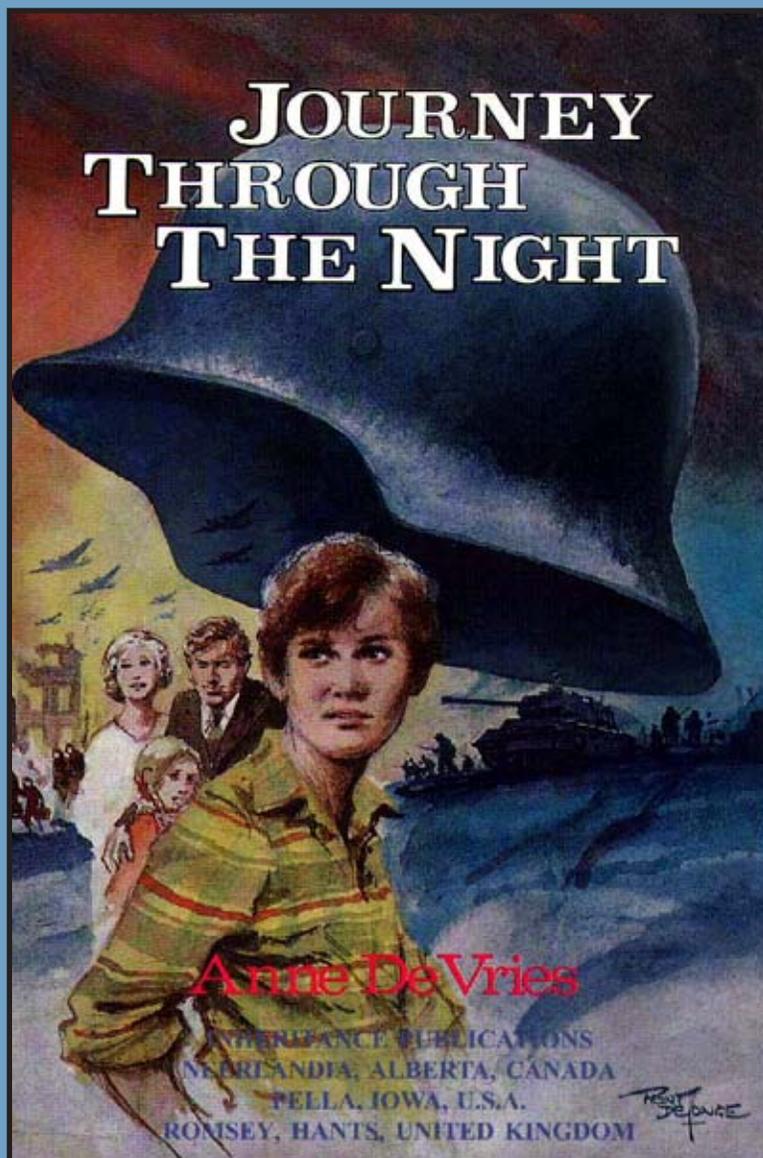


Christian Library

J O U R N A L



This Issue Features:

- ◆ **First the Saturday People:
Helping Children Understand
the Post 9/11 World**
- ◆ **Indians of the Northwest Coast,
California, and Great Basin**
- ◆ **Library Sales, 30% Off**
- ◆ **The Light vs. the Dark:
The Dark Is Rising Sequence**
- ◆ **Countries of the World:
Which series to buy?**

The *Christian Library Journal* invites prospective reviewers and writers to write for information. The *Christian Library Journal* online is published irregularly January through December by Christian Library Services. Subscriptions \$20 per four issues. Back issues included. Indexed in *Christian Periodical Index*. Address correspondence to NLHesch@ChristianLibraryJ.org, or to Christian Library Services, 302 N. Nile, East Wenatchee, WA 98802. Or contact us through email:

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The purpose of the *Christian Library Journal* is to provide readers with reviews from a Christian point of view of both Christian and secular library materials for the young reader. Materials reviewed may reflect a broad range of Christian doctrinal positions and do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the *Christian Library Journal*.

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Volume IX, No.1
 April, 2004
 ISSN 1097-1262

Christian Library



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

C O L U M N S a n d A R T I C L E S

First the Saturday People	Hanna Geshelin	2
Indians of the NW Coast, California, & Great Plains	Jane Mouttet	6
30% off Library Sales	. . . . .	10
The Light vs. the Dark	Donna Bowling	11

R E V I E W S

Key	. . . . .	13
Picture Books	. . . . .	13
Children's Fiction	. . . . .	20
Children's Nonfiction	. . . . .	27
YA Fiction	. . . . .	37
YA Nonfiction	. . . . .	43
Fiction	. . . . .	48
Nonfiction	. . . . .	56
Index	. . . . .	63

First the Saturday People:

Helping Children Understand the Post-9/11 World Through Books About the Holocaust and Israel

by Hanna Geshelin, M.Ed.

Hanna Geshelin is a Jewish writer and storyteller, and a guest writer for CLJ.

She writes from a Jewish point of view.

“First the Saturday people and then the Sunday people,” goes a well-known aphorism of the Muslims, whose Sabbath is Friday. With terrorism in Israel and anti-Semitism in much of the world, Jews are facing a threat of annihilation that matches that of pre-World War II Europe. Yet the same forces that confront Jews also face Christianity. As keepers and providers of knowledge, librarians are on the front lines of this battle.

Children need to understand the real and present threat of unleashed evil. The Holocaust is the best example because it is one of the most recent and best documented. Children also need to understand the truth about Israel and its relationship with the Arab world. This bibliography includes the best recent children’s books about the Holocaust as well as accurate, unbiased books about Israel. Only books published in the last five years are included.

When a website is given, the publisher is small and its books may not be readily available. Order directly on-line.

For more information on Jewish-themed children’s books, see the Jewish Valuesfinder on the Association of Jewish Libraries’ website, www.jewishlibraries.org. Feel free to e-mail the author of this article

at info@geshelin.com with questions or comments.

Holocaust Books

Children need to be aware of the Holocaust and the suffering that it caused. But learning about the suffering of the Jews is the least important lesson for Christian children. More important are the questions of how ordinary people can be sucked into doing evil, and how other equally ordinary people can become heroes by taking unpopular and dangerous moral stands.

Most Holocaust-themed fiction focuses on the Jew as victim. It does not show Judaism as a rich religion and culture and suggests that God was unimportant or absent to the Jews during this time. For this reason I have included very little here.

Books of Spiritual Value

Burstein, Shmuel. (2000). *War against God and His People: A Guide to the Holocaust for Young People*, Targum Press. 278 p. ISBN: 1568711662. photographs. Middle and high school. www.targum.com. One of the few books that gives the reader a sense of the culture that was destroyed by the Holocaust, this is an important book even though it was written for an Orthodox Jewish audience and lacks an extensive glossary or index.

Goldman, Alex J. (2000). *I Am a Holocaust Torah*, Gefen. 40 p. ISBN: 9652292362. Elementary. www.israelbooks.com. Discusses the destruction of Jewish religious objects as well as the rehabilitation of Torah scrolls after the War. Important information not available elsewhere. Rating: 5.

Biography/Autobiography

Altman, Linda Jacobs. (2000). *Simon Wiesenthal*, (Importance of) Lucent. ISBN: 1560064900. photographs. Elementary and middle school. A balanced look at the world’s foremost Nazi-hunter. Rating: 5.

Bayer, Linda. (2000). *Elie Wiesel: Spokesman for Remembrance*, Rosen. 111 p. ISBN: 0823933067. photographs. Middle school. This portrait of this Nobel prizewinner includes excerpts from his writings. Rating: 4

Callahan, Kerry P. (2001). *Mordechai Anielewicz: Hero of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising*, Rosen. 112 p. ISBN: 082393376. photographs. Middle school. This portrait of a Jew who fought back includes eye-opening information on Polish anti-Semitism. An unattractive design lowers the rating to 3.

Draper, Allison Stark. (2001). *Pastor Andre Trocme: Spiritual Leader of the French Village Le Chambon*, Rosen. 112 p. ISBN: 083933784. Middle school. Trocme led a community of Protestants who, having been persecuted by the Catholic majority, saved 5,000 Jews. More on Trocme and his congregants’ motivations would have been interesting. Rating: 3.

Giblin, James Cross. (2002). *The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler*, Clarion Books. 246 p. ISBN: 0395903718. photographs. Middle and high school. This well-documented biography includes outstanding research tools. Rating: 5.

Giddens, Sandra. (1999). *Escape: Teens Who Escaped the Holocaust to Freedom*, Rosen. ISBN: 0823928438. photographs, maps. Middle school. These largely first-person accounts of the subjects’ losses and experiences during the Holocaust and how

they rebuilt their lives after. Maps of escape routes and photos make this a valuable addition to a library. Rating: 4.

McCann, Michelle R. (2003). *Luba, Angel of Bergen-Belsen*, Tricycle Press. 46 p. ISBN: 1582460981. Carol Marshall, illustrator, Elementary. How a concentration camp prisoner hid and saved 54 abandoned children makes a fascinating story. Rating: 4.

Pressler, Mirjam. (2001). *Anne Frank: A Hidden Life*, Puffin. 176 p. ISBN: 0141312262. Middle and high school. Called by the Association of Jewish Libraries "A remarkable piece of biographical and historical reconstruction," this book is a must for school libraries. Rating: 5.

Streissguth, Thomas. (2001). *Raoul Wallenberg: Swedish Diplomat and Humanitarian*, Rosen. 112 p. ISBN: 0823933180. photographs, facsimile. Elementary and middle school. Wallenberg saved thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, of Jews by providing them papers that shielded them from Nazi wrath. Taken captive by the Soviets at the end of the war, he disappeared into the Gulag. This bio includes a timeline, glossary, and other reference aids. Rating: 4.

General Holocaust Non-Fiction

Altman, Linda Jacobs. (2003). *The Jewish Victims of the Holocaust*, Enslow. 104 p. ISBN: 0766019926. photographs. Elementary and middle school. This well-written book focuses on why the Germans chose the Jews as their primary victims and continued killing them to the very end of the war. Rating: 5.

Bauer, Yehuda. (2001). *A History of the Holocaust*, Franklin Watts. 432 p. ISBN: 0531118843. Middle school through adult. This is an updated, corrected edition of this holocaust scholar's acclaimed 1982 book. Rating: 5.

Berenbaum, Michael. (2003). *Promise to Remember : The Holocaust in the Words and Voices of Its Survivors*, Bulfinch Press. 48 p. ISBN: 0821228285. photographs, documents. Middle school through adult. Compiled by the scholar who created the

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, this is as close to a multi-media experience as a book can come. Rating: 5.

Gottfried, Ted. (2001). *Deniers of the Holocaust*, Twenty-first Century Books/Millbrook. ISBN: 0761319506. Stephen Alcorn, illustrator. Middle school. The history of anti-Semitism sets the stage for a discussion of Holocaust denial. Also discusses the dilemma of free speech versus the rewriting of history. Terrific format. Rating: 5.

Lawton, Clive A. (2002). *Auschwitz : The Story of a Nazi Death Camp*, Candlewick. 48 p. ISBN: 0763615951. photographs. Elementary and middle school. Written by a leading British Holocaust educator, this is a powerful and informative book. Rating: 4.

Lawton, Clive A. (2000). *The Story of the Holocaust*, Franklin Watts. ISBN: 0531145247. photographs. Middle and high school. This readable book looks at the reasons Naziism was attractive to Germans and discusses the small steps the led to the destruction of Europe's Jews. Rating: 5.

Rogasky, Barbara. (2002). *Smoke and Ashes*, Holiday House. 256 p. ISBN: 0823416771. Middle and high school. This Holocaust history includes the role of "ordinary" Germans and holocaust denial. An update of a 1988 book. Rating: 5.

Roleff, Tamara L. (2002). *The Holocaust : Death Camps*, Greenhaven. 224 p. ISBN: 0737708824. timeline. Middle and high school. Using first-person accounts, this disturbing book has an immediacy not found in most books for young people. Not a good introduction to the Holocaust, but valuable for deeper study for older children. Rating: 4.

