the Dark Lord. Among these are Ron's parents and older friends of Harry's parents, as well as the spiteful Professor Snape. During the summer with his unpleasant family, Harry begins to resent the fact that he is unable to get any news about the Dark Lord's return or the effort against him. When Harry rejoins his friends before school starts, he gets only a few partial answers to his questions, and his feeling of frustration and anger continues to mount. Back at Hogwarts, Harry's sense of isolation is increased by Dumbledore's unwillingness to look him in the eye, even when he is defending Harry.

The Minister of Magic, Cornelius Fudge, refuses to believe Harry's report that the Dark Lord has returned and begins a media campaign to discredit both Harry and Dumbledore. Seeking to undermine Dumbledore's power, Fudge installs his Senior Undersecretary Dolores Umbridge as a professor of Defense against the Dark Arts at Hogwarts. When Umbridge decides to exclude any actual practice from her course, some students ask Harry to help them prepare for the major exams at the end of the year by teaching them some techniques he has used. As the year continues, Umbridge gains increasing authority, but her cruelty produces considerable enmity within the school. When Umbridge learns about Harry's practice sessions,

Dumbledore takes upon himself the blame for the group, clearing Harry from punishment.

In the meantime, Harry's intense dreams increase and begin to focus on the Dark Lord's desire for a certain item located in the Department of Mysteries in the Ministry of Magic. Even though Dumbledore has emphasized the need for Harry to learn to block his mind to those dreams, Harry's persistent anger and curiosity combine to hamper his meager efforts to do so. When the Dark Lord successfully plants in Harry's mind that his godfather is in danger at the Department of Mysteries, Harry embarks on an effort to rescue him. This sets in motion a series of events that result in his godfather's death, leaving Harry bereft and engulfed by torturous anguish. The Dark Lord's efforts to get his hands on the record of the prophecy that predicted his ultimate downfall fail to succeed, but his presence in public is witnessed by Fudge, who belatedly warns the wizarding world that the Dark Lord has returned with power. After that complete record of the prophecy is destroyed, Dumbledore faces Harry's grief and rage, answering many of the questions that had plagued Harry for months. Finally he shares with Harry his own knowledge of the prophecy that predicts that Harry must be the agent of the Dark Lord's final demise. Harry's grief and the burden of this new knowledge swallow up his rage, and a special demonstration of solidarity from his friends dispels Harry's sense of isolation as he approaches another summer holiday.

Harry has grown much in five years. When Harry arrives at Hogwarts, the Sorting Hat recognizes his exceptional courage. His loyalty to his friends, and his lack of sympathy for snobs, appear quickly. His efforts to defeat evil deeds call for much resourcefulness. The school authorities tolerate his casual attitude toward school rules. His hatred toward those who grossly mistreat him is understandable, if not excusable. By the end of his third year, he intervenes to save the life of a traitor, and to prevent his friends from taking that life. In his fourth year, his sense of fair play comes out repeatedly, but his concern for the welfare of the innocent is greater than his personal desire to win. At the beginning of his fifth year, he saves his cruel cousin from torment and a terrible fate. By the end of his fifth year he has demonstrated great determination to stand for the truth at considerable pain to himself. He humbly

acknowledges that the assistance of others, plus fortuitous timing, have contributed to his successful efforts against evil, but he is willing to take risks to share his knowledge to protect others. His experience of confronting unfair ridicule has fostered a sympathy for others exposed to such derision. He recovers quickly from a restrained, passing teenage crush. Although Harry's resentments and occasional outbursts of temper have sometimes created friction with his friends, Dumbledore tells Harry that his heart, his ability to feel deeply, is his great strength.

Author J. K. Rowling has written engaging, often humorous, stories, full of action and suspense, placed in a finely detailed imaginary world. Millions of readers, young and older, eagerly plow through the heavy tomes, and then go back to re-read various passages. In the Harry Potter stories the real focus is on the characters and how they address their human problems in the context of that imaginary magical world. In this imaginary world, placed alongside our primary world, the magical ability in certain individuals or families is a neutral aptitude that can be trained and used for either good or evil. This magic is an innate feature of that world and is not explicitly related to, nor derived from, any higher supernatural powers, either good or evil. Characters such as ghosts, giants, elves, and centaurs make personal choices for good or evil. Powerful evil people (not demons) may temporarily invade the minds, or "possess" other people. The occasional real prophecies about Harry appear to come from an inborn clairvoyant ability that is neither volitional nor the result of the common activities of "divination."

Rowling's details in the Harry Potter series indicate considerable background knowledge of occult history and practice. However, she gives virtually no operational detail. (Both respected teachers and students at Hogwarts disparage the few meager techniques laid out in the divination class.) Rowling uses a number of terms with surface similarities to terms relating to actual occult activities, but those terms in Harry Potter's world ought to be defined by usage in that world. To impose external definitions, with possible attendant implications, is not appropriate. Rowling deliberately chooses the term "the wizarding world" for her imaginary world, rather than "the world of Witchcraft." However, certain details in this imaginary world have stimulated some concerns about the series. Some Christians with knowledge

about occult matters have extrapolated from elements found in the Harry Potter books to reach conclusions with no relevance to the books themselves. The Harry Potter books themselves do not teach about the occult. Nonetheless, young readers who are intrigued by the idea of magic in Harry Potter's world may look for additional sources that could draw them into the occult. These are readily available in bookstores and some libraries. I suspect that some of the titles mentioned in the *Dallas Morning News* article (not by the authors I cited!) could encourage an unhealthy interest in occult matters. Because Rowling herself does not believe in real witchcraft, she is not sensitive to its possible perils to readers.

Although the Harry Potter series might possess many positive values, including several opportunities to observe "redemptive analogies," Christian parents and teachers should be informed and cautious in their recommendations to young readers. Christian leaders should ground young people thoroughly in the real dangers of the occult. [For suggestions, see the article in the February 2003 issue.] Parents have the major responsibility for prayerfully guiding their children's choices in this area, so Christian schools ought to avoid putting the Harry Potter books in their libraries or on required reading lists. Several other issues also bear discussion; among them are examples of situational ethics, some questionable humor, and Harry's corrosive anger in Book Five. Lest Harry Potter fans become too absorbed with this series, these readers might branch out into other works of fantasy that contain less reason for concern. In any event, "What you see and hear depends a good deal on where you are standing..."

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

Earlier titles in series:

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

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

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

Learning Native American Culture Through Children's Literature : Arctic and Subarctic

by Jane Mouttet

School librarians serve as a resource for the teachers and students we work with. In *How to Teach About American Indians*, author Karen Harvey addresses some of the roles of the school librarian in regards to Native American literature. We need to “use [our] knowledge of...[the] curriculum to provide American Indian literature, of all genre and at different reading levels.” We also have to “ensure that teachers and students have sufficient accurate information about any given American Indian culture to provide meaningful context for any selection of American Indian literature that is used in the curriculum.” Ms. Harvey also suggests that we “encourage teachers to read American Indian literature to gain a deeper understanding of

Indian history, values, [and] beliefs.” I hope that this column helps you serve as a resource to your patrons when it comes to Native American Children’s Literature.

In this column I take a look at books about the Indians of the Arctic and Sub Arctic regions. I realize that some do not like to use “Eskimo” to refer to some of the natives from this area. However, I have chosen to use the term Eskimo when the book’s author does so.

ALEUT

***Salmon summer* / written and photo-illustrated by Bruce McMillan. LCCN 97029679. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1998. Hardbound, 0395845440, \$17.00.**

639.2756/0916434. Salmon fishing--Alaska--Moser Bay (Kodiak Island); Kodiak Island (Alaska); Indians of North America--Alaska. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades K-3 / Rating: 4

In *Salmon Summer* Bruce McMillan looks at one aspect of native Alaskan culture—salmon fishing. For this photo essay, Mr. McMillan spent two months with the Matfay family at their Kodiak Island fish camp. The photos are excellent—large and colorful. The text is written in an appealing manner. The book is beautiful and well-done.

ANCIENT

***Eyr the hunter : a story of Ice Age America* / Margaret Zehmer Searcy ; illustrated by Joyce Haynes. LCCN 95018200. Gretna, La. : Pelican, 1995. Hardbound, 1565541014, \$13.95.**

F. Prehistoric peoples--Fiction; Prehistoric animals--Fiction; Hunting--Fiction; Arctic regions--Fiction; Stories in rhyme. 40 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating: 3

Using rhyming couplets, author Margaret Searcy tells the story of what life might have been like for ancient natives in Alaska. Eyr’s people are

starving. He is sent out to scout for game. He finds a bear and starts a signal fire which blazes out of control and sends many animals out of the fire. As a result, he kills a mammoth which gives his tribe much food. The story is based on archeological evidence in Alaska. The colored illustrations of Joyce Haynes depict the text well.

CREE

***The Cree of North America* / by Deborah B. Robinson. (First peoples.) LCCN 2001004236. Minneapolis : Lerner, 2002. Hardbound, 0822541785, \$23.93.**

971.2004973. Cree Indians; Indians of North America--Canada. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades 4-8 / Rating: 3

The Cree of North America is part of Lerner’s First Peoples of Canada series. The book contains much information that would be helpful in research: history of the Cree, their culture and traditions, and the land in which they live, among other things. The book seems slightly slanted against the influence of Christian missionaries, which is why I gave it a rating of 3. The book is laid out with short paragraphs of information and brightly colored pictures. It includes a glossary, index, and bibliography of references for further study. The book deals mostly with the Cree of Canada. Deborah Robinson has worked on a variety of projects. Her work on the environment and rights of

native peoples seem to be her qualifications for writing this book.

DOGRIB

***A man called Raven* / story by Richard Van Camp ; pictures by George Littlechild. LCCN 96031905. San Francisco : Children's Book Press, 1997. Hardbound, 0892391448, \$15.95.**

E. Metis--Fiction; Indians of North America--Fiction; Ravens--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades K-3 / Rating: 3

In writing the contemporary story *A Man Called Raven*, author Richard VanCamp uses the legends he learned from his Dogrib elders. Chris and Toby terrorize a raven. A mysterious elder teaches them to respect life. The implication is that the elder was once a mean man who was changed into a raven. He only becomes a man again when people need to be reminded of something. Artist George Littlechild, a Plains Cree, illustrated the text with brightly colored paintings.

***What's the most beautiful thing you know about horses?* / story by Richard Van Camp ; pictures by George Littlechild. LCCN 97037437. San Francisco : Children's Book Press, 1998. Hardbound, 0892391545, \$15.95.**

E. Horses--Fiction; Northwest Territories--Fiction; Metis--Fiction; Indians of North America--Canada--Fiction; Questions and answers--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades K-2 / Rating: 3

The narrator is home, it is forty below, and cars won't start. He is a member of the Dogrib tribe and they don't have horses; they have dogs. He asks "What's the most beautiful thing you know about horses?" In the responses of different people, the reader learns a bit about contemporary culture of the Dogrib people: they live where it is cold, they don't have horses, some watch WWF wrestling. The brightly colored illustrations by George Littlechild have an abstract feel to them. The book will encourage children to ask questions about things outside of their knowledge.

ESKIMO

***Go home, River* / story by James Magdanz; illustrations by Dianne Widom. LCCN 96005769. Anchorage : Alaska Northwest Books, 1996. Paperbound, 0882405683, \$8.95.**

F. Inuit--Fiction; Eskimos--Fiction; Rivers--Fiction; Alaska--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 22 x 27 cm.

Grades K-3 / Rating: 4

Go Home, River is a story that could take place almost anywhere. Author James Magdanz chose to set the story along the Kobuk River in Alaska, a place where he has spent time with his family. A young Inupiat boy travels with his parents from his village to the river's source in the mountains to the end of the river in the ocean and the annual trade fair. A subtle scientific lesson is taught in the book—that of the water cycle. Illustrator Dianne Widom's experience with Alaskan natives is evident in her octopus ink paintings that illustrate the text.

***Goodbye, my island* / Jean Rogers ; illustrated by Rie Munoz. LCCN 2001022295. Portland : Alaska Northwest Books, 2001. Paperbound, 088205381, \$9.95.**

F. Eskimos--Fiction; Alaska--Fiction. 86 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 2-5 / Rating: 5

Esther's Eskimo ancestors have always lived on King Island, spending summers on the mainland in Nome. Now the government has said no more school and no more store, it is too expensive for so few people. *Goodbye, My Island* is the story of Esther's last winter on the island. Author Jean Rogers has lived in Alaska and based the story on the actual closing a Bureau of Indian Affairs School on King Island. Artist Rie Munoz spent time teaching at the King Island school and so has first hand knowledge of the people.

***Mik-shrok* / Gloria Repp ; illustrated by Jim Brooks. (Adventures of an Arctic missionary ; 1.) LCCN 98008838. Greenville, S.C. : JourneyBooks, 1998. Paperbound, 1579240690, \$6.49.**

F. Missionaries--Fiction; Sled dogs--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction; Alaska--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 133 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-8 / Rating: 4

Steve and Liz followed God's leading to go to a remote Alaskan village to work with Peter, a veteran missionary. Unfortunately, Peter's plane crashes and he ends up in the hospital followed by rehabilitation. Steve and Liz decide to stay, learn the language, and continue Peter's ministry. Some of the Eskimo culture is included, especially about dog sleds and shamans. The sketches of Jim Brooks illustrate the text. Gloria Repp has researched missionary life stories and huskies which led to this historical fiction. *Mik-Shrok* is book one of a three-part series *Adventures of An Arctic Missionary*.

***Neeluk : an Eskimo boy in the days of the whaling ships* / stories by Frances Kittredge ; illustrations by Howard "Weyahok" Rock. LCCN 00045371. Portland, Ore. : Alaska Northwest Books, 2001. Paperbound, 0882405462, \$11.95.**

F. Eskimos--Fiction; Alaska--Fiction. 88 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating: 5

Originally written in the 1930's (but never published), Neeluk is the story of a seven-year-old Eskimo boy. Life of the Eskimo at the start of the twentieth century is described in a month-by-month format. Many details of Eskimo culture are shared from the viewpoint of a seven-year-old. A glossary of Inupiat Eskimo terms is included. Author Frances Kittredge lived in a remote Eskimo village in 1900-1902. Artist Howard Rock, an Inupiat, illustrated the text with both full page oil paintings and small sketches.

***A place for winter : Paul Tiulana's story* / by Vivian Senungetuk and Paul Tiulana. LCCN 88172065. Anchorage : Ciri Foundation, 1987. Hardbound, 0938227025, \$17.95.**

979.8'3. Tiulana, Paul, 1921-; Eskimos--Alaska--Ukivok--Biography; Eskimos--Alaska--Ukivok--Social life and customs; Indians of North America--Alaska--Ukivok--Biography; Indians of North America--Alaska--Ukivok--Social life and customs. 125 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades 5-Adult / Rating: 5

A Place for Winter is the story of what life was like on King Island in the Bering Sea before World War II. It is an autobiography of Paul Tiulana, an Eskimo. The text is less than 40 pages with the remainder of the book being photographs and their captions.

***A small tall tale from the far far north* / by Peter Sis. LCCN 92075906. New York : Knopf, 1993. Paperbound, 0374370753, \$17.00.**

E. Welzl, Jan--Fiction; Survival--Fiction; Eskimos--Fiction; Arctic regions--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades K-3 / Rating: 3

Jan Welzl is a Czech folk hero who spent many years in the Arctic regions. Author Peter Sis read Mr. Welzl's memoirs as a child. In the prologue he writes, "Here is a fragment of Jan Welzl's story (a tall tale?), as it has grown in my imagination." In order to do the illustrations Mr. Sis researched the Arctic people. More Eskimo culture is found in the illustrations than the text. The maps, storyboards, and panoramas would probably interest older students more than the younger children for whom the text is written. A prologue and epilogue give the context of the story.

INUIT

***The Inuit : ivory carvers of the Far North* / by Rachel A. Koestler-Grack. (America's first peoples.) LCCN 2003000058. Mankato, Minn. : Blue Earth Books, 2004. Hardbound, 0736821716, \$16.95.**

971.90049712. Inuit; Ivory carving; Eskimos. 32 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 21 cm.

Grades 2-5 / Rating: 4

The Inuit is part of the America's First Peoples series. The book includes a glossary, index, and a list of other resources which increases its value as a reference book. The book covers the history, traditions, and cultures of the Inuit as well as their life today. Religious information is also included. My only question concerning the book is why a consultant from the Hopi Day School in Arizona was used rather than one from Alaska. Rachel Koestler-Grack seems to have done a good job of staying true to the Inuit people.

***The Inuit of Canada* / Danielle Corriveau. (First peoples.) LCCN 0012183. Minneapolis : Lerner, 2002. Hardbound, 082254850X, \$23.93.**

971.90049712. Inuit; Eskimos. 48 p. col. ill., col. maps ; 26 cm.

Grades 4-8 / Rating: 5

Danielle Corriveau, an Inuit, packs a lot of information into 48 pages. Raised in the ways of the Inuit, she brings much of her experience into the book. From descriptions of the land to the animals who inhabit it, from the Inuit to the explorers from the "outside," from the Inuit traditional way of life to modern life; it's all included in *The Inuit of Canada*. Photos and drawings illustrate the text. A glossary, index, and list of other resources make this a good reference book.

***The transformation* / Mette Newth ; translated by Faith Ingwersen. LCCN 99086323. New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000. Hardbound, 0374377529, \$16.00.**

F. Inuit--Greenland--Fiction; Eskimos--Greenland--Fiction. 195 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 7-12 / Rating: 3

In the 1400's a contingent of Catholics went to Greenland to convert the "heathens." Brendan is the only one who survives the winter that lasted several years. Nawana is an Inuit woman who was orphaned by the long harsh winter. She rescues Brendan; they fall in love and "marry." The story contains the beliefs and practices of the ancient Inuits. It also shows the struggle missionaries face when approaching an unknown culture. There are references to nudity and one described pre-marital love-making scene. The book does have value for showing the historical native culture of the Inuits. I'd recommend librarians read the book for themselves and determine its suitability for their library.

YUPIK

***Dance on a sealskin* / story by Barbara Winslow ; illustrations by Teri Sloat. LCCN 94040438. Anchorage : Alaska Northwest Books, 1995. Paperbound, 0882405594, \$8.95.**

F. Yupik Eskimos--Social life and customs--Fiction; Eskimos--Social life and customs--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 2-4 / Rating: 3

Dance on a Sealskin is based on the Yupik tradition of a "first dance." The author and illustrator both taught in Yupik elementary schools and based the story on their experiences. *Dance on a Sealskin* has been recognized as a notable children's book in the field of social studies. It is the story of a young girl's first dance. Annie and Grandmother learn the dance together. Grandmother has gone to be with her ancestors so Annie has to dance alone. The colorful illustrations are beautiful. The illustration of the ancestors dancing in the northern lights may pose a problem for some audiences.

***Kitaaq goes ice fishing* / story by Margaret Nicolai ; paintings by David Rubin. LCCN 98017335. Seattle : Alaska Northwest Books, 1998. Paperbound, 0882405691, \$8.95.**

E. Yupik Eskimos--Fiction; Eskimos--Fiction; Grandfathers--Fiction; Ice fishing--Fiction; Fishing--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades PS-3 / Rating: 4

Kitaaq Goes Ice Fishing is a beautiful picture book which tells of a Yupik Eskimo boy's first fishing trip. Kitaaq isn't six yet, but his grandfather decides he is old enough to help get fish for his family. Author Margaret Nicolai based the story on her husband's experiences

growing up as a Yupik Eskimo. The colorful paintings by David Rubin give a real feel for Alaskan life. Mr. Rubin has spent many years in Alaska.

VARIOUS

***Children of the midnight sun : young native voices of Alaska* / profiles by Tricia Brown ; photographs by Roy Corral. LCCN 97041534. Anchorage : Alaska Northwest Books, 1998. Hardbound, 0882405004, \$16.95.**

979.8'004971. Indian children--Alaska; Eskimo children--Alaska; Eskimos--Alaska. 47 p. : col. ill., col map ; 27 cm.

Grades 5-8 / Rating: 4

In *Children of the Midnight Sun*, Tricia Brown profiles eight native Alaskan children. Alaska natives today live in a world that mixes Western ways with Native traditions. The profiles reveal how the eight different families balance their native culture with the Western ways (even with Christian beliefs) and how the children are taught the traditional beliefs. Full color photographs by Roy Corral illustrate the text. The book ends with a glossary and suggested reading list.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Children of the Midnight Sun: Young Native Voices of Alaska

Discuss family traditions handed down from ancestors and how they differ from the ones mentioned in the book.

Goodbye, My Island and *A Place for Winter: Paul Tiulana's Story*

Goodbye, My Island is a fiction book about King Island. *A Place for Winter: Paul Tiulana's Story* is an autobiography. Have the students compare and contrast the information in the two books.

The Inuit: Ivory Carvers of the Far North

The book includes a recipe for Blueberry Topped Snowcream, instructions for soap carvings and instructions for Bilboquet, an Inuit game.

Kitaaq Goes Ice Fishing

The story is based on a young boy's experience with his grandfather. Students could write (or tell) stories based on an experience with their grandfather.

A Place for Winter: Paul Tiulana's Story

The author compares King Island beliefs with "the religion of the Old Testament." As a class, make your own comparison.

Salmon Summer

Share canned or smoked salmon with the class, especially if most have never had any.

***Traditional Native American Arts and Activities* / by Arlette Braman and illustrated by Bill Helin. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2000, PB 0-47135992-0, \$12.95 120 p.**

Non Fiction All grades Rating 5

This book contains instructions for making Cree moccasins, a Tlingit Button Blanket, and a Yupik Wild Raspberry dessert, as well as instructions for several Inupiat games. It would be a good supplement for your study of Native Americans.

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.

Navajo Code Talkers: Forgotten No Longer

by Rosemarie DiCristo

The Navajo code talkers were several hundred Native American men who were recruited during World War II to create an unbreakable code. Since Navajo was a particularly difficult language to learn and was spoken by virtually no one outside of Navajo culture, it was a logical choice for a code. Twenty-nine men were selected for the original program. Using real Navajo words to substitute for military terms and for letters of the alphabet, they crafted a code the Japanese were never able to crack; their efforts are considered a primary reason why U.S. forces were able to win in the Pacific.

After the war the code talkers' role was kept secret, primarily in case the code was needed again. By the 1960s, however, the code talkers began to be recognized for what they'd done. Their story has gotten much publicity since then, especially with the release of John Woo's movie *Windtalkers* in 2000. A selected list of books, videos, and web sites follows.

A note about *Windtalkers*, which is not listed below: the movie contains violence and crude language, and its main plot point—that the other Marines were told to kill the code talkers to protect the code if ever the code talkers were captured—is an event some sources say never happened.

***Navajo code talkers* / Nathan Aaseng, LCCN 92011408. New York : Walker, 1993. Paperbound, 0802775896, \$8.95.**

940.54. Cryptography; Indians of North America--Southwest, New; Navajo Indians; World War, 1939-1945--Cryptography; World War, 1939-1945--Participation, Indian. 96 p. : ill., map ; 23 cm.

Grades 4-7 / Rating: 4

Navajo Code Talkers is geared to elementary and middle schoolers, although it's also a good choice for high school readers. It covers a basic history of the Navajo; the reasons the Navajo language was well suited for a code; who the

code talkers were; the special perils they encountered (most notably, being mistaken for Japanese soldiers); and the prejudices they faced before, during, and after the war.

Author Nathan Aaseng provides straightforward information on major battles like Guadalcanal, Guam, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa, although specifics on exactly what the code talkers did are lacking. (Note: some battle descriptions are graphic). A simple map of the South Pacific will help keep battle locations straight. This book was featured in "Learning Native American Culture Through Children's Literature: Indians of the Southwest" by Jane Mouttet (*Christian Library Journal*, June 2003).

Warriors : Navajo code talkers / photographs by Kenji Kawano ; foreword by Carl Gorman ; introduction by Benis M. Frank. LCCN 90053285. Flagstaff, Ariz. : Northland, 1990. Paperbound, 0873585135, \$19.95.

940.54. Cryptography; Indians of North America--Southwest, New; Navajo Indians; United States--Marine Corps--Indian troops; World War, 1939-1945--Participation, Indian. xvii, 107 p. : chiefly ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades 6-Adult / Rating: 4

The text of *Warriors : Navajo Code Talkers* is brief (a foreword by code talker Carl Gorman, a preface by photographer/historian Kenji Kawano, and a thirteen-page introduction by U.S. Marine Corps historian Benis M. Frank), but it succinctly describes all the necessary details of the code talkers' story. What follows—two thirds of the book—are Kawano's black and white photos of seventy-five code talkers set side by side with their reminiscings. Sometimes poetic, sometimes brutal, often thought-provoking, these recollections range from one line to several paragraphs, and give a personal touch to the code talkers' story that a more straightforward approach would not. (Note: there's one use of mild profanity in one code talker's reminiscence). The memoirs and the abundance of photos also make the book more likely to appeal to reluctant readers.

***Philip Johnston and the Navajo code talkers* / by Syble Lagerquist. Billings, Mont. : Council for Indian Education, 2001. Paperbound, 0899921396, \$4.95.**

940.54'8673. Johnston, Philip, ca. 1892-1978; Cryptography; Indians of North America--Southwest, New; Navajo Indians; United States--Marine Corps--Indian troops; World War, 1939-1945--Participation, Indian. 32 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-6 / Rating: 3

More a pamphlet than a book (its thirty-two pages are saddle-stitched), *Philip Johnston and the Navajo Code Talkers* provides a quick, informative look at the code and its

development. Written by Syble Lagerquist, and published by the Council for Indian Education, it focuses on Johnston, the man who realized the Navajo language would be ideal for a code. Johnston, son of Protestant missionaries, grew up on a Navajo reservation and learned the language well enough that by age nine he was an interpreter between the Navajos and whites.

The book's simple style reads much like a novel, making it ideal for younger readers. While there is little information on World War II or actual battles, the text includes much information on the recognition the code talkers received once their activities were no longer a military secret, as well as on the assistance Johnston provided to the Navajos throughout his life.

***Unsung heroes of World War II : the story of the Navajo code talkers* / Deanne Durrett. (Library of American Indian history.) LCCN 97050083. New York : Facts on File, 1998. Hardbound, 0816036039, \$25.00.**

940.54. Cryptography; Indians of North America--Southwest, New; Navajo Indians; United States--Marine Corps--Indian troops; World War, 1939-1945--Participation, Indian; Navajo language. vi, 122 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades 6-8 / Rating: 4

Clearly written, well researched, and detailed, with many photos, maps, and sidebars, *Unsung Heroes* is a good choice for middle school students, yet has enough information to satisfy high schoolers. As with other books on the topic, the book provides background on Navajo culture, the clashes between the United States and the Navajo, the reason the code was needed, and its use in World War II, but author Deanne Durrett pays special attention (nearly half the book) to the creation of the code and the training the code talkers received. Numerous examples of code words and their English translations are included. The book also includes information on the geography and location of major battle sites; the texts of memos issued by the military about the code talkers; the names of the original twenty-nine code talkers; information on the ways the code talkers were honored for their efforts; and details on their lives after the war.

The war sections are concerned more with the code talkers' role (types of radios used; how they traveled) than with battle details, but even so, several battle descriptions are gory and most bluntly depict the horrors of war. One chapter details the combat deaths of several code talkers.

***The Navajo code talkers* / Doris A. Paul. 25th anniversary ed. Pittsburgh, Pa. : Dorrance, 1998. Paperbound, 0805945903, \$16.99.**

940.54'86701. Navajo Indians; World War, 1939-1945--Participation, Indian; World War, 1939-1945--Cryptography. xii, 170 p. illus. 22 cm.

Grades 6-Adult / Rating: 4

Considered by many sources to be the most comprehensive volume on the Navajo code talkers and certainly one of the earliest (the original edition was published in 1973), *The Navajo Code Talkers* by Doris A. Paul is an easy to understand, readable book that gives a complete picture of the code talkers and their lives before and after the war.

Paul's book is the most anecdotal of the titles listed here. She relies on primary sources, using original documents as well as many first person interviews. These add appeal to the code talkers' story and make it interesting and accessible.

Paul includes detailed information about the code talkers' army life as well as on how they created the code. There is information on what it was like to fight in the Pacific and on the educational opportunities the Navajos had before and after the war. An appendix contains copies of military correspondence associated with the code talkers.

There's a fleeting mention of one soldier having beer in his possession, and some of the interviews contain mild profanity. This book is a powerful volume, and was used as a source by almost every other book mentioned in this article. If a librarian had to choose only one or two of the books I've reviewed here, I'd recommend this book or Deanne Durrett's *Unsung Heroes*.

Windtalkers : a John Woo film / preface by John Woo ; introduction by Jeff Bingaman ; photographs by Stephen Vaughan ; edited by Antonia Felix ; designed by Timothy Shaner. LCCN 2003268811. New York : Newmarket Press, 2002. Paperbound, 1557045151, \$19.95.

791.43658. *Windtalkers* (Motion picture); United States. Marine Corps--Indian troops; World War, 1939-1945--Cryptography; World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Pacific Area. 128 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 28 cm.

Grades 9-Adult / Rating: 3

Primarily a companion book to the 2002 movie starring Nicholas Cage, *Windtalkers* contains a profile of director John Woo, photos of and quotes from the actors, the credits of the movie, information on how it was made, a plot synopsis, and several scenes of dialog (note: these scenes show the characters gambling, smoking, drinking, and using profanity). However, the book is surprisingly detailed and contains substantial information for readers seeking a clear account of the code talkers.

There's an introduction by Senator Jeff Bingaman, who sponsored the legislation awarding Congressional Silver and Gold Medals to the code talkers; a history of the Navajo people and the code talker program; the

names of all known code talkers; profiles (with photos) of several code talkers; and details of the battle of Saipan. Most information is gleaned from other sources, chiefly the Doris A. Paul and the Kenji Kawano books, but *Windtalkers* contains the most complete code talker dictionary of any book profiled in this article.

As might be expected in a movie tie-in, this is a glossy book with many full-page, full-color photos from the movie. Note: it focuses on the movie version of the code talkers' story, which states that the Marines guarding the code talkers had orders to kill them rather than let them (and their code) fall into enemy hands. As mentioned before, other sources say this never happened.