Memoirs and Fiction

I've grouped memoirs and fiction together because many of the fictional accounts are based on true experiences, usually of a member of the author's family.

Stories of Resistance and of Gentiles who Saved Jews

Levine, Ellen. (2000). *Darkness over Denmark*, Holiday House. 164 p. ISBN: 0823414477. Photographs. Elementary and

middle school. The story of Danish resistance, this book includes first-person accounts. Inspiring. Rating: 5.

Radin, R. Y. (2000). *Escape to the Forest : Based on a True Story of the Holocaust*, HarperCollins Children's Books. ISBN: 0060285206. Janet Hamlin, illustrator. Middle school. One of the few books that documents the Jews who fought back. Rating: 5.

Steiner, Connie Colker. (2001). *Shoes for Amelie*, Lobster Press. 48 p. ISBN: 1894222377. Rodier, Denis, illustrator. Elementary. By focusing on the friendship between a French Christian boy and a Jewish girl, the author tells the story of how the village of Le Chambon saved 5,000 Jews. Rating: 4.

Tunnell, Michael O. (2001). *Brothers in Valor : A Story of Resistance*, Holiday House. ISBN: 0823415414. Elementary and middle school. A fascinating book about a group of German Mormon teens who printed and distributed anti-Nazi literature. Rating: 4.

Weisbarth, Bracha. (2004). *To Live and Fight Another Day : The Story of a Jewish Partisan Boy*, Mazo. 158 p. ISBN: 9659046235. Middle school. www.mazopublishers.com. An exciting true adventure story about a boy who led his family out of a ghetto to the forest, where they joined the resistance. A strong flavor of Jewish culture and spirituality. Rating: 4.

Wiseman, Eva. (2001). *My Canary Yellow Star*, Tundra Books. 233 p. ISBN: 0887765335 Pbk. Middle and high school. This well-written novel about the Hungarian Jews includes information about Raoul Wallenberg. Rating: 4.

Personal Accounts of Survival

Kacer, Kathy. (2003). *Night Spies*, Second Story Press. 197 p. ISBN: 1896764703. Photos. Elementary. As life in hiding grates on them, two Jewish children start sneaking out at night. Becoming involved with a band of Partisans, they help harass the Nazis. Rating: 3.

Nir, Yehuda. (2002). *Lost Childhood*, Scholastic. ISBN: 0439163897. Middle and

high school. Today a psychiatrist, the author details his family's survival, accomplished by pretending to be non-Jews. Rating: 4.

Orlev, Uri. (2003). *Run, Boy, Run*, Houghton Mifflin. 192 p. ISBN: 0618164650. Middle school. A young Jewish boy pretends to be Christian during the war. Kind strangers and personal courage help him survive. Rating: 4.

Propp, Vera. (1999). *When the Soldiers Were Gone*, G. P. Putnam's Sons. 199 p. ISBN: 0399233253. Elementary. After spending the war in hiding, the protagonist is reunited with her family afterwards. This moving story deals largely with the emotional trauma of separation. Rating: 4.

Sokolow, Reha. (2003). *Defying the Tide: An Account of Authentic Compassion During the Holocaust*, Devora. 179 p. ISBN: 1930143710. Middle and high school. This book juxtaposes the account of a Jewish girl with that of the Christian girl who saved her. Rating: 4.

Vos, I. (2000). *The Key Is Lost*, Morrow/HarperCollins. 272 p. ISBN: 0688162835. Elementary and middle school. This story of hope describes the lives of two sisters separated from their parents and forced into hiding. Rating: 3.

Warren, Andrea. (2001). *Surviving Hitler : A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps*, HarperCollins. 146 p. ISBN: 0688174973. Middle and high school. An inspiring story about how the upbeat, friendly personality of a young boy helped him survive. Rating: 4.

Miscellaneous

Kushner, Tony. (2003). *Brundibar*, Hyperion. 56 p. ISBN: 0786809043. Maurice Sendak, illustrator. All ages. This acclaimed book retells the story of a children's opera whose allegorical story was meaningful to the thousands of Jewish children who saw the show in the Terezin concentration camp. Rating: 4.

Smith, Frank Dabba. (2000). *My Secret Camera : Life in the Lodz Ghetto*, Harcourt/Gulliver Books. 37 p. ISBN: 0152023062. Grossman, Mendel, illustrator, photographs. Elementary and middle

school. The remarkable photos in this book were taken during the War and hidden, surviving although the photographer perished. The book's text, however, is weak. Rating: 3.

Books about Israel

Unfortunately, most books about Israel are based largely on revisionist history and paint the Israelis as the villains in this complicated situation. This includes some very popular and widely acclaimed juvenile novels and personal accounts. The following books are balanced and largely accurate. Mitchell Bard's *On One Foot* is an easy-to-use book that shatters the major anti-Israel myths and belongs in the pocket of everyone who supports Israel.

Social and Political History of Israel

Altman, Linda Jacobs. (1998). *Creation of Israel*, Lucent. ISBN: 1560062886. Elementary, middle school. More than many books about modern Israel, this focuses on the importance of Israel as a refuge for the Jewish people. Rating: 4.

Bard, Mitchell, ed. (2003). *At Issue in History : The Founding of the State of Israel*, Greenhaven. 121 p. ISBN: 0737713496. High school, adult. Half the essays present the Arab position and half the Israeli. Includes important historical documents. Good bibliography and index. Rating: 5.

Bard, Mitchell. (2002). *On One Foot*, BE, Inc. 75 p. ISBN: 0974007005. High school. www.onefootbook.com. A question-answer book that blows apart the anti-Israel myths. Rating: 5.

Boraas, Tracey. (2003). *Israel*, Bridgestone/Capstone Press. 64 p. ISBN: 0736809384. maps, photos, drawings. Elementary. This well-organized book covers Israel's geography, climate, wildlife, and daily life besides the political situation.

Carew-Miller, Anna. (2003). *The Palestinians*, Mason Crest. 127 p. ISBN: 1590845137. photographs. Middle school. This overview of the Palestinians and their claim to Israel is relatively impartial. However, some major errors, such as stating

that they are descendents from the ancient Canaanites, are problematic. Rating: 3.

Claybourne, Anna. (2003). *Golda Meir*, Heinemann Library. 64 p. ISBN: 1403408351. Elementary, middle school. A readable and attractive biography of an important world leader. Rating: 4.

Gresko, Marcia S. (2000). *Israel*, Carolrhoda/Lerner. ISBN: 1575051184. Elementary. This balanced treatment of Israel has an attractive format and useful reference tools. Rating: 4.

Kort, Michael G. (2002). *Handbook of the Middle East*, Twenty-First Century Books/Millbrook. ISBN: 0761316116. photographs, maps, flags. Middle and high school. Discusses 16 Middle-Eastern countries including their relations with Israel. Very good library resource. Rating: 5.

Stavicek, Louise Chipley. (2003). *Israel*, Chelsea House. 126 p. ISBN: 0791072355. photographs. Middle and high school. Unlike most Chelsea House books on Israel, this is objective and fair. It includes the Jews' biblical tie to the land. Useful. Rating: 4.

Other Nonfiction

Alexander, S. (2001). *Behold the Trees*, Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic Press. 48 p. ISBN: 0590762117. Gore, Leonid, illustrator. Elementary. This history of trees in Israel brings together environmentalism and Israel in a spectacular book. Rating: 5.

Blumenthal, Scott E. (2003). *Great Israel Scavenger Hunt*, Behrman House. 96 p. ISBN: 0874417112. photographs. Elementary. Designed for classroom use, this book includes activities, facts and photos. Rating: 4.

Gresko, Marcia S. (2000). *Ticket to Israel*, Carolrhoda/Lerner. ISBN: 1575051435. photographs. Primary. This simple, attractive book includes information about both Palestinians and Israelis. Rating: 4.

Grossman, Laurie. (2000). *Children of Israel*, Carolrhoda/Lerner. ISBN: 1575054485. Grossman, Laurie, illustrator,

photographs. Primary. An outstanding book about the many cultures and ethnicities found among Israeli children. Rating: 5.

Grossman, Laurie. (2001). *Colors of Israel*, Lerner. ISBN: 1575053829. Byers, Helen, illustrator. Primary. Emphasizing the spiritual significance of Israel to Jews, Christians and Muslims, this includes much geographic and social information. Rating: 5.

Rouss, Sylvia. (2002). *Sammy Spider's First Trip to Israel*, Kar-Ben/Lerner. 32 p. ISBN: 1580130356. Kahn, Katherine Janus, illustrator. Preschool. A charming introduction to modern Israel. Rating: 3.

Sonneborn, Liz. (2003). *Murder at the 1972 Olympics in Munich*, Rosen. 64 p. ISBN: 0823936546. photographs. Elementary, middle school. Detailed, well-written account of the Palestinian terror attack that left 11 Israeli athletes dead. Rating: 4.

Webster, Matt. (2003). *Inside Israel's Mossad : The Institute for Intelligence and Special Tasks*, Rosen. 83 p. ISBN: 0823938158. photographs. Elementary, middle school. Interesting, informative look at Israel's intelligence agency. Rating: 3.

Fiction

Carmi, Danielle. (2000). *Samir and Yonatan*, Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic. 185 p. ISBN: 0439135044. Elementary, middle school. Imagination and friendship are themes in this story of an Arab boy's stay in the children's ward of an Israeli hospital. Rating: 3.

Levine, Anna. (1999). *Running on Eggs*, Front Street/Cricket Books. ISBN: 0812628756. Elementary, middle school. Two girls from neighboring villages, one Arab and one Israeli, form a tenuous friendship in this fast-paced story. Rating: 5.

Miklowitz, Gloria D. (2003). *The Enemy Has a Face*, Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. 139 p. ISBN: 0802852432. Elementary, middle school. The psychological results of Palestinian terror inform this contemporary story set in Los Angeles. Rating: 5.

Rouss, Sylvia. (2003). *Tali's Jerusalem Scrapbook*, Pitspopany. [32] p. ISBN: 1930143699. Nancy Oppenheimer, illustrator, colored pencil or pastel. Primary, elementary. www.pitspopany.com. A young girl in Jerusalem comes to terms with the common childhood experience of disappointment as well as with Israel's unique security situation. Rating: 4.

Not Recommended

Clinton, Cathryn. *A Stone in my Hand*, Candlewick Press, 2002. ISBN 0763613886. Middle school. This poignant story of a Palestinian child whose psyche is destroyed by the Intifada is a propaganda piece that repeats every anti-Israel myth and presents the Palestinians as innocent victims of oppression whose only tool is violence.

Rifa'i, Amal. *We Just Want to Live Here*, St. Martin's Press, 2003. ISBN 0312318944. Middle and high school. Billed as an exchange of letters between friends, the co-authors were in fact barely acquainted when they were recruited for the purpose of this book. The Palestinian girl comes from a religious, politically moderate family; the Israeli girl comes from the most left-wing, anti-religious group in Israel.

Learning Native American Culture Through Children's Literature :

Indians of the Northwest Coast, California, and Great Basin

by Jane Mouttet

In Teaching and Learning About Multicultural Literature, Janice Dressel states, "Teachers need to challenge students' perceptions that roots of dominant-culture people are 'American,' but the roots of people from non-dominant cultures are 'foreign.'" She goes on to say that "even white students see their roots as being in the United States, not Europe. This reinforces their perception of themselves as 'American' and non-dominant peoples as the 'other.'" When it

comes to Native Americans they are not the dominant society, but neither are they foreign. In this column I will introduce you to books, both fiction and non-fiction, about Native tribes of the Pacific Northwest, California, and the Great Basin. I encourage you to increase your patron's knowledge of the First Americans as some refer to Native Americans. Let's not reinforce the belief that whites are the first Americans.

CHUMASH

***The Chumash : seafarers of the Pacific Coast* / by Karen Bush Gibson. (American Indian nations.) LCCN 2002156007. Mankato, Minn. : Bridgestone Books, 2004. HBB, 736821791, \$23.93.**

979.4004. Chumash Indians; Indians of North America--California. 48 p. : ill. ; 24 cm. Grades 5-9 / Rating: 5

In *The Chumash : Seafarers of the Pacific Coast* the reader will learn more about the Chumash people. Who they are and their history are included. Readers will also learn about the changes the Chumash have undergone and what their life is like today. Sidebars include a map and a timeline. The book closes with a glossary and a list of other resources. An index makes this a useful resource for the student researcher. Author Karen Gibson has written a well-researched book. *The Chumash* is part of the American Indian Nations series.