The unbreakable code / by Sara Hoagland; illustrated by Julia Miner. LCCN 95026589. Flagstaff, Ariz. : Northland/Rising Moon, 1996. Hardbound, 0873586387, \$15.95.

F. Navajo language--Fiction; Ciphers--Fiction; Navajo Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--Fiction; Grandfathers--Fiction; World War, 1939-1945--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 28 cm.

Grades 2-5 / Rating: 3

In *The Unbreakable Code*, picture book author Sara Hoagland Hunter uses a fictional account of a Navajo boy learning about his grandfather's role as a code talker to gently teach children about the subject. Every important aspect of the code talkers' story is covered. The horrors of battle are described simply but honestly. An appendix includes samples of the code. (Note: this book was reviewed in the June 2003 issue of *CLJ*).

Navajo code talkers : the epic story. LCCN 97509794. Tully Entertainment, 1994. Video, \$22.95.

940.54. Cryptography; Indians of North America--Southwest, New; Navajo Indians; United States--Marine Corps--Indian troops; World War, 1939-1945--Participation, Indian. 1 videocassette of 1 (VHS) (ca. 55 min.) : sd., col. and b&w ; 1/2 in. viewing copy.

Grades 4-Adult / Rating: 4

Navajo Code Talkers: The Epic Story makes extensive use of vintage photos and video, maps, excerpts from military correspondence, and interviews with both military experts and the code talkers to cover all aspects of the code talkers' story. Substantial background on Navajo culture is included. Also included: extensive coverage of the early Japanese successes in the Pacific, and later battles such as Midway, Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Many examples of code words and phrases are given, and the Marine Hymn is sung in Navajo. This 55-minute video is well produced and gives a serious, interesting treatment of the topic. (Note: there are two instances of mild profanity in the interviews, and glimpses of dead soldiers in the battle scenes).

Web sites:

www.lapahie.com/NavajoCodeTalker_Right.cfm

Grades 6-Adult / Rating: 4

Harrison Lapahie, Jr., son of code talker Harrison Lapahie, created this site. It contains the complete code, including the text of the Marine Hymn in Navajo; substantial information on Navajo life; information on the medals awarded to the code talkers; links to other sites on the code talkers; the text of Senator Jeff Bingaman's legislation honoring the code talkers; and a list of all known code talkers (some link to photos and profiles of the person). There is also information on how to contact a code talker.

www.bingaman.senate.gov/code_talkers

Grades 5-Adult , Rating: 3

Maintained by Senator Jeff Bingaman, sponsor of the legislation awarding the code talkers the Congressional Gold and Silver Medals. There's a summary of the awards ceremony, information on the medal, wartime photos of the code talkers, and information on the code talkers and the code itself. There's also a link to the public law honoring the code talkers.

<http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq61-1.htm>

Grades 6-Adult / Rating: 3

The Department of the Navy has a site honoring all Native American participation in the U.S. military. The site also lists all Native American Medal of Honor winners and contains the complete Navajo code dictionary as well as a Code Talker fact sheet and bibliography.

http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/medals/navajo/

Grades 5-Adult / Rating: 4

This site, sponsored by the U.S. mint, has a special feature where visitors can hear selected words of the code. The site also has a code talkers' timeline, a photo gallery, and information on the Congressional Gold Medal with brief biographies of eleven other recipients. Links are provided to other government sites featuring information on the code talkers.

Dictionary of American literary characters / edited by Benjamin Franklin V ; revised by American BookWorks Corporation. 2nd ed. (Facts on File

Library of American literature.) LCCN 2001033270. New York : Facts on File, 2002. 2 vol., 0816042624, \$137.50.

813.00927'03. American fiction--Dictionaries; Characters and characteristics in literature--Dictionaries. 2 v. ; 29 cm. Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating: 3

Who's Whatshisname?

Dictionary of American Literary Characters

by
Donna W. Bowling

Who's Arthur Dimmesdale, or Friedrich Bhaer, or Becky Thatcher, or Rachel Lane?*

Identifying fictional characters can be quite a challenge. With more than 16,000 entries for major and minor characters that appear in around 1,600 works of American fiction by more than 500 different authors, the new edition of *Dictionary of American Literary Characters* [DALC] provides a wealth of information in its broad area.

Originally edited by Professor Benjamin Franklin V and revised by American BookWorks Corporation, this edition includes contributions provided by over 300 specialists. Volume One lists characters from books published between 1789 and 1960, and Volume Two, between 1961 and 2000. Several authors have works represented in both volumes. Entries appear

in double columns and are arranged alphabetically in order by last names, with cross-references as needed. Brief factual descriptions vary from two to six lines in length, giving the role and/or relationship of each character along with the title and author of the work in which the character appears. Each volume has its own alphabetical title index, arranged in three columns, giving the author for each title. The three-column author index is arranged alphabetically by author, with that author's titles (including dates of publication) appearing in

alphabetical order below each author, and with a complete alphabetical listing of characters beneath each title.

The editors of this edition added a wide sampling of newer literary, popular, and genre fiction works selected from prizewinners for various major book awards and from regional and national best seller lists. Not every book written by listed authors is present. Only a few representative titles appear for some more recent authors. For example, *DALC* selects Asimov's *Foundation's Edge*, and Herbert's *God Emperor of Dune*, while *Major Characters in American Fiction* [MCAF] chooses earlier works as it includes major characters from Asimov's *Foundation*, and Herbert's *Dune*. The brief character descriptions in *DALC* provide no literary analysis, but, in combination, can give a good idea of the general plot of the book. *Major Characters in American Fiction* (1994, OP) includes only a few major characters from the titles selected, but the around 1,600 entries, each several paragraphs long, provide more details of the action and motivation of the characters. While *DALC* limits its content to novels and a few novellas, *MCAF* includes characters from short stories as well. A few more children's classics appear in *MCAF* than in *DALC*.

In addition to *MCAF*, I also compared the titles in *DALC* to *Invitation to the Classics* [CLJ 5(1):67, 2000]; *The Company of the Creative* [CLJ 6(4):70-71, 2001]; *The Book Tree, Honey for a Teen's Heart, Honey for a Woman's Heart* [CLJ 7(2/3):10-11, 2001]; *Let the Authors Speak* [CLJ 8(3):2, 2003]; *The Reader's Adviser*, 13th ed. (1986); *Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia of American Literature* (1991); and a few online resources. A substantial minority of the included titles appeared in the several standard lists I consulted. Only around thirty-five of the books included in *DALC* were in *Honey for a Teen's Heart* and/or *The Book Tree*. However, with the eighty-five titles also appearing in *Let the Authors Speak*, at least one hundred of the titles in *DALC* could be of specific interest to school age students. A random check found very few errors—an incorrect character name (Nate O'Brien for Nate O'Riley, p. 670), a title misspelled (*Waveland* for *Wieland*, p. 279), and an author listed twice, once in wrong order (Elizabeth Madox Roberts, p. 310 and 319). This new edition is a useful resource for information not easily available elsewhere (including on the Internet) for school libraries that can afford it.

*Answers: *Dimmesdale* in *Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter*; *Bhaer* in *Alcott's Little Women and Little Men*; *Thatcher* in *Mark Twain's Adventures of Tom Sawyer*; *Lane* in *Grisham's The Testament*.

CLJ REVIEWERS

Sherri Beeler, Teacher,
Cascade Christian High
School, Medford, Oregon. MA,
English/Theatre, California Lutheran.

Donna W. Bowling, Library/Educational
Consultant [or Graduate Institute of
Applied Linguistics] Dallas, Texas. PhD,
Curriculum and Instruction, University of
Arkansas. Credits: Christian Library
Journal, Home School Researcher,
Christian School Education.

Ceil Carey, Young Adult Public Librarian,
Plano, Illinois. LTA, College of DuPage.
Credits: Today's Libraries.

Karla Castle, Public Services Librarian,
Warner Pacific College, Portland, Oregon.
M.L., Librarianship, University of
Washington.

Rosemarie DiCristo, Freelance Writer,
The Bronx, New York

Donna J. Eggett, Children's Church
Leader, Volunteer Teacher's Aide,
Freelance Writer, Radford, Virginia

Bianca Elliott, Freelance Writer & Editor,
Linwood, Kansas; MS Ed, Curriculum &
Instruction, University of Kansas.
Credits: Contributor to the Latino
Heritage Bible; Criticas Journal.

Rick Estep, Media Director,
HeavenBound Media Center;
Associational Media Director, Blackcreek
Baptist Assn., Middleburg, Florida.

Sarah Fitch, Teacher, Cottonwood,
California. BA/BS, Social Science, Chico
State University.

David Haddon, Writer, Redding,
California. MA, Politics and Literature,
University of Dallas. Credits: Baker Book
House, IVP; Christianity Today, Learning;
National Review, SCP Newsletter.

Su Hagerty, Elementary Music Specialist,
Issaquah, Washington. MA, Church
music, choral conducting emphasis,
Seattle Pacific University. Credits:

Essence, Lillenas, Lorenz.

Jeanette Hardage, Freelance Writer,
Charleston, South Carolina

Kim Harris, Children's Librarian, Lyell
Branch of the Rochester Public Library,
Rochester, New York.

Katie Hart, Freelance Writer, New
Brighton, Pennsylvania

Dr. Leroy Hommerding, Library Director,
Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort
Myers, Florida. MLS, Library Science,
University of South Florida; PhD,
Education, University of Nebraska.
Credits: Library Journal, School Library
Journal.

Helen Hunter, Writer, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
BA, Mount Mercy College. Credits: 3
books, articles--Christian Educator's
Journal, Moody, Mature Lifestyles,
Confident Living, Church Libraries.

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

Jane Mouttet, Missionary School
Librarian, Window Rock, Arizona. BA
Elementary Education, Calvin College.
Credits: BookLinks, Skipping Stones,
Shine Brightly, Applesseeds

Sherri Myers, Freelance Writer, Upper
Strasburg, Pennsylvania. Credits:
romancejunkies.com.

Amanda Ottaway, Freelance Writer,
Durham, North Carolina; B.A., English,
Meredith College.

Leslie Greaves Radloff, Teacher/School
Librarian, S. St. Paul, Minneapolis

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne,
Texas. MS, Library Science, University
of North Texas. Credits: SBC magazine,
Library Media Connection.

Karen Schmidt, Freelance Writer/Editor,

Marysville, Washington.
BA Communication,

Trinity International University. Credits:
World Christian, World Pulse,
NurseWeek, Journal of Christian Nursing,
Decision, Christianity Today, Pockets.

Mark L. Ward, Jr., Research
Assistant/National Newsletter Editor, Bob
Jones University's J. S. Mack Library,
Greenville, South Carolina. PhD,
Education; PhD, New Testament
Interpretation.

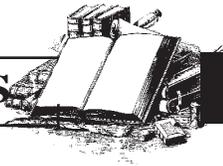
Pam Webb, Freelance Writer, Sandpoint,
Idaho; ECE, Pierce College; B.A.,
Outdoor Education, Western Washington
University; M.A., Teaching of Writing,
Humboldt State University; credits:
Christian Retailing, School, Library
Journal, KLIATT, The Writer, Single-
Parent Family, Christian Parenting Today,
Lifewise, Highlights for Children,
Guideposts for Kids/Teens, Brio, Society
for Children's Book Writers and
Illustrators Bulletin.

Kelley Westenhoff, Parent-Librarian,
Dominion Christian School, Oakton,
Virginia; B.A., Political Science,
University of North Texas; J.D.,
Washington & Lee University School of
Law.

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

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

Eileen Zygarlicke, English Teacher,
Community High School, Grand Forks,
North Dakota; B.S., English, University of
Wisconsin; credits: The Christian
Classroom, Homeschooling Today,
Melody of the Heart, North Dakota
Horizons.



When the creepy things come out / by Melody Carlson ; illustrated by Susan Reagan. Nashville, Broadman & Holman, 2003. Library edition, ISBN 0805426876, \$12.99.

E. Fear--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades PS-2 / Rating : 4

“BUMP! CRASH! RUSTLE! SLITHER! BOO!” What happens when you hear things that go “BUMP!” in the night? Should we be afraid of our own shadow?

Melody Carlson’s new children’s book, *When the Creepy Things Come Out*, is a well written book that looks at Halloween through a child’s eyes. Through a light rhyming method, this book could be enjoyed independently by children as they learn to mimic the rhyme, or even read to a room full of children. Even though this book discusses a dark holiday, Halloween, Ms. Carlson makes a connection

with children of all ages through all the sights and sounds that they encounter on this one night.

Ms. Reagan uses almost felt-like characters in her illustrations. I imagined seeing this book illustrated on a “felt” board as the teacher carried the story along with its rhyme, engaging the children’s attention. The illustrations are tied directly to the storyline, another reason this book would be accepted by children of all ages.

Rick Estep

A chick called Saturday / written by Joyce Dunbar ; illustrated by Brita Granstrom. LCCN 2003001087. Grand Rapids : Eerdman’s Books for Young Readers, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0802852602, \$16.00.

E. Chickens--Fiction; Domestic animals--Fiction; Identity--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm.
Grades PS-3 / Rating : 5

Seven chicks have hatched; the last is named Saturday. His brothers and sisters are named Monday, Tuesday, etc. As they walk, Saturday brings up the rear, and Mother Hen says, “Stay in line. Keep in line.” Saturday is curious about all of the other farm critters and when he’ll be able to do what they do. He tries to copy each of them, only to experience terrible repercussions when he is unable to replicate their work. On Saturday, Saturday sees a most amazing creature that goes “Cock-a-doodle-do!” And much to his mother’s surprise, Saturday finds what he can do.

This delightful picture book discusses obedience and the consequences of disobedience. But author Joyce Dunbar goes further by including the message that being who you are and doing what you were meant to do is of great importance.

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

* Outstanding

Rating 5 : Excellent

Rating 4 : Very Good

Rating 3 : Good

Recommended with caution (see reasons)

Not recommended

Commonly Used Abbreviations in CLJ Reviews

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

Brita Granstrom uses splashy watercolors to capture the various expressions on the animals' faces as each of them encounter Saturday. Magnificent double page spreads contrast the differences in the size of the animal versus Saturday. Words that should be emphasized for reading aloud are set in smaller, larger, or different typefaces.

A Chick Called Saturday will be loved by children both for the story and the artwork. Readers will be thrilled when Saturday finds his right voice.

Helen Hunter

***Captain's purr* / Madeleine Floyd. LCCN 2002155323. San Diego : Harcourt, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 152049398, \$16.00.**

E. Cats--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.
Grades PS-2 / Rating : 4

Ah, the life of a cat. Sleep when you want, bathe when you want, eat whatever you want. Captain does all those great cat things everyday. Otherwise, he takes a ride on his rowboat down the river. All things seem innocent enough, but Captain also has a secret...

First time author/illustrator, Madeleine Floyd paints a witty story of Captain that cat-lovers will find irresistible. Ms. Floyd uses a light lyrical text and lush watercolor illustrations that will enchant young readers as they follow along with Captain's escapades.

Ms. Floyd provides the reader with a fun, fresh vision of the life of a cat. She couples large, brilliant illustrations with a rhyming text, allowing young readers to remain engaged, even in a large group setting.

Rick Estep

***My dad's job* / story by Peter Glassman ; pictures by Timothy Bush. LCCN 2001020132. New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 068982890X, \$15.95.**

E. Fathers--Fiction; Work--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.
Grades K-2 (3-4) / Rating : 4

What adults say and what children understand are not always the same thing. *My Dad's Job* tracks five days in the life of the child-narrator, his family, and especially, his businessman-dad. The story is told with childlike candor and climaxes with a tongue-in-cheek surprise. The boy asks if he may go to work with his dad, and gets the surprise of his life. *My Dad's Job* wraps up neatly. Perhaps following in dad's footsteps might be an interesting career choice, after all!

Although *My Dad's Job* can be read independently by children in grades 2-4, there are some ideas that warrant explaining. Some of the storyline is taking adult language literally,

and putting the father in situations that are not real. The dictionary in the back of the book can be a springboard for discussion. One is impressed with the communication demonstrated amongst the members of this family, the boy feeling comfortable asking questions of each one. The illustrations could stand alone as a telling of the tale, straightforward representations of this family's daily life, pink toothpaste and all. A novel twist is the inclusion of gated pages, forming a pandemonium panorama.

Su Hagerly

***Don't take your snake for a stroll* / Karin Ireland, David Catrow. LCCN 2002003489. San Diego : Harcourt, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0152023615, \$16.00.**

E. Pets--Fiction; Wild animals as pets--Fiction; Stories in rhyme. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 22 x 29 cm.

Grades PS-K (1-3) / Rating : 5

First it is read-to-me silliness with pictures to match the hilarity, and later this book will become a favorite to read on one's own. *Don't Take Your Snake for a Stroll* by Karin Ireland is jam-packed with advice in rhyming couplets. The advice could not be more sound: "If you take your pig out shopping/Don't take him to the mall--/He'll play in the dirt in the planter outside./And you won't get to shop at all." And there is a parade of other animals that might add unexpected difficulties to your outings.

David Catrow's cartoon-like illustrations beguile the young listener, and they encourage the early reader to attempt the text. Detailed pictures bring laughter all on their own accord. The poems are outside of reality, situations that would never occur; but should they, the reader will be well-prepared to meet those eventualities. The whimsical text includes some advanced words which will need to be explained to young listeners. On another level, the text teaches that there may be unforeseen consequences for our most innocent actions. *Don't Take Your Snake for a Stroll* is a book that youngsters will request repeatedly.

Su Hagerly

***Pip and the edge of heaven* / written by Elizabeth Liddle ; illustrated by Lara Jones. LCCN 2002015317. Grand Rapids : Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0802852572, \$8.00.**

E. God--Fiction; Heaven--Fiction.; Mothers--Fiction.; Questions and answers--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 18 cm.

Grades K-3 / Rating : 3

Pip and the Edge of Heaven, by Elizabeth Liddle, is a simple story where a young boy explores the ideas of God and heaven. Pip asks his mother various questions about these

themes, but usually answers his own queries. As he grows and learns about the world, he incorporates his knowledge into his views. Heaven is up, big as space, and the edge must touch the earth, he decides. God dwells where people love Him and where there are people He loves. Death returns bodies to earth, but the people go where the people they love are, thus the edge of heaven is wherever the love is. He decides heaven also must run through his household because he and his mother love each other.

Due to its smaller size and personal theme, this book is best for independent reading or for sharing between a parent and child. The story has a sweetness to it, and the love between the mother and child is admirable. However, it is not, nor is it meant to be, a doctrinal introduction to the concepts of God and heaven, especially since the ideas expressed are general at best. The focus of the story is on the Pip, the boy, and the drawings compliment that. The simple black line drawings have a child-like quality about them that fits the mood of the story. The nicest parts of the story are Pip's sense of wonder and the loving relationship between mother and child.

Betsy Ruffin

***Froggy goes to the doctor* / by Jonathan London; illustrated by Frank Remkiewicz. LCCN 2001007729. New York, Viking, 2002. Hardbound, ISBN 0670035785, \$15.99.**

E. Physicians--Fiction; Frogs--Fiction; Medical care--Fiction; Humorous stories. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 x 26 cm.

Grades PS-2 / Rating : 5

Jonathan London's character, Froggy, has been involved in a lot of things: playing soccer, going out to eat, playing an instrument in the band, even getting his first kiss. In this book, *Froggy Goes to the Doctor*, he's very reluctantly going to get a check-up at the doctor's office, after an unsuccessful attempt to talk his mom into letting him skip it. "What if she wants to give me a shot?" he thinks.

The visit is hilarious, from his attempt to avoid Frogelina (a young girl frog who likes him) in the waiting room, to his embarrassment when he realizes he's forgotten to wear underwear, to his shout into the stethoscope to tell the doctor it's cold. When Froggy finally leaves, it's Dr. Mugwort who isn't looking forward to his next visit!

This book is a great read-aloud. My favorite line comes after the doctor looks into Froggy's eyes with a light: "She didn't look into his ears." Froggy doesn't have any ears! Frank Remkiewicz's colorful illustrations add to the fun of the story, and give a hint or two that point to some of Froggy's other adventures.

Betty Winslow

Best of all / Max Lucado ; illustrations by Sergio Martinez. LCCN 2002151972. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 1581345011, \$15.99.

E. Prejudices--Fiction.; Trees--Fiction.; Wood carving--Fiction.; Conduct of life--Fiction. 31 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades PS-3 (4-6) / Rating : 4

Miss Bess Stovall is coming home to Wemmicksville for a visit! After a grand official welcome, all the wooden Wemmicks line up to greet the famous star, the "Best of All." When Punchinello and his friend Lucia approach, she rudely waves Punchinello on, but stops Lucia to learn that she came from the same "ancest-tree" and forest as the star. When the townspeople see the attention that Bess Stovall gives to types of wood, they begin to group themselves by Maple, Walnut, Elm, etc. Punchinello, the only Wemmick made of willow—soft and easily bent—finds himself alone and sad. Eli, the Wemmick-maker, seeks out Punchinello to assure him that he is special because Eli made him that way on purpose. Lucia invites Punchinello to return to the village to see the send-off for Bess Stovall. When the famous star unexpectedly falls, Punch is able to use his "limber lumber" to rescue her. Soon the other Wemmicks appreciate his special abilities.

Best of All is the fourth in a series of Wemmicks books written by Max Lucado and illustrated by Sergio Martinez. This time Lucado demonstrates the problem of peer pressure in a context of prejudice based on a "better" family tree. Once again, self-acceptance is based on the fact that each Wemmick is special to Eli, the Wemmick-maker. This latest book has a bit more word play than the others, which some readers will appreciate. The full-color illustrations by Martinez retain the style and flavor of the earlier books, but a few of the crowd scenes seem less carefully detailed. *Best of All* is an enjoyable sequel to the best selling *You Are Special* [CLJ 3, (4/5):13, 1998], followed by *You Are Mine* [CLJ 7, (2/3):29, 2002] and *If Only I Had a Green Nose* [CLJ 8, (2):19, 2003]. Its theme is important. Recommended for all home, church, school, and public libraries.

Donna W. Bowling

***Dinosailors* / Deb Lund ; illustrated by Howard Fine. LCCN 2002011591. San Diego : Harcourt, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0152046097, \$16.00.**

E. Dinosaurs--Fiction.; Sailing--Fiction.; Stories in rhyme. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 30 cm.

Grades PS-2 / Rating : 4

When a motley crew of dinosaurs set sail for adventure on the high seas, dino-size results are bound to occur. Braving the torrential elements on the ocean surface, and indulging too much in food, the end result is rather mystifying. The dinosaurs are undaunted by these

misadventures, and decide to return to solid ground : "Dinotrainers, all aboard."

Deb Lund has created a memorable book by providing text with a strong rhythm and an even flow. She utilizes "dinowords" throughout her book (like the title *Dinosailors*), adding a playful tone to the text. The illustrator, Howard Fine, provides humorous pictures that capture the essence of pirate life for these dinosailors, such as the bandanna-wearing, eye-patched stegosaurus and the brachiosaurus with a life jacket and neck ring. Mr. Fine has illustrated several books in this watercolor theme, and is probably best known for his "Piggie Pie" series for Clarion Books.

This book is to be enjoyed for its pure fun; it is a very light-hearted look at some favorites of children everywhere (i.e., pirates, dinosaurs, boats). Squeamish readers please note : when the dinosailors have too much rocking and too much food, the book shows them losing their lunch over the side of the ship! This one scene most certainly will be remembered by the reader, possibly making or breaking a group reading session.

Rick Estep

***First day* / Dandi Daley Mackall ; illustrated by Tiphonie Beeke. LCCN 2002000933. San Diego : Silver Whistle, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0152165770, \$16.00.**

E. First day of school--Fiction.; Schools--Fiction.; Stories in rhyme. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades PS-K / Rating : 4

First Day by Dandi Daley Mackall chronicles one girl's first day of school. In poetic form, we hear her excitement and apprehension about doing something new and meeting new people. She enjoys classroom pets, coloring, building blocks, lunch, recess, story time, and cleaning up at the end of the day. She says goodbye to her new friends and wonders how the second day can be better than the first. She concludes that school is cool!

Illustrations by Tiphonie Beeke are done in watercolor and acrylic paints. They mimic crayon drawings, providing a colorful, familiar, and fun appearance to which children can relate. Both the illustrations and text make it clear what a child can expect school to be like, helping to dispel fears of the unknown. For children not experienced in daycare and anxious about the first day of school, the friendly feel of this book will help ease their fears.

Karla J. Castle

***Mr. Putter & Tabby stir the soup* / Cynthia Rylant ; illustrated by Arthur Howard. LCCN 2002011387. San Diego : Harcourt, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0152026371, \$14.00.**

E. Soups--Fiction.; Cats--Fiction.; Dogs--Fiction.; Neighbors--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades 1-3 / Rating : 4

Mr. Putter and Tabby his cat love to make and eat soup, but this day the stove, Bessie, is out of order. Mr. Putter asks his neighbor, Mrs. Teaberry, if he can bring his soup makings over to her house to finish cooking it. Mrs. Teaberry is on her way out, but gladly allows Mr. Putter to use her kitchen. However, Mrs. Teaberry's dog, Zeke, is a bit of a pest. Zeke fetches everything that he can get his mouth on. He demands so much of Mr. Putter's attention that Mrs. Teaberry comes home to find Mr. Putter asleep on the couch and the soup not cooked. She finishes cooking the soup and bakes bread and makes fudge. When Mr. Putter awakes a full fledged meal is ready and Mr. Putter, Mrs. Teaberry, and Tabby share a pleasant evening together.

Mr. Putter and Tabby Stir the Soup is an early reader in a long series of titles by Cynthia Rylant. There are eleven other Mr. Putter and Tabby titles. This volume will be of interest to the young reader due to the familiarity of the setting and story, and the humor of Zeke's actions.

The illustrations by Arthur Howard are a lively combination of charcoal drawings and watercolors. This is a quality early reader with easy vocabulary and a fun, sweet story. Recommended.

Karla J. Castle

***Cow and the Christmas surprise* / Todd Aaron Smith. LCCN 2003273448. Grand Rapids : New Kids Media, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0801045177, \$7.99.**

E. Christmas--Fiction.; Cows--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 19 x 22 cm.

***Cow finds a friend* / Todd Aaron Smith. LCCN 2003273449. Grand Rapids : New Kids Media, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0801045169, \$7.99.**

E. Cows--Fiction.; Friendship--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 19 x 22 cm.

Grades PS-2 / Rating : 4

These titles bring the total to eight picture books in the Cow Adventure Series, by Todd Aaron Smith. (One book in the series, *Cow On the Tracks*, is a CBA best-seller.)

In *Cow Finds a Friend*, curious Cow gets lost, is threatened, then finds a new and unexpected friend, one usually shunned. The story teaches the value of not pre-judging others. In *Cow and the Christmas Surprise*, Cow's barnyard friends are wrapped up in the enthusiasm of decorating, partying, and receiving gifts. Cow comes up

with a surprise for everyone, demonstrating the true meaning of Christmas.

Smith, a professional graphic artist, has worked on such projects as Tony the Tiger (of cereal fame), Spiderman for Fox Kids Network, Keebler elves, and others. He draws cartoon animals that are bright, colorful, and expressive. No computer-generated color or artwork for Smith. Page layouts are attractive. Each Cow adventure has a moral lesson to teach readers—among those are lessons about love, trust, obedience, and facing fears. Young children will enjoy having the Cow stories read to them. Children reading beyond the beginner level will be eager to read them unaided.

Jeanette Hardage

***The loudest roar* / by Thomas Taylor. LCCN 2002010067. New York : Arthur A. Levine Books, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 043950130X, \$15.95.**

E. Tigers--Fiction; Jungle animals--Fiction; Animal sounds--Fiction; Behavior--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 x 22 cm.

Grades K-1 (PS, 2) / Rating : 4

A small tiger named Clovis upsets his jungle friends with his loud roar. The jungle is generally a peaceful place with the animals living in peace and calm, except when this small tiger decides to demonstrate his very loud roar. He usually does so when the other animals are not expecting it, so they are surprised and frightened. A clever monkey comes up with a plan to show Clovis how they feel. The animals sneak up and surprise him with their own loud sounds. In the end, the tiger promises to behave better and does...most of the time.

Thomas Taylor's simple and charming book, *The Loudest Roar*, will appeal to young listeners and readers. The repeated phrase "suddenly—there was Clovis" invites children to chime in with it and gives early readers a place to start learning. The larger type face and full page pictures also make this a good choice for reading aloud to a group. The story is sweet with a gentle message of consideration for others. The text is not overly demanding, allowing children to more fully enjoy the fun of the tale. The full color illustrations are semi-realistic; characters are portrayed as true jungle animals but cute rather than fierce or wild. Children may enjoy spotting Clovis and other animals hiding in the trees and bushes as they sneak up on their unsuspecting friends. The animals' sounds become part of the picture on some pages, with an especially large font used to indicate the volume of the noise. Plenty of action, color, and nice double page spreads are used, all working together to complement the text and complete the mood.

The animal characters, the delightful pictures, and the pleasant story give this book a broad appeal.

Betsy Ruffin

***Hey, pancakes!* / words by Tamson Weston ; pictures by Stephan Gammell. LCCN 2001006867. San Diego : Silver Whistle, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0152165029, \$16.00.**

E. Pancakes, waffles, etc.--Fiction; Breakfasts--Fiction; Family life--Fiction; Stories in rhyme. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades PS-3 / Rating : 5

Three children get up early in the morning, before their parents rise, and make their own pancake breakfast. A great deal of fun is had by the three, flipping the pancakes and playing with their food. When done, they clean up the kitchen and go outside to play. The recipe for Grandma's pancakes is included at the end.

The illustrations by Stephen Gammell in the media of pastels, pencil, and watercolor are wild and quite a picture of life with children. There are splashes and splatters everywhere. Not a dull moment in this book.

The text a poem, *Hey, Pancakes!* by Tamson Weston and Stephen Gammell is a celebration of childhood and fun. Rare is the child who will not relate to the free spirit exhibited in this book. Recommended.