***The worry stone* / by Marianna Dengler ; illustrated by Sibyl Graber Berig. LCCN 96033837. Flagstaff, AZ : Northland Publishing, 1996. HBB, 873586425, \$15.95.**

E. Storytelling--Fiction; Old age--Fiction; Grandfathers--Fiction; Chumash Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--California--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm. Grades PS-3. / Rating: 4

In the note from the author, Mrs. Dengler writes, "the Chumash legend within this

story is not authentic. I do hope...it is consistent with the spirit of the People." The story opens with an older Amanda sitting on a park bench. An encounter with a lonely boy reminds her of her grandfather on the Spanish hacienda. Grandfather told her many stories. One was the story of a Chumash maiden whose tears became the worry stones. Amanda shares the story of the worry stone with the lonely boy. The story does not share much of the Chumash culture and as Mrs. Dengle stated, the legend is not a traditional one. Mrs. Gerig's watercolor illustrations are very beautiful and realistic. The book is worthy of inclusion in your collection because it is a good story, not because of the Native culture included.

HAI DU

***Frog girl* / written and illustrated by Paul Owen Lewis. LCCN 97072345. Hillsboro, Ore. : Beyond Words Publishing, 1997. PAP, 1582460485, \$6.95.**

F. Indians of North America--Northwest, Pacific--Fiction; Frogs--Fiction; Volcanoes--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm. Grades PS-1. / Rating: 4

Two boys capture all the frogs in the lake behind the village. The chief's daughter sees them. She is then taken under the lake to speak with Grandmother Frog. Grandmother becomes upset when the daughter doesn't know where her children (the frogs) are. The

girl escapes to find her village deserted and the volcano rumbling. She finds the hidden frogs and releases them. The volcano stops and her people return. This original tale by Paul Lewis was written after research on the people and cultures of the Northwest Coast. His extensive notes at the end explain the cultural significance of parts of the story. Mr. Lewis's colored artwork exhibits a Native style.

***God's love is like* / written and illustrated by Ray Buckley. LCCN 99173202. Nashville, Tenn. : Abingdon Press, 1998. HBB, 0687056268, \$18.00.**

226.8. Jesus Christ--Parables; Parables. 31 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm. Grades PS-3. / Rating: 4

"Keetah's Special Day" is one of five stories in the book *God's Love Is Like*. The story talks about the storytelling masks of the Haidu people. Keetah's grandmother re-tells the story of the Prodigal Son with the dancers holding the masks. Mr. Buckley has done a wonderful job of having a Native American tell a Bible story. The other stories are also Bible stories told from the perspective of different ethnic groups. The brightly colored drawings complement the text.

Storm boy / written and illustrated by Paul Owen Lewis. LCCN 94073364. Hillsboro, Ore. : Beyond Words Publishing, 1995. HBB, 1885223129, \$14.95.

398.24. Haida Indians--Folklore; Killer whale--Northwest, Pacific--Folklore; Legends--Northwest, Pacific; Indians of North America--Folklore; Folklore--Northwest, Pacific; Killer whale--Folklore; Whales--Folklore. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm. Grades PS-1 / Rating: 4

A chief's son is lost at sea. He ends up in a village not his own. He thinks he has only spent a day in that village, yet when he washed up on shore near his home he discovers he has been gone a year. The story reads like a myth, yet it is an original story by Paul Owen Lewis. The final pages contain author's notes on how the parts of the story relate to Native culture. Mr. Lewis has used a Native style in his colorful artwork.

Totem poles / by Jennifer Frantz ; illustrated by Allen Eitzen. (All aboard reading.) LCCN 0050294. New York : Grosset & Dunlap, 2001. PAP, 0448424231, \$3.99.

971.1. Totem poles; Haida Indians--rites and ceremonies; Indians of North America--British Columbia--Rites and ceremonies; Indians of North America--Alaska--Rites and ceremonies; Northwest Coast of North America. 46 p. : col. ill. ; 22 cm. Grades 1-3. / Rating: 4

Totem Poles opens with the setting up of a totem pole and the potlatch that follows. The book continues with a history of totem poles, how they were made, and the stories they tell. Author Jennifer Frantz has written an excellent non-fiction book for early elementary students. Allan Eitzen's colored picture show students the details of the text that are beyond their knowledge. Totem poles, the carvings of the totem pole, and a potlatch are among the things portrayed that many readers will have no prior knowledge of.

MAIDU

Home to Medicine Mountain / written by Chiori Santiago ; illustrated by Judith Lowry. LCCN 97052987. San Francisco : Children's Book Press, 1998. HBB, 0892391553, \$15.95.

F. Maidu Indians--Fiction; Boarding schools--Fiction; Indians of North America--California--Fiction. 30 p. : ill., map ; 22 x 26 cm. Grades PS-3. / Rating: 5

Home to Medicine Mountain was inspired by the adventures of Mrs. Lowry's uncle and father. The two attended a boarding school many miles from their home in the 1930's. The school did not pay for trips home during

the summers so the boys ride the rails to get home. Ms. Santiago has written a delightful story that shows young children what schooling for Native Americans involved seventy years ago. Ms. Lowry's colorful illustrations will help children visualize unfamiliar scenes. *Home to Medicine Mountain* is an American Library Association Notable Book.

MODOC

The last stronghold : a story of the Modoc Indian War, 1872-1873 / by Harriett M. Luger. LCCN 94026615. North Haven, Ct. : Linnet Books, 1994. PAP, 0208024034, \$17.50.

F. Modoc Indians--Wars, 1873--Fiction. ix, 223 p. ill. map ; 21 cm. Grades 6 & up / Rating: 4

In the late 1800's the United States government moved many Native Americans onto reservations and gave their land to settlers. The Natives in many cases fought against the settlers and the army was sent in. *The Last Stronghold* is the story of three young men involved in the Modoc War. Yankel is a Russian Jew who left home to escape being forced to serve in the Czar's army for sixteen years. He ends up in the United States in the army. Ned is a settler boy whose best friend was killed in a Modoc raid. Charka is a Modoc boy. The story is told from the three different perspectives. Much cultural information about the Modoc is included. The book moves slowly at times so I'd recommend this book to a more experienced reader or one who has interest in the Modoc people. Ms. Luger did extensive research for this book.

MONO

Weaving a California tradition : a Native American basketmaker / by Linda Yamane ; photographs by Dugan Aguilar. LCCN 96013388. Minneapolis : Lerner Publications, 1997. HBB, 0822526603, \$21.95.

746.41. Mono Indians; Indians of North America--California; Basket making. 48 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 22 x 25 cm. Grades 3-5. / Rating: 4

Carly is an eleven-year-old member of the Western Mono tribe in California. She is growing up in a family that comes from a long line of basketweavers. In *Weaving : a California Tradition*, readers will learn about the traditional way of weaving a Mono basket and learn more about the Mono tribe in the process. Readers will also find out more about the different types of Mono

baskets and why they take so long to make. (A basket weaver only makes one or two a year.) The photographs show the area where Carly lives, where and how her family collects the basket materials, and the process of making the baskets.

SHOSHONI

Jenny of the Tetons / Kristiana Gregory. LCCN 2001039233. San Diego : Harcourt, 2002. PAP, 152167706, \$6.00.

F. Leigh, Richard, d. 1899--Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life--Idaho--Teton Valley--Fiction; Shoshoni Indians--Fiction; Bannock Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--Fiction. 168 p. ; 18 cm. Grades 5-7. / Rating: 3

Carrie Hill is part of a wagon train. She is wounded, her parents killed, and her brothers kidnapped in an Indian attack. An English trapper, Beaver Dick Leigh, takes her home to help Jenny, his Shoshone wife. Carrie slowly becomes a member of the family and learns to accept her father's view that all people are worthy of respect regardless of their race or religion. There are at least ten incidents of language some may deem inappropriate. There is also one reference to lovemaking that, while tastefully done, may not be appropriate for the intended audience. Author Kristiana Gregory based this fictional work on the actual diary of Beaver Dick Leigh. *Jenny of the Tetons* is a Golden Kite Award winner.

The legend of Jimmy Spoon / Kristiana Gregory. LCCN 2001039273. San Diego : Harcourt, 2002. PAP, 0152167765, \$6.00.

F. Shoshoni Indians--Fiction; Washakie, ca. 1804-1900--Fiction; Indians of North America--Fiction; Runaways--Fiction. vii, 202 p. ; 18 cm. Grades 5-7. / Rating: 4

Jimmy is not happy with his life in the Mormon settlement. He is the only boy in the family of ten children. His father is a shopkeeper who wants his only son to follow in his footsteps. Jimmy wants adventure, so when two Shoshoni boys offer him a pong in exchange for "visiting" the chief's mother two "hours" away, he considers the possibility. When he is angry with his father, he goes with the boys. He soon learns the journey is much longer than two hours and he is meant to become the chief's mother's son. After a rough start, Jimmy learns to live like a Shoshoni and is eventually accepted into the tribe by most members. After three winters, the tribe learns that his father will soon be making war on the Shoshoni if he is not returned home. In order to keep peace, Jimmy

voluntarily returns to his family. It was not uncommon for Native Americans to take children from other tribes or white families to replace children who had died. Ms. Gregory has written this fictional story inspired by the diary of Elijah Nicholas Wilson. She has included many details of Shoshoni life in the 1800's.

***Moho Wat : a Sheepeater boy attempts a rescue* / by Kenneth Thomasma ; Jack Brouwer illustrator. (Amazing Indian children series.) LCCN 94004074. Grand Rapids : Baker Books, 1994. PAP, 0801089190, \$5.99.**

F. Shoshoni Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--Fiction. 184 p. : ill. map ; 20 cm. Grades 5-8. / Rating: 4

Moho Wat is the sixth book in Ken Thomasma's "Amazing Indian Children" series. *Moho Wat* is a member of the Sheepeater band of Shoshoni Indians. Much tragedy occurs in the life of this nine-year-old Indian boy. His older brother is killed before the story begins. He loses his hand in a mountain lion attack. Wind Flower, a girl he met at the summer gathering, is kidnapped by an enemy tribe. The Sheepeater warriors do nothing so one-handed *Moho Wat* decides on his own to rescue Wind Flower. Some of the book is a bit unbelievable—a family of three living alone, only seeing other Sheepeater people at the time of the summer gathering. The book is written for late pre-teens but with a nine-year-old hero it will appeal more to ages 8-10. The author uses direct statement rather than subtle hints to let the reader know what is coming, which older readers won't necessarily appreciate. Jack Brouwer's sketches illustrate various scenes in the story. While the book may not necessarily appeal to its intended audience, it would be a good read-aloud for younger students. It does contain many details of how the Sheepeater people lived.

***Naya Nuki : girl who ran* / Kenneth Thomasma ; Eunice Hundley, illustrator. (Voyager series.) LCCN 83143272. Grand Rapids : Baker Books, 1983. PAP, 0801088682, \$6.99.**

F. Shoshoni girls--Fiction; Indians of North America--Fiction. 131 p. : ill. ; 21 cm. Grades 4-6. / Rating: 4

Eleven-year-old *Naya Nuki* and her best friend *Sacajawea* were captured by an enemy tribe while their tribe was on the way to summer hunting grounds. *Sacajawea* readily accepts her fate but *Naya Nuki*

memorizes their route from the first day with the plan of escaping and returning to her people. When they arrive at the enemy village 1000 miles away, *Naya Nuki* sets herself up as a model captive doing everything she is told and more. Eventually she is no longer watched closely. She steals a buffalo hide and food, hides them, and waits for her chance to escape. Meanwhile *Sacajawea* is sold to the white man. *Naya Nuki* exhibits the courage and ability to survive of her Shoshoni people on her month-long, thousand-mile trek back home. Kenneth Thomasma based the book *Naya Nuki* on Captain Lewis' account of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's visit to a Shoshoni village. *Sacajawea* recognized one of the villagers as her friend who had been captured with her four years earlier. Eunice Hundley's sketches illustrate various scenes in the story.