Karla J. Castle

***Humblebee : a story about pride* / written and illustrated by Matt Whitlock. LCCN 2002001151. Colorado Springs, Faith Kidz, 2003. Library edition, ISBN 0781438314, \$12.99.**

E. Bees--Fiction; Conduct of life; Stories in rhyme. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 21 x 26 cm.

Grades PS-2 / Rating : 4

***The non-praying mantis* / written and illustrated by Matt Whitlock. LCCN 2002001150. Colorado Springs, Faith Kidz, 2003. Library edition, ISBN 0781438306, \$12.99.**

E. Prayer--Fiction; Praying mantis--Fiction. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 21 x 26 cm.

Grades PS-2 / Rating : 4

Mr. Whitlock has produced three books in his freshman series, *The Bug's View*, which features ordinary bugs doing extraordinary things as they put their faith in God.

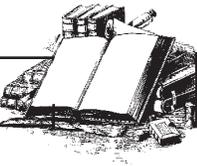
In *Humblebee*, the owner of a local convenience store is a bumble bee. Unfortunately, his buzz-ness isn't going too well, until he receives a jar of honey from a little girl. Buzz-ness is now booming, but he doesn't reveal how he received the honey; he takes all the credit for himself. Before long, Mr. Bee finds taking all the credit can lead to "BIG" problems. This is a quick, rhyming story that reminds us that pride always precedes a fall.

In his next book, *The Non-Praying Mantis*, we see a family that adheres daily to their namesake, spending time with heads bowed and arms folding before God. When their youngest decides to use prayers as a way to get everything she wants, she finds that prayer isn't like rubbing a genie's lamp. Instead, she finds herself in a strange predicament and truly finds the power of prayer.

Both of these books in this series are well written and illustrated by Mr. Whitlock. He uses light rhyming and very bright colors to keep the children's attention.

These insect characters face everyday situations, ones with which the reader will identify. What a great way to open little eyes to the fact that everyone struggles daily; it is just who we turn to and how we handle those struggles that makes the difference.

Rick Estep



***Creature of the mists* / Sigmund Brouwer. (Accidental detectives) LCCN 2003001931. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Paperbound, ISBN 0764225693, \$5.99.**

F. Mystery and detective stories; Sea monsters--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 142 p. ; 21 cm.

***Madness at Moonshiner's Bay* / Sigmund Brouwer. (Accidental detectives) LCCN 2003014706. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Paperbound, ISBN 0764225715, \$5.99.**

F. Mystery and detective stories; Christian life--Fiction; Florida--Fiction. 141 p. ; 21 cm.

***The mystery tribe of Camp Blackeagle* / Sigmund Brouwer. (Accidental detectives) LCCN 2003014699. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Paperbound, ISBN 0764225707, \$5.99.**

F. Mystery and detective stories; Camps--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 143 p. ; 21 cm.

***Shroud of the lion* / Sigmund Brouwer. (Accidental detectives) LCCN 2003001932. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Paperbound, ISBN 0764225685, \$5.99.**

F. Mystery and detective stories; Lions--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Los Angeles (Calif.)--Fiction. 139 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 3-6 / Rating : 3

Creature of the Mists is a mystery that finds the Accidental Detectives on a journey to Canada with world-renowned scientist Dr. Winegard after Ricky wins a science contest. They go in search of the mysterious lake creature Opopogo and try to prove once and for all that the creature really exists. What they don't know is they are in the middle of a secret plot that threatens the mission and even their lives!

In *Madness at Moonshiner's Bay* Ricky is taken to an isolated moonshiner's cabin and threatened with being eaten by a huge alligator named Big Ben unless he tells where the coin is that the kidnappers think he has. The only problem is he knows nothing about any coin and finds himself trying to save himself, his friend Lisa, and his little brother Joel from the dangers of the swamp. What started out as an exciting adventure in Disney World turns into a desperate struggle for survival.

The Mystery Tribe of Camp Blackeagle once again finds the Accidental Detectives in the middle of a mystery. The boys go to summer camp and Joel, Ricky's little brother, is sent along after their Aunt Trudy breaks her leg and their parents go out of town to take care of her. When the boys arrive at the campsite, the locals

tell them about the legend of the ghosts haunting the campsite. Ricky helps to unravel the mystery of the Native American spirits and learns responsibility while watching out for his little brother.

Shroud of the Lion is a story about the Accidental Detectives (Ricky, Lisa, Mike, and Ralph) and their invitation to be extras in a movie with famous movie star Jericho Stone in Hollywood. He had seen a video the kids made concerning drug abuse prevention and wanted to meet them, hence the invitation. Upon arriving in Hollywood, the kids find themselves kidnapped and a mystery begins to unfold. Secrets from Jericho's past are discovered; they threaten Jericho's career and the lives of the Accidental Detectives as well.

This series by Sigmund Brouwer held my attention and that of my two children, and it was very hard to lay the books aside as we kept wanting to turn pages to see what would happen next. The author used sayings that young children would find funny to help keep their attention, and a simple but exciting plot to keep them turning pages. All four of these books deal with some level of danger to the young protagonists, but the mystery is always solved in the end and all is well.

Many lessons on the Christian faith are presented in the various books, such as trusting God to lead you out of trouble and keep you safe from harm. In *Creature of the Mists*, there is a wonderful explanation of how science explains the "how," but we must trust God to explain the "why" and know that he is behind everything. There are several instances of prayers being prayed. The characters are likable, except for ones meant to be otherwise, and most children would be able to relate to the kids. These books are geared more towards pre-teen boys, but my nine-year-old daughter also enjoyed them. I would definitely recommend the Accidental Detectives series to people looking for mystery books with Christian values for their children.

Sherri Myers

***Mystery pennies* / Sigmund Brouwer. (Watch out for Joel) LCCN 2002013803. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Paperbound, ISBN 0764225847, \$3.99.**

F. Conduct of life--Fiction; Honesty--Fiction; Brothers--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 31 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

***Camp craziness* / by Sigmund Brouwer. (Watch out for Joel) LCCN 2002010733. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Paperbound, ISBN 0764225820, \$3.99.**

F. Camps--Fiction; Bullies--Fiction; Brothers--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 32 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

***Strunk soup* / by Sigmund Brouwer. (Watch out for Joel) LCCN 2002013804. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Paperbound, ISBN 0764225855, \$3.99.**

F. Etiquette--Fiction; Kindness--Fiction; Brothers--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 31 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades 1-3 / Rating : 3

In *Mystery Pennies*, Rick, Joel Kidd's older brother, dupes him into delivering newspapers for a penny apiece instead of the going rate of a dime. Joel turns the tables on his scheming brother by spending the hard-earned money on a birthday gift.

In *Camp Craziness*, it's the smelly dark outhouse at camp that strikes fear into the heart of Joel Kidd, age seven. Bully Tom takes pictures of Joel fleeing the snake in the outhouse, escaping with his pants down around his ankles. What revenge would even the score? An opportunity to do good wins the day.

Sometimes very nice people are very bad cooks, and Mrs. Strunk, baby-sitter for the evening, is the worst! In *Strunk Soup*, things go from bad to worse : an unappetizing menu, a liberal hand with the pepper, and finally a fire in the kitchen. In the end, the boys' kindness is rewarded.

Using a formula format, with plenty of repetition, Brouwer introduces readers to Joel Kidd, the hero of the series. The author takes true-to-life situations and through exaggeration, leads the reader to face the ethical questions that frame daily life. What is the right thing to do? Is it kind?

Although events are dealt with in a realistic manner, there is sometimes a circumstance that transforms the altruistic choice into a matter of "covering one's bases." An example is the threat of blackmail pictures Rickey had taken of the bully in *Camp Craziness*. This series of chapterbooks, with its cartoon pictures and few pages per section, will appeal to the young reader.

Su Hagerty

***Artemis Fowl* / Eoin Colfer. (Artemis Fowl; 1) LCCN 2002069062. New York : Talk Miramax Books, 2002. Hardbound, ISBN 0786808551, \$16.95.**

F. Fairies--Fiction; Kidnapping--Fiction; Magic--Fiction; Mothers and sons--Fiction. 277 p. ; 21 cm.

Artemis Fowl : the Arctic incident / Eoin Colfer. (Artemis Fowl; 2) LCCN 0. New York : Talk Miramax Books, 2002. Hardbound, ISBN 0786808551, \$16.95.

F. Fairies--Fiction; Kidnapping--Fiction; Magic--Fiction; Mothers and sons--Fiction. viii, 277 p. ; 21 cm.

Artemis Fowl : the eternity code / Eoin Colfer. (Artemis Fowl; 3) LCCN 2003046431. New York : Talk Miramax Books, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0786819146, \$16.95.

F. Adventure and adventurers--Fiction; Fairies--Fiction; Magic--Fiction; Computers--Fiction. 309 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 3-6 (7-8) / Not recommended

Irish Artemis Fowl is a twelve-year-old genius. For generations his family has accumulated a fabulous fortune by means of various criminal activities. His father, Artemis Senior, was recently lost and presumed killed when his ship was attacked in Arctic waters, and his mother's sanity is wavering. To restore his family fortunes, young Artemis plots to kidnap for ransom a leprechaun from the fairy society living beneath the earth's crust. He and his personal assistant, Butler, capture Captain Holly Short as she comes topside to restore her magic powers. Commander Root of the Lower Elements Police and his crew mount a rescue attempt, but eventually pay the ransom. Artemis exchanges half the ransom to obtain healing for his mother, and foils the LEP attempt to kill him and retrieve the gold bullion.

In *Artemis Fowl : the Arctic Incident*, Artemis and Butler learn of a picture showing Artemis Senior alive in a snowy setting. They head north to locate him. In the meantime, Commander Root learns that someone trying to sabotage the LEP has been using technology from Mud People topside. Root automatically suspects Artemis, and sends Holly to apprehend Artemis and Butler for questioning. Artemis and Butler agree to help the LEP track down the real culprits in exchange for help in rescuing his father. They discover that a vengeful LEP officer and a brilliant female fairy engineer have fomented a full-scale rebellion, using goblins they freed from imprisonment. With the help of Artemis and Butler, the rebellion is quelled, and with Holly's help, Artemis Senior is rescued.

In *Artemis Fowl : the Eternity Code*, Artemis Senior urges his son to go straight. Young Artemis decides to accept his father's counsel—after one last adventure. Utilizing superior fairy technology left over from his first encounter, he constructs a "C-Cube," a computer device with greater power than anything available topside. Artemis attempts to extort silence money from an unscrupulous American entrepreneur, Jon Spiro. Spiro learns about the LEP, and steals the "C-Cube," leaving Butler mortally wounded. Artemis contacts the LEP to heal Butler and to rescue the "C-Cube" before further knowledge

of the underground fairy peoples is revealed. After the successful rescue, Holly and the LEP arrange to wipe any memory of the fairy peoples from Artemis and the Butler family.

Author Eoin Colfer is a former elementary school teacher who knows what appeals to children. He writes a suspenseful, fast-paced tale with many touches of humor. His style, with the use of many sentence fragments and frequent changes in venue, may reflect the influence of current TV strategy. Much of the humor attached to the regular minor character, dwarf Mulch Diggums, relies heavily on his ability to eat soil and excrete it or use its vapor product as a weapon. The sympathetic characters are larger than life, but fallible. Young Artemis loves his family and demonstrates loyalty in difficult situations. He has an environmental conscience, but no qualms about such crimes as computer invasion of privacy or theft.

Since the human technology is definitely early twenty-first century, this series may quickly become out-of-date. Elementary students with an understanding of simple cryptography will quickly be able to decode the "Gnomish" in the fairy *Booke of the People*, without the help of a "modified Egyptian translator." In Funke's *The Thief Lord* [CLJ 8, (3):21, 2003] Scipio and his gang have greater moral sensitivity than Artemis does. Funke's book may long outlast the Artemis Fowl books. Their inherent problems notwithstanding (see p. ?-?), the Harry Potter books have much more meat than the Artemis Fowl books. The Artemis Fowl books, with their lack of a consistent moral vision, are not appropriate for a Christian school context.

Donna W. Bowling

Jericho ride / Betty Gaard. LCCN 2003008275. Greenville, S.C. : JourneyForth, 2003. Paperbound, ISBN 157924968X, \$6.49.

F. Church camps--Fiction; Camps--Fiction; Horsemanship--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 165 p. ; ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-6 / Rating : 5

Tony Vincent has been sent to his uncle's Christian camp to teach riding lessons. He's been a "church kid" all his life, but the past couple of years have tested his faith, and back home he is facing the consequences of bad decisions.

Mysterious things happen at the camp, and the evidence seems to point to Tony as the culprit. He feels he has to solve the mystery to clear his name. But his Uncle Jack's steadfast faith in the Lord and unconditional love for all his campers and counselors confuse Tony. He wants to be like Uncle Jack, but he's never been suffused with the joy his uncle exudes. Whether his campers frustrate him or he is hidden less than an arm's length from criminals, Tony finds he

has to rely on the Lord's strength to carry him through.

Jericho Ride is a fast-paced mystery that will appeal to both boys and girls. Setting it in a Christian summer camp gives legitimacy to the spiritual discussions the young counselors have. Unlike many Christian books for this age, the questioning, scripture references, and process of surrender flow very naturally. When Tony gets so caught up in doing the right thing at Jericho that he ceases to care about whether he can get into the elite school back home, he finally commits his heart to the Lord and finds peace. Author Betty Gaard takes the reader on a ride that includes fear, joy, tears, and hope.

Kelley Westenhoff

Tommy's clubhouse / by Sharon Hambrick ; illustrated by Maurie J. Manning. (The Fig Street kids ; 1) LCCN 2003009989. Greenville, S.C. : JourneyForth, 2003. Paperbound, ISBN 1579249930, \$6.49.

F. Clubs--Fiction; Neighborhood--Fiction. 78 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades K-2 / Rating : 4

Tommy is a typical seven-year-old boy. He and his friends use his bright orange clubhouse as a base for their "Boys Are Great" club. Initially formed to keep girls out, the boys' club evolves into a spy club allowing girls, and then simply into a group of kids solving mysteries.

Together, they try to help find Mr. Bounty, who suffers from Old Timer's disease. They help Mrs. Peebles find her glasses. They weed scary Mr. Bolt's garden and make a huge mistake. Still, somewhere along the way Tommy figures out some important things. He realizes that Mrs. Peebles doesn't really lose her glasses, but just enjoys having the boys come by. He feels his friend's sadness about her grandfather, Mr. Bounty, who is lost even when he is present. Tommy even sacrifices all of the money they have earned to fix the mistake in Mr. Bolt's garden. Through all this, Tommy grows in spirit.

Sharon Hambrick has a talent for capturing the thoughts of seven-year-old boys. Tommy is all boy, yet shows the sweet sensitivity of boys this age as well. All of the interactions with the elderly neighbors are realistic. Mr. Bolt is initially frightening to the children, but turns out to be sad and lonely. Mr. Bounty is actually suffering from Alzheimer's disease which the author handles gently and sweetly. When a strange man approaches the children while they are in the clubhouse, they are appropriately cautious until Tommy's mother appears to straighten things out. While the sibling rivalry with Tommy's older sister is present, it is not the overriding theme, and unkind actions are never endorsed. *Tommy's Clubhouse* is a well-written book with nice line drawings by Maurie J. Manning to break up the text.

Kelley Westenhoff

***The ordinary princess* / written and illustrated by M.M. Kaye. LCCN 2001026545. New York : Viking, 2002. Hardbound, ISBN 0670035440, \$15.99.**

F. Princesses--Fiction; Fairy tales. xiv, 112 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-6 / Rating : 5

M.M. Kaye's fairy tale, *The Ordinary Princess*, is a neat twist on fairy tales about princesses with golden hair, blue eyes, and perfect looks. Instead of focusing on a character possessing the usual beauty, this tale makes an ordinary-looking girl into the star of the story.

When Princess Amethyst, the seventh daughter of King Hulderbrand and Queen Rodehesia, is born, she is even more beautiful than all of her sisters combined—until one of the fairy godmothers invited to her christening decides to give her the gift of being ordinary.

As she ages, Princess Amethyst's golden curls slowly straighten and darken, her blue eyes become an indeterminate color, her perfect nose turns up and begins to freckle, and everyone begins to call her "Princess Amy," since she looks so unprincess-like. Her parents and the members of the court are horrified and embarrassed by Amy's lack of "princessly" image, and not one prince who comes to call stays around, once he finds out she doesn't look anything like her lovely sisters.

Amy doesn't care, though. She likes being ordinary, and by the end of the book, she's found her prince and turned being ordinary into a happily-ever-after life better than any her sisters have achieved.

A reprint of the 1984 edition, Kaye's use of language has an old-fashioned flavor to it, making the story seem as though it has been around even longer, while her black-and-white illustrations add to the turn-of-the-century flavor. The colored illustration on the cover is a close-up of Amy looking quite ordinary indeed. Make a place for this fairy tale in your collection.

Betty Winslow

***Zoom!* / by Robert Munsch; illustrated by Michael Martchenko. LCCN 2002073468. New York : Cartwheel Books, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0439187745, \$13.95.**

F. Wheelchairs--Fiction; Speed--Fiction. 28 p. : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades 1-4 / Rating : 4

Munsch's story, *Zoom!* is dedicated to a young reader who wanted a book about wheelchairs. Handicapped children—as well as their able-bodied counterparts—will enjoy this story. It lends itself to telling or reading aloud, as do most of Munsch's stories. There is a progression

and a reiteration—in this case the word "ZOOM," the sound that animates the wheelchairs. The faster the wheelchair, the louder the "ZOOM."

Lauretta wants a faster wheelchair. She tries out a five-speed, a ten-speed, a fifteen-speed, and "a 92-speed, black, silver, and red, dirt-bike wheelchair that costs a lot of money." Driving that one, Lauretta gets a speeding ticket.

The story takes a swift turn when Lauretta's brother pokes a fork through his finger and the family car won't start. Lauretta saves the day, and her brother, in the speedy wheelchair, only to discover at the end that this one is also too slow.

Michael Martchenko's cartoon illustrations are bright watercolors and capture in facial expressions Lauretta's joy in going fast.

Helen Hunter

***Thunder Rose* / Jerdine Nolen ; illustrated by Kadir Nelson. LCCN 2002012287. San Diego : Silver Whistle, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0152164723, \$16.00.**

E. African Americans--Fiction; Tall tales; West (U.S.)--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 30 cm.

Grades 3-6 / Rating : 4

Thunder Rose by Jerdine Nolen is one of the tallest of tall tales. Rose is an African-American, born free in the American West. She is born on a stormy night, sits up, and takes hold of the lightning. She proves to be extraordinarily strong. She twists some scrap iron into the shape of a lightning bolt and names it Cole. She wrestles a bull, wins his heart, and saddles him up. Rose names him Tater and they become inseparable. At the age of twelve, Rose takes it upon herself to drive the family herd to market in Abilene. She single-handedly fends off rustlers. When faced with drought, she uses Cole and a rope to lasso a cloud and squeeze out a gentle rain, but it is not enough to water the herd. Two tornados develop. Rose tames them with her song of thunder and brings about a satisfying rain.

The illustrations by Kadir Nelson are paintings created with a combination of oil, watercolor, and pencil. The real beauty of this book is in the artwork. The style is realistic in contrast to the fantastic nature of the tale. The emotions of the characters are clearly expressed and there is a warmth of relationship throughout.

This tall tale evokes the romance of the Old West. Powerful girls, especially African-American girls, are rare in the tall tale genre. This story strikes an admirable balance between power and gentleness. Rose is clearly loved by her family, and is loving in return. She clearly loves and is loved by Tater. She wields an amazing power, but it does not corrupt her. I'm not a fan of tall tales, but I find a deeper value in this one. Recommended.

Karla Castle

***Grody's not so golden rules* / Nicole Rubel. LCCN 2001005654. San Diego : Silver Whistle, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0152162410, \$16.00.**

F. Dogs--Fiction; Behavior--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades 4-6 / Rating : 4

Grody is sick and tired of everyone criticizing his lack of manners. This pup is completely satisfied with his own read on etiquette. But his family and other interested adults remind him that there are rigid rules for keeping a tidy bedroom, as well as tips on hygiene, anticipated conduct on the school bus, and yet more rules to govern behavior at school. Grody meets each of these expectations with a reverse statement, individualizing the outcome to suit his Grodiness. Rule Number Fourteen warns : "Don't follow my rules or you will look just like me-eeeeeeeeee!" And there is a picture of the wayward dog, disheveled, ragtagged, sadder-but-wiser.

Rubel has taken a page out of every parent's primer, the oft-repeated lectures about every phase of a child's behavior. She then, with great audacity, turns it upside-down to suit the needs of the canine hero, Grody. The tone is not one of contrariness, but the question is asked, "Why?"

The cartoon illustrations are outlandish. They poke fun at the text, drawing attention to the absurdity of the situations. *Grody's Not So Golden Rules* could be used as a springboard to discuss the need to conform to guidelines regarding family interactions, hygiene, boundaries at school, and socially acceptable behavior.

Su Hagerty

***Moriah's pond* / written by Ethel Footman Smothers. LCCN 2002010134. Grand Rapids : Eerdman's Books for Young Readers, 2003. Paperbound, ISBN 0802852491, \$7.00.**

F. Sisters--Fiction.; Great-grandmothers--Fiction.; African Americans--Fiction.; Race relations--Fiction. 90 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 3-7 / Rating : 5

Annie Rye is the ten-year-old sister who is named after their great-grandma Moriah. There are two other sisters, Maybaby, going on 14, and Brat, 12. Annie Rye is the youngest, but the most outspoken, and they all live together with Moriah and their Uncle Curry in a house that is owned by the white man their great-grandma works for.

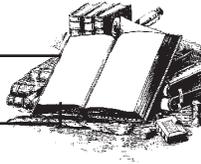
Moriah is the only "colored folk hereabout, got them a pond named after them." That fact makes the sisters special. The sisters have a few chores they must do, but they look forward to

getting into the pond to cool off in the Alabama summer.

Strongly autobiographical, *Moriah's Pond* is the sequel to *Down in the Piney Woods* (Eerdmans, 2003). *Moriah's Pond* is a breath of fresh air. The dialogue is rich with colloquialisms and true to the time and the characters. The characters are warm and their relationships are immediately intimate.

Ethel Footman Smothers does an excellent job of weaving a story for the readers so that we can step right into her memory. She shares the pain of racism in such a way that every mother's heart would be pricked and every child's spirit would want to fight back. *Moriah's Pond* is an easy read and would make an excellent classroom project.

Debby Willett



***The library at Alexandria* / Kelly Trumble ; illustrated by Robina MacIntyre Marshall. LCCN 2003000150. New York : Clarion Books, Hardbound, ISBN 0375758327, \$17.00.**

027.03. Alexandrian Library. 72 p. : ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades 3-6 / Rating : 4

Utilizing equally pictures and narrative, *The Library of Alexandria*, gives an intriguing overview of the famous, ancient library. Starting with the founding of Alexandria, the reader travels in time through the origin of the library to its ultimate destruction. Other subjects covered include eminent historic personages and their contribution to the ages, the birth of various sciences, renowned scrolls and books, and early history of the printed word and the mediums used. Several useful appendices conclude this book : relevant maps, Alexandrian sites, glossary, bibliography and suggested reading, and an index.

Librarian and author Kelly Trumble, employing words and presentation relevant to the elementary school level, presents a concise, clear, attractive account, highlighting it with interesting historical tidbits. Portraitist Robina Marshall's bright, detailed watercolor and gouache on hot-pressed paper illustrations bring this story to life. A multipurpose book, *The Library of Alexandria* will interest art, history, and English classes. Recommended for all schools, libraries, homeschoolers, and families.

Donna Eggett

***God thought of everything weird and wacky* / written by Bonnie Bruno ; illustrated by Kevin Brown. Cincinnati : Standard, 2003. Paperbound, ISBN 0784714479, \$8.00.**

248.3. Devotional exercises--Juvenile literature; Animals; Plants. 127 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-7 / Rating : 4

A child's devotional and prayer book, *God Thought of Everything Weird and Wacky* lives up to its title. Here is just a sampling of the wackiness inside this book : a giant green apostrophe that lives in swamps and eats insects; friendship between red ants and blue butterflies; the 140-pound guinea pig that whistles; and a 6600-ton tree spread over 200 acres. Each of the sixty chapters tells about one of God's surprising creations, gives a web link for follow up data, makes an application to Christian living, provides relevant scripture, and closes with a prayer. Kevin Brown's purple and black

humorous digital illustrations set the chapter's mood.

In *God Thought of Everything Weird and Wacky*, children's author Bonnie Black manages to wrap learning, devotion, wonder at God's creation, and fun into a palatable package. The brief data about each plant and animal highlights both the wackiness of and God's special plan for that creation. Children eight to twelve years of age will enjoy having this book for themselves. It will also be useful in Sunday school, children's church, VBS, and other groups, as well as science classes, and church and school libraries.

Donna Eggett

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***Discovering Jesus in Genesis : covenant promises for covenant kids* / Susan Hunt & Richie Hunt. LCCN 2002002479. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 2002. Paperbound, ISBN 1581343949, \$14.99.**

248.8'45. Bible--Textbooks; Christian education--Home training; Christian education--Textbooks for children. 173 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades K-3 (4-5) / Rating : *5

A family devotional, *Discovering Jesus in Genesis* begins with instructions and encouragement to parents. Combining the history of Scotland's Covenanters and their stand for Christ with illustrations taken from the first few chapters of Genesis, this devotional leads children on a treasure hunt through the Bible and through their lives. A story about a family and their friends, their problems, fun, and intrigues runs throughout this book, piquing curiosity for further readings, enhancing the teachings. Each of the thirty-five chapters begins with a Bible verse clue, leads the participants towards the interesting treasures found in God, and ends with questions to further understanding, a prayer, and hints for parents.

Presbyterian pastor's wife, mother, and teacher Susan Hunt and her son Richie Hunt, a Presbyterian children's minister, husband, and father, cooperate in writing this stimulating devotional. The story of the family, history of the Covenanters, and stories from Genesis fit closely together, thus well illustrating steps in becoming the Lord's person and living for Him. Sepia tinted illustrations augment most pages. Because the Christian scope of this book is both evangelical and fundamental, and because Covenanters belong to the gallery of Hero's of Faith, *Discovering Jesus...* appeals to all denominations. The wording of the chapters fits the youthful listener and lends itself to reading

aloud. First a family devotional, this book will also be useful to any group of children with adult leaders : Sunday School, children's clubs, children's church, classroom, etc. The church and Christian school library will find this a popular book.

Donna Eggett

***Thanksgiving : a harvest celebration* / Julie Stiegemeyer ; illustrated by Renne Benoit. St. Louis, Mo. : Concordia, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 758605307, \$12.99.**

394. Thanksgiving. 32 p. : ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades K-2 / Rating : 3

This Thanksgiving book quickly tells the bare bones of the Thanksgiving story. It opens with young Ellen Chilton aboard the Mayflower. She helps in the establishment of the colony, is the first to see Samoset, and participates in the celebration of the bounteous harvest the following year. The last two pages of the book discusses how we celebrate Thanksgiving today and concludes that the best reason for giving thanks on Thanksgiving Day and every day is for the gift of Jesus. On the very last leaf are the words to the Doxology.

Julie Stiegemeyer faithfully recounts the facts of the first Thanksgiving in this book, but there isn't anything to distinguish this account from many others. To quote a nine-year-old who read it, "it's just another Thanksgiving book." What distinguishes this book is the rich illustrations by Renne Benoit. Without the words, the water color paintings would have conveyed the story completely and accurately. With the words, *Thanksgiving : A Harvest Celebration*, will work best to supplement a collection needing fresh artistic portrayals of the first Thanksgiving.

Kelley Westenhoff

***Tops & bottoms* / adapted and illustrated by Janet Stevens. LCCN 93019154. San Diego : Harcourt Brace, 1995. Hardbound, ISBN 152928510, \$16.00.**

398.2. African Americans--Fiction; Bears--Fiction; Folklore--United States. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 x 28 cm.

Grades PS-3 / Rating : 5

A Caldecott Honor Book, Janet Stevens' adaptation of *Tops and Bottoms* is an entertaining fable, fun to read and act out, with a moral.

Bear comes from a wealthy family and has inherited land from his father. But Bear is sooo

lazy. Enter Hare, who through a series of rather unfortunate events, including his ill-fated race with Tortoise, has been left rather destitute. Hare comes up with a fantastic idea that will benefit both of these creatures. Hare will use Bear's land, he and his family will plant, water, weed, and harvest vegetables, then split the crops with the sleeping Bear. Of course, it's not really that simple because each time Hare's family plants a crop, Bear is offered tops or bottoms. When he chooses tops, Hare plants beets, carrots, and radishes. When he chooses bottoms, Hare plants broccoli, lettuce, and celery. This continues until Bear demands both tops and bottoms and the Hare family plants sweet corn! Ultimately, Hare and Bear come to terms with each other and a more honest Hare and a less slothful Bear decide to stay neighbors but business partners no more.

This is an excellent tale for storytelling to young children up through early elementary school and especially so if vegetables are used to illustrate the results of each harvest. The resulting moral at the story's conclusion—Bear is no longer lazy, allowing Hare to do his work for him, and Hare must earn his living in an honest and non-deceptive way—is not heavy handed but just part of the fun story. A wonderful picture book that children will love!

Ceil Carey, Young Adult Public Librarian, Plano, Illinois. LTA, College of DuPage. Credits : Today's Libraries.

Titanium / Chris Woodford. (The elements) LCCN 2001008743. New York : Benchmark Books, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0761414614, \$25.64.

546'.512. Titanium. 32 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 26 cm.

Potassium / Chris Woodford. (The elements) LCCN 2002018556. New York : Benchmark Books, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0761414630, \$25.64.

546'.383. Potassium. 32 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 26 cm.

Noble gases / Jens Thomas. (The elements) LCCN 2002000210. New York : Benchmark Books, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0761414622, \$25.64.

546'.75. Gases, Rare. 32 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 26 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 3

What do the Concorde SST, NASA, and tennis star Andre Agassi have in common? Titanium! Present in many parts of our daily lives, including the paint on our walls, titanium is an extremely useful element. It is non-toxic and stable. It combines easily with other elements making alloys that are light but very strong. The results show in aircraft, spacecraft, and tennis rackets, as well as in artificial joints.

How can a chemical be required for life on our planet and yet highly unstable and dangerous? Enter *Potassium* to answer this question. All living things need potassium; yet combined with other elements it can cause violent reactions, even explosions! This book tells where humans

can get the potassium our bodies require, how potassium is used in explosives, and the way potassium's surfactant qualities make it useful for cleaning.