SUQUAMISH

***Daughter of Suqua* / Diane Johnston Hamm. LCCN 96048129. Morton Grove, Ill. : Albert Whitman, 1997. HBB, 0807514772.**

F. Suquamish Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--Washington (State)--Fiction; Family life--Washington (State)--Fiction. 154 p. ; 21 cm. Grades 5-7. / Rating: 5

Ida is a young Suquamish girl living on the reservation in the early 1900's. Treaties have been made with the government that the People don't fully understand. When they agree to move to a new allotment so that the government can build a fort, they don't think it will happen. Now they have to move to their allotment. When the treaty guaranteed education for their children, they didn't realize that if their allotment was too far from the school, their children would be sent to boarding school. *Diane Hamm* did extensive research for the book. She shows the feelings of *Ida* and the community in a way that the reader will share the feelings. *Daughter of Suqua* gives the reader a window into the culture and history of the Suqua people.

TLINGIT

***Children of the Tlingit* / written and photographed by Frank Staub. (The world's children.) LCCN 98020840. Minneapolis : Carolrhoda Books, 1999. HBB, 1575053330, \$24.95.**

979.8. Tlingit Indians; Indians of North America--Alaska; Alaska--Social life and customs. 48 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 22 x 27 cm. Grades 3-5. / Rating: 4

Children of the Tlingit is part of The World's Children series. Author and photographer Frank Staub introduces the reader to the Tlingit people by showing different Tlingit children in their surroundings. The book explores the Tlingit history, culture, and religion through the lives of young tribal members. Children are also shown in activities that are helping to retain the Tlingit culture. A pronunciation guide and index increase the book's usefulness as a resource book for students researchers.

***A story to tell : traditions of a Tlingit community* / by Richard Nichols ; photographs by D. Bambi Kraus. (We are still here.) LCCN 97009592. Minneapolis : Lerner Publications, 1998. HBB, 0822526611, \$22.95.**

979.8. Tlingit Indians; Indians of North America--Alaska. 48 p. : ill. (some col.), col. map ; 22 x 25 cm. Grades 3-7. / Rating: 4

Grandmother Fran has a story to tell her granddaughter Marissa. *A Story to Tell* is that story. Grandmother Fran tells Marissa the story of the Tlingit people. Many aspects of Tlingit life are included in the story: their history, their culture, the clan structure, the influence of the whites. Marissa is the niece of the photographer. Ms. Kraus' beautiful photos compliment the text. Author Richard Nichols has written a wonderful story of a grandmother passing on the tribal story to her granddaughter in the way elders in native tribes have passed on the stories for centuries. *A Story to Tell* is part of the We Are Still Here series.

***The wave of the Sea-Wolf* / story and pictures by David Wisniewski. LCCN 93018265. New York : Clarion Books, 1994. LIB, 0395664780, \$17.00.**

E. Fairy tales; Tlingit Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--Northwest, Pacific--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm. Grades PS-3. / Rating: 4

Princess *Kchokeen* falls into a hollow trunk and cannot get out. While waiting for her brothers to rescue her, she sees *Gonakadet*, the *Sea Wolf*, who makes great waves in the bay. Thereafter *Kchokeen* is able to foretell the giant waves, a gift which helps keep the village fishermen safe. When foreigners come demanding more furs than the villagers have, *Kchokeen* consults with the *Sea Wolf* which results in a giant wave which sinks the foreigner's vessel and would have covered the war canoe of the villagers except that it lands in a tree. David Wisniewski has illustrated his text with beautiful cut paper artwork.

YANA

Wild fire / Linda I. Shands. (Wakara of Eagle Lodge ; 1.) LCCN 0053360. Grand Rapids : Fleming Revell, 2001. PAP, 0800757467, \$5.99.

F. Grief--Fiction; Identity--Fiction; Single-parent families--Fiction; Forest fires--Fiction; Survival--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Oregon--Fiction. 168 p. ; 19 cm. Grades 6-9. / Rating: 4

Blind fury / Linda I. Shands. (Wakara of Eagle Lodge ; 2.) LCCN 0053361. Grand Rapids : Fleming Revell, 2001. PAP, 0800757475, \$5.99.

F. Single-parent families--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Identity--Fiction; Blizzards--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Ranch life--Oregon--Fiction; Oregon--Fiction. 172 p. ; 19 cm. Grades 6-9. / Rating: 4

White water / Linda I. Shands. (Wakara of Eagle Lodge ; 3.) LCCN 2001031832. Grand Rapids : Fleming Revell, 2001. PAP, 0800757726, \$5.99.

F. Single-parent families--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Ranch life--Oregon--Fiction; Oregon--Fiction. 165 p. : ill., maps ; 20 cm. Grades 6-9. / Rating: 4

The first book in the series starts six months after the death of Wakara's mother. Fifteen-year-old Wakara is now responsible for her mom's chores including the care of her younger brother Ryan. Her family owns a wilderness resort which means a lot of work for the family. This summer Dad has hired Colin, a ranch hand, and Anne, a Native American housekeeper to help run the resort. Anne helps Wakara learn about her Native American heritage and her heritage as a child of God. The family is threatened by a wild fire. The family slowly recovers from the loss of their mother. Author Linda Shands has not included much Native American culture in *Wild Fire*.

In *Blind Fury*, Wakara's best friend Tia is researching Wakara's ancestors. Information about the Yana people is shared as Tia discovers it in her research. Wakara has her share of excitement whether it is getting her younger brother out of trouble or looking for her dad in a snowstorm. Wakara learns to think about how her actions affect others.

In *White Water*, Wakara learns more of her Native American ancestry from her Grandpa who is visiting from Ireland. A rogue bear threatens the family when they visit Eagle Lodge. Colin makes a bad decision during a white-water rafting trip which endangers Ryan's life. Wakara has to learn to forgive Colin for his mistake.

The series Wakara of Eagle Lodge is enjoyable. Pre-teen girls will especially

enjoy the books. Christian faith is evident and a small amount of Native American culture and history is included.

GENERAL (Tribe not specified)

Dreambirds / by David Ogden ; illustrations by Jody Bergsma. LCCN 96045445. Bellevue, Wash. : Illumination Arts, 1997. HBB, 0935699090, \$16.95.

F. Indians of North America--Fiction; Grandmothers--Fiction. 30 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm. Grades K-2. / Rating: 3

David Ogden has written a tale about Natsama, a young Native American whose grandmother told him about dreambirds. Natsama decides to work on skills that will allow him to catch a dreambird someday. Mr. Ogden's tale contains spiritual elements of Native culture. Unfortunately, the reader is not informed of which Native culture. Jody Bergsma's illustrations have a Native American feel to them.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

The Chumash: Seafarers of the Pacific Coast

Make Acorn Pancakes -- recipe included in the book

Jenny of the Tetons and The Legend of Jimmy Spoon

The books were written based on diaries or other primary documents. Guide your students in writing a short story based on information in an old diary or other primary source document.

Traditional Native American arts and activities / Arlette N. Braman ; illustrated by Bill Helin. (Celebrating our heritage.) LCCN 0043295. New York : Wiley, 2000. PAP, 0471359920, \$12.95.

745. Indians of North America--Material culture; Indian crafts--North American. vii, 120 p. : ill. ; 22 X 28 cm. Grades K-6. / Rating: 4

Arlette Braman includes a chapter of activities from The Great Basin, the Plateau, and the California tribes. Another chapter covers the natives of the Northwest Coast. One easy to make and play game is the Chumash Ring-and-stick game. A more involved project would be the Tlinglit Button Blanket. All directions for projects are included in the book. In all nineteen projects are included, taken from different native groups across the United States.

Weaving a California Tradition: Native American Basketmaker

After reading the book, discuss ways in which Carly is the same as the students in your class.

The Worry Stone

Visit the publisher's web site at www.northlandpub.com. Click on Rising Moon, then on Tools for Teachers. Here you will find a list of books with lessons on the web. Click on The Worry Stone to see what is available. (The lesson for *The Worry Stone* was not yet available when I last checked, but there is a phone number to call to get a copy of the lesson.)

INTERNET CONNECTIONS

THE HAIDU

www.civilization.ca/aborig/haidu/hapindx.htm
1

At this web site of the Canadian Museum of Civilization you will find much information about the Haidu people.

MAIDU www.maidu.com/maidu/

This web site of the Konkow Valley Band of Maidu has information on the Maidu culture and history.

SUQUAMISH

www.suquamish.nsn.us/navbar.htm

Here you will find information about the

culture of the Suquamish people and about Chief Seattle.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

In my last column, the book *A Small Tall Tale From the Far Far North* had the incorrect publisher. The publisher for the 2001 edition of this book is Farrar, Straus and Giroux. I am sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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.

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The Light vs. the Dark

by Donna W. Bowling

***Over sea, under stone* / Susan Cooper ; illustrated by Margery Gill. (The dark is rising sequence ; 1.) LCCN 66011199. New York : Harper, Brace & World, 1966. HBB, 015259034X, \$18.00.**

F. Fantasy; Cornwall (England : county)--Fiction; England--Fiction. 252 p. ; illus. : 21 cm.

***The dark is rising* / Susan Cooper ; illustrated by Alan E. Cober. (The dark is rising sequence ; 2.) LCCN 72085916. New York : Atheneum, 1973. HBB, 0689303173, \$18.95.**

F. Fantasy; Good and evil--Fiction; Cornwall (England : county)--Fiction; England--Fiction. 216 p. ; illus. : 25 cm.

***Greenwich* / Susan Cooper. (The dark is rising sequence ; 3.) LCCN 86003324. New York : Simon Pulse, 1986, c1974. PAP, 0689710887, \$4.99.**

F. Fantasy; Cornwall (England : county)--Fiction; England--Fiction. 148 p. ; 18 cm.

***The grey king* / by Susan Cooper ; ill. by Michael Heslop. (The dark is rising sequence ; 4.) LCCN 75008526. New York : Atheneum, 1975. HBB, 0689500297, \$18.95.**

F. Fantasy; Wales--Fiction; Newbery Medal. 208 p. ; ill. : 25 cm.

***Silver on the tree* / Susan Cooper. (The dark is rising sequence ; 5.) LCCN 77005361. New York : Atheneum, 1977. HBB, 0689500882, \$18.95.**

F. Space and time--Fiction; Fantasy; Wales--Fiction. ix, 269 p. ; 25 cm.

Grades: 5-8

Rating: 4, with reservations, for Christian families

(Not recommended for Christian schools)

The conflict between good and evil is a universal theme in literature, and particularly so in fantasy. The real question, of course, is "How are good and evil defined?" The highly acclaimed fantasy series, *The Dark Is Rising* sequence by Susan Cooper, gives an excellent opportunity to explore that question.

Over Sea, Under Stone -- Simon, Jane, and Barney Drew find mystery and danger during their family vacation in Cornwall with "Great-Uncle Merry." While exploring for hidden passages in his friend's old Grey

House, the children find an ancient manuscript. The children's "Great-Uncle Merry," also known as Professor Merriman Lyon, translates the manuscript which contains a map showing the location of a lost golden grail from the time of King Arthur. In spite of robbery, deceit, and kidnapping by enemies, the children retrieve the grail from "over sea, and under stone" and turn it over to their "Gumerry" to be housed in the British Museum.

The Dark Is Rising -- On his eleventh birthday, Will Stanton learns that he is the last of the immortal Old Ones. Through the Book of Gramarye, his mentor Merriman teaches Will about his special magical powers. Will's task as the Sign Seeker takes him through adventures in and out of several time periods to collect the six signs of "wood, bronze, iron, water, fire, stone" to aid the guardians of the Light in their conflict with the evil forces of the Dark. The signs are joined into a chain to be stored for the final battle between the forces of Light and Dark. Newbery Honor Book, 1974.