The *Noble Gases*, helium, neon, argon, krypton, xenon, and radon are featured in this volume of The Elements series from Benchmark books. How they got their group names, how they are distilled for use, and how they are used in lasers are just some of the interesting topics. Some of these elements are daily topics due to xenon headlights, radon gas problems in our homes, and birthday party balloons.

Each book in this series has the table of elements, explains chemical reactions, and includes a glossary. The individual books are an overload of information to just sit and read for most grade three through five students. In the first two, author Chris Woodford tries to make each element interesting, but 30+ pages are hard to fill with chemical properties in an engaging way. The volume on noble gases, written by Jens Thomas, keeps the information moving but he is covering six gases in 30+ pages, so the details are brief and to the point. He is particularly good at relating the noble gases to practical applications. This series will be best used to provide one of several volumes a student needs to consult for research papers. Lacking a bibliography or experiment guidance these will not hold students' interest for long.

Kelley Westenhoff

So you want to be an inventor? / by Judith St. George ; illustrated by David Small. LCCN 2001055447. New York : Philomel Books, 2002. Hardbound, ISBN 0399235930, \$16.99.

608. Inventors; Inventions; Children as inventors. 53 p. : col. ill. ; 30 cm.

Grades 3-6 / Rating : 5

So You Want to Be an Inventor was done by the team of Judith St. George and David Small in the same style as their Caldecott-winning book, *So You Want to Be President?* (Philomel, 2000). This time around, they tackle another angle of history, being an inventor, from why people invent things and what qualities inventors need to have, to what kinds of people have invented things.

It's done with style, too, as they take a subject that can be pretty dry and make it so interesting that even a reluctant reader can understand and enjoy it. The book doesn't just cover common inventions such as the light bulb, the radio, and the airplane either; it also touches on lesser known ones such as frozen dinners, Velcro, dishwashers, and many of the parts that make up a car, and includes several inventors from other countries, an African-American inventor, and several women.

Small's accurate (yet amusing) ink, watercolor, and pastel chalk illustrations are a colorful and fun addition, but if you want to read this book out loud, it works just as well without the pictures, making this a good read-aloud with which to begin a unit on inventors or inventions.

Included in the back of the book are a bibliography and brief biographical notes on each of the inventors St. George mentions, which may lead readers to look for more information on the subject.

Betty Winslow

1-2-3 draw cartoon people ; a step-by-step guide / by Steve Barr. (1-2-3 draw) LCCN 2002009932. [Columbus, N.C.] : Peel Productions, 2002. Paperbound, ISBN 0939217465, \$8.99.

741.5. Human beings--Caricatures and cartoons--Juvenile literature.; Cartooning--Technique--Juvenile literature.; Cartooning--Technique.; Drawing--Technique.; Human beings in art. 63 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 28 cm.

1-2-3 draw cartoon animals : a step-by-step guide / by Steve Barr. (1-2-3 draw) LCCN 2002009928. [Columbus, N.C.] : Peel Productions, 2002. Paperbound, ISBN 0939217481, \$8.99.

741.5. Animals--Caricatures and cartoons--Juvenile literature.; Cartooning--Technique--Juvenile literature.; Cartooning--Technique.; Drawing--Technique.; Animals in art. 62 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 28 cm.

1-2-3 draw cartoon faces : a step-by-step guide / by Steve Barr. (1-2-3 draw) LCCN 2002009925. [Columbus, N.C.] : Peel Productions, 2002. Paperbound, ISBN 0939217473, \$8.99.

741.5. Face--Caricatures and cartoons--Juvenile literature.; Cartooning--Technique--Juvenile literature.; Cartooning--Technique.; Drawing--Technique.; Face in art. 62 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 28 cm.

Grades 4-8 / Rating : 4

1-2-3 Draw is a fun series which introduces the student to easy, captivating cartooning. Fostering creativity, the step-by-step illustrated instructions, based on basic shapes, are simple to follow no matter how untried the artist. *Cartoon People* uses the same cartoon characters throughout, introducing body parts and positions, emotions, and movement. *Cartoon Animals* presents eleven appealing creatures. *Cartoon Faces* enchants with a whole family of funny faces. Each book opens with a list of tools needed (all readily available) and closes with a photocopyable award certificate signed by the author.

Cartoonist, illustrator, and children's book author Stephen Barr's 1-2-3 Draw series allures while it teaches. Because Barr encourages play and individual ideas, many students will find, maybe to their own surprise, they can draw. The simple, ample directions are copiously illustrated with pencil drawings. Each project moves from the first black lines and shapes through to finished colored cartoons. This series

will appeal to both elementary and middle school pupils. If your group does not already have this genre of book, consider purchasing these volumes. They are recommended for both secular and church schools, especially for art classes. Homeschoolers and families will also enjoy using 1-2-3-Draw.

Donna Eggett

Here we go round the mulberry bush / Will Hillenbrand. LCCN 2002012396. San Diego : Gulliver Books, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0152020322, \$15.00.

782.42164'0268. Children's songs, English--United States--Texts; First day of school--Songs and music; Schools--Songs and music; Songs. 1 v. : col. ill. ; 23 cm.

Preschool / Rating : 3

Written to be sung to the tune of "Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush," this book tells the story of one little pig's first day of school. His parents see him off, documenting the event with cameras. He is scared and wishes that he were at home. He plays with blocks and water toys, but things do not go well because he is clumsy. When recess time comes, he hides in the mulberry bush instead of playing with the other children. He finds another little pig hiding in the bush, too, and they become friends when they realize that they are both scared at school. From then on school is fun. Cookies, storytime, show-and-tell, and cleaning up all contribute to first day school fun.

The illustrations by the author are done in mixed media (apparently pencil and watercolor). The details add to the story; in fact, the story is told very well by the illustrations alone. The class is diverse, including yellow, pink, brown, and gray piglets, one in a wheel chair.

The music for the tune of "Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush" is printed in the front of the book. Considering how children want to have their favorite books read over and over, only purchase this book if you are willing to sing it again and again. Even if you simply read, the text is sing-songy.

Karla J. Castle

The Huron carol / written by Father Jean de Brébeuf ; illustrated by Frances Tyrrell. LCCN 2003001088. Grand Rapids : Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0802852637, \$16.00.

782.42'1723'0268. Jesus Christ--Nativity--Songs and music.; Wyandot Indians--Songs and music.; Carols.; Christmas music.; Indians of North America--Songs and music. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 4

The Huron Carol tells the Nativity story of the birth of Jesus Christ in the setting of the Huron Indians in seventeenth-century Canada. It was told by Father Jean de Brébeuf to the Hurons

and was sung as a carol in the Huron language for over a hundred years. Father Brébeuf was a Jesuit missionary for twenty-two years among the Huron people and was killed during an Iroquois raid in 1649. The carol was translated into French and then into English in 1926 by J. E. Middleton.

Father Brébeuf tells of Jesus' birth in terms the Hurons could understand, knowing they would not be able to comprehend shepherds and wise men. The Huron Carol refers to the shepherds who visited Jesus at His birth as hunting Indian braves, and the wise men as neighboring Indian chiefs from other tribes. The gifts they bring to the child are fox and rabbit pelts instead of gold and myrrh. Jesus was wrapped in rabbit fur instead of swaddling clothes and the Huron God Gitchi Manitou sends angel choirs to earth. The illustrations drawn by Frances Tyrrell are very beautifully done and also authentic to the tribal dress and customs of the Hurons and other tribes. All people are pictured as Indians and the animals throughout the book are native to the Canadian area.

I feel this book wonderfully provides a way for other cultures to be included in the universal story of hope and love through the birth of Jesus Christ. Included in the back of the book is a detailed account of the story of the Huron Carol itself and how it came to be, and also the actual words and music to the carol. This book will be a beautiful addition to a library in that it will help provide for its readers an insight into one culture's view of the birth of Jesus.

Sherri Myers

Facts on File children's atlas, updated ed / David and Jill Wright. LCCN 00034060. New York : Checkmark Books, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0816055815, \$18.95.

912. Atlases; Children's atlases; Geography. 1 atlas (96 p.) : col. ill., col. maps ; 30 cm.

Grades 4-6 / Rating : 4

The visual atlas *Facts on File Children's Atlas* by David and Jill Wright enables children to look at more than 30 separate nations and regions. Each section covers population, topography, culture, religion, and climate. The full-color maps and illustrations of people and places around the world make it easy for children to linger in its pages.

The succinct coverage offers children a lot in a short space, a reason some high schoolers will also be drawn to its pages. For example, when covering North America, two pages give a quick overview with two maps and two place photos. This is followed by two pages covering Canada; two devoted to the United States, and two each covering the Eastern US, Western US, Central America, and West Indies. The attractive layout and blending of maps, illustrations, photos, and blocks accentuating various aspects of a country or region give the reader eye-pleasing browsing

and intriguing information almost without realizing that one is reading.

Recommended for school and public libraries. This is a highly-to-be-considered purchase for small libraries needing to choose an atlas of help to a wide range of children.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

Chief : the life of Peter J. Ganci, a New York City firefighter / by Chris Ganci. LCCN 2002072816. New York : Orchard Books, 2003. Hardbound, ISBN 0439443865, \$16.95.

921 (363.37'092). Ganci, Peter J., 1946-2001;

Firefighters--United States--Biography; Fire extinction--New York (State). 40 p. ; 29 cm.

Grades 3-6 / Rating : 4

The life of Peter Ganci, chief of the New York City Fire Department at the time of his death in 2001, is told by his son, Chris Ganci. Ganci, born in Brooklyn, N.Y., first learned about fire fighting from an older friend, Tony Liotta, a fire fighter. Volunteer fire work and a stint in the army during the Vietnam conflict preceded his joining the FDNY in 1968. He rose through the ranks, earning promotions and a medal, and became chief of department in 1993. Despite the desk work required of chief, he still made time to be at the scene of big fires, including that of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. He was killed trying to help rescue his men after the collapse of the first tower, one of 343 firefighters killed that day.

Chief : the Life of Peter J. Ganci has the potential for a broad appeal. The subject, fire fighting, is of interest to many in its target audience. The 9/11 tragedy, after two years, is still a topic of interest and this profiles a hero of that day. The information, since it is written by Ganci's son, is most accurate and is interestingly presented, even attracting readers beyond the target ages. A details section at the end gives more information on items mentioned in the book, such as a firefighter's training, diet, and more. The illustrations are photos, many in full color, well-chosen and nicely reproduced. Since the collapse of the WTC figures prominently in it, the book will generate more interest the closer in time it is to that date or anniversary. However, the information on the life of a fire fighter provides good material for any time. The values demonstrated in Ganci's life—bravery, loyalty, duty, helpfulness—are among the very best. The book is well worth purchasing and reading.

Betsy Ruffin

Fanny Crosby : queen of gospel songs / Rebecca Davis. LCCN 2003008166. Greenville, S.C. : JourneyForth, 2003. Paperbound, ISBN 1579249701, \$6.49.

921 (811). Crosby, Fanny, 1820-1914; Hymn writers--United States--Biography; Poets, American--19th century--Biography; Blind--United States--Biography; Gospel music--History and criticism; Hymn writers; Poets, American; Blind; People with disabilities; Women--Biography. 107 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 1-2 / Rating : 5

When Fanny Crosby was an infant, a quack doctor damaged her eyes so severely that for the rest of her life she could discern only light and some color. Before she was a year old her father died and her mother worked all day, leaving Fanny with her grandparents. Our awesome God protected this child and gave her a Grandma and Grandpa who had powerful faith in Him and determination to do His will in all things. Enveloped by her grandparents' faith and conviction as well as her mother's, Fanny grew up loving the Lord with all her being. She dedicated herself to the Lord when she was eight years old and immediately began writing poems to celebrate Him. From that moment on, there was no stopping the poetry of Fanny Crosby. The poet for presidents as well as paupers, Fanny Crosby lived until she was 95 years old, exemplifying a life lived for the Lord. By the time she passed away she had authored over 8,000 hymns under a variety of names.

In this biography, Rebecca Davis has distilled the salient facts surrounding Fanny Crosby's life and embroidered them with realistic dialogue in order to engage the young people for whom the book is written. Reading *Fanny Crosby : Queen of Gospel Songs*, children will realize that discernment and sight comes from more than just our physical eyes. Hopefully, this will prompt them to seek out some of her hymns by asking older grandparents and teachers. It is strictly a story biography though, without resources or a bibliography. Classical schools could well use this book as part of their music and poetry curricula and all libraries will benefit from having an accessible biography of this exceptionally gifted Christian woman. For a good resource for students interested in more information about Fanny Crosby, try http://www.cyberhymnal.org/bio/c/r/crosby_fj.htm.

Kelley Westenhoff

Marco Polo : to China and back / Steven Otfinoski. (Great explorations) LCCN 2002000068. New York : Benchmark Books, 2003. Library edition, ISBN 0761414800, \$19.95.

921 (915.04'2'092). Polo, Marco, 1254-1323?; Explorers; Voyages and travels; Asia--Description and travel; China--Description and travel. 77 p. : ill. (some col.), col. map ; 27 cm.

Grades 4-8 / Rating : 5

John Charles Fremont : pathfinder to the West / Harold Faber. (Great explorations) LCCN 2002018461. New York : Benchmark Books, 2003. Library edition, ISBN 0761414819, \$19.95.

921 (979'.02'092). Fremont, John Charles, 1813-1890; Explorers; West (U.S.)--Discovery and exploration. 79 p. : ill. (some col.), maps (some col.) ; 26 cm.

Grades 4-8 / Rating : 5

Sir Francis Drake : navigator and pirate / Earle Rice, Jr. (Great explorations) LCCN 2002003523. New York : Benchmark Books, 2003. Library edition, ISBN 0761414835, \$19.95.

921 (942.05'5'092). Drake, Francis, Sir, 1540?-1596; Explorers; Admirals; Voyages around the world; Great Britain--History, Naval--Tudors, 1485-1603; Great Britain--History--Elizabeth, 1558-1603. 76 p. : ill. (some col), col. maps ; 26 cm.

Grades 4-8 / Rating : 4

Reading about explorers has always been a favorite pastime of young scholars. Following their footsteps in maps, narratives, and illustrations provides the fodder for dreams. Explorers are, by nature, bold and curious. Using their stories to inspire young people is an admirable goal for any publisher. In this Great Explorations series, Benchmark Books has given its authors wide latitude in portrayal of their subjects leading to engaging, well documented biographies for this age group. Each book is lavishly illustrated through paintings and photographs. The appendices include bibliography, time-line, further research ideas, and source notes.

Marco Polo : to China and Back begins with young Marco, child of a Venetian merchant. Author Steven Otfinoski uses a deft hand to parse the tangled commerce and politics of Venice that made Marco's father and uncle take to the road when he was a child. The stories they returned with prompted Marco to go along on the next trip, leading to a lifetime of exploration and adventure. Rather than engaging in historical revisionism the author gives the Polos' mission of sharing Christianity its proper due. Sidebars highlight information about the Khan, the impact of Islam upon the regions they traversed, and social customs of the day. This volume should spark a life-long interest in Marco Polo in even armchair travelers.

John Charles Fremont is a nearly forgotten character of early western U.S. exploration. Thanks to Harold Faber's efforts, Fremont should not long remain in obscurity. Springing from dubious origins, Fremont was blessed with a confidence beyond his station in life and a will to thrive. His mercurial temperament led to sudden reverses in fortune throughout his life, which provide a colorful palette for the biographer, but a difficult one to portray accurately as well as tastefully for young students. Faber has done a masterful job of it in *John Charles Fremont : Pathfinder to the West*. The bold adventurer who eloped with a most powerful Senator's daughter is painted with all the warts on. The book discusses Fremont's court-martial and his role in the Civil War, but also clearly proclaims his excellence in his art of mapmaking and his courage in continuing west.

His wife's role in detailing and publicizing his story is woven throughout, showing a picture of a marriage that started with young passion and matured to an equal yoke.

Was Sir Francis Drake a pirate or a good guy? In a time when pirates are seen as loveable rogues and privateer means "the queen said okay," it is difficult to discern which side of the scale Francis Drake tips more heavily. No doubt a Spanish history book would paint him differently. Still, there is no argument that Drake was a brave explorer, mapping lands uncharted prior to the time he visited them. His story is one great adventure after another, as captured by author Earle Rice, Jr. in *Francis Drake : Navigator or Pirate*. Drake served his queen ably, enriching her coffers and holding back the Spanish tide. He was a virulent anti-Roman Catholic as clearly portrayed in this book. Elizabeth I's favorite sea dog, Drake had a colorful career on both sides of public opinion, knowing when to lie low and when to emerge leading a charge. In his lifetime he went from being a slave trader to a man who saw the escaped slaves of the New World as humans who deserved a chance for freedom. There is much to admire in Francis Drake, and much to learn from this book about him.

Kelley Westenhoff

Hana's suitcase / by Karen Levine. LCCN 2002027439. Morton Grove, Ill., Albert Whitman/ 2003. Paperbound, ISBN 0807531480, \$15.95.

921 (940.53'18'092). Brady, Hana; Ishioka, Fumiko; Tokyo Holocaust Education Resource Center; Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Czech Republic ; Czech Republic--History--1938-1945. vii, 111 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades 4-6 (7-8) / Rating : 5

Hana, a real Jewish girl who grew up in Czechoslovakia and died in a German concentration camp, makes *Hana's Suitcase* a dramatic, sorrowful story, which Karen Levine counterbalances with a more contemporary story set in Japan. Hana Brady and her brother, George, enjoyed a normal childhood until their parents' arrest during World War II. Eventually Hana and George also were deported to camps. Hana drew pictures during her incarceration, and kept her belongings in a brown suitcase. Though Hana didn't survive, the suitcase did, and became a centerpiece in a holocaust museum in Tokyo. Museum director Fumiko Ishioka resolves to discover Hana's story, a tortuous but amazing story of its own.

Hana's Story is a poignant and enrapturing true story of a child's short life, her strength of character, and the legacy found in her battered suitcase labeled waissenkind (orphan). Karen Levine perceptively and delicately relates the details that flesh out Hana's early childhood and the experiences she encountered as a Jew under German captivity. Fumiko Ishioka's quest to bring to light Hana's full story is as suspenseful

as a fictional mystery plot. The back-and-forth narration between Hana's life in the 1940s and Fumiko's involvement in contemporary Japan could create confusion for kids at first, but cleverly binds the two stories by the end. This is a lovely, sad, and educational book about the Holocaust that manages to have elements of a happy ending and will leave an impression on elementary through adult readers.

Karen Schmidt

***Mummies and pyramids* / Sam Taplin ; illustrated by John Woodcock ; designed by Stephanie Jones. Tulsa, Okla. : Usborne, 2003. Paperbound, ISBN 0794503179, \$8.95.**

932. Mummies; Pyramids. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 2-5 / Rating : 3

Mummies & Pyramids is a feast for the Egypt enthusiast. Twenty-one two-page spreads cover topics from the Egyptian afterlife to mummies around the world. Sam Taplin presents the material coherently and the countless photographs are striking and appropriately labeled. Still, this book does not stand out from other books on the subject except for its internet quicklinks. The entry to the quicklinks is through an Usborne website which contains appropriate internet safety cautions as well as opportunities to review other Usborne books for purchase. I viewed the 20 links from this book via the Usborne portal. They are for many different websites, mostly from museums or reputable sources (PBS, National Geographic, Discovery Channel). At least two links had advertising banners for a commercial book company. One link, for animal mummification, was to a website appealing for funds for this practice and one link came up "no longer available." Waiting for pages heavy with graphics to load in an earlier experiment with a 28.8 modem was frustrating. This time using DSL was better.

So, is the internet link a gimmick or a valid attempt to give this internet-generation some parameters for useful research? It is difficult to say. Usborne should be lauded for trying to provide a quality filter for the material on the web and for maintaining their links. Older students may benefit from being directed to the sites where the information is current and quotable, thus avoiding a lot of the Internet garbage. Finally, although Usborne asserts the book is "an outstanding conventional reference book without using the Internet at all," without any kind of bibliography or section on further reading, this is just another eye-wateringly beautiful Usborne book. In a contest between this and a similar book containing a bibliography, Usborne would lose my library funds.

Kelley Westenhoff

***Japan* / Robert Reiser. (Discovering cultures) LCCN 2001007459. New York : Benchmark Books, 2003. Library edition, ISBN 0761411771, \$16.95.**

952. Japan. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

***France* / Margaret Gay Malone. (Discovering cultures) LCCN 2001007454. Tarrytown, N.Y., Benchmark Books, 2003. Library edition, ISBN 076141178X, \$16.95.**

944. France. 48 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 24 cm.

***Italy* / Margaret Gay Malone. (Discovering cultures) LCCN 2001007458. Tarrytown, N.Y., Benchmark Books, 2003. Library edition, ISBN 0761411763, \$16.95.**

945. Italy. 48 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 24 cm.

Grades 2-4 / Rating : 4

These books in the Discovering Cultures series continue the theme of the earlier volumes celebrating what is special about each country covered. Opening with identification of the geographic location of the subject country, the first chapter also provides climate information. The second chapter focuses on what makes that country unique. These authors identify Japan's unique asset as teamwork, France's as *joie de vivre* (joy of life), and Italy's as embrace of family. Each book has excellent photographs clearly captioned. The book on Japan is particularly good, showing the interaction of the generations through photographs. Both the Italy and France books show many photographs illustrating Roman Catholicism as important to the countries' traditions and holidays. American students will be horrified to learn that the children in all three countries go to school on Saturday as well! Highlight pages in each book include recipes (Baked Ziti, Crème au Chocolate, and Yakitori), national sports, unique cultural features, and costumes.

Each of these books provide a beginning researcher a good taste of the subject at hand. Additionally, they all conclude with counting in the country's language, a page about the country's money, and some short biographies of famous natives. A glossary, bibliography, and index follow. These are good for a collection needing specific country resources for grades 2-4.

Kelley Westenhoff

***Smart about the fifty states* / written and illustrated by Jon Buller ... [et al.]. (Smart about history) LCCN 2003005961. New York : Grosset & Dunlap, 2003. Paperbound, ISBN 0448431319, \$5.99.**

973. U.S. states--Miscellanea.; United States--Miscellanea. 64 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 23 cm.

Grades 2-3 (4-5) / Rating : 4

Written and illustrated as if it were a class project, *Smart About the Fifty States* is a general introduction to each of the states in the U.S.,

plus Washington D.C. Each of the writers write and draw as one of the five students doing a project. Listed in alphabetical order, each state has a map, lines listing its nickname and capital, and a paragraph telling interesting facts about the state. Each hand-drawn map includes pictures and sidebars giving more information on the state. A bibliography at the end gives the source books used in the "report." Extra material included tells about some of the different flags of the U.S., how our country grew, and lists all presidents through number 43, George W. Bush.

The book will make a good introduction to the states for elementary students and might be particularly good for reluctant readers or those with reading problems. Each page has simple and brief text with lots of graphics. The quality of the material given is good and up-to-date, though light and easy in tone and choices. Only general facts and items of interest to elementary age students are used. The full-color illustrations are appropriate for the format, that of a class project. Crayons, markers, and pencils seem to have been used, as if a student illustrated a report. The book has plenty to engage the interest of students and gives a good overview of the subject.

Betsy Ruffin

Award-Winning Titles

Are they right for a Christian library?

With this issue, CLJ begins to look at Newbery and Caldecott winners from a Christian point of view. Other award winners will follow.

Caldecott Medal: awarded annually by ALA to the artist of the most distinguished picture book for children.

Newbery Medal: awarded annually by ALA to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.

★

The snowy day / Ezra Jack Keats. LCCN 96151342. New York : Viking, 1996. Board Book, ISBN 0670867330, \$7.00.

E. African Americans--Fiction; Snow--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 14 x 15 cm. Grades PS-2 / Rating : *5

The 1963 Caldecott Medal winner, *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats, reaches out and touches the child in all of us. Using illustrations that combine watercolor and collage, Keats shows and tells the story of how Peter, a young African-American boy, awakens one morning to a winter wonderland. Peter can hardly wait until breakfast is over to go outside and play in the crisply cold landscape and is enthralled by the footprints and stick tracks he leaves in the snow. A snowball fight, making snow angels, and sliding down a snow-packed hill add to his adventures. Finally, he packs a snowball into his pocket to save for the next day and goes home. Peter's mom helps him get warm, bathed, and dry for bedtime. His disappointment the next morning about the melted snowball in his pocket is not long-lived, as new snowflakes begin to fall, calling him into another day of fun-filled adventures.

This classic is as squeaky clean as the newly fallen snow, yet continues in fresh appeal to generation after generation of young readers. Pastel colors mix with brights to create three-dimensional illustrations. The reader draws a sense of security from the warm, caring relationship obvious in the brief encounter seen between Peter and his mom, as well as from the gentle, non-violent adventures he experiences. An African-American protagonist was quite novel for the timeframe, and, even then, reminded the reader that love comes in all shapes, sizes, and colors. Highly recommended for all libraries.

Kim Harris

The matchlock gun / by Walter D. Edmonds ; illustrated by Paul Lantz. LCCN 88032471. New York : Paperstar, 1998. Paperbound, ISBN 0698116801, \$5.99.

F. United States--History--French and Indian War, 1755-1763--Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life--New York (State)--Fiction; Courage--Fiction. xi, 62 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Grades 1-3 / Rating : 5

It is 1757 and ten-year-old Edward Van Alstyne lives with his parents and his younger sister Trudy on the North American frontier. Over their fireplace hangs a magnificent old Spanish matchlock gun, with beautiful tracery, that his great-grandfather brought from Holland. Edward loves the gun for its beauty and size and is always disappointed when his father takes the musket to militia duty instead. Before he leaves one night for duty, Edward's father takes the gun down to show Edward its cumbersome nature. Fortunately, Edward pays close attention, because while his father is away, Indians attack their cabin. Edward's knowledge of how to fire the gun, his mother's bravery, and Edward's strict obedience to his mother's instructions save their lives.

Although the events of this true story happened nearly 250 years ago, Walter Edmonds' storytelling skills make it as relevant and exciting as if it happened last year. Reading these old stories of courage help children today to keep their own fears in perspective and may help them think of creative ways to exhibit courage themselves. In *The Matchlock Gun* the author shows how the bond of trust between parents and children, as well as the obedience that is an outgrowth of that trust, is essential to their well-being.

Pencil illustrations by Paul Lantz vary between charming, making the mother and children look like Hummel figurines, and frightening, showing the Indians looking as scary as they would have been to Edward.

The foreword is best read afterward so the reader can place this exciting story in its historical context; a trip to the atlas would help place it in geographical context as well.

Kelley Westenhoff

Crispin : the cross of lead / Avi. LCCN 2001051829. New York : Hyperion Books for Children, 2002. Hardbound, 0786808284, \$15.99.

F. Identity--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Middle Ages--Fiction; Great Britain--History--Edward III, 1327-1377--Fiction. 262 p. ; 24 cm. Grades 5-10 / Rating : 5

In a fourteenth-century English village, Crispin, known only as Asta's son, buries his mother and struggles to understand why, at thirteen, he must pay a death tax that will leave him even poorer than before. Befriended by the village priest who promises to reveal the secret behind his birth and explain the writing on the cross of lead Crispin finds in his mother's meager effects, Crispin finds himself involved in intrigue, lust for wealth and inheritance, and hunted as a "wolf's head," a term meaning that he could be killed by anyone. Then the priest is killed before he can reveal his information. Fleeing his own village to escape a wrongful murder charge after discovering the body of the priest, Crispin takes to the road only to encounter a huge man named Bear, a juggler, who forces him to become his servant. Bear himself knows what it is to be hunted because of his own intrigues against the nobility, and as Crispin spends time with Bear, he becomes aware that peasant though he is, he still has choices to make and can be master of

his fate. The mystery surrounding his birth makes him unwanted and dangerous in the shire where he lived and a threat to the family in the manor. Bear, while watching out for Crispin, also manages to stir up trouble because of advocating changes in the government with more rights for the peasants. Together they watch out for one another.

The intrigues and action will keep readers turning the pages as Avi's tale paints a vivid picture of England in the 1300s, the plight of the peasants, power and corruption of the nobility, and the grimness of the feudal system that will sweep the reader along to the story's conclusion with its interesting turn of events. Readers will be waiting for a sequel. Short chapters told in first person have the feel of illuminated manuscripts. Newbery Medal for children's literature, 2003.

Leslie Greaves Radloff

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***The true confessions of Charlotte Doyle / Avi ; decorations by Ruth E. Murray.* LCCN 90030624. New York : Orchard Books, 1990. Hardbound, 053105893X, \$18.95.**

F. Mutiny--Fiction; Sex role--Fiction; Sea stories. 215 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 6-8 / Rating : 5

Charlotte couldn't believe it had come to this. Never had she thought that her voyage home would end with Captain Jaggery's words still echoing in her ears, "Within twenty-four hours you shall be hanged until you are dead."

You may be wondering what crime merits hanging a thirteen-year-old girl, and how she came to commit such a horrible act. But she didn't do it! As Charlotte began her trip, she was fresh from the Barrington School for Better Girls, a proper young lady who minded her manners and obeyed her elders. She even admired Captain Jaggery, thinking him a true gentleman, much like her dear Papa. And she refused to pay any attention to the warnings given by Zachariah, the cook, or any of the others, not understanding what importance Zachariah's words would have. "A ship, Miss Doyle, is a nation of its own." How could a ship captained by Mr. Jaggery be a dangerous place?

But that was before she learned about Captain Jaggery's reputation as a master no sailor wanted to work under, before she learned that this crew had signed on with only one intent : revenge! Even then she couldn't distrust him, and was even the one who revealed to him the crew's plans to mutiny. Then she did something she never thought herself capable of. She joined the crew!

They didn't want her at first. They didn't see how a young lady could do the grueling work required to run the Seahawk. But Charlotte could be stubborn and in the end, won them over. Captain Jaggery tried to revoke her

choice, of course, but once he saw that she would not be swayed, he resolved to treat her like the others, except maybe more cruelly.

All that ended the night of the hurricane. Any other captain would have tried to sail around it, but Captain Jaggery set a course directly through it. It was up into that maelstrom they all went, to cut away sails before they could snap off the masts and send the crew to the bottom of the sea. It was the most terrifying experience of Charlotte's life. But an even more terrifying experience was about to overtake her as the storm lessened and she climbed down. The first mate, Mr. Hollybrass, was found under a pile of torn sails, with knife plunged deeply into his back!