Greenwich -- When the gold chalice is stolen from the museum, Great-Uncle Merry arranges for the Drew children to spend spring vacation with him in Cornwall to try to get it back. Meanwhile Professor Lyon has invited Will's Uncle Bill and Aunt Fran Stanton to stay with him in Cornwall while they are on business, and they suggest that Will join them during his break. The local women invite Jane to observe as they make from hawthorn branches a traditional Greenwich to be cast into the sea. With some help from Will, Barney, and Simon recover the grail hidden by an agent of the Dark. Because of Jane's sympathy with the Greenwich, it magically gives Jane a sealed tube that had fallen from the grail into the sea. This tube contains an ancient manuscript with the key to the grail's inscriptions that give the clues to the final stages of the battle against the Dark.

The Grey King -- After a serious bout with hepatitis, Will is sent to an uncle's farm in Wales to recuperate. He befriends Bran, a strange albino boy, who has a white dog with silver eyes. Bran helps Will remember a forgotten poem with the clues to his quest for the Light, to find a golden harp and awaken the six sleepers. In spite of opposition from the Dark force of the Grey King of the mountain, a vicious neighbor, and a raging wildfire, Will and Bran fulfill that quest and learn the secret of Bran's special heritage. Newbery Award, 1976

Silver on the Tree -- As midsummer approaches, Will and Bran are joined by the Drew children in Wales on a family vacation. Jane, Simon, and Barney are each drawn in and out of earlier time periods confronting agents of the Dark, but are guided and protected by the Light. Meanwhile Will and Bran enter the Lost Land and overcome many obstacles to gain the magical crystal sword. Along with Merriman, the five children reach the great oak tree and Bran cuts the white mistletoe blossoms with the sword, fulfilling the prophecy and thus defeating the rising forces of Dark.

These oversimplified summaries of the key elements of the various quests belie the rich, intricate texture of the stories in the *Dark Is Rising* sequence. Born in England, journalist and author Susan Cooper married an American and moved to the United States. To create this vivid and complex fantasy series, Cooper has borrowed elements from Arthurian legend and ancient Celtic lore from England, Wales, and Cornwall. Some of her evil characters seem deceptively nice at first, while others are more consistently abhorrent. Her major characters are well rounded as she displays both the strengths and the ambivalence of each of the children—and occasionally Merriman and other adults. The first book

in the series serves much as a prologue. In it the Drew children recognize a power possessed by Gumerry ("Merlin?") and some of his enemies, but the forces of Light and Dark are not yet specifically named. The plot lines of the later books are complicated by frequent unexpected magical transport of characters into past time periods, and then back again, usually without noticeable passage of time in the twentieth century setting. Two themes that appear repeatedly are the personal responsibility for human choices and their consequences, and the great power of the bonds of human love. With its soaring imagination, this well-written series is too important to be ignored. The original hardbound books contain full-page black and white illustrations by Margery Gill, Alan M. Cober, and Michael Heslop.

In the magic system created in this series, the High Magic, the Old Magic of the earth, and the Wild Magic of living things are by nature neutral to the efforts of the guardians of the Light who are protecting humankind from the evil forces of the Dark. (Much human evil is independent of any direct influence from the Dark, and it is expected to continue after the victory over the Dark in this series.). The "good" Old Ones of the Light are clearly not aligned with the clergy. Occasional biblical allusions, Christmas carols and services, and Easter celebrations are natural parts of the setting, but Christian faith seems irrelevant in this conflict. This series explicitly states that the "sign" of the quartered circle predates the cross of Christ. Over the centuries, this shape has been assigned many meanings (some occult), but has also been adopted by some as a Christian Celtic cross. Occasional terms from the Druid calendar are not specifically identified as such. These issues provide much content for analysis and discussion about worldview and definitions of good and evil.

I recently looked at several Christian book selection tools I have at hand. [Cf. *CLJ*, 7 (2/3):10-12 (2002)] Most exclude this series. I only found one author who recommended the series without reservation. (Most secular reviewers give it high marks,

but a few disagree.)

In *Honey for a Teen's Heart*, Hampton stars the series for a basic collection for Christian school libraries, etc., for middle school and early high school, but suggests questioning Cooper's views. "It is difficult to label her, but we can assert that the pagan Celtic myths seem more attractive to Cooper than the Christian story. In the Dark Is Rising sequence, good and evil have equal powers and exist independently of the older natural world—a belief often labeled 'dualism'" (p. 171).

Lindskoog and Hunsicker recommend the series, but qualify with "Cooper uses some biblical allusions in her stories, but she presents a dualistic world where good and evil are eternally coexistent. Some children will be troubled by the mingling of darkness and light portrayed in some of the characters" (p. 114). With opportunity for wise guidance, I feel free to recommend this series. However without such supervision, the series may not be appropriate for a Christian school context.

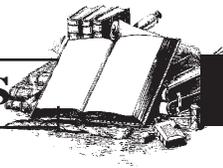
References:

Hunt, Gladys & Hampton, Barbara. *Honey for a Teen's Heart*. Zondervan, 2002

Lindskoog, Kathryn & Hunsicker, Ranelda Mack. *How to Grow a Young Reader*, Rev. ed. Harold Shaw Publishers, 1999.

McEwan, Elaine K. *How to Raise a Reader*. Baker Books, 1999.

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



*

***The nightingale* / Hans Christian Andersen ; adapted and illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. LCCN 2001047601. New York : Phyllis Fogelman Books, 2002. Hardbound, \$16.99.**

E. Fairy tales; Nightingales--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 30 cm.

Grades K-3 / Rating : *5

The king hears of a beautiful bird, a nightingale, whose songs bring tears to the hearer's eyes. He immediately wants to possess the bird and will stop at nothing to get her. The courtiers are frantic, for they have been threatened with being trampled, unless they find and bring the bird to their king. Finally, a young kitchen girl is found who knows where to locate the bird. Upon

approach, the nightingale agrees to go and live with the king at his palace. All is well until a mechanical bird is made to replace the nightingale.

Although the machine is only able to play one tune, it is bedecked in gold and jewels and quickly enchants the entire court. Neglected, the true nightingale returns to her home in the jungle. When the king gets sick, she returns to the palace to comfort him and ward off Death. In return for the bird's service to him, the king promises her the freedom to come and go as she pleases.

The Nightingale, adapted by Jerry Pinkney, is a re-telling of a Hans Christian Andersen folktale. Morocco, rather than the usual backdrop of China, has been used. This setting not only

represents the rich diversities in culture, skin tone, and clothing, but also it is one of the places where nightingales reside. Pinkney's colorful watercolor illustrations are aesthetically pleasing. Highly recommended for all libraries.

Kim Harris

*

***Hobbledy-clop* / by Pat Brisson ; illustrated by Maxie Chambliss. LCCN 2002108411. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyds Mills, 2003. Hardbound, \$15.95.**

E. Grandmothers--Fiction; Animals--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) ; 26 cm.

Grades PS-1 / Rating : *5

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

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

* Outstanding Book of Its Genre

Commonly Used Abbreviations in CLJ Reviews

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

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

CDR CD-ROM
 VID Videocassette
 LLB Loose-leaf binding

There is nothing so contagious as laughter, especially "tickles" that are shared between a grandma and her grandson. In the entrancing book *Hobbledy-Clop*, Pat Brisson tells the simple story of Brendon O'Doyle and his assortment of pets that bring a tea party to Grandma's house. The chaos that breaks out next is not wild-and-out-of-control. It begins as Grandma, who is extremely ticklish, holds the snake Dudley. His slithering tickles her skin and she giggles. The tea party falls apart after that, in the nicest sort of way, a loving understanding between the generations. Excellent to be read alone, better to be read with Grandma!

Pat Brisson chooses the title *Hobbledy-Clop* because that is the sound of the little red wagon rolling over the rocks in the road on the way to Grandma's. This insight is indicative of the care taken in scripting this delightful story. The quotations are simple, mainly kindly-spoken directives to the animals, and an invitation to join the tea party.

Illustrator Maxie Chambliss presents the story in great detail; the pictures tell the story to the young child. The characters are engaging, showing understanding and affection for each other while maintaining their given role in life.

Su Hagerly

***Smoky night* / written by Eve Bunting ; illustrated by David Diaz. LCCN 93014885. San Diego : Harcourt Brace, 1994. Hardbound, \$16.00.**

E. Riots--California--Los Angeles--Fiction; Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Neighborliness--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 4, with caution

Eve Bunting's *Smoky Night* is a first-person narrative that takes place during the Los Angeles riots. It is the story of Daniel, a child who is trying to make sense of the disturbances and the unlawful behavior that is taking place on his very street. There is tension between the different people groups in his neighborhood. Mama tells him that rioting happens as people give into their anger. Yet, even Mama uses the familiar phrase "our own people." Now he looks out the window and sees people rioting, he sees fires in the distance. He is scared but as things settle down, he goes to sleep. Daniel is awakened in the night; his building is on fire! He is able to get out, but he cannot find his cat. Fearing the worst, he must leave and settle at a shelter. All kinds of people are together in the big room; there is anxiety all around. A fireman enters, with Daniel's cat, Jasmine. Another cat is with her, a cat whose owner is not one of "our own people." These cats find refuge together and comfort each other during the riot. At the shelter, they share a bowl of milk, and their example softens the people around, teaching them a lesson of acceptance.

Smoky Night is very well written, with basic vocabulary. Yet it is surprising to open a picture book and be hit with such a serious subject. It would be excellent to share with children in an area that is familiar with rioting, to open up discussions about dealing with violence, accepting those who are different, or how we need to control anger. However it could be scary to those who have never been faced with such a notion, and/or preschool aged children. Because of the content, this picture book is appropriate for older kids, even 5th and 6th graders.

David Diaz has created unique illustrations. The text is on one page, his bold acrylic paintings on another, both superimposed over photograph collages. Upon a second and third investigation, the story itself is retold with items that would found at each site. The drawings of the people are angular, a depiction of the primitive actions described.

Smoky Night is another quality creation by Eve Bunting, telling a story based on a historical event. An excellent tool to help children understand about the real world around them. Discretion needs to be taken when choosing the appropriate audience.

Karen Brehmer

***Mike Mulligan and more* / [Virginia Lee Burton.]. LCCN 2002104753. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2002. Hardbound, \$20.00.**

E. City and town life--Fiction; Snow--Fiction; Steam shovels--Fiction; Cable cars (Streetcars)--Fiction; Tractors--Fiction; San Francisco (Calif.)--Fiction. 202 p. : ill., col. ill. ; 23 x 25 cm.

Grades PS-2 / Rating : 5

Burton writes about her life experiences in these classic stories, describing places that are also familiar to her readers. *Mike Mulligan and More* is a treasure chest of four favorites: Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel, The Little House, Katy and the Big Snow, and Maybelle the Cable Car.

Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel is a heroic tale of a man who loves his steam shovel and treats her with great respect although she is outdated. Mike Mulligan accepts the challenge to dig the basement of city hall of Popperville, and finds a final and permanent home.

The Little House wonders what it would be like to live in a city. Progress and urban sprawl answer her question. Full circle, the little house is returned to the country.

Perseverance is the theme of Katy and the Big Snow. Nothing is too difficult for the brave-hearted snowplow. Perhaps she gets tired, but she doesn't quit until the job is completed.

The city of San Francisco is the home of Maybelle the Cable Car. Big Bill the Bus is the

bully but finds Maybelle's run too dangerous and difficult for his ability. The solution is "Let's be friends."

Burton is a talented illustrator, using the white space of the book to best advantage. She gives a whole catalogue of information in the margins.

Su Hagerly

***A new Barker in the house* / written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola. LCCN 2001048128. New York : PenguinPutnam, 2002. Hardbound, \$13.99.**

E. Adoption--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Twins--Fiction; Hispanic Americans--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades 1-3 / Rating : 5

Moffie and Morgie, the girl and boy Barker twins, learn that their Mama and Papa are adopting Marcos, a three year old Hispanic boy who speaks only Spanish. Their responsibility is to help him learn some English words. Each Barker child decides what to teach this new brother. Moffie will show him how to have a tea party and read to him. Morgie will tell him about dinosaurs and show him how to play baseball. They will both take him to school for "Show-and-Tell."