Excitement, adventure, mystery are all encompassed in this thrilling historical fiction novel written by well know children's author, Avi. *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* is intended for middle school young people and is an excellent read aloud for a classroom. And, of course, it has a wonderful twist at the end that leaves the reader wishing for more. It is well written and will appeal to both boys and girls. Newbery Honor Book, 1991.

Ceil Carey, Young Adult Public Librarian, Plano, Illinois. LTA, College of DuPage. Credits : Today's Libraries.

***Onion John / Joseph Krumgold ; illustrated by Symeon Shimin.* LCCN 59011395. New York : HarperTrophy, 1959. Paperbound, 064401448, \$8.99.**

F. Fathers and sons--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction. 248 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades 5-7 / Rating : 5

In the 1960 Newbery Medal winner, *Onion John*, Andy Rusch leads an idyllic life. He works in his dad's hardware store, plays baseball, and hangs out with his friends. His father wants him to go to MIT and be an astronaut. One of Andy's best friends is the town eccentric, a man they call Onion John. Since Andy is the only one who can understand the benign eccentric's speech, the townspeople accept their friendship. One day Onion John's simple request for stronger door hinges at the hardware store leads to trouble. Seeing Onion John's needs, Mr. Rusch enthusiastically starts a movement to improve Onion John's life. The whole town jumps on the bandwagon. In his humility, simplicity, and desire to please, Onion John is incapable of stopping the relentless progress. Even Andy is caught up in the excitement until he realizes that what is happening to Onion John parallels his own life. Andy is caught between the love and respect he feels for his father and the anxiety of being overtaken by events.

This story by Joseph Krumgold is set in the late 1950's. Mr. Rusch and Andy have a warm, loving relationship and he wants only the best for Andy's future. Andy is amiable enough to go along and although he has vague feelings of discomfort, his respect and love for his father

keeps it quashed. In the generous spirit of the times, Mr. Rusch assumes that everyone wants improvement in their lives, and zealously sets out to provide it. The characters in the book are fully developed. Onion John is portrayed with humor and dignity, Mr. Rusch is a bewildered philanthropist, and Andy is a regular kid. The simplicity of the times might seem quaint to modern readers, yet this book resonates with goodness, warmth, humor, and the importance of doing the right thing.

Kelley Westenhoff

***The witch of Blackbird Pond / Elizabeth George Speare ; illustrations by Barry Moser.* LCCN 58011063. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2001. Hardbound, 0395071143, \$16.00.**

F. Puritans--Fiction; Witchcraft--Connecticut--Fiction; Prejudices--Fiction; Connecticut--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775--Fiction. 205 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 9-12 / Rating : 5, recommended with caution

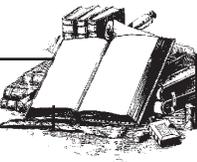
In this historical novel set in the Connecticut Colony of 1687, sixteen-year-old orphan Kit Tyler must leave the luxury of her grandfather's plantation in Barbados when he dies insolvent. Arriving in Connecticut, Kit casts herself upon the charity of her aunt and uncle Rachel and Matthew Wood, and her cousins Judith and Mercy.

One of the book's two skillfully interwoven subplots revolves around pairing up the three cousins with suitable suitors. The other more dramatic subplot arises from Kit's befriending the Quaker outcast, Hannah Tupper, the so-called witch of Blackbird Pond. Mob hysteria over false charges of witchcraft drives Hannah away, but Kit is left to deal with the capital charge of witchcraft.

By her kindness, courage, and unconventionality, the plain looking Kit gains her choice of the suitors while the beautiful but self-centered Judith must settle for the suitor Kit rejects. Indeed, Judith herself is rejected by the noble young divinity student for the crippled Mercy, an exemplar of the Puritan virtues he studies in books. Marriage itself is portrayed as a desirable goal and the unquestioned norm for sexual fulfillment.

On the other hand, Elizabeth Speare's humanist perspective values Emersonian self-reliance more than America's Christian heritage. Thus, Kit finds the strength and wisdom to overcome adversity by her affinity with Nature and the knowledge she finds within herself. Moreover, Speare makes light of witchcraft in the denouement when Kit's sailor suitor reveals to her that he has named his new ketch in her honor as--"The Witch."

David Haddon



ust between friends / Sandra Byrd. (The hidden diary; 3) LCCN 2001002566. Paperbound, 0764224824, \$4.99.

F. Dogs--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Santa Catalina Island (Calif.)--Fiction. 108 p.; 19 cm.

Take a bow / Sandra Byrd. (The hidden diary; 4) LCCN 2001002567. Paperbound, 0764224832, \$4.99.

F. Friendship--Fiction; Fear--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Santa Catalina Island (Calif.)--Fiction. 107 p.; 20 cm.

Pass it on / Sandra Byrd. (The hidden diary; 5) LCCN 2002002710. Paperbound, 0764224840, \$4.99.

F. Friendship--Fiction; Luck--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Santa Catalina Island (Calif.)--Fiction. 104 p.; 20 cm.

Change of heart / Sandra Byrd. (The hidden diary; 6) LCCN 2002002711. Paperbound, 0764224859, \$4.99.

F. Friendship--Fiction; Camps--Fiction; Secrets--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Santa Catalina Island (Calif.)--Fiction. 105 p.; 20 cm.

Take a chance / Sandra Byrd. (The hidden diary; 7) LCCN 2002008837. Paperbound, 0764224867, \$4.99.

F. Horses--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Santa Catalina Island (Calif.)--Fiction. 105 p.; 20 cm.

One plus one / Sandra Byrd. (The hidden diary; 8) LCCN 2002009661. Paperbound, 0764224875, \$4.99.

F. Friendship--Fiction; Bicycles and bicycling--Fiction; Sisters--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Santa Catalina Island (Calif.)--Fiction. 106 p.; 20 cm.

Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2001-2002.

Grades 4-7 / Rating : 4

Sandra Byrd's middle school fiction series, The Hidden Diary (which began in *Cross My Heart* and continued in *Make A Wish* (CLJ, Fall 2001), stars Serena Romero and her best friend, Lucy Larson, summer visitors to Santa Catalina Island, California. At the start of the series, they find a diary that was written during the summer of 1932 by Serena's great-grandmother (also named Serena) and her best friend, Mary, and they decide to spend their own summer copying, week by week, the adventures that Mary and the first Serena write about in the diary (which they dub "Diary Deeds"). Each book in the series introduces that week's Diary Deed, tells whether the girls carried it out or not, and what happened along the way, ending with a Bible verse that applies to that book's story.

In *Just Between Friends* (Matt. 18:20), Lucy and Serena find a lost dog and decide to befriend her while they search for her owner. When the dog

turns out to be pregnant, who will pay for the vet bill and where will all the puppies end up?

Take a Bow (Isaiah 40:8) makes the girls face their biggest fears as they live through a trip to Knott's Berry Farm and the Island Art Fair.

Pass It On (Jeremiah 17:10) takes the girls and their moms on a cruise, where Lucy struggles with what to do about a chain letter that threatens bad luck, and both girls plan secret good deeds for others as their diary deed.

In *Change of Heart* (Romans 12:2), the girls are off to camp. Lucy has to learn how to balance existing loyalties with new ones, while deciding what to do when she stumbles across a fellow camper's closely held secret.

In *Take a Chance* (Luke 14:11), Lucy and Serena try to help save the Double C Ranch, while Lucy pursues her dream of riding a stallion, which doesn't turn out like she expected.

One Plus One (Philippians 4:19) features an annual tandem bike rally, in which all of Lucy's friends traditionally ride with their siblings. This leaves only-child Lucy, (who's always wanted a sibling) with no partner, but as she searches for a way to be part of the rally, she also learns to be open to whatever God may have in store for her.

The content of the Hidden Diary stories may be slight, but Byrd's use of the senses and of language make them fun to read, and may inspire readers to use more interesting similes and metaphors themselves, such as Byrd's "long black phone wires hung like licorice ropes between the houses;" "the eucalyptus trees lining the road smelled like chest rub;" "the grass around them hummed with a symphony of bugs;" and "summer sunlight covered her from top to toe like a dipped cone."

An additional attraction is the page in the back of each book that explains situations in Byrd's life that have inspired each book, gives a brief biography for her, and includes both her e-mail and postal addresses, so that readers can write to her.

Betty Winslow

Class ring / by Rosamund du Jardin. (A Tobey Heydon story ; 2) Philadelphia : Image Cascade, 2003. Paperbound, 1930009690, \$12.95.

F. Teenagers--Fiction; Family life--Fiction. 207 p.; 21 cm.

Grades 9-12 (6-8) / Rating : 4

Tobey Heydon, seventeen, is in love with two boys. Or at least she's infatuated with two boys. There's Brose Gilman, whose class ring Tobey wears, meaning they are going steady. Then there's Dick Allen, a college boy and neighbor. He starts romancing Tobey over Thanksgiving weekend, and Tobey can't resist his charms.

Image Cascade is publishing facsimile reprints of classic girls' books written by Lenora Mattingly Weber, Janet Lambert, and Sally Watson. They're also reprinting Rosamond du Jardin's novels, and *Class Ring* is Book #1 in du Jardin's Tobey Heydon series.

The series, a pleasantly-written look at life in the 1950s, is filled with malt shops, class proms, and romance. Tobey is headstrong, shallow, emotional, and firmly convinced the world revolves around her. In other words, she's a teenager. But she also has a good heart, is loyal, and is a girl modern teens can relate to.

Will these books appeal to all modern teens? Probably not. Although the main plot (jealous boyfriends; the longing to fit in) never go out of style, there's just enough "old-fashionedness" to turn off reluctant readers or readers used to the fast paced books of the 21st century. Still, girls who love to read, or those preferring character-driven novels, will enjoy reading about Tobey and her romantic dilemmas. The books are also funny, especially the subplot involving Tobey and her father's attempts to keep house in Mrs. Heydon's absence.

Some cautions : Tobey sometimes lies (but always confesses the lies). There's a scene where she and boyfriend Brose "wrestle" and kiss. Tobey's father is often described as "using some bad words" or making "loud profane exclamations" although no details are given. There's also an occasional 'gee' or 'gosh.' On the plus side : while Tobey makes mistakes, she always learns from them.

Rosemarie DiCristo

Monday Redux / Robert Favole. Las Vegas, Nev. : Flywheel Publishing, 2003. Hardbound, 1930826117, \$15.99.

F. School violence--Fiction. 189 p.; 23 cm.

Grades 7-12 / Rating : 3

Reginald "Rego" Poppel badly wishes he could begin the day over so he could do things differently. He replays in his mind how he would undo the damage caused by Lance, one of the kids he has grown up with. Lance, who has been mean ever since Rego can remember, takes

revenge on his school and guns down over a dozen people one Monday. Rego knows he could stop him given the opportunity, and when that opportunity comes Rego realizes that a "do over" doesn't necessarily change things for the better.

Monday Redux explores a complex contemporary issue with poignant drama, and with a spin of the surreal. School shootings are a wound upon the nation. As harsh as the subject is, author Robert Favole presents a story that draws a reader in to see if there really is a clear-cut answer to the question of "What if I could do it all over again?" Readers will go with a gamut of emotions as Rego lives, and relives a most horrible day in his life. Can one person make a difference? Can forethought of action really change things? These are questions *Monday Redux* explores. While there is some profanity, it is in context of the character and lends to the grittiness of the subject matter. There is also a website available for book discussion purposes, something a teacher might consider. For those who have read about the Columbine shootings this might be a book to consider, especially since it has an attached discussion format.

Pam Webb

***Escape from Botany Bay : the true story of Mary Bryant / Gerald & Loretta Hausman.* LCCN 2002035594. New York : Scholastic, 2003. Hardbound, 0439403278, \$16.95.**

F. Bryant, Mary, b. 1765--Fiction; Prisoners--Fiction; Survival--Fiction; Penal colonies--Australia; Australia--History--1788-1851--Fiction. 224 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 10-12 (8-9) / Rating : 4

Historical fiction firmly rooted in actual accounts, *Escape from Botany Bay* tells the gripping story of Mary Bryant, transported for life to Australia during the late 1700's for the crime of stealing a bonnet, and a few shillings. After months of debasing imprisonment, Mary sailed on board the first prison ship sent to recently discovered Australia. Common to many of the women who were transported, Mary's story is one of suffering, degradation, and predation by every male around her from her fellow prisoners to the Royal Marines. It is also one of triumph over circumstances. In Australia, Mary Bryant, still a prisoner, helps set up the First Colony, marries, has children, and joins and greatly abets a daring, successful escape from Australia.

Gerald and Loretta Hausman, co-authors of several popular teen books, let Mary Bryant tell her own story. Their research provides many gems of history and personal living throughout this story. All of Mary's experiences, from degradation and heartbreak to the growth of her abilities, independence and faith, are presented in a simple, forthright, sympathetic style that never becomes offensive or maudlin. The

problems Mary faced bear much relevancy to today's circumstances. Adult/student discussion about some of this book's content may be needed. Interesting introductory notes and an epilogue enhance this book. *Escape from Botany Bay* will be useful in English, history and social studies classes. It is recommended for all libraries and middle and high schools, as well as homeschoolers and families.

Donna Eggett

***The snow pony / Alison Lester.* LCCN 2002013388. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2003. Hardbound, 0618254048, \$15.00.**

F. Ponies--Fiction; Wild horses--Fiction; Ranching--Fiction; Rescues--Fiction; Australia--Fiction. 194 p. : ill., map ; 22 cm.

Grades 7-8 (6, 9) / Rating : 4

Set in Australia, this adventure/coming of age novel tells the story of teenager Dusty, her family, and her wonderful brumby, Snow Pony. Together Dusty and Snow Pony become stars in the local jumping arenas. Prolonged drought stresses this loving family almost to the breaking point. When lifethreatening danger takes the foreground, Dusty and Snow Pony's abilities are taxed almost to the limit.

Australian author Alison Lester provides the reader with a fascinating taste of Australiana. *Snow Pony*, set in the Snowy River area, contains beautiful landscape descriptions. Judeo/Christian morals are dominant. Dusty's loving family faces problems together, helping each other in many ways. As a counter-balance, a non-functional family is part of the cast. Difficulties handled acceptably and delicately include : alcoholism, threatened rape, dysfunctional parents. Good outcomes include the growth of understanding in the family, emotional and mental growth, friendship, and forgiveness. With atmosphere ranging from humor to fear, characters display believably human propensities. The plot catches the imagination as it gains momentum and plunges towards its denouement. Many Aussie slang words not immediately recognizable to the American reader are used throughout *Snow Pony*. A few swear words appear, but fit the context. An interesting and thought-provoking story on its own, the Australian setting makes this book even more worthwhile. Recommended for all libraries and schools.

Donna Eggett

***Hands across the moon / Jane G. Meyer.* LCCN 2003000208. Wheaton, Ill. : thirsty(?), 2003. Paperbound, 0842382860, \$10.99.**

F. Best friends--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Letters--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Ecuador--Fiction; Christian fiction. 197 p. ; 20 cm.

Grades 6-8 (7, 9) / Rating : 4

Best friends, Gretchen and Mia, are looking forward to spending their junior year of high school together, in California. When Gretchen's dad accepts a job in Ecuador, the girls overcome crushing disappointment by promising to regularly communicate with each other through letters. At first, their written words seem disjointed and sterile, but the letters soon become an opening for a more honest sharing of feelings than the girls have ever before experienced. Mia and Gretchen write to each other about disappointments with parents, boyfriends, future expectations, and even a near rape. They encourage each other and develop a deep and lasting friendship.

Jane G. Meyer uses the medium of good old-fashioned letter writing to journal this crucial time in two high school girls' lives. The letters become more and more like shared diary entries, as the girls gain confidence in each other's friendship, in spite of, or possibly because of, the miles separating them. In this second installment of the new line of books put out by Tyndale, geared to teen readers, quality is clearly defined. Similar to *Leslie's Journal* (Firefly Books, 2000) and Ann M. Martin's *California Diaries* (Scholastic), subject matter is meant for middle to older teens. However, Meyer is not overly graphic and is Christ-centered in her rendition of events. Recommended for Christian young adult collections and as a replacement for secular diary/journal type books.

Kim Harris

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***A time to love : stories from the Old Testament / written by Walter Dean Myers ; illustrated by Christopher Myers.* LCCN 2001043466. New York : Scholastic, 2002. Library edition, 0439220009, \$19.95.**

F. Bible--History of biblical events--Fiction.; Short stories. 144 p. ; 23 cm.

Grades 9-12 / Rating : *5

Delilah finds herself falling in love with Samson, the one person she must betray to save her family from poverty and certain death. Reuben cannot rid himself of the guilt of betraying his brother, even when Joseph freely forgives all of his brothers. The idea of personalizing Bible stories is not a new one. For many years different groups have tried to create various versions of the Bible that allow readers of all ages a clearer vision of biblical events.

A Time to Love by Walter Dean Myers is a collection of six short stories of Old Testament events highlighting the perspectives of ante-heroes and sidelined characters. Myers' books have received Newbery Honors, Coretta Scott King Awards, and the Michael J. Printz Award. His expertise is shown in the thoughtful and sensitive way he quickly sketches out figures

that the reader can easily bond with. Language, dialogue, and style of writing can be appreciated by ages ten and up. The Middle Eastern/African flavor to the full-page color illustrations adds an extra touch of realism to this riveting collection. Highly recommended for all libraries.

Kim Harris

Spellfall / Katherine Roberts. LCCN 2001017008. New York : Scholastic, 2003. Hardbound, 0439296536, \$15.95.

F. Magic--Fiction; Wizards--Fiction; Stepfamilies--Fiction; Fantasy. 250 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 6-10 / Rating : Not recommended

Spellfall lives up to its name as a book filled with magic, spells, animal "familiar", as well as good and evil Spell Lords. Katherine Roberts, a British born writer has, with her book one, *Songquest*, won the British 2000 Branford Boase Award for best new children's writer. She brings this second fantasy to life with her colorful images and exciting writing style. The reader is immediately thrust into a tale of good versus evil, always surrounded by the need for casting spells, be it to hide the truth from inquisitive eyes, or to create powerful control over those unfortunate enough to be caught by the evil Lord Hawk. The characters do grow in care toward each other, and discovering better ways to treat one another. There are traces of images that remind one of the Narnia tales, and Lord of the Rings series, as we find soultrees that live and possess the very Heart of life for Earthaven, plus bears, and unicorns that come to the rescue during the great battle of Opening. However, this "Opening" time is revealed as Halloween, and the entire story takes place with October 31st being the pivotal date.

Although the book would be an exciting read for young people, it gives the reader no redeeming spiritual qualities as far as Christian values are concerned. The "familiar," from spiders, mice, ravens, to magehounds, seem eerie and a bit disconcerting. Much of the story focuses on them, and when they are captured or tortured, the owner suffers and loses varying degrees of control over his own life, thoughts, and choices. The Standing Stone, the doorway into this other world, brings images of Stonehenge, and the Power of Thirteen becomes the all-powerful number of spellimages, controlled by the main Spell Lord only after his "familiar" eats and consumes the others' "familiar." The front cover picture is compelling for those who enjoy fantasy, yet I feel that the young reader could become too absorbed in all the occultic images and storyline presented. Not recommended.

Mary McKinney

The masquerade / Sarah Anne Sumpolec. (Becoming Beka series ; 1) LCCN 2003007125. Chicago : Moody, 2003. Paperbound, 0802464513, \$12.99.

F. Moving, Household--Fiction.; Friendship--Fiction.; High schools--Fiction.; Schools--Fiction.; Christian life--Fiction. 224 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 6-8 / Rating : 5

Sumpolec captures the essence of teen esteem uncertainties, lies and hidden agendas, and peer pressures. She also points the way to making choices that are wholesome and safe.

High school junior Beka recently lost her mother in a car accident. Because of dishonesty with her, Beka is left with guilt, which magnifies with her remaining family—father, older brother, and two younger sisters. Beka finds herself depressed and distanced from her family, her former friends at school, and the church people who care for her.

When an old friend invites her to participate in a school play and invites her to a house party where alcohol is served, Beka accepts. Unable to reach Beka, her father admits her to the hospital's psychiatric unit, hoping to find out what is bothering her and why she has shut out her family. There she comes clean and admits that she is not "born again" and that she has been living a lie. When she confesses to her father, things begin to turn around. A new girl at school and a boy who attended the first party Beka went to become good influences in her life. Teens will look forward to the second installment in the *Becoming Beka* Series.

Pam Webb

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Yankee boys at war / Steven L. Troncale. Frederick, Md. : PublishAmerica, 2003. Paperbound, 1592868797, \$16.95.

F. United States--History--War of 1812--Naval operations--Fiction. 171 p. ; 22 cm.

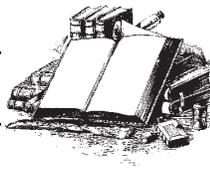
Grades 4-8 / Rating : *5

Matt, the son of a wealthy former navy officer finds himself aboard the *USS United States* very much against his will. His father believes his spoiled son needs a bit a discipline and signs him up as a cabin boy. Matt quickly learns his privileges on land have no value on a warship. He becomes the scapegoat of Boatswain's Mate Mr. McElroy; however, quartermaster Hunter Pickett takes young Matt under his wing and patiently molds him from pampered landlubber to seasoned sailor. Matt befriends a frail eight year old by the name of Bobby who is sold into the Navy's service as a powder monkey in order to help out his destitute family. The two boys get more than they bargain for when they and their shipmates become involved with Britain's navy in the War of 1812.

Steven Troncale's first book is an excellent historical novel for young readers. It captures in well-penned detail, life aboard a warship. There is also the riveting theme of friendship, honor, loyalty, and the passage of boyhood into manhood. *Yankee Boys of War* will interest those who teach about our country's early

struggles with England, and readers who seek adventure, historical fact, as well as true-to-life characters will be adding this book to their reading list.

Pam Webb



★

***Remembering the prophets of sacred scripture* / Marianna Mayer. LCCN 2002008631. New York : Phyllis Fogelman Books, 2003. Library edition, 0803727275, \$16.99.**

224'.092'. Prophets. 31 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.
Grades 5-9 / Rating : *5

A sumptuously illustrated picture book, *Remembering the Prophets of Sacred Scripture*, presents the Old Testament prophets by word and photos of antique art treasures. The introduction explains the position of prophet. Next, presenting briefly the life and message of each prophet, the non-writing prophets are introduced, followed by the writing prophets. The book progresses in chronological order. Each page is an illuminated manuscript illustrated with pictures pertinent to the subject. The last page contains a list of all the art credits, acknowledging famous museums, societies, scholars, and libraries from around the world.

The clear, bright illustrations of *Remembering the Prophets* provide a feast for the eyes. Pertinent, interesting, easily understood, short snippets of information about each prophet piques the curiosity for further research. Artist, designer, and author of many art books, Marianna Mayer describes most of the prophets as actual people with consistent messages. A few, for example Jonah, introduced as a parable, have problems presented as to their biography or writing. This book will be of interest to middle and high school art, history, and religion classes and to all libraries. It will be useful as a reference for projects, and as a gift or coffee table book.

Donna Eggett

***Generation Esther* / by Lisa Ryan. LCCN 2003012406. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2003. Paperbound, 1590521943, \$10.99.**

248.4'43. Esther, Queen of Persia; Girls--Religious life; Girls--Conduct of life. 158 p. ; 22 cm.
Grades 9-12 (Adult) / Rating : 4

Ryan has written a book to follow up on her first book *For Such a Time as This*. Many people reading that book wrote in to share their true life "Esther" moments. After reading them Ryan put together a few of the stories to edify readers. Stories from high profile women such as Rebecca St. James, Heather Mercer, and Dayna Curry are mixed with those of lesser known women who are making a difference in their world. Using quotes and facts from the persons

interviewed makes this a believable and useful book for young women and mothers.

Using short, powerful chapters Ryan makes it clear what it takes to be an Esther in this culture. The relevancy of the book is obvious from the introductory stories. Readers are encouraged to look around for other women who are following after the steps of the women in this book. The book adds to the understanding of the topic by providing examples pulled from today's papers. Many chapters provide the reader with information regarding the ministry highlighted in the chapter. Ryan is committed to the next generation of women and donates some of the proceeds of the book to Mercy Ministries. Women young and old will be encouraged and motivated to work in their societies. Classic Christian concepts are reinforced in the book.

Bianca Elliott

***A treasury of miracles for teens : true stories of God's presence today* / Karen Kingsbury. LCCN 2002117138. New York : Warner Books, 2003. Hardbound, 0446529621, \$12.95.**

248.8'3. Miracles--Anecdotes; Teenagers--Religious life. viii, 175 p. ; 20 cm.
Grades 10-12 / Rating : 5

While today's teenagers seem to find everything to question about their lives, the one thing they should find peace in is their relationship with God and His love for them. The stories in this book come from the lives of teenagers and it provides readers with the answers the teens have found.

One teenager saves the lives of two drowning young girls in the surf off south France only to return as an adult and find love with the youngest. An angel appears to a teenage driver warning her to stay awake, thereby saving her life and the life of her passenger.

Sixteen stories of miracles that are sure to inspire and edify; stories from the lives and hearts touched by the Father. These stories are included for their dramatic effects, of course, but also because the miracles written about will stir the hearts of the readers.

Dialogue between teenagers is realistic as are the attitudes and the inclination to see themselves as the center of their own universe. These stories are short, but character development is sufficient so that readers will find adequate points to relate. Ms. Kingsbury recognizes the importance of hearts open to God

and does an excellent job in presenting stories that will prick the heart.

Debby Willett

***Keepin' it real : a young teen talks with God* / Sandra McLeod Humphrey. LCCN 2002013718. Luna, Ohio : CSS Publishing, 2002. Paperbound, 0788019538, \$9.50.**

248.8'33. Teenage girls--Religious life; Christian life. 92 p. ; 21 cm.
Grades 7-10 / Rating : 4

This very down to earth account of a young lady's diary to God makes for a very encouraging read for young adults and parents alike. Her very negative view of God and life begins to gradually change as a very wise section leader in her junior high life group influences her. Young people will find that it's okay to express doubts and hurts to the Lord, as long as they keep a healthy balance, and stay open to what God might bring through every day life experiences. A very important lesson is learned about looking on the positive side rather than always expecting the worst.

Adults, and parents in particular, will benefit from seeing life from a young teen's view. Reading *Keepin' It Real* is convicting and encouraging, challenging and enlightening to all. The author Sandra Humphrey, doesn't glamorize the issues, but allows even "petty" concerns to be expressed and dealt with as important concerns to a young person. From hopes and dreams, to frustrations and critical issues, like parental divorce, all are faced and "talked" through with God, her trusted youth leader, and even her parents. The key to the growth expressed in this diary of a year in junior high, is the discovery that God is real! From this all-important foundation, the reader will also grow in faith and trust that can get them through the most difficult of situations. I recommend this for young adults and adults who have contact with young people.

Mary McKinney

***Authentic beauty* / Leslie Ludy. LCCN 2003005096. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2003. Paperbound, 1590522680, \$12.99.**

248.8'43. Young women--Religious life. 252 p. ; 21 cm.
Grades 9-12 / Rating : 4

A guidebook to Christian relationships and growth, *Authentic Beauty* speaks to the deepest longings of young women for real love and

romance. A young adult herself, Leslie Ludy, author of several popular books for youth, opens with her own story about growing up in a sneering world. She then introduces the true Prince, the authenticator of beauty, Jesus Christ. The reader enters a never-ending, life and world changing love story, illustrated with pertinent incidences from many young women's lives. Subjects examined include the set-apart life, outward lifestyle, warring against compromise, good versus debilitating intimacies, becoming Christ's princess. Several chapters deal with future husband applications. Included throughout the book are directions for relevant interaction between Ludy's website and this book.

Ludy pulls no punches in describing worldly sexual ideas, yet never loses a sense of propriety. Imbuing her words with the love she teaches, Ludy writes in contemporary language, using believable situations and guidelines applicable to a young woman's life. At times almost fairy tale like in tenor, *Authentic Beauty* holds to reality with true incidences, scriptural links, and relevant questions and hints for practical steps to living out each chapter's material. The preface makes a pertinent introductory chapter. *Authentic Beauty* closes with an intriguing bibliography of recommended reading and a listing of all scripture used. This book will interest all libraries and schools concerned with encouraging girls to live life at its best. Sunday school classes, youth clubs, and other groups will find the material fits readily into a series of lessons.

Donna Eggett

Church and state in America / Edwin S. Gaustad. 2nd ed. (Religion in American life) LCCN 2002156396. New York : Oxford, 2003. Library edition, 0195167384, \$28.00.

322.1'0973. Church and state.; Church and state--United States--History; Religion and state--United States--History; United States--Church history; United States--Religion. 173 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 9-12 (6-8) / Rating : 3

One in a series of books examining religion in American life, this book examines church and state issues. Beginning with the colonies and their religious beliefs, the book covers important topics, people, and issues to 2002. While remaining relatively unbiased, the book does include many non-Christian, non-Judeo beliefs and their position in the country. The material is cross referenced and reliable to the point of view of the writer. The book showcases the intolerance between Christians and non-Christians at various points of American history.

For students and teachers interested in the subject of the separation of church and state, this book provides the historical facts of the times and introduces the reader to principal characters and documents used for the decisions made. Full

and partial page reproductions of journals, Constitution, and Acts among other things allow the reader to see what was actually said. The chronology at the end of the book allows readers to see the progression of thought on this topic. It includes here and in the book the names of the cases which made it to the Supreme Court. The further reading pages are subcategorized into specific topics such as colonial and early national periods and Supreme Court decisions. The Supreme Court decisions section has notes and website addresses for further help. The index is detailed and helpful. Photographs are carefully selected to provide the exact point and the captions only enhance the point made in text and visual. The political cartoons, while few in number, are also carefully chosen for effective communication of points.

Bianca Elliott

Hate crimes / Tom Streissguth. (Library in a book) LCCN 2002155862. New York : Facts on File, 2003. Hardbound, 0816048797, \$45.00.