Tomie DePaola's simple, yet distinctive art, coupled with short and simple dialogue, teaches young children Spanish words. Moffie and Morgie teach Marcos English counterparts—hello, ball, bunny, sister, brother, and family. By the end of the first day even Mama and Papa Barker have learned some Spanish.

This is the second in dePaola's Barker series, the main characters fashioned after his own beloved English terriers. Find other fun adventures in book one (Putnam, 2001), titled *Meet the Barkers: Morgan and Moffat Go to School* (CLJ, Winter, 2002. Book three was published by Putnam in July 2003, titled *Trouble in the Barkers' Class*. Children can transition with the Barkers, as dePaola also has written beginning chapter books with Moffie and Morgie as the main characters. *A New Barker in the House* will be a wonderful addition to any elementary school or church library.

Helen Hunter

***Rap a tap tap : here's Bojangles--think of that* / Leo & Diane Dillon. LCCN 2001043896. New York : Scholastic, 2002. Hardbound, \$15.95.**

E. Robinson, Bill, 1878-1949--Fiction; Stories in rhyme; African Americans--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades K-4 / Rating : 5

Bojangles is a name that is intriguing and calls up long ago memories. In the biography *Rap a Tap Tap : Here's Bojangles—Think of That*, Leo and Diane Dillon explore the creative part of Bill Robinson's life. His tap dancing is

legendary; he just can't stand still. His passion becomes his trademark. His dancing feet delight the rich and the downtrodden, children and shopkeepers alike. Eventually his path leads to fame. He appears in theatres and on the silver screen. But he never forgets the less fortunate, dispensing charity to the poor. Bojangles hits the big time in the 1930's because of his enormous creativity.

In call-and-response fashion, so typical of the black music community, the Dillons present an overview of Bill Robinson's adult life. They use "rap a tap tap—think of that" as the response, a repeated phrase that the children can anticipate and say along with the reader. The biographical sketch of Robinson appears on the final page and fills in the details missing from the stylized text.

The artwork is intricate and fascinating, thin coatings of color allowing the underneath layer to show through. It reminds one of tissue paper collage. Most amazing is the use of color in depicting the movement of Bojangles' legs and feet. Multiple shades show the various positions. People do not have distinct features; they are shown in silhouette. Nonetheless, the portrayals are joyous and active, bursting with the vitality common to the interaction between dancer and audience.

Su Hagerty

***Ape in a cape* / Fritz Eichenberg. LCCN 52006908. New York : Harcourt, 1988 ; 1952. Paperbound, \$7.00.**

E. Alphabet; Animals--Pictorial works. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.
Grades PS-2 / Rating : 5

This colorful picture alphabet was a 1953 Caldecott Honor Book. Fritz Eichenberg, one of the twentieth centuries most distinguished graphic artists, rhymed and illustrated *Ape in a Cape* with loving care. Humor, color, verse, and fun work together, encouraging the young mind to learn. Meet the ape in a cape, a lizard with a wizard, a vulture with culture, and twenty-three other engaging alphabet characters. The marriage of rhyme and picture encourages new readers.

Fritz Eichenberg is noted especially for his wood engravings and lithography. Quaker, pacifist, illustrator, and artist's advocate, he tempers his artist's eye with humor and love of children, filling his pictures with bright primary color. On each page, illustration and rhyme flow together. Written for young children, *Ape in a Cape* will also help students of all ages who study English as a second language. Many grandparents and parents will remember this book from their childhood. Others will be meeting *Ape in a Cape* for the first time. Whether new friend or old, this recent edition of *Ape in a Cape* will encourage a rich family tradition as it is shared with today's children.

Recommended for all school libraries, families, and baby sitters.

Donna Eggett

***Yikes!* / Robert Florczak. LCCN 2002006551. New York : Blue Sky Press, 2003. Hardbound, \$15.95.**

E. Safaris--Fiction; Animals--Fiction; Imagination--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 31 cm.
Grades 1-3 / Rating : 4

How many ways can you say, "Yikes!"? Robert Florczak, in his picture book by the title, *Yikes!* explores the possibilities. The idea of the book is that going on a safari puts you into many situations that are startling and even scary. The natural reaction is a yell, sometimes deserving of one, two, or three exclamation points! What starts out as a fairly tame adventure, admiring rainbow lorikeets and frolicking with orangutans, swiftly spirals into coming face to face with a komodo dragon and poisonous snakes. The guide to the proper names of jungle-dwellers is found on the last page.

Although *Yikes!* has no true storyline, author Florczak takes full advantage of the trip through the forest, highlighting the native vegetation and certainly the animals indigenous to that habitat. With the use of TOMBOW™ markers, colored pencils and gouache on brownline paper, the illustrations are vibrant. Each drawing fills up the entire page with the exclamation visible, yet never distracts the attention from the main focus: the animals. There are plenty of additional creatures to admire in each picture, ones not named in the text. They may be explored in other books about the jungle. Florczak cites the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as a source.

Su Hagerty

***Yesterday I had the blues* / by Jeron Ashford Frame ; illustrations by R. Gregory Christie. LCCN 2002155295. Berkeley, Calif. : Tricycle Press, 2003. Hardbound, \$14.95.**

E. Emotions--Fiction; Family life--Fiction; African Americans--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.
Grades 1-4 / Rating : 4

Emotions are often expressed by color. Jeron Ashford Frame gives us insight into a family's feelings in *Yesterday I Had the Blues*. Most of us are familiar with the blues, "the go away, Mr. Sun, quit smilin' at me blues." But indigo? How is that different? Could it be the blues with attitude? Ask big sister Talia: "the kind of indigo make her act like the drapes." The communication in this family runs deep. The narrator allows that all the colorful moods are acceptable because of the constant: they are family.

Frame's text is conversational, spoken in first-person voice by a precocious black boy. A slight

misuse of proper English is included in the quotations, but the conversations don't quite slide into Ebonics. Frame focuses on each member of this extended family, showing a facet of their personality through the emotion they project at one given time. The acrylic and gouache illustrations by R. Gregory Christie are full of verve, the expressions echoing the words of the page. When a color word appears in the text, the illustration explodes with the corresponding color in all manner of shades, making their presence known. The pictures are as forthright as the verbal communication. The book is an excellent opener for talking about appropriate ways to express feelings.

Su Hagerty

***Zee* / Michel Gay. LCCN 2003001096. New York : Clarion Books, 2003. Hardbound, \$15.00.**

E. Coffee--Fiction; Parent and child--Fiction; Morning--Fiction; Zebras--Fiction. 29 p. : col. ill. ; 24 x 30 cm.
Grades PS-1 / Rating : 4

This engaging picture book introduces readers and listeners to the French Zebra family: Zee, Mama, and Papa. Deciding to wake his parents gently with breakfast in bed, Zee puts his preschool mental and physical abilities to work as he makes plans, overcomes problems, and finally enjoys cuddles and kisses.

Translated from the French, *Zee* introduces popular European author and illustrator Michael Gay to American families. Themed in zebra black and white, Gay illumines his charming watercolors with brilliant splashes of primary color. Words and pictures work together, each explaining the other. Families will relate to Zee's efforts, mistakes, and joys. A book to read to preschoolers and to be read by new readers, *Zee* is recommended for families, preschool, kindergarten, and first grade.

Donna Eggett

***I call my hand gentle* / story by Amanda Haan ; pictures by Marina Sagona. LCCN 2002012697. New York : Viking, 2003. Hardbound, \$16.99.**

E. Hand--Fiction; Choice--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 26cm.
Grades PS-1 / Rating : 4

Amanda Haan's *I Call My Hand Gentle* is all about making choices. Our hands are wonderful, agents of industry and play. They can be helpful. They can be gentle. These choices lead to harmony and beneficial actions. Hands can also cause destruction, meting out hurt. What is it that makes the difference? It is the ability of the person to choose good or evil. And early childhood is the time when the impression for positive actions must be made. "What do I know about my hand? It can't do things without me. It does what I want it to do."

The reader notices that Haan has chosen to write her book using all capital letters. Further, there are no punctuation marks. The beginning of the book lists, without emotion, the facts of hand proficiencies. The next section tells "when I want to play..." and "when I want to work..." Only one double-page dwells on the evils hands can perpetrate. Then, the text swings back to kind, productive hands. "So I'll call my hands gentle."

The illustrations of Marina Sagona add a touch of whimsy to this serious subject. Some of the pictures are as simple as a pageful of hues of the same color. Some repeat; for instance, a hand made of flowers, appears on the next page as the background for the simple text. The wallpaper in one page can be seen as the endpapers.

An effective teaching tool, *I Call my Hand Gentle* is a book to be shared, mentor to child. One lesson: positive choices can be made internally before circumstances demand action.

Su Hagerty

***The memory cupboard* / by Charlotte Herman ; illustrated by Ben F. Stahl. LCCN 2003000237. Morton Grove, Ill. : Albert Whitman, 2003. Hardbound, \$15.95.**

E. Family--Fiction; Grandmothers--Fiction; Thanksgiving Day--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades PS-2 / Rating : 4

Nothing compares to Thanksgiving at Grandma's house. Katie travels overnight by train with Mom and Dad to spend Thanksgiving with her aunts and uncles in Grandma's Westport home, the big white house where Mom grew up. But a cherished object is broken at dinner, and Katie blames herself for spoiling the day. Grandma shows her the memory cupboard and Katie realizes that though we grow attached to our possessions, it is people who really matter.

Charlotte Herman shows us almost unrealistic family bliss; there's not an irritable word or tense face anywhere in the story. Many younger kids will recognize Katie's happiness at the reunion, her guilt, and her intense bond with her grandma. Ben F. Stahl offers seemingly warm and inviting acrylic illustrations, which even help diffuse the situation at the meal.

The Memory Cupboard comes to us in time for the holiday season, and will be enjoyed by a roomful of eager students. It teaches us that people are always to be considered more important than any one single item.

Rick Estep

***Zoe's hats : a book of colors and patterns* / Sharon Lane Holm. LCCN 2002108410. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyds Mills, 2003. Hardbound, \$13.95.**

E. Hats--Fiction; Colors--Fiction; Pattern perception--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades PS-1 / Rating : 5

Zoe's Hats by Sharon Lane Holm gets an A-plus rating for personality. Zoe is the model for some two dozen engaging hats. There are hats for every season, for every occasion. She shows us hats that aren't really hats, and probably shouldn't even be worn. ("Stripes! Yikes!") There are hats worn in different occupations, from Santa Claus to cowboy. Using a range of patterns, colors, and shapes, headgear is the uniting factor for their inclusion in this book. There is no story-line, no organization. There is just the amusing Zoe sharing her amazing collection of hats.

The text employed in *Zoe's Hats* refines the illustration into the essentials. One of the longer phrases is "Gray, spotted, dotted hat," describing a colander upside-down on Zoe's head.

Sharon Lane Holm is also the illustrator. She draws the enchanting Zoe with facial features and coloring in a style similar to Joan Walsh Anglund's characters. As we follow along, Zoe goes through a metamorphosis. Each page turned may give a slight variation to the full-face presentation. But, the transformation is engineered, for the most part, by the color and shape of the chapeau. Youngsters who like to play dress-up will particularly enjoy this book.

Su Hagerty

***Princess Penelope* / by Todd Mack; illustrated by Julia Gran. LCCN 2002003080. New York : Scholastic, 2003. Hardbound, \$15.95.**

E. Parent and child--Fiction; Princesses--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades PS-2 / Rating : 4

Make-believe is sometimes stronger than reality to a child. "Penelope was a princess. She was absolutely certain." And this belief grows with intensity throughout the picture book *Princess Penelope*, a first-time offering by author Todd Mack. By lineage, she is a Princess, the crown given her from her grandmother proves this. Penelope is called "Princess" by her doting parents. What more can we say? Imagination peoples her kingdom with chambermaids, wardrobe mistresses, and jesters who are also her adoring audience. Pampered in a bubble bath and put to bed by both parents is the fitting end to another day of being royalty. "Penelope was a princess. She was absolutely certain."