364.15. Hate crimes--United States. 316 p. ; 24 cm.
Grades 9-12 (Adult) / Rating : 4

Hate crime was born as an official statistical category in the United States with the 1990 Hate Crimes Statistical Act. Streissguth follows the development and discussion relating to hate crimes from then to the present. Appendices cover the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, advocacy and debate over pending legislation, identifying a hate crime, police response to hate crime incidents, the 2000 presidential candidates debate regarding hate crime, U.S. Dept of Justice programs and statistics, and a list of state hate crime statutes. The overview enables the high school student and general reader to gain a broad objective overview of the issues.

High school students researching this topic will find many of the essentials in this one volume, which also helpfully presents a list of organizations directly or indirectly concerned with hate-crimes related law, monitoring, data collection, lobbying, education, and prevention. Librarians and media coordinators may use this as an almanac of sorts on the subject for so many statistics, trends, events, and terms are covered with the precise focus of hate crimes.

Recommended for school and public libraries. Reference librarians may want this title as it covers so many helpful organizations and pointers to locate further information.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

Juvenile crime / Jeffrey Ferro. (Library in a book) LCCN 2002155861. New York : Facts on File, 2003. Hardbound, 0816050554, \$45.00.

364.36'0973. Juvenile delinquency--United States; Juvenile delinquents--United States. 316 p. ; 24 cm.

Grades 9-12 (Adult) / Rating : 4

Ferro provides an overview of juvenile offenders, their crimes, and the consequences. The reader is introduced to the evolving role of the child in society, theories and causes of delinquency, crime trends, and an overview of the juvenile justice system. A chronology chapter notes significant developments by time frame, while another focuses on concise biographies of important people affecting juvenile crime. Approximately one-third of the book offers pointers on how to research juvenile crime and juvenile justice issues and an annotated bibliography.

High school students researching this topic will likely find most of the essentials in this one volume. The research pointers enable them to find current and timely events or developments to make the report personal and local. Librarians and media coordinators may use this as an almanac of sorts on the subject for so many statistics, trends, events, and terms are covered with the precise focus of juvenile crime.

Recommended for school and public libraries. Where high school students do regular research, this is a must add title.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

The epic of Gilgamesh / written by Geraldine McCaughrean ; illustrated by David Parkins. LCCN 2003001086. Grand Rapids : Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2003. Hardbound, 0802852629, \$18.00.

398.2'0956702. Gilgamesh--Adaptations.; Gilgamesh.; Folklore--Iraq. 95 p. : col. ill. 27 cm.
Grades 9-12 (Adult) / Rating : 3

The ancient myth of Gilgamesh is retold by Geraldine McCaughrean, a multiple award winning British author. Her version is a free adaptation from a variety of translations. In 12 chapters, *Gilgamesh the Hero* tells of the fabled man's friends, love life, struggles, visions of the afterlife, and quest for understanding of life. As king of Uruk, Gilgamesh is friendless until he makes a strong bond with Enkidu the Wild Man. Together they set out to battle and successfully conquer the Evil One. Gilgamesh's spurning of Ishtar, goddess of love, results in drought and famine, which Gilgamesh again triumphs over by killing the Bull of Heaven. However, this act results in Enkidu's death. Alone, the Hero King seeks after immortality, hears the story of the Great Flood, survives his prolonged search, and finally grows wise.

This retelling of the enduring epic myth of Gilgamesh is graphic, blunt, and dramatic. David Parkins' heavy drawings ideally illustrate the text. Blood, vomit, battles, and clashes revolve through the story, as well as emotions of love, lust, fear, jealousy, pride, and malice. As a historical writing, the tale is fascinating. This version is suitable for teaching the upper levels

of high school, though there is a sexual scene as Enkidu encounters a naked woman and experiences a male's physical appetites for the first time. The art includes the back view of a seated nude female.

Karen Schmidt

The Facts on File algebra handbook / Deborah Todd. (The Facts on File science handbooks) LCCN 2002154644. New York : Facts on File, 2003. Hardbound, 0816047030, \$35.

512. Algebra--Handbooks, manuals, etc. 164 p. ; 25 cm.

Grades 9-12 (Adult) / Rating : 4

High school students can gain a broad overview of the basics of algebra in this handbook. The glossary of more than 350 entries clarifies definitions such as area, compound number, finite set, logarithm, operations, parabola, Pythagorean theorem, radius, and whole number. Biographies of more than 100 mathematicians from ancient times to the present are included, as is a chronology spanning nearly 4,000 years of algebra history.

High school students looking for help with particular algebraic concerns will find the diagrams accompanying some of the glossary entries helpful. In addition, the easy-to-understand explanations and commentary help to make algebra more accessible. The charts and tables provided are a help to students, e.g., absolute value, discontinuous graph, quadratic equations, and rate of gravity. Todd, whose work has received recognition in *Child Magazine's* "Best Software of the Year" and *U.S. News and World Report's* "Top 12 Titles of the Year" award, continues her helpful, easy to understand approach in this handbook.

Recommended for high school and public libraries. This work compliments those where connections among all the sciences are important. An index enables students to compare information across subject areas.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

A teen's guide to living drug-free / Bettie B. Youngs, Jennifer Leigh Youngs. LCCN 2002027397. Deerfield, Fla. : Health Communications, 2003. Paperbound, 0757300413, \$12.95.

613'.8. Teenagers--Drug use; Drug abuse; Narcotic addicts--Rehabilitation. xxvii, 339 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 9-12 (7-8, Adult) / Rating : 4

A comprehensive and practical book, *A Teen's Guide to Living Drug Free*, has information on subjects from saying no to staying clean. Divided into six units, the authors cover staying off drugs, helping others who are on drugs, stopping use, staying clean, dealing with a relapse, and journaling. End materials offer information on resources, the twelve steps (as in

Alcoholics Anonymous), suggested readings, and more. Each of the units begins with an essay from a teenager introducing the subject of that part. The chapters within the unit then cover various aspects of the idea, and each ends with questions for thought or discussion.

The book has the potential to be helpful to today's teens and young adults. Virtually all of them will face this issue in one or more of the ways covered by the units in the book. Special parts on questions for journaling and tables of narcotics with symptoms of abuse and withdrawal listed (though no reference is listed for information) provide more help. The authors seem knowledgeable. All have experience in working with teens; one is herself a recovering addict. So the book is written at a level that can reach and help its intended audience. It would also be a good reference for counselors, youth ministers, teachers, and others who work with teenagers to have on their shelves.

Betsy Ruffin

Daily life during the American Revolution / Dorothy Denneen Volo and James M. Volo. (Daily life through history series) LCCN 2002044842. Westport, Conn. : Greenwood Press, 2003. Hardbound, 0313318441, \$49.95.

973.3. United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Social aspects; United States--Social life and customs--1775-1783; United States--Social conditions--To 1865. 96 p. ; 32 cm.

Grades 7-12 / Rating : 5

How did the patriot army dress? What were women's roles? How large were the naval vessels of the day? How many loyalists were there really during the Revolution? Utilizing collections of personal letters, diaries, and journals of less prominent persons who lived through the war, the reader is given a glimpse into the daily life of those who lived during the Revolution.

The use of primary sources makes this a priceless resource. Students can probe various chapters independent of reading the entire volume, e.g., a chapter on what taxation without representation meant, or one focusing on generals of the armies, or the situation with food and forage, or even clothing and shelter.

Both Dorothy and James Volo are teachers and historians whose sensitivity in keeping to the facts and letting the sources speak for themselves gives this an honored place on library shelves.

Highly recommended for school and public libraries seeking to provide unbiased or original source explanations of this important time in American history. Each chapter provides notes enabling the researcher to expand individual points or facets provided in the shorter entries. Libraries carrying the *Volo's Daily Life on the*

Old Colonial Frontier (Greenwood Press, 2002) will find this a companion volume.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

Life and times in twentieth century America / by Media Projects, Inc. LCCN 2003044829. Westport, Conn. : Greenwood Press, 2003. Library edition, 5 v. set, 0313325715, \$200.00.

Vol 1 : Becoming a Modern Nation 1900-1920.

Vol 2 : Boom Times, Hard Times 1921-1940.

Vol 3 : Hot and Cold Wars 1941-1960.

Vol 4 : Troubled Times at Home 1961-1980.

Vol 5 : Promise and Change 1981-2000

973.91. United States--History--20th century; United States--Social life and customs--20th century; United States--Social conditions--20th century.

5 v. ; 144 p. each.

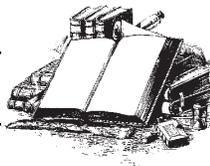
Grades 6-8 / Rating : 4

Written for students at the 6th to 8th grade reading levels, these five volumes trace in detail the ups and downs of the political and social history during the 20th century in America. Student are able to see how historical events impacted citizens' daily lives and can compare and contrast how various people and events influenced family life or education or work, or religion, or leisure, or health and technology, or fashion over time.

The use of photographs, charts, illustrations, sidebars and fact boxes, timelines, excerpts from primary documents, a spacious layout, and an index enable students to not only understand the commentary but have visual stimulation to notice some of the people and events.

Recommended for school libraries where students utilize study time to explore specific topics. Public libraries serving home schoolers and having elementary students who explore the history and social conditions of 20th century America will find these volumes ones students can readily use on their own.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding



***The breaking point : a novel* / Karen Ball. LCCN 2003001410. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2003. Paperbound, 1590520335, \$12.99.**

F. Married people--Fiction; Blizzards--Fiction; Oregon--Fiction; Christian fiction; Domestic fiction. 391 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

Gabe Roman was raised in an abusive family. His father was always drinking, and when he drank, he got violent. Gabe wants to find someone to love him unconditionally.

Renee was raised in the perfect family. They played together, they prayed together. And Renee wants a man just like her daddy.

Gabe and Renee's story is like many others today. Meet, fall in love, get married. Their lives are filled with constant ups and downs, arguments and troubles. The only end they see is separation.

Driving home from another miserable vacation, communication once again between them coming to a standstill, the embattled couple find themselves plunging off the mountainside during a blinding blizzard. Braving the weather, their feelings for each other, and a roving cougar, can they work as a team and find their beliefs in God to help them survive?

Romantic suspense readers will enjoy this new novel by Karen Ball. Ms. Ball uses flashbacks during the story that helps you learn more about her main characters, and why they are in their current situation. The story reminds us all that when we are sure God has given up on us, He is still there providing miracles.

Rick Estep

***Line of duty* / Terri Blackstock. (Newpointe 911 ; 5) LCCN 2003014625. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2003. Paperbound, 0310233348, \$12.99.**

F. Bombings--Fiction; Christian fiction.; Fire fighters--Fiction; Missing persons--Fiction; Mystery fiction; New Orleans (La.)--Fiction; Skyscrapers--Fiction; Women lawyers--Fiction. 384 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 3

Seasoned author Terri Blackstock pays tribute to the rescue workers who gave their lives on September 11, 2001, with her fifth book in the Newpointe 911 series, *Line of Duty*. When a bomb all but levels the Icon International Building hundreds of lives are affected, especially the dedicated rescue workers of New Orleans. The Newpointe firefighters become personally involved when it is learned that

firefighter Dan Nichols' wife, Jill, was in the building at the time of the blast. Intertwined with who planted the bombs, is the riveting story of Ashley, a rebellious teen, who needs to find her mother, and a better direction in life. As the book centers on the rescuers and the rescue efforts, it becomes clear many lives will be permanently affected by one person's need for revenge.

Blackstock is a talented, popular writer who has a dedicated following with her Sun Coast Chronicles suspense series, as well as her Newpointe 911 series. *Line of Duty* is a tag on to the Newpointe 911 series, as the author had originally intended to end the series with the fourth book, *Trial by Fire*, and this may have been a wiser decision. While the main plot line is strong, the initial focus on Jill, Dan and Ashley, some of the characters introduced and added into the story come off as stereotyped or lacking breadth of character development. The ending comes rushed and ties off too neatly to be truly satisfying. 9-11 may be still too close to actually read about a similar disaster in fiction form, yet Blackstock does fulfill her intention by paying a worthy tribute to lives of those who give, and gave so much in the line of duty.

Pam Webb

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***Crown of thorns : a Nick Barrett mystery* / Sigmund Brouwer. (Moving fiction) LCCN 2002012301. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2002. Hardbound, 0842330380, \$22.99.**

F. Cults--Fiction; Charleston (S.C.)--Fiction; Christian fiction; Suspense fiction. xii, 365 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12) / Rating : *5

Nick Barrett from *Out of the Shadows* returns in this suspense novel giving a glimpse of Charleston's dark side. When two elderly antique dealers ask Nick's help in tracing the ownership of a sixteenth-century painting, he crosses paths with Angel, a hardened and resourceful twelve-year-old determined to take care of her little sister. Investigating further, he encounters a mother desperate to free herself and her baby from a cult, while he struggles with living out his new-found faith. The words "crown of thorns" seem to tie things together, but how?

The plot begins on an intriguing note, and builds to a can't-put-down climax filled with twists and surprises. Despite that, the author portrays each scene unhurriedly, allowing readers to savor it while the suspense drives them onward.

Expertly drawn three-dimensional characters play their roles with clarity. The almost gothic mood of the novel is lightened by the main character's keen sense of dry humor. Angel's grandmother pretends to practice voodoo to protect her family and friends from the racist cult, and the cult itself twists the Bible to gain power through fear. Most powerful, though, is the message that God's love brings healing, but giving God's love heals even more.

Katie Hart

***Lies of the saints : a Nick Barrett mystery* / Sigmund Brouwer. (Moving fiction) LCCN 2003007989. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2003. Paperbound, 084236594X, \$12.99.**

F. Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina--Fiction; Military education--Fiction; College students--Fiction.; Hazing--Fiction.; Charleston (S.C.)--Fiction.; College stories. xiv, 293 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

College professor Nick Barrett aids a friend seriously injured in a near-fatal car crash. His friend, a private investigator, asks Barrett to continue looking into the disappearance of a former beauty queen, which happened years before. As Barrett searches for the truth, he finds a dubious connection between the disappearance and a deadly hazing incident that occurred at the Citadel. Barrett investigates, only to find himself sucked into a quagmire of deceit and death among Charleston high society. His trail leads him to an unlikely confrontation with his own faith and those responsible for the crimes.

Author Sigmund Brouwer delivers the third in the Nick Barrett series. *The Lies of Saints*, a psychological thriller, will keep the reader enmeshed in the action and connected to the characters. Brouwer weaves a credible tale developing enough twists to keep the reader guessing. Although Nick Barrett is a Christian, he at times is faced with his own questions about his faith. Realistic writing and adept storytelling combine to make this a must-read for mystery buffs.

Eileen Zygarricke

***Finding Alice* / Melody Carlson. LCCN 2003014018. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2003. Paperbound, 1578567734, \$12.99.**

F. Women college students--Fiction; Schizophrenics--Fiction; Psychological fiction; Domestic fiction. 375 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 3

Alice Laxton is a typical college senior when her world caves in on her. She begins having hallucinations and hearing voices. She quits her college classes and begins writing journals full of her thoughts. Her neighbors grow worried about her and notify her mother, who takes her home with her. Alice is put into a mental institution and escapes after she feels trapped. She wanders the streets for some time as a homeless person until she meets Faye, the "Cat Lady." Faye shows Alice the love of a kind, caring God unlike the God she has been taught to fear from childhood. Faye's nephew Simon works as a psychologist at a home for people with mental problems; he introduces Alice to the directors, the Goldens. They allow her to move into the home and she begins to get well.

Finding Alice is an intriguing look into one person's journey through the scary world of schizophrenia. Written in first-person, this contemporary book told the story of a young bright college student caught in a web that her mind doesn't want to release her from. Only with the help and love of several people she meets, does she begin to get well and become a productive citizen once again. Melody Carlson writes of schizophrenia to help others who find themselves caught in the same position, to let them know there is hope and help out there. I found a quiet strength in Alice that made me hope and pray for a happy ending to her terrible ordeal. Alice came to have faith and to trust God as the Master of her life and allowed him to guide her each day.

I would recommend this book to anyone dealing with mental illness or to others wishing to stretch their minds to look beyond what is considered "normal." There is an excellent resource list at the end of the book for anyone wishing further information about schizophrenia. It gives websites and phone numbers of national organizations and also reference books on schizophrenia.

Sherrí Myers

A case of bad taste / Lori Copeland. (A morning shade mystery) LCCN 2003001099. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2003. Paperbound, 084237115X, \$12.99.

F. Female friendship--Fiction; Women detectives--Fiction; Mystery fiction; Christian fiction; Humorous fiction. 277 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult / Rating : Not recommended

Widowed at sixty, Stella is grieving the death of her husband while trying to get over her writer's block on the novel she's writing. Her mother-in-law moves in with her, as does Stella's daughter, who has also lost her husband. As the three women try to come to grips with their new positions in life, they also must learn to get along with each other, despite their generational differences. Life in their little town of Morningside becomes more interesting when a

"burglar" begins breaking into homes—not to steal things, but to rearrange the furniture and do some redecorating. Stella uses this as the basis for her new novel, but ultimately decides to delete her book and become a ghostwriter for an author whose book will have more of a spiritual impact on other peoples' lives.

While many of Lori Copland's books are well written and enjoyable, readers will find *A Case of Bad Taste* disappointing. The plot lacks focus and energy, and is repetitive. The characters are ill-developed, and the mystery aspect of the story does not hold interest because it's all given to the reader as third-hand information. The solution of the mystery is anticlimactic, and mentioned almost as an afterthought. The book does contain some spiritual lessons, but even they feel contrived. Not recommended.

Sherrí Beeler

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They shall see God / Athol Dickson. LCCN 2001008485. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2002. Paperbound, 0842352929, \$11.99.

F. Witnesses--Crimes against--Fiction.; Female friendship--Fiction.; New Orleans (La.)--Fiction.; Belief and doubt--Fiction.; Christian women--Fiction.; Jewish women--Fiction.; Women rabbis--Fiction.; Suspense fiction; Religious fiction; Jewish fiction. xii, 439 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12) / Rating : *5

This suspense novel portrays a Christian widow and a female rabbi who seem to have little in common. As children they were best friends until the day an evangelist was murdered and their testimony sent a Jewish man to prison. The killer is now out, and people connected with the trial are dying in bizarre ways. Kate and Ruth slowly try to reach past childhood misunderstandings and ancient hatred to find out the truth—and save their lives.

The plot unfurls masterfully, beginning with pieces you can't quite connect, but the pulsing action draws you in. Past events are revealed in little chunks, creating a natural curiosity that, coupled with the finely-tuned suspense, keeps the pages turning. The characters unfold with the plot, showing first their present lives, and gradually revealing motives and memories. The sense of place is acute in each separate scene, but vague in portraying the city of New Orleans, and dialog is lean, meaningful, and at times wrought with hidden humor. Athol Dickson offers an insightful glimpse into the Jewish world—customs, habits, and feelings toward Christians—based on lessons learned from his Jewish friends, and shows the unexpected influence anger can have on others.

Violence—the murders are written in detail, but the focus is the characters' emotions.

Outstanding book—for a perfect blend of suspense with a powerful message of love.

Katie Hart

Boo! : a novel / Rene Gutteridge. LCCN 2003007287. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook Press, 2003. Paperbound, 1578565731, \$11.99.

F. Fiction--Authorship; Novelists--Fiction; Indiana--Fiction; Tourism--Fiction; Christian fiction; Humorous fiction; Love stories. 299 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 3

"Nothing ever happens in Skary." Or so the locals of this small Indiana town think until horror novelist Wolfe Boone (Boo) moves to town. For sixteen years, the town has thrived off of their favorite citizen by creating a tourist trap for the dark side. When he quits writing the books that have made them all so famous, and turns his attention to Ainsley Parker, a scheme is plotted to put the fright back into Skary, and get him out of love and back into the thrill business. Ainsley sets out to discover what's really behind Boo's change of heart and somehow manages to lose hers in the process.

A light read, Gutteridge paints a romantic and often humorous tale of the lengths the townsfolk will go to get their town back in order. This book helps you to see the importance of seeing past other's reputations, and allows you a brief chance to hear the sound of your own laughter.

Rick Estep

Troubled waters : a novel / Rene Gutteridge. LCCN 2002152463. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Paperbound, 0764226444, \$12.99.

F. Women television journalists--Fiction.; Parent and adult child--Fiction.; Mothers and daughters--Fiction.; Fathers--Death--Fiction.; Christian fiction.; Love stories. 392 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 3

Troubled Waters is the second novel of author Nancy Gutteridge. Set in Kansas, Macey Steigle returns home after her father's death, simply to be there for a few days for her mother, and then return to her high powered job as a television news anchor in Dallas. She has been away for seventeen years and the reason for her abrupt departure has been a well kept secret since then—and that is where she intends it to remain. But her brief stay produces more questions than answers in her life, and she begins to feel her inner self unravel and her memories take her back to the reasons she left in the first place.

The theme of *Troubled Waters* is forgiveness—forgiveness that takes many forms. Forgiveness of past wrongs, forgiveness of self, allowing God's forgiveness to wash over and cleanse you. Although the plot and characterization may be somewhat predictable, this is a wonderful story of characters struggling with healing and renewal. The individuals are real and readers

can see themselves in this portrayal of challenges to faith.

This is a good choice for high school students. They will appreciate the universal issues as well as the humor and realism in the way these issues are handled.

Ceil Carey, Young Adult Public Librarian, Plano, Illinois. LTA, College of DuPage. Credits : Today's Libraries.

***Steal away* / by Linda Hall. (Teri Blake-Addison mystery series ; 1) LCCN 2002156093. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2003. Paperbound, 1590520726, \$11.99.**

F. Absence and presumption of death--Fiction.; Private investigators--Maine--Fiction.; Spouses of clergy--Fiction.; Maine--Fiction.; Psychological fiction.; Christian fiction; Mystery fiction. 288 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

Hall, an excellent mystery writer, doles out clues that keep you guessing, creates characters that you love to hate, and fleshes out a protagonist you will love. Her characters have defects and strengths. Teri Blake-Addison works as a private investigator. Recently married to a widower who teaches college literature, one can sense her struggle with knowing she is loved and needed—both by her husband and God—and her uncertainties at living in the shadow of a dead wife. The mystery involves the death of Ellen, a well-known evangelist's wife, whose body did not surface after a sailing accident. The story takes place in Maine and on Grand Manan Island.

A story about wrong choices, readers may discover that Christians are imperfect and that some are genuine scoundrels. But they will also learn that forgiveness—even for seemingly impossible things—restores relationships. Several dangling threads need to be tied up in the next book in the series. We may be disappointed if Blake-Addison takes on a completely new case.

Helen Hunter

***Firstborn* / Robin Lee Hatcher. LCCN 2002006065. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2002. Paperbound, 084235557X, \$12.99.**

F. Illegitimate children--Fiction; Teenage pregnancy--Fiction; Adopted children--Fiction; Birthparents--Fiction; Christian fiction; Domestic fiction. xiii, 322 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12) / Rating : 4

In this contemporary novel, Erika Welby's hidden past comes crashing into her settled life when she receives a letter from the daughter she gave up for adoption nearly 22 years ago. While she is delighted to meet Kirsten, the news stuns her husband Steven, especially since his best friend Dallas fathered the girl. Feeling betrayed, he pulls away, hurting Erika. Dallas has looked forward to having children, but the arrival of a grown daughter he never knew about throws

him off balance, especially since his wife Paula is hostile toward the girl. Tensions rise as both couples find their marriages shaky.

Firstborn offers an in-depth look at marriage, showing young people that trust is essential and love is a choice. The issue of out-of-wedlock pregnancy is handled sensitively, and flashbacks allow readers to experience Erika's feelings about it. Relationships between the well-developed characters are key to this novel, and dialogue flows naturally. The story starts slowly, allowing the reader to get to know both families before Kirsten steps into their lives near the middle of the book. Hatcher easily establishes the mood of each home with a few well-placed sentences, and contrasts Christian homes and non-Christian. Also valuable is the portrayal of the destructibility of lies. Recommended as a character-driven novel that allows young people to see how the decisions of today affect tomorrow.

Katie Hart

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***The still of night* / by Kristin Heitzmann. LCCN 2003014245. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Paperbound, 076422607X, \$12.99.**

F. Illegitimate children--Fiction; Adopted children--Fiction; Birthparents--Fiction; First loves--Fiction; Christian fiction. 427 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12) / Rating : *5

Devastatingly handsome and incredibly rich, Morgan has everything that money can buy him, but he hides a secret pain with his unacknowledged alcohol abuse. Believing that his childhood sweetheart aborted their child conceived out of wedlock, Morgan is stunned to discover, fifteen years later, that Jill instead gave up their daughter, Kelsey, for adoption. He is both angry at Jill's deception, thrilled that Kelsey is alive, but devastated to learn that she has leukemia and will die without a bone marrow transplant from a matching donor. As Morgan reaches out to a needy foster boy, Todd, and renews a tenuous relationship with Jill, he is forced to confront his alcohol abuse; and through Kelsey's struggle to live, her sweet, unshakeable faith in Jesus has a strong spiritual impact on Jill and Morgan's lives.

Kristin Heitzmann has outdone herself in *The Still of Night*, sequel to her powerfully written *Rush of Wings*. Best read in sequence, *The Still of Night* is much like the first book : intensely interesting, with well-developed, characters who grapple with substantive spiritual and relational issues. The book deals frankly, but not graphically, with issues of lust, pre-marital sex, and alcoholism. It also deals with severe crisis of faith on Jill's part, as she doubts her very salvation, and questions her witness to her friends who are put off by Christ when it appears that Jill is no better off with Him than they are without Him. Heitzmann's novel digs deep and

is not afraid to tackle tough spiritual questions—nor does it provide easy answers; but it does show the ability of God to restore broken lives, despite great tragedy.

Sherri Beeler

***The fisherman* / Larry Huntsperger. LCCN 2002014975. Grand Rapids : Fleming H. Revell, 2003. Paperbound, 0800758447, \$12.99.**

F. Peter, the Apostle, Saint--Fiction; Jesus Christ--Fiction; Bible. N.T.--History of Biblical events--Fiction; Christian saints--Fiction; Apostles--Fiction; Biographical fiction; Christian fiction.

253 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12) / Rating : 4

On the surface, this biblical novel is the story of Simon Peter, told in first person, beginning when he starts hearing rumors about a man called Jesus. Actually, the book's focus centers on Jesus as seen through Peter's eyes. It is written resembling an informal Gospel, unfolding chronologically and emphasizing events important to Peter. You can almost picture him as an old man, writing out his memories of his beloved Master.

The suspense in this novel is subtle, especially for those who have read the Gospels frequently and so know "what happens next," but the author does a good job of making Peter a distinct character. The description of the setting is light, just enough to get a feel of Galilee while keeping the spotlight on Jesus. Although fiction, *The Fisherman* constantly adds insights on the character of Jesus as a man. But there are a few surprising twists, such as the choice of Judas to accompany Peter when Jesus sent them out two by two, or the pointing out of the political differences between Matthew and Simon the Zealot. Read *The Fisherman* leisurely, and prepare to have your eyes opened to see Jesus as God, yet a Man who wants to be your friend.

Katie Hart

***A journey by chance* / Sally John. (The other way home; 1) LCCN 2001043632. Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House, 2002. Paperbound, 0736908803, \$10.99.**

F. Women--Middle West--Fiction.; Middle West--Fiction.; Christian fiction.; Domestic fiction.; Love stories. 345 p. : map ; 21 cm.

***Just to see you smile* / Sally John. (The other way home; 3) LCCN 2002009617. Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House, 2003. Paperbound, 0736908838, \$10.99.**

F. Female friendship--Fiction.; Christian fiction.; Love stories. 363 p. : map ; 21 cm.

***The winding road home* / Sally John. (The other way home; 4) LCCN 2003001832. Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House, 2003. Paperbound, 0736911707, \$10.99.**

F. Women--Middle West--Fiction.; Female friendship--Fiction.; Middle West--Fiction.; Christian fiction. 371 p. : map ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

A Journey by Chance is a wonderfully moving book about Dr. Gina Philips, a veterinarian afraid to practice again after being injured by an elephant under her care, and Brady Olafsson, a best-selling Christian author. Gina visits Valley Oaks, Brady's hometown, for her cousin's wedding and is determined to leave as soon as it is over. Brady is to be her escort during the wedding ceremony and they have to spend much time together. Even though both fight the growing attraction each feels for the other, God's plan for their futures prevails in the end.

Just to See You Smile is a book with two love stories contained in its pages. Britte Olafsson is a high school teacher finding herself attracted to the new principal, Joel Kingsley, an ex-Marine. As Britte and Joel begin to open up to each other, Anne and Alec Sutton find themselves growing further apart with each passing day. With many life changes happening to them, they lose sight of the other's love and trust. Their marriage begins to crumble as they live their separate daily lives, until both realize just how much they really need each other.

The Winding Road Home takes us on another journey through the annals of love as we read about Kate Kilpatrick, a newspaper reporter in smalltown Valley Oaks determined to make it to the bigtime in Washington, D.C. However, she doesn't count on handsome Tanner Carlucci being part of God's plan for her life. Adele Chandler, Kate's landlady, is a single mom and plans on always being so. When God brings two strangers to live in Valley Oaks, one of them in the nursing home she directs, she begins to see God's ultimate plan for her life.

All three of these books remind us that we must always allow God to direct our life's paths and take control of every situation. These books were truly inspiring and I felt drawn closer to God myself after reading them. While not a necessary addition to a library, these books will definitely be appreciated by anyone who opens their pages and would be a blessing to the reader's life. All of the books in Sally John's *The Other Way Home Series* are filled with the wonderful story of God's love for us and also let us know no matter how bad things may seem, life is full of second chances and many surprises as we walk along the paths of our life's journey. When we have faith in God's wisdom and trust him to direct our paths, there is no limit to what can be achieved in our lives.

Sherri Myers

***A gathering place : a Cape Light novel / Thomas Kinkade & Katherine Spencer.* LCCN 2002042688. New York : Berkley Books, 2003. Hardbound, 0425190048, \$23.95.**

F. Cape Light (Imaginary place)--Fiction; City and town life--Fiction; New England--Fiction; Domestic fiction. vi, 360 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

Thomas Kinkade, renowned artist and Katherine Spencer have co-written *A Gathering Place*. Using a contemporary setting, the story looks in on the lives of several families in the town of Cape Light. Emily Warwick, mayor, must make difficult decisions in her personal and professional life. Emily's daughter, Sara, rooky journalist, deals with a series of choices, including who is the right man for her. The family of Rev. Ben Lewis deals with the mother's chronic depression. Editor-in-chief Dan Forbes must keep the family newspaper solvent in spite of reversals. The faithfulness of God shines in the lives of this community in this gently-written story.

Kinkade and Spencer approach this modern romance from a Christian perspective. The story is told with neither spectacular highs nor lows. Even the drama of an old man, confused and lost in bad weather, lacks an edge. The characters are defined and the personality traits fall in line. But, here again, the people don't move with vibrancy. Realistic in its sense of time and place, the village itself is believable. The dialogue, crafted to tell the narrative, does the job adequately. There are moments in *A Gathering Place* that remind the reader "God moves in His own time, not our time." (page 23).

Su Hagerty

***Till we have faces : a myth retold / C.S. Lewis.* LCCN 79024272. San Diego : Harcourt, 1984. Paperbound, 0156904365, \$14.00.**

F. Eros (Greek deity)--Fiction; Psyche (Greek deity)--Fiction; Fantasy fiction; Historical fiction; Fantastic fiction. 313 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12) / Rating : 5

Till We Have Faces is C.S. Lewis' retelling of a classic myth—with a twist toward believability. Princess Orual lives in the land of Glome with a Grecian slave ("the Fox") for a teacher and a violent king for a father. This king has no male heir, and though his last attempt at producing one is a beautiful child, young Istra is no male heir. Istra—"Psyche" in the Greek tongue of the Fox—is near to a goddess, and indeed the gods take note.

After Psyche grows to young womanhood Cupid schemes to whisk her away, and Orual is left without the child who had become the center of her existence. Cupid allows Orual to find Psyche, but Orual will have none of Psyche's madness about living in a divine palace. Orual

threatens to kill herself if Psyche will not give up her foolishness, and for love of Orual, Psyche disobeys her husband Cupid, who casts her from the divine land.

Orual never sees Psyche again except in dreams, and lives to become the well-loved queen of Glome. She lives, though, with a growing list of charges against those gods who took away her beloved sister.

Again the gods take note. Before Orual dies, they take up her charges, and Queen Orual learns the truth about her own depravity. This "moral of the story" is the real value of *Till We Have Faces*, and is its link to Lewis' other works. The incredible insight of Lewis' *Screwtape Letters* appears again with power as the reader watches Orual's whole life unfold and only in the end learns along with Orual the truth about her sin.

The gods' tacit counter-charge against Orual should indict every reader, but none will accuse Lewis of sneaking a sermon into his novel.

Mark L. Ward, Jr

***The Pilgrim song / Gilbert Morris. (The house of Winslow; 29)* LCCN 2002152601. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Paperbound, 076422638X, \$11.99.**

F. Winslow family (Fictitious characters)--Fiction.; Parent and adult child--Fiction.; Depressions--Fiction.; Widowers--Fiction.; Historical fiction.; Christian fiction; Domestic fiction. 316 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

An adventure/romance novel, *The Pilgrim Song* follows the fortunes of the Lewis Winslow family. Living affluently, riding a wave of high finance, Lewis, his daughters Jenny, Kat, and Hannah, and son, Joshua lose everything in the 1929 Stock Market crash. The Winslows know nothing about living on survival's edge. Aided only by their untried faith, and ex-jailbird, Clint, they trek from New York to Georgia to homestead on a run down farm.

A complete story in itself, *The Pilgrim Song* is the twenty ninth in pastor, English professor, and prolific author Gilbert Morris's *The House of Winslow Series*. Morris researches carefully, and enhances scenes with authentic detail. He believably handles the full gamut of human emotions from rollicking humor to deep, abiding sorrow. An interesting, easily read book, *The Pilgrim Song* has a straightforward and understandable plot culminating in a satisfying ending. Conversations and descriptions aptly fit the people and places in which they occur. Christianity is an integral part of the story, with characters maturing in their faith and life as the story progresses. Much of the historical detail included in this story corresponds to the underlying problems of today. The protagonists face these problems in ways recognizable to the reader. *The Pilgrim Song* has a strong message for people in our day. This book will be an asset

to Christian schools and libraries, as well as secular libraries.

Donna Eggett

***A place called Wiregrass* / Michael Morris. LCCN 2002512351. Tulsa, Okla. : River Oak Publishing, 2002. Paperbound, 1589199669, \$14.99.**

F. Abused wives--Fiction; Runaway wives--Fiction; Grandparent and child--Fiction; Alabama--Fiction; Domestic fiction. 359 p. : port. ; 23 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

Erma Lee is on the run from an abusive husband, an uncaring mother, and a job that seems to suck the very soul out of her. She takes her granddaughter, Cher, to the town of Wiregrass, Alabama, thinking here is a place she can escape. In Wiregrass she forms an unlikely friendship with a wealthy matriarch. One of the themes of *A Place Called Wiregrass* is the far-reaching influence of that woman, Miss Claudia. Miss Claudia has had many trials in her own life and failed miserably at times, yet this seems to enhance her godliness, rather than detract from it. Her mercy and caring for Erma Lee is what Erma needs to feel that life holds some promise—until Cher's convict father returns and all three women must face their pasts and buried secrets.

A Place Called Wiregrass is a realistic story written in an up-to-date setting with flawed but strong characters. Serious issues are covered but no pat answers are given. Rather characters are working out their lives and some are seeking the Lord's help.

Ceil Carey, Young Adult Public Librarian, Plano, Illinois. LTA, College of DuPage. Credits : Today's Libraries.

***Phoebe : a novella* / Diane Noble. LCCN 2003007139. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2003. Hardbound, 1578564018, \$12.99.**

F. Dolls--Fiction; Christian fiction. 156 p. ; 19 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 3

Phoebe is a historical fiction book with a hand carved doll cast as the main character and many side characters entering throughout the book. Phoebe begins her existence as a piece of wood that is carved into a little girl's doll by Sarah's pa while on a wagon train in 1857. Pa carves a portion of the Bible verse from Jeremiah 31:3 on Sarah's doll to always remind her of his love : "I will love you 4-ever." From there down through the next seven decades, we see Phoebe change hands several times. The doll blesses each of her owners in its own special way throughout her adventures. Phoebe crosses the country in a wagon train, is lost crossing a creek and is found by a little Pawnee girl, goes to war with a young soldier, comforts a grieving widow, is cherished by a pregnant young bride after being abandoned by her husband, and encourages a dyslexic little boy to learn to read.

Phoebe is a small book with a lot of love and hope in its pages. This was such a hard book to put down, and after turning the final page, I still wished for more. Diane Noble shows God's everlasting love for his children through *Phoebe*, and the story will encourage and uplift the reader. God shows his faithfulness and mercy to each of the well-rounded characters and the reader will be drawn very quickly into the time period of each of the characters. The tender sentimental feel of the story will benefit readers for many years to come.

Sherri Myers

***The fifth man* / by John B. Olson and Randall Ingermanson. LCCN 2002009659. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2002. Paperbound, 0764227327, \$12.99.**

F. Astronauts--Fiction.; Mars (Planet)--Fiction.; Life on other planets--Fiction.; Christian fiction.; Science fiction. 361 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

Valquerie, Bob, Kennedy, and Lex are on a mission to discover life on Mars. Enduring tight quarters, total lack of privacy, unwieldy equipment, and freeze-dried rations are worth the reward of discovering a new bacteria fossil. When their equipment suddenly appears to take on a life of its own, "Martian fever" hits them full force, a ghost seems to be haunting the ship, and their Earth contacts threaten to withdraw support, the crewmembers begin to wonder if they will ever reach Earth again. And, if so, will they be alive to tell about their adventures on Mars?

John B. Olson and Randall Ingermanson are destined to be names to look for in popular science fiction. The fact that they have also combined quality, non-denominational Christian morality with this genre is truly a treat. Similar in its gripping, non-stop entertainment to *Ender's Game* (Tor Books; Reprint, 1994), this sequel to *Oxygen* (Bethany House, 2001) is a thriller that will keep the reader guessing until the very end. Dialogue and characterization are well done and realistic. Mood and atmosphere are appropriate and carefully maintained for days spent on a foreign planet, where all of life is off-center. The reader is nearly tired out by the consistent intensity and plethora of unknowns. Highly recommended as an outstanding first pick for all science fiction collections.

Kim Harris

***Resurrection file* / Craig Parshall. (Chambers of justice; 1) LCCN 2001043634. Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House, 2002. Paperbound, 0736908471, \$11.99.**

F. Clergy--Fiction.; Chambers, Will (Fictitious character)--Fiction.; Christian fiction.; Legal stories. 392 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

In this first of the Chambers of Justice Series, attorney and author Craig Parshall combines biblical history with drama in *The Resurrection File*. Lawyer Will Chambers takes on the defense of a defamation and libel case against Angus McCameron, a fervent Christian who publishes a magazine on biblical truth. As facts emerge about a mysterious papyrus fragment of 2000-year old history, Chambers is sucked into an intricate conspiracy involving oil, the Middle East, political strivings, and the burial place of Jesus. Chambers doggedly pursues to the end the truth about the fragment and about Christ while wrestling with romantic feelings for McCameron's daughter.

The Resurrection File whets a reader's appetite for biblical history as well as more of Parshall's talented writing. Main character Will Chambers is well developed, as is McCameron. Other characters are a bit stereotyped yet still interestingly portrayed. Greed, corruption, power hunger, deception, and worldly living only serve to amplify the purity of the truth. Parshall weaves in Chambers' own questions about truth while realistically illustrating his steps toward faith. *The Resurrection File* is a well-written, enjoyable novel both for adults and older teens, as well as a potential tool for opening a dialogue about Christ with unbelievers.

Karen Schmidt

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***Written on the wind* / by Judith Pella. (Daughters of fortune; 1) LCCN 2001005585. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2002. Paperbound, 0764224212, \$13.99.**

F. World War, 1939-1945--Fiction.; Sisters--Fiction.; Hollywood (Los Angeles, Calif.)--Fiction.; Christian fiction.; War stories. 461 p. ; 23 cm.

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***Somewhere a song* / Judith Pella. (Daughters of fortune; 2) LCCN 2002010227. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2002. Hardbound, 0764227203, \$18.99.**

F. World War, 1939-1945--Women--Fiction.; Pearl Harbor (Hawaii), Attack on, 1941--Fiction.; Americans--Foreign countries--Fiction.; Newspaper publishing--Fiction.; Sisters--Fiction.; Christian fiction.; War stories. 427 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12) / Rating : *5

In *Written on the Wind*, the three Hayes sisters face struggles and love on the eve of America's entry into World War II. Cameron, a journalist, quits working for her difficult father and joins the competition. She is assigned to Russia, where the tragedies of war and a man named Alex threaten to break through her crusty façade. Meanwhile, fledgling actress Blair meets a handsome man of faith, and tries to snag

him by pretending she's a Christian, too, until the lie becomes more attractive than the truth. Peacemaker Jackie befriends a man of Japanese descent, but their growing relationship promises scorn.

Somewhere a Song begins as news of the attack on Pearl Harbor spreads around the world to the three Hayes sisters. Jackie deepens her relationship with Sam despite racial slurs. Blair has followed Gary to the Philippines trying to restore their marriage, but the Japanese have that as their next target. The resulting horrors test her as never before as she is forced to flee. Cameron's hopes are crushed as Alex renews his faith and chooses God over her, but her work as a journalist and her search for her Russian half-brother continue.

The suspense-filled plotlines of the three sisters entwine perfectly. Pella is a master storyteller who seems to know exactly when to change point of view to keep interest high. A few mild profanities are part of an army song in the book, and a couple of violent scenes show the horrors of wartime without excess detail. Some immoral situations are mentioned to give a picture of several unsaved characters' lifestyles, but no details are given. The characters are distinct and memorable, with a few similarities between the sisters showing their family bond. The precise historical background portrays three fronts of WWII, including cultural insights. While the dialogue is excellent, the insightful narrative is what truly makes these books keepers.

Katie Hart

***Beneath a harvest sky* / Tracie Peterson. (Desert roses ; 3) LCCN 2003001454. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Paperbound, 0764225197, \$12.99.**

F. Archaeological thefts--Fiction; Tour guides (Persons)--Fiction; New Mexico--Fiction; Romantic suspense fiction; Christian fiction. 381 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

Rainy has a heart for learning about and living among the Native Americans of the Southwest. She has sought solace, as well as work, with them from a past filled with disappointments and false accusations. She and her twin brother, Sonny, work as tour guides for the Harvey Company, gracefully putting up with everything from cranky passengers to childish infatuations. Rainy begins to fall in love with a man who has been commandeered to investigate her as a suspect in a series of robberies. When an old beau from her torrid past shows up on one of the tours, Rainy can no longer run from the truth and must turn to God as her only safe haven.

In this third installment to the Desert Roses series, Tracie Peterson has once again managed to develop a three-dimensional character who walks off the page and into the reader's heart. Peterson is known for her portrayals of strong,

intelligent female characters and historical romances with just a touch of mystery. She continues to achieve a fun story that is clean, and includes God, without a doctrinal bent. Her style of writing, though based in history, properly translates the mood and atmosphere of the times into enjoyable modern day entertainment. Although there are a few conversations that seem forced and stiff, predominately the dialogue and characters are skillfully developed in order to present a smoothly moving plot. Recommended for all historical romance collections.

Kim Harris

***A fragile design* / Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller. (Bells of Lowell ; 2) LCCN 2003002569. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Paperbound, 0764226894, \$12.99.**

F. Women--Massachusetts--Fiction; Women textile workers--Fiction; Textile industry--Fiction; Lowell (Mass.)--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction; Mystery fiction. 380 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

Bella and her friend, Daughtie, run away from the Shaker community in which they have grown up, drawn by the promise of good wages working in the mills of Lowell, Massachusetts. Upon becoming mill workers, the girls experience a world diverse from their previously protected environment. Among the rude, often uncaring people and dirty surroundings, they meet Taylor Manning, nephew to one of the town's gentry. Taylor is not used to being rejected by females and is completely bowled over by Bella's apparent lack of interest, bordering on belligerence, toward him. Meanwhile, the disappearance of young women of the area, including Bella, leads to the discovery and dismantling of a slave trafficking operation.

The second installment to the Bells of Lowell series, *A Fragile Design* by Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller is a slow moving, yet satisfying, gentle romance with a pinch of mystery and bid for women's rights. Set in early 1800's New England, the reality of squalid poverty and blatant prejudice are a fitting backdrop. Sassy banter between Bella and Taylor adds a humorous note to their budding romance, as well as lightening the mood. Peterson and Miller have managed to produce a style reminiscent of a squeaky clean Regency Romance. Although there are obvious references to the Shaker religion, doctrine is not made an issue. Dialogue is somewhat stilted, but era appropriate. Main characters are skillfully developed. Recommended as a second purchase for Christian adult and young adult romantic fiction collections.

Kim Harris

***And the shofar blew* / Francine Rivers. LCCN 2002156552. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2003. Hardbound, 0842365826, \$22.99.**

F. Church buildings--Design and construction--Fiction; Architects--Fiction; Clergy--Fiction; Christian fiction. 448 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

A shofar is an ancient musical instrument made from a ram's horn. Its main purpose was to sound a warning, which is exactly what Francine Rivers' newest contemporary fiction novel, *And the Shofar Blew*, is doing.

Paul Hudson is a young pastor whose spirit and passion for God seem just right to revive the dying Centerville Christian Church. When he decides to accept the position, he moves his family across the country to do the Lord's work. His newfangled ways seem a bit radical to the older generation parishioners, and some even threaten to leave the church when things are changed too much for their liking. But the pastor stands his ground, and eventually church attendance has increased so much that he adds an additional Sunday service. What the congregation doesn't see is what is happening in the pastor's home. Eunice, Paul's wife, has found more and more reason to seek God's face since her husband took this pastorate. Paul becomes so caught up in increasing attendance at the church that he nearly forgets that he has a family. Only Eunice can see that Paul is struggling to live up to and please his father, who has gained national recognition as a pastor, rather than please his Heavenly Father.

Francine's novel has hit the nail squarely on the head in regards to the "sensationalized" churches across America. She takes the reader through the sincere work for the Lord that can all too soon turn into self-glorification when our eyes are taken off of God. She is speaking out against the dangers of placing more importance on church attendance numbers than on spreading the gospel—which unfortunately is where many churches have turned. She effectively shows the reader what happens when you place more emphasis on the filled pew than on salvation. The novel is a page turner that leaves the reader wondering, "When is Paul going to see what he's doing?" with each turn of the page.

Her plot development is easy to follow, and well organized. The reader is never left wondering why something has happened. While the primary audience is adult, the content is relevant to teenagers.

Amanda Ottaway

***The living end* / Lisa Samson. LCCN 2003012045. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2003. Paperbound, 1578565979, \$12.99.**

F. Self-actualization (Psychology)--Fiction; Widows--fiction; Grief--Fiction; Psychological fiction; Christian fiction. 320 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

Pearly Laurel was married to the man of her dreams for thirty-five years until it comes to a devastating end when Joey has a heart attack. Pearly is left with the decision of whether or not to remove him from life-support and agonizingly decides to let him go. With Pearly's whole life having been Joey for most of her fifty-five years, she feels as if she cannot live without him. She decides to end her own life also, but she remembers a list Joey had made before he died. He had shown it to her the night he died and had entitled it "While I Live, I Want To.." and had listed several things he intended to do before he died. Pearly decides to fulfill the list for Joey and adds a few of her own wishes to the list. What happens during the fulfillment of the list will possibly convince her that life is still worth living... even without Joey.

The Living End is a thought-provoking contemporary work of fiction that will cause many readers to pause and reflect on their own lives and loves. Lisa Samson brings to life a widow's struggle to find a purpose in life after the loss of her beloved husband. It helps to shed light on the important things in life and reminds us of God's unending love for us even when we try to keep him at arm's length. I highly recommend this wonderful book to anyone in need of a gentle reminder to appreciate the things in life we so easily take for granted, most importantly our mates.

Sherrri Myers

Songbird / Lisa Samson. LCCN 2002038011. New York : Warner Books, 2003. Paperbound, 0446679313, \$12.95.

F. Television in religion--Fiction; Psychiatric hospital patients--Fiction; Mentally ill women--Fiction; Spouses of clergy--Fiction; Birthmothers--Fiction; Christian fiction; Domestic fiction. ix, 448 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

The wife of a popular televangelist, Charmaine Hopewell has spent her life building their ministry through hardship and sacrifice. Harlan Hopewell, her husband, has risen to popularity by speaking out against the "evils" of psychology and psychiatry. Charmaine, who has been searching for her mother since she was forced into the foster care system and abandoned at eleven years old, now finds her in a mental institution. Knowing that this can harm her husband's popularity, Charmaine decides to hide her own depression and the information that she has discovered. Should she continue to hide this family secret from the man that she loves, or should she force him into publicly supporting his wife in her time of need?

Lisa Samson shows us through this book that mental illness and/or depression is not a sign of weakness or of unresolved sin. She introduces us to characters that we can relate to, everyday

Christians like us who struggle with life everyday. She shows us that only through strength in Him can our days get brighter.

Rick Estep

Irreparable harm / Randy Singer. LCCN 20022155424. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2003. Paperbound, 1578566347, \$13.99.

F. Cloning--Fiction; Stem cells--Fiction; Attorney and client--Fiction. x, 421 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

Dr. Nathan Brown and his wife use in-vitro fertilization and a surrogate mother to achieve their long sought after pregnancy. While some of their cloned embryos are to be used for the pregnancy, others will be cryogenically preserved for future stem cell research. After Dr. Brown's death, and increased evidence that the baby has Down's Syndrome, Ms. Brown wants to force the abortion of the baby the surrogate is carrying in hopes of using another embryo to produce a "healthy" child.

Newly graduated lawyer Mitchell Taylor finds himself working for the worst kind of personal injury attorney upon graduation, but as a Christian, he's determined to make the best of a bad situation. It's not long before he finds himself defending Maryna, the surrogate mother, in a headline-topping case involving eight frozen embryos. Can he get the federal legislative ban on cloning overturned, and if so, how will he help Maryna save the child she carries? The Courtroom dramas uncover a nasty conspiracy with a surprising twist at the conclusion of the story.

In this second book by Randy Singer, he again paints an intriguing and thought-provoking look at issues that are hot buttons around the country. He pulls us into the storyline with believable characters, as well as a few we know from his first book, *Directed Verdict*. Hold on to your seats, this one will be a ride!

Rick Estep

I'll watch the moon / Ann Tatlock. LCCN 2003001455. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Paperbound, 0764227645, \$12.99.

F. Mothers and daughters--Fiction; Holocaust survivors--Fiction; Belief and doubt--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Christian fiction. 399 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12) / Rating : 4

Nova's story begins in July, 1948, as fear of polio spreads through St. Paul. For the nine-year-old, all it does is keep her and her brother Dewey stuck inside their aunt's boarding house. Nova befriends one of the boarders—mysterious but kind Josef Karski. Her mother, Catherine, objects to the relationship; then she realizes Josef, like herself, carries deep pain. While Josef turns to God for comfort after the

horrors of Auschwitz, Catherine rejects Him in anger. Then Dewey contracts polio, and Nova's life will never be the same.

Interspersed with information later provided by her mother, Nova reveals in first person the events of one life-changing year. As she states in the beginning, this is a love story, not a romance. This insight, with gentle but ever-present suspense, carries the reader through poignant and unhurried scenes. The writing instantly portrays the main characters with only a few statements, then uses the rest of the book to develop Nova, Josef, Catherine, and Dewey into unforgettable people. Both the children and the adults deal with pain and fear and learn that faith will sustain them through difficult times. Catherine tells Josef her uncle abused her, but keeps the subject in general terms. The sparse dialog is meaningful and suits the slow and honest prose. This story offers hope to people with hurtful pasts, and a unique glimpse of post-WWII Minnesota.

Katie Hart

Firefly blue / Jake Thoene. LCCN 2002154947. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2003. Paperbound, 0842353623, \$12.99.

F. Terrorism--Prevention--Fiction; Americans--Mexico--Fiction; Radio broadcasters--Fiction; Middle East--Fiction; Mexico--Fiction; Christian fiction; Suspense fiction. 357 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

Involved in an antiterrorism unit, Special Agent Steve Alstead works tirelessly to uncover those trying to bring harm to U.S. citizens, often at the cost of his family relationships. A sequel to *Shaiton's Fire*, *Firefly Blue* finds Alstead and his team in domestic counter-terrorism tracking down those who stole part of a shipment of sodium cyanide, racing to save from destruction a treasured part of Americana. The chase, spanning different countries and continents, climaxes as Alstead and his team battle to disable an attack. Not only is Alstead embroiled in external conflict, but he is also torn emotionally as well, realizing his job comes between his wife, children, and him. This special agent is faced with choices that will determine the fate of his own life as well as the lives of many others.

This fast-past, Clancy-esque book by author Jake Thoene brings home the reality of domestic terrorism. Thoene develops an interesting and plausible plot that keeps readers turning the pages. Not only does he have a developed plot, but his subplot is realistic as well, tying neatly together at the end of the novel. The author's research on this topic lends credibility to the novel, especially in light of 9/11.

Although aimed at adult audiences, this book will captivate high school readers as well. Boys in particular will find *Firefly Blue* appealing, as it is filled with action and adventure.

Eileen Zygarricke

Focus on the Family presents heart to heart stories for teachers / compiled and edited by Joe L. Wheeler. LCCN 2002014488. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2003. Hardbound, 1589974123, \$12.99.

F. Education--Fiction; Teacher-student relationships--Fiction; Christian fiction, American; Short stories, American; Teachers--Fiction. xxvi, 259 p. : ill. : 20 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

Wheeler shares classic stories of relationships between students and teachers. Using twenty-four short stories from all levels of teaching Wheeler creates an opportunity for teachers to remind themselves why they teach. Wheeler dedicates his book to the first and best teacher he ever had, his mother. As a result, his stories are somewhat predictable and light. The real power is in the story-telling itself. Wheeler edits stories from the original author. He ends every story with a two or three sentence update of the author. He has tried to make sure that these stories are true before publishing them.

Many books celebrate teaching. Few celebrate teaching with stories from the past. Wheeler's approach adds to current understanding of why teachers teach by demonstrating how the essence of teaching has not changed over time. It is still the personal relationship between teacher and student. The simple, old-time art work helps the reader to settle back and travel to a yesteryear that isn't much different from today. In a time with "No Child Left Behind" and other mandates, this book reminds the reader how to really make a difference in the classroom.

Bianca Elliott

Out of the ruins / Sally S. Wright. (The Ben Reese mystery series; 4) LCCN 2002009317. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2003. Paperbound, 1590520319, \$10.99.

F. Inheritance and succession--Fiction; Multiple sclerosis--Patients--Fiction; Aged women--Fiction; Cumberland (Ga.)--Fiction; Christian fiction; Mystery fiction. 334 p. : geneal. table, maps ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

Sally S. Wright's *Out of the Ruins* is not your average academic mystery, but then, her main character is more than the slightly dull middle-aged university archivist he seems to be. Ben Reese (modeled after a close friend of Wright's) was a behind-the-lines Army reconnaissance scout during World War II, and he was very good at his job until a Tiger tank attack left him with fifteen thirty-caliber bullets buried in him, an index finger that no longer bent correctly, and physical and mental scars revealed only to those close to him in his new life of academic peace and quiet.

He's still dangerous, though, and when his mother's request to help a dear family friend save Cumberland Island and Whitfield Inn from

both developers and the government plunges him into a tangle of relationships and grudges dating back to the island's beginning, he uses his wartime skills to stay alive.

Wright chose to write mysteries in order to share her Christian beliefs about life, death, and religion with her readers in a non-threatening way through her main character (himself a Christian). She chose the nineteen-sixties, she says, because it was not only a pivotal time in our country's history, but one in which morals, ethics, and religious beliefs were still important and accepted, and could be discussed in an academic setting without becoming tangled up in political correctness. Managing such discussions without becoming syrupy or preachy is not easy, but Wright does it, while also weaving in bits of lore taken from her research. In *Out of the Ruins*, she includes euthanasia, eminent domain, and life in a small Southern community, and in "Historical Notes," she adds factual information about Cumberland Island, its history, and its owners.

Betty Winslow

The winter seeking : a Christmas novella / Vinita Hampton Wright. LCCN 2003011830. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2003. Paperbound, 1578568277, \$14.99.

F. Adult children of divorced parents--Fiction; Parent and adult child--Fiction; Mothers and daughters--Fiction; Cancer--Patients--Fiction; Christian fiction; Christmas stories. 144 p. ; 20 cm.

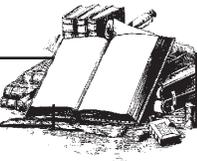
Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

Twenty-two year old Mary Georgiana, or Jana to her friends, is torn between her divorced parents, but chooses to spend this Christmas with her cancer-stricken mother in Atlanta. Her father has recently gotten remarried and she is trying to recover from her own breakup with her boyfriend. Jana has never been a religious person and is surprised upon arriving in Atlanta to find that her mother has rededicated her life to the God she had known as a young woman. Trying to understand her mother better, Jana begins a spiritual awakening of her own after she reads the Bible story of another Mary, the mother of Jesus.

The Winter Seeking is a wonderful spiritual contemporary that brings the reader to the scenes of the Christmas story. Vinita Hampton Wright has written a novella with a tender regard for the Christian most holy of days in such a loving way that the reading of this book will be sure to become a holiday tradition for many families. This book provides a unique insight into the blessed event of Jesus' birth and life as a young child from the Virgin Mary's perspective, and I felt as if I were truly there with her. I highly recommend *The Winter Seeking* as a book that will strengthen many families at the Christmas holiday season. While it can be enjoyed year-round, its novella length

is perfect as a one-night read on a cold winter's night the week before Christmas.

Sherri Myers



Teenplots : a booktalk guide to use with readers ages 12-18 / John T. Gillespie and Corinne J. Naden. LCCN 2003047725. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2003. Hardbound, 1563089211, \$48.00.

001.625. Young adult literature--Stories, plots, etc.; Book talks; Reading promotion; Best books; Young adult literature--Bibliography. 341 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult for grades 7-12 / Rating : 5

Complete with nine different sections and organized according to subject matter or genres, *Teenplots* covers teenage life and concerns in all their manifestations from social and family problems, mystery and adventure, science fiction and fantasy, historical fiction and other lands, sports in fact and fiction, biography and general nonfiction, guidance and health, and challenging adult novels, *Teenplots* covers it all.

The primary purpose of this volume is to help librarians and teachers supply reading guidance by way of the booktalk. A secondary purpose is to serve as a tool for locating highly recommended titles. In choosing the 100 books to include, a wide range of subjects and interests at various reading levels and abilities by junior and senior high youth was kept in mind.

A welcome feature is a commentary on the book's suitability and critical comment.

Recommended for school and public libraries where teen advisory suggestions are frequently sought. Caution: the titles selected for inclusion may or may not belong in a Christian collection.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

Booktalks and more : motivating teens to read / Lucy Schall. LCCN 2003051650. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2003. Hardbound, 1563089823, \$48.00.

028'.55. Teenagers--Books and reading; Book talks; Reading promotion; Best books; Young adult literature--Bibliography. 296 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult / Rating : 5

This research tool offers motivational, ready-to-use booktalks for one hundred plus booktalks for teens. Each booktalk comes with bibliographic information, a plot summary, presentation tips, curriculum connections, and suggestions for related books and media. With a focus on fiction and nonfiction titles published between 1997 and 2001, these booktalks center around issues, problems, and challenges young people face, e.g., harassment because of appearance or action, family challenges because of poor decision making or procrastination.

Those familiar with Schall's earlier *Booktalks Plus* will find the same approach and command of offering the best of what can be found in shelf browsing. This tool enables librarians, media specialists, classroom teachers, home school instructors, teacher educators, youth workers, or families to match teens and books.

Recommended for all school and public libraries serving teens and those who seek to reach out to teens with the best of literature. Geared to a live audience, the booktalk can be adapted to the user's style or needs. It is short enough to accommodate a school's morning announcements or as a booktalk for public service segment. Nonprofit use is permitted and encouraged.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

A fragile stone : the emotional life of Simon Peter / Michael Card. LCCN 2003006826. Downers Grove, Ill. : Intervarsity Press, 2003. Hardbound, 0830823727, \$17.00.