It is obvious that Todd Mack has a daily acquaintance with a Princess. His charming tale, *Princess Penelope* waltzes the reader through a typical day in the life of a little girl who knows she is cherished. No detail is too

minute to describe how a real Princess is cared for. Even time-outs are a subject for consideration. Every little girl will identify with some phase of the happenings, even if it is only the fantasy section. This is definitely a read-to-me book. While the book has a preschool interest level, the script print will present decoding challenges for the early reader.

First-time illustrator Julia Gran enters into the fun of Princess Penelope. The fanciful cartoons are edged with playfulness, drawings in sunset-hued watercolors outlined by pen-and-ink. Many curlicues and circles compromise the demarcation between real life and imagination in keeping with this captivating story.

Su Hagerty

***Mirette on the high wire* / Emily Arnold McCully. LCCN 91036324. New York : G.P. Putnam's sons, 1992. Hardbound, \$16.99.**

E. Tightrope walking--Fiction; Newbery Medal. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 1-4 / Rating : 5

It is a matter of concentration; you must see only the goal. With that intensity of focus, *Mirette on the High Wire* by Emily Arnold McCully tells the engrossing story of a has-been who must make a come-back. It's a tale of a reluctant mentor and gifted student. The subject? Walking the high wire. Mirette Gateau's mother has a boardinghouse in nineteenth century Paris. One resident is Bellini, internationally known for his performances in exotic places. He is retired; he is fearful of heights. Mirette insists that he become her teacher. And in the end, the student becomes the inspiration of the master.

McCully tells the tale with great passion and joy, the soaring of the human spirit. There are only Mirette and Bellini. The story includes the humdrum of the girl's household chores, but the pacing of the tale increases with each additional layer. Mirette, a girl with a well-ordered life. The people who stay at the boardinghouse. Bellini. His inability to perform publicly. His reticence to take on a prodigy. The near-aborted test of his courage. In the classical crescendo of story-telling, the writer has the reader as breathless as the crowd watching, as energized as Mirette racing up the stairs to save her friend. Well done! Bravo!

The watercolors in *Mirette* possess the charm of Talouse Latrec posters. The contrast of light and shadow magnify the subjects in the same proportions evident in the text: there is fear; there is courage.

Mirette on the High Wire is the 1993 Caldecott Medal winner.

Su Hagerty

***Mama will be home soon* / by Nancy Minchella; illustrated by Keiko Narahashi. LCCN 2002003775. New York : Scholastic, 2003. Hardbound, \$15.95.**

E. Separation anxiety--Fiction; Mother and child--Fiction; Grandmothers--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades PS-2 / Rating : 4

Separation anxiety is the theme of this book as a child deals with her mother's absence. When Lili's mama goes away for a trip, Lili stays with her grandma. The child soon begins to miss Mama very much even though her grandmother reassures her frequently and takes her on many fun activities. Lili expects every bit of yellow she sees to be the yellow hat her mother was wearing as she left. Soon it is time for the mother's return. Lili and her grandmother meet the ship and all have a joyful—and reassuring—reunion.

Mama Will Be Home Soon is gentle in tone and the pictures are good sized. This book will make an excellent read aloud for young children, many of whom may have dealt with, or will soon, the very fears Lili faces over her mother's absence. The appeal is broad because of this identification with the main character, and the book would be good to share with a child approaching a similar event. The use of yellow as Lili spots balloons, flowers, beach umbrellas of the same color make this book useful to those teaching a color unit also. The watercolor illustrations are basically realistic, but have a softer appearance. The pictures are light and echo well the tone of the text. Important values are seen in the relationships between the generations, the reassurance of the parent's return, and the general tone of love. The book will make a good general purchase for any type of library or for individuals.

Betsy Ruffin

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***Lighthouse : a story of remembrance* / Robert Munsch ; illustrated by Janet Wilson. LCCN 2002013714. New York : Scholastic, 2003. Hardbound, \$13.95.**

E. Memory--Fiction; Fathers and daughters--Fiction; Grandfathers--Fiction; Lighthouses--Fiction. 1 v. (unp.) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 1-4 / Rating : *5

How does a child say good-bye to a beloved grandfather who has died? In *Lighthouse: A Story of Remembrance*, Robert Munsch gives us an idea. The dear one does live on in our memories, in traditions that were precious to him. Taking the child to a well-loved place, even in the middle of the night, helps. For the occasion, Sarah makes one significant preparation: she puts a flower in her hair. A trip to the lighthouse with her dad allows Sarah to perform an act of acknowledgment. She tosses the flower into the waves as a tribute to her

departed grandpa, the flower she had saved from his funeral.

Robert Munsch expresses emotions of daily life. A child losing a grandparent is a difficult subject. Munsch addresses this issue with great compassion. The father and daughter have a prolonged conversation about the tradition of going to the lighthouse in the middle of the night. Every part of the ritual is discussed, going back and forth like a tennis match, using suppositions to fill in some of the blanks. The climax of the story comes late, unexpectedly, but fittingly.

The drawings in *Lighthouse* evoke the sights, sounds, and smells of a foggy night on the coast. The drizzle, the foghorn, the crash of the waves are woven together like magic in the pages of this extraordinary picture book. Using oils on canvas, Janet Wilson leads us on the journey: from Sarah waking her dad for the late night excursion, to their safe return—the child again tucked in her bed. A picture of Sarah, Grandpa, and the lighthouse rests on her bedside table. Another detail is the garland of flowers that precedes each portion of the narrative, flowers like the one Sarah wore.

Su Hagerly

***Bad boys* / by Margie Palatini ; illustrated by Henry Cole. LCCN 2002013259. New York : Harper, 2003. Hardbound, \$15.99.**

E. Sheep--Fiction; Wolves--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 26 cm.

Grades PS-2 / Rating : 4

The Bad boys are the big bad wolves, Willy and Wally. When we meet them, they are on the run from Little Red Riding Hood and the three little pigs. They give their pursuers the slip and put their heads together to come up with a way to lie low for a while. They stumble upon a flock of sheep and decide to put on sheep's clothing and pull the wool over their eyes. Betty Mutton, a wise, old ewe, is suspicious and hard to deceive. She pulls a bit of wool over the wolves eyes herself and the wolves end up getting an exposing shearing.

The illustrations by Henry Cole appear to be done in pen and ink, with colored pencils and water color. They are fun, action packed, and colorful. The animals are all anthropomorphized and wear clothing.

Margie Palatini has worked in references to all the fairy tales involving wolves, and she includes Little Bo Peep and her lost sheep. *Bad Boys* is a silly story. Children will enjoy watching Willy and Wally, who, thinking they are so sly, get duped themselves.

Karla J. Castle

***The great big wagon that rang : how the Liberty Bell was saved* / written by Joseph Slate; illustrated by Craig Spearing. LCCN 2002000835. New York : Marshall Cavendish, 2002. Hardbound, \$16.95.**

E. Liberty Bell--Fiction; Wagons--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 27 cm.

Grades 2-4 / Rating : 4

With great dignity, a simple tale is simply told. *The Great Big Wagon That Rang : How the Liberty Bell Was Saved*, by Joseph Slate, carefully lays the groundwork for telling about this moment in American history. In few words, Joseph Slate tells of the making of the great big wagon. The ringing of the woodman's ax, the hammer on the anvil, the horses' latten bells, the farmer's market bell; all crescendo toward that Grand Pause when the Liberty Bell enters the picture. The great big wagon is commandeered by the American troops. The bell must be taken from Philadelphia to the church of Zion where it will be safe from the Redcoats.

The author's note informs the reader: Conestoga Valley, Pennsylvania, is the birthplace of Conestoga wagons built by German immigrants to haul produce to Philadelphia markets and ports. Carefully Slate explains about the wagon's construction so that the young reader understands why it could bear the heavy weight of the Liberty Bell. Although this book is fiction based on fact, historian John Baer Stoudt reminds us that "There is enough glory to go around."

Illustrations by Craig Spearing chronicle the Pennsylvanian city and countryside during the Revolutionary War. Pictures take up more than three-quarters of the space on each page. The story draws the reader along, showing how an ordinary day can suddenly turn into one that demands courage and ingenuity.

Su Hagerly

***The hard-times jar* / Ethel Footman Smothers ; pictures by John Holyfield. LCCN 2002026596. New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003. LIB, \$16.00.**

F. Migrant labor--Fiction; Books and reading--Fiction; African Americans--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades PS-4 / Rating : 5

The Hard-Times Jar is fiction, but Ethel Footman Smothers based this story on her childhood. Eight-year-old Emma's parents are migrant workers, picking apples in Pennsylvania. She wants a store-bought book. Meanwhile, Emma writes fanciful stories in a book she made from a grocery sack.

Emma's family keeps a hard-times jar, almost half full of coins. Her parents, however, must say, "no extras." This precious money is for truly hard-times. In the orchard, Emma "piled apples high...to add money to the hard-times jar" hoping "...she'd get a store-bought book."

But, she must attend school. How will Emma ever afford a real book?

School in Pennsylvania is different. The new teacher is nice, but her face “reminded Emma of buttermilk, all creamy and white.” None of the children are “chocolate-brown,” as Emma. The library, however, comforts the book-hungry youngster. She reads joyously, and wishes she could take books home. One Friday afternoon, Emma hides two books in her sweater and “borrows” them for the weekend. Oh, she wonders the child feels, reading in her one room house! Then, Emma’s mother discovers the books. Emma must tell the teacher! She is embarrassed, even with the kind teacher.

Mama said, “That must have been hard.” Emma admitted, “The hardest.” Her mother “unscrewed the hard-times jar and placed six shiny quarters in Emma’s hands.” Mama explained, “That’s what the hard-times jar for. For hard times.” Emma squeezed the quarters. She could finally buy a store-bought book.

The artwork has a “turn the page for more” quality. Fifteen beautiful acrylic paintings by John Holyfield help convey honesty, a strong work ethic, love of learning, strength of family, and racial harmony.

Roberta Lou Jones

Saint Nicholas / Julie Stiegemeier ; illustrated by Chris Ellison. LCCN 2004266545. Saint Louis : Concordia, 2003. Hardbound, \$12.99.

E. Nicholas, Saint, Bishop of Myra--Legends; Dowry--Fiction; Christmas stories. [28] p. : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades K-2 / Rating :

Nicholas was a pastor in Lycia in the fourth century. The love of Christ he shared with his flock was more than just praying. He secretly provided for their needs. In this book, his clandestine provision of enough gold for three dowries establishes the tradition of anonymous giving that many celebrate today.

Julie Stiegemeier does a good job of weaving the truth we know about Nicholas with believable characters in order to make it memorable. The first part of the book tells this story. The last part ties it in with the greatest gift of all, whose birth we celebrate on Christmas. It also details what is known to be true about Nicholas and what is nice embroidering of legend and tradition. The last leaf of the book gives a glossary of terms, including places in Asia Minor and their significance in Nicholas’ time.

The oil painting illustrations by Chris Ellison are beautiful, evoking the time and atmosphere of each event. *St. Nicholas* will be a nice supplement to your Christmas book collection.

Kelley Westenhoff

Go, go, go! : kids on the move / Stephen R. Swinburne. LCCN 2001099218. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyds Mills, 2002. Hardbound, \$15.95.

E. Longevity; Human locomotion. 1 v. (unpaged) ; 22 cm.

Grades PS-2 / Rating : 4

“Where do they get their energy?” is a question exhausted parents ask. *Go, Go, Go! Kids on the Move* by Stephen R. Swinburne doesn’t exactly provide the answer, but it gives an insight into how that energy is used. The initial, “What’s your favorite way to move?” is followed by rapid-fire responses such as “I walk,” “I skip,” “I hop,” “I run.” The second section of the book provides an opportunity for the child to answer leading questions: “Did you ever slide with a friend?” and other conversation-starters. The last pages are devoted to animal-like movement. The final challenge is to reach for the sky, and then, go, go, go!

Photography effectively illustrates the simply written text of *Go, Go, Go! Kids on the Move*. Swinburne consistently catches the children in motion, hair swinging, arms flailing; mouths wide open in whoops of glee. It doesn’t take much imagination to smell the fresh-cut grass and feel the refreshing breeze as one pumps up to the sky in a swing. The body language of the participants tell you that the shots are real, that they are not just posed to put a story-book spin on the activity. (Check out “I walk.”) These are real kids moving in real ways. The out-of-door activities span the year. The pictures invite even the couch-potato in us to run outside just for the sheer joy of being.