225.92. Peter, the Apostle, Saint; Apostles--Biography. 194 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

In this well written book, author Michael Card brings the apostle Peter to life for the reader. He emerges from the pages of Scripture as the unambiguous leader of the Twelve. As Card explores the life of Peter, he often compares him to Jesus, his leader and best friend. He uses many well-known and loved verses but with new insights to illustrate the life of this impetuous fisherman and how that life was transformed so that Peter was turned fisherman into leader. In addition, Michael Card uses the life of Simon Peter as a model of discipleship that we can all turn to in the hope of being changed in the same way as we follow Jesus. This part of the book is especially inspiring. Since we can all see ourselves in the actions and attitudes of the apostle Peter, we can then also see that his transformation to committed servant of Christ, might be possible in our lives.

The book concludes with a three page bibliography and a study guide for *A Fragile Stone*. This title would be an excellent choice for a personal study or a group Bible study.

Written for adults, *A Fragile Stone* is easily read and understood and would be an excellent choice for older teens who are seriously considering their discipleship.

Cecil Carey, Young Adult Public Librarian, Plano, Illinois. LTA, College of DuPage. Credits : Today's Libraries.

Desiring God / revised and expanded by John Piper. LCCN 2002154750. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2003. Paperbound, 1590521196, \$13.99.

248.4. God--Worship and love; Desire for God; Happiness--Religious aspects--Christianity; Praise of God. 394 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12) / Rating : 5

John Piper, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, sets out his book's purpose in the introduction : "This book aims to persuade you that 'The chief end of man is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever.'" He calls this philosophy "Christian Hedonism," and each chapter expands and applies and argues for his new way of looking at the world. Only, the way isn't new! Piper often quotes Christian greats Jonathan Edwards and C. S. Lewis, and beyond these he consistently seeks—and finds—justification for his Christian Hedonism in the one authority that he esteems most highly, Holy Scripture. Scriptural quotations pepper each page, and one of the book's appendices argues for biblical inerrancy. Piper's language is evocative throughout, and his fervor is contagious, but this book is not self-help fluff. Adults, as well as older high school students, can read this book with great spiritual profit.

After an introduction explaining the basic concepts of Christian Hedonism, each chapter tackles a different area of life (conversion, worship, love, Scripture, prayer, money, marriage, missions, and suffering) into which the author believes this biblical philosophy must enter. Several appendices tackle questions that could not fit in the main text, and Scripture, subject, and person indices finish out the book.

A few changes justify the new edition of *Desiring God*; scriptural quotations now come from the new English Standard Version, all of the many endnotes have been changed to footnotes, and minor updates and corrections have found their way into the text. The largest section of new material is appendix 3, entitled "Is God Less Glorious Because He Ordained that Evil Be? Jonathan Edwards on the Divine Decrees." Piper loves Edwards and labors to serve up the towering American theologian's writings for the modern reader.

Mark L. Ward, Jr.

***Embracing the mysterious God : loving the God we don't understand* / James Emery White. LCCN 2003006829. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2003. Hardbound, 0830823778, \$16.00.**

248.4. Spiritual life--Christianity. 180 p. ; 22 cm.
Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

Embracing the Mysterious God is a book that will make the thoughtful reader reflect on his or her own relationship to God. I read it daily as a devotional and enjoyed the deep yet often entertaining way James White has of turning a phrase. The writing will appeal to young people, despite the depth of the subject, because of the author's habit of often quoting singers, songs and popular figures of the day. White's discussion on loving God centers around the great commandment to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and then to love our neighbor as ourselves. He tackles the struggle of our hearts, our souls, our minds, our strength, and our neighbors in five chapters, one for each of these subjects. These are tough questions and there is not an easy answer for any of them, sometimes not even a total answer but the clear way in which White approaches the subjects points his readers not only to their God but to a more intimate walk with God. In fact, the author maintains that struggle with God is the essence of our relationship with him.

The only area of concern that I found as the reviewer was on pages 105 and 106 where James Emery White describes the beauty and spiritual function of the rosary. This may be disturbing to many evangelical readers and confusing to others. Other than this, the book is a wonderful devotional tool which will surely bless, encourage and cause spiritual growth in any reader who applies its truth to themselves.

Ceil Carey, Young Adult Public Librarian, Plano, Illinois. LTA, College of DuPage. Credits : Today's Libraries.

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***The dance goes on* / Roberta Bandy. LCCN 2003012381. Ann Arbor, Mich. : Vine Books, 2003. Paperbound, 1569553882, \$10.99.**

248.8. Parents of chronically ill children--Religious life; Chronic diseases in children--Religious aspects--Christianity. 125 p.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : *5

Mediating God's blessing, Roberta Bandy opens her heart in the encouraging family autobiography, *The Dance Goes On*. Married very young, unsure of their faith, Roberta and Phil Bandy's first son was born with severe chromosomal abnormalities. They named him Robert, quickly learning to love him, and to thank God for him. Rob's numerous disabilities included severely limited vision, misalignment of all his joints, seizures, upper respiratory problems, constant drooling, severe learning problems. Rob had vast stores of love. He enjoyed music. He loved to dance and invited

everyone to dance with him. At 29 years of age Rob died. All his family and his great horde of friends sorrowed deeply and rejoiced that now he could dance with his Lord.

Mother, public speaker, author Roberta Bandy, writing simply and candidly, fully presents Rob's problems and their impact on him and each member of the family. Relying deeply on her Lutheran Christian beliefs, Roberta Bandy lyrically portrays joys and spiritual growth. All of the Bandy family willingly accepted Rob and his problems as God's gift. His care made deep demands on his family. Life was extremely difficult. Yet, Rob's disabilities enhanced his family's life. His siblings and parents loved him deeply and grew immeasurably because of him. All mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, other relatives, and friends of handicapped children will identify with and learn from the experience of the Bandy Family and their beloved Rob. This comforting book is recommended for all schools, libraries, churches, and mature readers.

Donna Eggett

***If the prodigal were a daughter* / Janice Chaffee. LCCN 2002010614. Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House, 2003. Paperbound, 0736909834, \$10.99.**

248.8'43. Jesus Christ--Parables; Christian women--Religious life. 224 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

If the Prodigal Were a Daughter is an outstanding book, particularly for Christian women. Ms. Chaffee uses four well known parables, The Good Samaritan, The Unforgiving Servant, The Wedding Banquet, and The Prodigal Son to illustrate truths in women's lives today. Each parable is covered in four ways, the first being the author's own version of the parable, written with mainly female characters. Then the original parable is given and several applications, such as Looking Beyond Reputation and Reflections of Neighborliness, both written for the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Chaffee's rewritten parables are to the point, often touching and eye-opening in their clarity. Her applications are sprinkled with examples from the author's life and are honest, not sugarcoated in the least. She reminds her audience that they must see themselves in one of the characters. And she also allows us to know in which character she is best represented. This permits us to relate on a very real level with the author and hopefully glean even more from her writing.

Young Christians, in the faith and in years, will find this book compelling. *If the Prodigal Were a Daughter* also speaks to heart of the older Christian woman. A study guide at the end of the book makes this an excellent source for a Bible study, personal or as a group.

Ceil Carey, Young Adult Public Librarian, Plano, Illinois. LTA, College of DuPage. Credits : Today's Libraries.

***Jesus freaks : stories of those who stood for Jesus : the ultimate Jesus freaks* / DC Talk and the Voice of the Martyrs. LCCN 688038. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 1999. Paperbound, 1577780728, \$16.99.**

272'.9. Persecution--History; Christian martyrs--History. 368 p. ; ill. ; 23 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12) / Rating : 4

If dc Talk is remembered for anything, it will be bringing to the western church's attention the suffering continuing in the name of Christ around the world. *Fox's Book of Martyrs* is only the starting point for this book. Taking true stories from around the world and from recent occurrences around the world, dc Talk and Tom White (Voice of the Martyrs president) share the suffering of the saints with readers. While not every story ends in death, there is always a continuing theme of cost/sacrifice. Many stories end with a short section summarizing what was read and an effort to internalize the lesson. Challenges are issued. This book is an "in your face" attempt to wake the western church to the suffering of others in the body of Christ. Periodically there are whole page images in light ink with a powerful quote by a martyr. At the end of the book is a section describing the nations where Christians are heavily persecuted with how to pray for the Christians there. Also, there is a sign-up page to dedicate oneself to being a Jesus Freak, plus pages to take the reader's desire to do something more. The endnotes and index help the reader to research and retain the material presented. There are two brief pages explaining who dc Talk and Voice of the Martyrs are.

Bianca Elliott

***Jesus freaks. Vol. II : stories of revolutionaries who changed their world : fearing God, not man* / dc Talk and the Voice of the Martyrs. LCCN 2002010012. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2002. Paperbound, 0764227467, \$16.99.**

272'.9. Persecution; Christian martyrs. 384 p. ; ill. ; 23 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12) / Rating : 4

"All true martyrs are revolutionaries, but not all revolutionaries are true martyrs." This quote sets the tenor of the second volume. Continuing the theme of *Jesus Freaks I*, dc Talk challenges readers to consider past and present martyrs and how they influenced/impacted their world. Continuing with the format of telling the stories of martyrs past and present, the current edition presents additional stories of suffering saints around the globe. While maintaining the intense "in your face" style, the book shows how revolutionary martyrs are to those around them. Great care is taken to make clear that being a revolutionary for Marx or Stalin is not the same in any respect as being a Christian revolutionary.

While a few of the stories from the first edition are repeated there aren't many. Explanation of previous stories such as the Thundering Legion are in this volume. Many quotes from Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand, founders of Voice of the Martyrs, are also provided. At the end of the stories are some helpful resources such as a pledge page, Ten Rules for Revolutionaries, a listing of organizations, a brief history of Martyrdom and Christianity, top ten persecuted groups since Jesus, and endnotes, index, chronological index, scripture index, with information about dc Talk and Voice of the Martyrs.

Bianca Elliott

***Live like a Jesus freak : spend today as if it were your last* / dc Talk. LCCN 2002277044. Tulsa, Okla. : Albury Publishing, 2001. Paperbound, 157782089, \$12.99.**

272'.9. Christian life. 184 p. ; 22 cm.
Adult (Grades 9-12) / Rating : 4

This ten-chapter book looks at the in-depth characteristics of a Jesus Freak. Jesus Freaks believe, pray, worship, study, love, stand, forgive, rejoice, serve, and witness. Each chapter has a powerful story using current media such as music and films that enhance the understanding of the characteristic under consideration. Using ancient and current martyrs, the book provides examples and clarification of the characteristic. Each chapter ends with poignant questions focusing on implementing the characteristic immediately in a person's life. While some of the stories are repeated from *Jesus Freaks Vol. I and II*, the material is critical to understanding the topic and being repeated only reinforces the concepts.

Bianca Elliott

***Promises for a Jesus freak* / dc Talk. LCCN 2002514817. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2001. Paperbound, 157782100, \$5.99.**

220.5'20836. Promises--Biblical teaching; Christian life--Biblical teaching; Bible--Quotations. 189 p. ; 16 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12) / Rating : 4

Unlike other promise books, this one focuses on not only typical issues such as direction and fear but Jesus Freak issues such as when one is persecuted and a hunger for more of God. The purpose of the book is "to get you into God's Word." The authors want us to begin with the Scriptures listed and then read the context for a deeper understanding. Versions used are the New Living Translation, New International Version, Contemporary English Version, The Message, and The New Testament in Modern English.

Bianca Elliott

***Jesus freaks journal* / dc Talk. Tulsa, Okla. : Albury Publishing, 2001. Hardbound, 157782097, \$9.99.**

272'.9. Christian life. 1 v. (unpaged) ; 21 cm.
Adult (Grades 9-12) / Rating : 4

Reminding readers that journals have been kept for centuries by Jesus Freaks, the authors provide a meaningful place to record the hopes, fears, dreams, and burdens we carry. The directions page asks the journal-er to follow the examples of previous Jesus Freaks and hold nothing back on the pages. The last phrase reminds us to consider we are also Jesus Freaks and our stories must be told too. On each journal page is a place for date, time, and place as well as a martyr quote and words from Jesus. About every seven days is a "thought starter" where a quote is provided with a focus question to answer. The journal has a page for further information.

Bianca Elliott

***Heroes at home : help & hope for America's military families* / Ellie Kay. LCCN 2002015282. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2002. Paperbound, 0764227890, \$9.99.**

355.1'20973. Families of military personnel--United States. 206 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12) / Rating : 5

Ellie Kay, author of *Heroes at Home : Help and Hope for America's Military Families*, grew up as a military brat and then married U.S. Air Force fighter pilot Bob Kay, whom she affectionately calls "The World's Greatest Fighter Pilot." She has survived thirteen years of marriage in the military, including several deployments and eleven moves, the raising of a large family (two adult and five school-aged children), and life in rural New Mexico.

Being part of a military family is all she knows, which makes her an ideal candidate to write about life in the military from a military spouse's point of view. She does an excellent job of it, to listing things military spouses need to know, ways the civilian spouse can bless the military spouse, ideas for things to send in care packages, items that need to be dealt with before a deployment, and loads of resources that military families can investigate or get involved with. She includes interviews with six other military spouses to round out her own experiences, including one with her own mom. This book was written in thirty days, but is so well-written, you'll think it took years. It is a timely book that will fill a need in most collections.

Betty Winslow

***The case for classical Christian education* / Douglas Wilson. LCCN 2002002732. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 2003. Paperbound, 1581343841, \$15.99.**

370.11'2. Education, Humanistic--United States; Classical education--United States; Christian education--United States. 256 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult / Rating : 5

Douglas Wilson continues his championship of classical Christian education begun in *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning* (Crossway Books, 1991) and continued in *Repairing the Ruins* (Editor, Canon Press, 1996), *Paideia of God* (Canon Press, 1999), and Classical education and *The Home School* (Douglas Wilson, Wes Callihan, Douglas Jones, Canon Press, 2001). In his new book Wilson pulls together material scattered through his previous books and "present[s] a broad overview of the classical Christian model of education."

Wilson argues that Christians should give their children a Christian education not as a reaction to the bankruptcy of the public schools but as obedience to God's Covenant. The goal of Christian education is to train up worshipers who will influence the entire culture with their godly wisdom. The motive of education is love : love for wisdom, love for our children, and love for our God.

With the support of their Reformed church community in Moscow, Idaho, Wilson and his associates have built Logos School, a classical Christian school for grades K through twelve. They organized the curriculum according to the three stages of the medieval Trivium described in Dorothy Sayer's essay, "The Lost Tools of Learning." These stages conform to the inclinations of the pupils at different ages, but the classical educator doesn't tailor the curriculum to the student. Instead, the student is educated to conform to and master the curriculum, which is anchored in the Bible and includes, for example, at least eight years of Latin and twenty-five great works of Western literature.

Wilson's clarity, irony, and passion carry the reader along. Christians with a stake in any kind of Christian schooling will profit from reading this excellent exposition of classical Christian education. Notes for each chapter and useful indexes of the book's contents and of the scriptures cited follow the text.

David Haddon

***So you're thinking about homeschooling : fifteen families show how you can do it!* / Lisa Whelchel. LCCN 2002156086. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2003. Paperbound, 1590520858, \$12.99.**

371.04'2. Home schooling--United States.; Education--Parent participation--United States. 205 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult / Rating : 4

The stories of fifteen homeschooling families presented in this book are compilations as a result of the many interviews that Ms. Whelchel has done. But they are no less representative of

real families and their specific needs and problems that are faced on a daily basis.

One family represented had two careers and three children. After many highly stressful months, the parents realized they were not living the quality of life that they had hoped for. Homeschooling had been suggested as an option, but the parents dismissed it as not possible. One Saturday morning while helping a daughter with homework at the kitchen table, the mom had an epiphany and realized that this was homeschooling.

Mr. Michael Farris, founder of HSLDA and Patrick Henry College, contributed the forward that underscored the truth contained within these pages, "there is no correct way to homeschool," and, "whatever the struggle, the rewards make it all worthwhile."

The families Ms. Whelchel describes may be compilations, but they are representative of real families and the accomplishments and struggles faced daily in the homeschooling communities. The circumstances represented in this book range from a single mom, to the father as the primary teacher, to the grandparents shouldering the educational responsibility, and more.

At the back of this book are many resources listed for curriculum, reading, and catalogues, including their phone numbers and/or web sites. This is an easy read and one that is encouraging and a valuable resource for families who are considering the jump into homeschooling.

Debbly Willett

***Ways of telling : conversations on the art of the picture book* / Leonard S. Marcus. LCCN 2002067499. New York : Dutton Children's Books, 2002. Hardbound, 0525464905, \$29.99.**

741.6'42'0922. Picture books; Illustrators--Interviews; Authors--Interviews. 247 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 23 cm. Adult (Grades 10-12 / Rating : 4

"A picture book is a dialogue between two worlds : the world of images and the world of words. This is a book of conversations about that beguiling dialogue." In *Ways of Telling*, author Leonard S. Marcus assembles a series of interviews with fourteen authors and illustrators whose works are classics in the best sense of the word, books that have passed the test of time (and repeated rereading by generations of children) and had a major impact on the field of children's picture books along the way. Says Marcus, "All fourteen are story tellers and know that the best answer to some questions is not an answer but a tale. In the conversations that follow, they tell the stories behind some of the best-loved children's books of the last half century."

Each interview (done in question and answer form) begins with the interview subject's

birthdate and birthplace, followed by a couple of paragraphs by Marcus that sum up the subject's life and (in some cases) tell where and when the interview was done. Then, the interview follows, each one a series of questions tailored to that person and their work. Interviews were held with Mitsumasa Anno, Ashley Bryan, Eric Carle, Tana Hoban, Karla Kuskin, James Marshall, Robert McCloskey, Iona Opie, Helen Oxenbury, Jerry Pinkney, Maurice Sendak, William (and Jeanne) Stieg, Rosemary Wells, and Charlotte Zolostow.

In the center of the book is an added treat, sixteen colorful pages of illustrations and page layouts from many of the books mentioned by their creators. The examples, as Marcus states, have been chosen to highlight key books and points made, but they also serve another purpose : they make the reader anxious to find the books that are talked about and read them, with or without a small child wriggling in her lap. At the book's end, a bibliography, illustration credit list, and index add value for those who want to use this as a reference book.

Betsy Winslow

***Hollywood worldviews : watching films with wisdom & discernment* / Brian Godawa. LCCN 2002023275. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2002. Paperbound, 0830823212, \$14.00.**

791.43'6823. Motion pictures--Religious aspects--Christianity. 208 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12) / Rating : 3

Urging readers to watch films thoughtfully, the author, a screenwriter, discusses the philosophical bases of movies today. After an introduction cautioning against the extremes of too much and too little in dealing with popular culture, the three main parts of the book take up "Storytelling in the Movies," "Worldviews in the Movies," and "Spirituality in the Movies." The first section explains the place of stories and myths in a society and how this relates to the people's philosophical and spiritual beliefs. An examination of the basic elements of a story follows, with examples of how each plays out in the movies of today. The second part takes up the worldviews found in film. Existentialism and Postmodernism are discussed in separate chapters. Other views, such as Emergent Evolution and Neopaganism, are taken up in this section's last chapter. A brief introduction to each philosophy is given. The author then expands on each using films with that view underlying the story. The last section takes up Hollywood's view of religious elements including angels, demons, and the afterlife. Christianity and faith, as seen in movies, are discussed. A conclusion urges discernment in film watching, and an appendix takes up the theme of sex and violence in movies by discussing the way the Bible approaches those

items. Four principles for discerning between exhortation and exploitation of them are given.

As a screenwriter, the author certainly ought to know films and filmmaking well enough, but he has also done significant research, as seen by the numerous footnotes in the book. Sidebars, called Director's Cut, suggest other materials to read or direct the reader to his website (www.godawa.com) for more information. The discussion is in-depth, maybe more so than the average reader is willing to take on. Movie examples used are recent and most will probably be known to movie-goers of today. The only graphics are a few charts comparing items under examination. The book is designed to make one think deeply and provoke discussion about its tenets. It would perhaps be better suited to use in a college / young adults discussion group than in the typical church or school setting. Some of the analogies regarding films and Christianity may be of concern to some readers.

Betsy Ruffin

***Facts on File dictionary of classical and biblical allusions* / [edited by] Martin H. Manser ; associate editor, David H. Pickering. LCCN 2002192752. New York : Checkmark Books, 2003. Hardbound, 0816048681, \$45.00.**

809. Allusions--Dictionaries; Allusions in literature--Dictionaries; Mythology, Classical, in literature--Dictionaries; Bible--In literature--Dictionaries. xi, 448 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 6-12) / Rating : 4

Allusions, none dating after 1000 A.D., are listed in their original form and under the source of the original reference. Each entry in A to Z fashion begins with an explanation of the use of the word or phrase in contemporary English. Biblical allusions also include the Bible references and sometimes the text (King James Version) from which the expression is derived. Additional information or variants are included in many entries; e.g., "Abraham's bosom" notes the phrase from Luke 16:19-31 as well as its use in modern English and as found in Shakespeare's Richard III.

Easy to use, this makes a convenient resource in reference collections. Recommended for school and public libraries to provide a simple explanation for many notable phrases and allusions. Makes a companion volume to the *Facts on File Dictionary of Cultural and Historical Allusions*.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

***Encyclopedia of world writers : 19th & 20th centuries* / Marie Josephine Diamond, general editor. (Facts on File library of world literature) LCCN 2002192846. New York : Facts on File, 2003. Hardbound, 0816046751, \$75.00.**

809'.04. Authors--19th century--Bio-bibliography--
Dictionaries; Authors--20th century--Bio-
bibliography--Dictionaries. xxxi, 512 p. ; 24 cm.
Adult (Grades 7-12) / Rating : 4

This comprehensive one-volume guide presents A to Z entries on 300 plus novelists, poets, dramatists, and short-story writers whose works are anthologized in high school textbooks or assigned in secondary school English courses. Coverage includes the major French, Russian, German, and other European writers as well as those from Asia, Africa, and Latin America (excluded is the literature of Great Britain, Ireland and the United States).

Diamond, as general editor, is Director of Comparative Literature at Rutgers University, and has contributed numerous chapters and articles to a range of scholarly titles and journals. Her grasp of the diversity of world literature, along with appreciation for unique development and change works suggest, makes the authors chosen inclusive of overlooked or underrepresented writers.

Recommended for high school and public libraries where literature students do research on global writers. Highly recommended for expanded literature or biography collections on world authors.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

Maps on file / Facts on File, Inc. ; Martin Greenwald Associates. LCCN 2001620795. New York : Facts on File, 2004. Loose-leaf, 0816051119, \$250.00.

912. Atlases; Outline maps. 1 atlas (2 v.) : maps ; 30 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

The 500 plus maps in this two volume loose-leaf collection in easy reproducible format cover every country, every U.S. state and Canadian province, as well as 100 topical maps for important economic and political issue comparisons.

The 23 demographic pages present a wealth of information, e.g. in one page each the student can see the 2002 population of Africa or Europe or South America, as well as other pages devoted to the human development index or population growth rate. Eighteen pages cover natural and energy resource such as deforestation, protected natural areas, petroleum or natural gas or coal reserves.

Recommended for high school and public libraries where literature students do research on global writers.

History and economics and humanities teachers will find the charts and maps in Politics, Economics and the Military, and Education and Social Issues of particular value. Separate sections for U.S. Statistics and Canadian Statistics cover a range from population to employment.

The clear and concise layout of the maps and illustrations makes this a unique and unparalleled resource for school and public libraries. Where students and teachers need visual maps for class or individual study or research, these are ideal. General adult readers will find the visual presentation and 15,000-entry index an accessible aid. Replacement pages are available if they are lost or stolen.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

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Before we kill and eat you : the miracles and adventures of a pioneer missionary couple in Africa / H.B. Garlock with Ruthanne Garlock. LCCN 2003004264. Ann Arbor, Mich. : Vine Books, 2003. Paperbound, 1569553483, \$10.99.

921 (266'.0092). Garlock, H.B., 1897-1985; Missions--Africa--History--20th century. 174 p. : ill., 2 maps ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : *5

The title of this autobiography of Pentecostal missionaries to Liberia, H.B. and Ruth Garlock, *Before We Kill and Eat You*, is a quote from a pagan African chief's threat to H. B. Garlock. In 1920 H.B., with little monetary support, but feeling a compelling call from the Lord, sailed for a four year stint in West Africa, "the white man's grave." From the moment H.B. arrived in Africa, illness and death faced him. After H.B. and Ruth's jungle marriage, they met almost impossible demands in primitive, pagan settings. They learned to lean entirely on the Lord. And so the miracles began : personal safety in horrendous circumstances; healing; triumph over fetishes; salvation. Continually the Garlocks saw God step in when man could do nothing. The second part of this book tells of their further ministries in the United States and back in Africa.

This recent church history reads like the book of Acts. Emotions run the full gamut, joy, thanksgiving, hilarity, horror, grief, exhaustion, peace. H.B. was a simple, yet intense man. His grammar was not always correct. However, he loved and served his Lord and this flows from every page. The foreword and introduction augment the body of this book. Several pages of blurry, but interesting and important old photos illuminate the narrative. *Before We Kill and Eat You* fits into several categories : history, biography, deeper Christian life, adventure. Recommended for youth considering a call to missions, church schools and libraries, homeschoolers, and family reading.

Before We Kill and Eat You has been reprinted several times in several countries. H.B. and Ruth's daughter-in-law and international Bible teacher, Ruthanne Garlock edited this reprint with a careful, loving hand. A simple, yet intense man, H.B. Garlock wrote with gusto of his exciting, almost legendary experiences.

Donna Eggett

William & Catherine : the life and legacy of the Booths, founders of the Salvation Army : a new biography / Trevor Yaxley with Carolyn Vanderwal. LCCN 2002152602. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Hardbound, 0764227602, \$19.99.

921 (287.9'6'0922). Booth, William, 1829-1912; Booth, Catherine Mumford, 1829-1890; Salvation Army--History; Salvationists--England--Biography. 303 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12) / Rating : 5

An in-depth biography, *William & Catherine* traces God's impact on the Booths, founders of the Salvation Army, starting with an acute look at their childhoods. The narrative continues with their romance, marriage, and early work as preachers and revivalists. As the story broadens, we learn how the Booths, their children, and growing army of followers were totally devoted to God, literally laying their lives and reputations on the line to carry the gospel to the despised, rejected slum dwellers of nineteenth century England. Out of this dedicated work rose the international movement, The Salvation Army. Introductory articles prepare the way for this biography and Epilogue, Appendices, index, etc., document pertinent information.

Noted author, Director of Lifeway College, New Zealander Trevor Yaxley gives us a detailed insight into the life of William and Catherine Booth, with particular emphasis on how God led them. A well rounded picture is provided including their passionate love for each other and their Lord, affiliation with the Holiness movement and charismatic type revival meetings, daring work in the slums, the dangerous fight against prostitution and alcoholism, the heavy demands they made on their children and followers, and the wondrous strides made by their new army. Old photos help illumine the text. The depiction of characters other than William and Catherine, and of incidences with results reaching beyond this book, encourages further reading. Well illustrated themes include : total, self-denying dedication; family values; ministry as a married couple; understanding the forces that shape the poor; allowing God to move. This book is recommended for all Christian groups including schools, libraries, Sunday Schools. It will be useful for history and religion classes and for homeschoolers.

Donna Eggett

Nonie : an autobiography and biography of the life of Lenora Mattingly Weber / Lenora Mattingly Weber, David Weber. LCCN 2002510970. Fresno, Calif. : Image Cascade, 2002. Paperbound, 1930009488, \$14.95.

921 (813.54). Weber, Lenora Mattingly, 1895-1971; Authors, American--20th century--Biography; Children's stories--Authorship. 349 p. : ill., ports. ; 20 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

Nonie is a combination biography/autobiography of beloved author Lenora Mattingly Weber, who wrote teen novels for girls from the 1940s through the early 1970s. The book begins with Weber's never-published autobiography, which describes her life up to 1933, and continues with a biography written by her son David, who uses letters, diaries, and family reminiscences to complete the story. A bibliography lists all of Weber's novels and most of her short stories.

The book is a well written, interesting look at Weber's life and career. There is much written on how Weber became a writer and on her novels (which include the Beany Malone and Stacy Belford books) as well as much detail on life in Colorado in the early to mid 20th Century. Weber was a Catholic, although references to her faith make up a small portion of the book.

The section written by Weber herself is as honest, engaging, and full of life as her novels. The remainder, about two thirds of the book, deftly continues Weber's life story while not passing over the rough patches.

Because of the rough patches, *Nonie* is best for older teens, or adults who are fans of Weber's books. Weber, although always looking at the bright side of things, had a grim life (she was mired in poverty; two sons died young; Weber herself was widowed at an early age), and no details are spared. Also, several characters drink socially, others have alcohol problems, and there are several instances of minor profanity or sexual innuendo in the dialog.

Nonie is an excellent choice for Weber's fans as well as for libraries that stock her books, libraries with an interest in Denver history, and libraries specializing in author bios.

Rosemarie DiCristo

***In the presence of my enemies* / Gracia Burnham, with Dean Merrill. LCCN 2003002155. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2003. Hardbound, 0842381384, \$22.99.**

921 (959.904'8'092273). Burnham, Gracia; Burnham, Martin; Hostages--Philippines--Biography; Abu Sayyaf (Organization); New Tribes Missions--Biography; Missionaries--Philippines--Biography; Missionaries--United States--Biography. xvii, 307 p. : col. ill., map ; 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

Gracia tells the story of her life and love with clarity and compassion. Her year long ordeal with her Muslim captors is presented to the reader in all of its humanity. Sometimes the reader will want to cry while other times laugh out loud. Gracia never sugarcoats her feelings or the situations she and her late husband were

in while in the Philippines. Her theological bias regarding the will of God is commiserate with traditional Christianity. As this is her side of the story, the information is basically accurate and what she can document she has done so for the reader.

Gracia tells her story using flashbacks of her life before and during her marriage to Martin, interspersed with the "real" time of her capture. Readers begin to understand the couple and their purpose for being in mission field. She writes of death, hunger, loneliness, and spiritual questions with no excuses and no holding back. The reader may be taken aback by her honesty. Short chapters compel the reader to experience being held hostage. While never graphic, the reader feels the humidity and her lack of privacy. The maps help the reader to travel the distances she did. Readers may want to consider what they would do at the end of each chapter and the book. Her tribute to her husband will cause many a spouse to consider their life.

Bianca Elliott

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