Su Hagerty

Many moons / by James Thurber ; illustrated by Louis Slobodkin. LCCN 43051250. New York : Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1943. Hardbound, \$17.00.

F. Princesses--Fiction; Caldecott Medal; Moon--Fiction. [47] p. col. illus. 26 x 22 cm.

Grades K-3 / Rating : 5

Sometimes the best way to solve life’s complicated challenges is to use common sense. This is the message shared in *Many Moons*, a classic storybook by James Thurber, originally published in 1943. After eating too many raspberry tarts, Princess Lenore feels ill. Hoping to make her feel better again, her father offers to bring her anything her heart desires. When she asks for the moon – literally – the king calls on the wisest men in his court. The Lord High Chamberlain, the Royal Wizard, and the Royal Mathematician each balk at the request, reminding the king of the long list of items they have found when asked. The king worries about his promise – and the health – of the princess. Calling on the court jester to ease his sorrows, it is the jester who makes a logical suggestion—asking Lenore exactly what she is expecting. The solution to the king’s problem is

simple and the jester succeeds in giving Lenore the moon.

This story is as charming today as it was when it won the Caldecott Medal in 1944. Louis Slobodkin’s ink and color illustrations, though at a glance sketchy, are rich in action and hint at the ornate detail of Lenore’s royal life. Though story groups will enjoy the simple solution to such a demanding request, this book is especially appropriate for one-on-one sharing. It shows the appeal of childish logic along with imparting the message that parents or adults really do wish to give children “the moon.” More importantly, it shows that what is wished (or prayed) for may be answered in an unexpected way.

Lisa Wroble

The seed and the giant saguaro / by Jennifer Ward ; illustrated by Mike Rangner. LCCN 2003046578. Flagstaff, AZ : Rising Moon, 2003. Hardbound, \$15.95.

E. Saguaro--Fiction; Cactus--Fiction; Desert animals--Fiction; Desert ecology--Fiction; Ecology--Fiction; Stories in rhyme. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades K-3 / Rating : 3

In *The Seed and the Giant Saguaro*, several desert animals, plus the clouds and rain, help a tiny seed grow into a huge saguaro plant. Starting out with only a sentence per page, author Jennifer Ward builds upon that sentence through repetition, much in the style of “This Is The House That Jack Built.” From the pack rat who grabs the seed and is chased by a snake, who is chased by a roadrunner, who is chased by a coyote; the book follows the seed from the original saguaro to another location where a brand-new saguaro will grow.

The rhymes Ward chooses sometimes seem chosen for convenience sake, but children will like the repetition and adults reading this book aloud will find them easy on the tongue. Of course, in real life, the snake, bird, and coyote would do more than ‘chase’ each other. That isn’t mentioned in the main text, which shows the animals as cheerily cute. It is mentioned, subtly, in the back pages, which give “fun facts” about each animal—what they eat, how fast they run, etc.

The illustrations, completely filling each two-page spread, are beautifully done by Mike K. Rangner in bold, almost garish, earth tones. There’s also an illustrated timeline of how long it takes a saguaro to grow. The accompanying text explains this growth more fully; however, the vocabulary here and in the Fun Facts is advanced enough that some adult help might be needed.

This book is a nice choice for all libraries and for home use. In addition to its read-aloud appeal, perfect for preschoolers or early

elementary children, there's its painless lesson on how seed dispersion grows plants. There's also enough information in the back pages to provide a short but school-worthy report on saguaros or desert animals.

Rosemarie DiCristo

***The three pigs* / David Wiesner. LCCN 57016. New York : Clarion Books, 2001. Hardbound, \$16.00.**

E. Pigs--Fiction; Characters in literature--Fiction; Caldecott Medal. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 29 cm.

Grades 1-3 / Rating : 4

Fans of David Wiesner will delight in this book. (Remember the final page in *Tuesday* [Clarion Books, 1991], foreshadowing a flying pig adventure?)

The Three Pigs doesn't take long to detour from the traditional tale. By the end of the third page, the first little pig is no longer. But the story takes a twist that outkinks a pig's tail! The swine appear between the picture panels that have established the boundaries of the storyline, and there goes any semblance of the time-honored story. The three pigs fly off on an adventure on a glider made of the picture panels. Their first destination is "Hey, diddle, diddle." In a world that is completely outrageous, the mish-mash of the pigs' tale comes to the customary conclusion, with a few quirky additions.

Wiesner writes with a twisted sense of humor. It isn't dark, just unusual. With great agility, he maneuvers a traditional fairy tale in a direction quite surprising, folding in well-known characters from other literature. The lightheartedness of the dialogue brings laughter and a "what will happen next?" anticipation. Wiesner does bring the story back to familiar ground except the pigs now have several new roommates. The pictures in the book are the heart and soul of the tale. The artist makes generous use of cartoon quotation balloons. Watercolors, gouache, colored inks, pencil and colored pencil on Fabriano hot press paper bring the characters to life, some of the illustrations taking on an almost cartoon nature, others close to portraiture. *The Three Pigs* is a very cleverly written and illustrated book.

Su Hagerty

***Finders keepers* / by Will and Nicolas. LCCN 51012326. New York : Harcourt Brace, 1989 ; 1951. Paperbound, \$7.00.**

E. Dogs--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades K-2 / Rating : 3, with caution

Who owns a lost item that is found? In *Finders Keepers*, authors Will and Nicolas lead to an answer. The dog-heroes, Nap and Winkle find a bone. Whose is it? Farmer Haymaker trades a bit of hay and an opinion in exchange for their

labor. Mr. Tuftichin, a goat, eats up the hay. No answer is given from this source. On the story goes, garnering unsolicited advice from each individual they meet. Finally, they meet another dog, Mr. Longshanks, who tries to take custody of the bone. The dogs attack him. Nip and Winkle are then content to share the bone.

Using a classic story-telling contour, Will and Nicolas present the problem, enumerate and discard a series of solutions. The drama peaks, and there is a quick dip to the end. The characters are well-defined, self-centered, hence shallow. The answer sought doesn't involve them, so seemingly random advice is substituted. The cartoon illustrations are done in a simple palette of yellow, red, black and white. The child-reader will enjoy their quirkiness, a good companion to the text.

There is a caution of the violence inherent in the solution. Throughout the tale, Nip and Winkle have assumed the quality of anthropomorphism. Suddenly and graphically, they exhibit very canine-like behavior. Poor Mr. Longshanks!

Su Hagerty

***Working cotton* / written by Sherley Anne Williams ; illustrated by Carole Byard. LCCN 91021586. San Diego : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992. Hardbound, \$14.95.**

E. Migrant labor--Fiction; Cotton picking--Fiction; Family life--Fiction; African Americans--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 29 cm.

Grades 3-4 / Rating : 5

A first-person narrative that is beautifully poignant, *Working Cotton* by Sherley Anne Williams gives us a glimpse into the daily life of migrant workers. Shelan is the story-teller, the middle child. She is too old to just tend the baby and the water jug, but not old enough to pull full weight of a cotton sack. She notices the important details of their life. Like the smooth way Daddy has of picking cotton. And the lunch Mamma packed, the family grateful for the "sometime, it's a little piece of meat in your bowl." Family is the center of her universe. Family, and the endless rows of cotton.

Sherley Anne Williams gives us a view of child labor that is both honest and disturbing. In the Author's note she says, "Our shame...is that children [don't] have other options..." Ebonics have their place as the dialect of this story, the details riveting. This book will create questions.

Carole Byard, illustrator, has masterfully captured the likenesses to transform the powerful story into something not to be forgotten. The faces of the children are haunting, carefully conceived to include minutiae, the pressure spot where Shelan's forehead is resting on the bus window, the full-face view of the child who is a friend for the day, and then the family moves on to another field.

There is a misty quality to the artwork, as if the truth is too large to be absorbed by the child-reader.

Su Hagerty

***King Bidgood's in the bathtub* / written by Audrey Wood ; illustrated by Don Wood. LCCN 85005472. San Diego : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1985. Hardbound, \$16.00.**

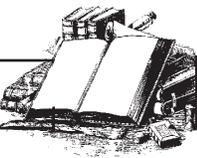
E. Kings, queens, rulers, etc.--Fiction; Baths--Fiction. [30] p. : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades PS-1 / Rating : 4, with caution

"'Help, Help!' cried the page when the sun came up. 'King Bidgood's in the bathtub and he won't get out. Oh who knows what to do?'" The king is taking a leisurely bath. But this is a cause of consternation for his kingdom. The Knight's solution is to tell the King they are going to battle. This announcement is countered with a jolly "Today we battle in the tub." Next is lunch with the Queen, followed by fishing with the Duke and a delightful masquerade ball with the Court, all in the tub. But, in full-circle fashion, it is the Page who comes up with the no-nonsense solution of how to get the King out of the bathtub.

Audrey Woods uses the sure-fire formula in the telling of the story. The older and wiser authorities try to solve the problem. But the young innocent saves the day. The narrative has repetition that delights the young listeners, a cadence that they may join. The drawings by Don Wood are exquisite, full of emotion and charm. With close attention to story line and period accuracy, he paints a picture to amplify the words. In each case, when a different individual joins the King in the bath, they, for the most part, appear on the page facing the King. When selecting this book, parents and teachers please note: everyone gets into the tub with the naked King! (The courtiers are still dressed, the king stays covered with bubbles. Later he runs away covered by his towel.)

Su Hagerty



***The Big Kerplow! : the original adventure of the Mad Scientists' Club* / by Bertrand R. Brinley ; illustrated by Charles Geer. LCCN 2002156152. Keller, Tex. : Purple House Press, 2003. Hardbound, \$17.95.**

F. Science clubs--Fiction. 238 p. ; 23 cm.

Grades 4-6 / Rating : 4

When the original edition of *The Big Kerplow* was published in 1974, its publisher was undergoing financial problems and only limited quantities were released, making this volume of the popular Mad Scientists' Club, a highly-sought-after book for fans. It has been recently reissued by Purple House Press, a Kentucky-based publisher specializing in reviving well-loved but long-lost children's books.

The Big Kerplow is actually a prequel. It presents the first Mad Scientists' Club adventure and reveals how the club was formed, how Harmon Muldoon became an ex-member, and even narrator Charlie's never-before-revealed last name. The story deals with an unexploded atomic bomb that has accidentally dropped into Strawberry Lake, and the chaos that results... including a cover-up or two by the military "bigs" who dropped the bomb.

Bertrand Brinley's fast-paced story should definitely appeal to today's boys (and girls). There is realistic dialogue and action (the boys are real boys), likeable characters who use brains and logic to solve their problems, and lots of humor.

The seven Mad Scientists are smart (well, except for Dinky and Freddy, who provide comic relief), and each contributes to the adventure. The science they use to locate the bomb and help the military retrieve it is detailed and clever... and just might encourage an interest in science in its readers.

While the story is wholesome, it's not without cautions. One character swears "a blue streak" when he falls into the lake. Several characters exclaim "dang" and "dam." Characters lie to their parents regarding their escapades (but later admit the lies). They "borrow" a motorboat, and they also disobey military authorities several times by voyaging onto the off-limits lake. (The police and military, for the most part, are rather dimwitted.) However, the boys are basically honorable, are loyal to each other, and always keep their promises.

Rosemarie DiCristo

***The summer of the swans* / Betsy Byars ; illustrated by Ted Coconis. LCCN 72106919. New York : Viking, 1970. Hardbound, \$15.99.**

F. People with mental disabilities--Fiction. 142 p. illus. 22 cm.

Grades 3-7 / Rating : 4

The Summer of the Swans, by Betsy Byars, is a look at the dynamics of a family with a mentally retarded boy. Using contemporary fiction, the author probes the thoughts and emotions of the main character, fifteen-year-old Sara, through the ways in which she deals with her retarded brother.

Ten-year-old Charlie had a high fever at the age of three which resulted in brain damage and his inability to speak. Sara, Charlie, and their nineteen-year-old sister, Wanda, live with their Aunt Willie; their mom died six years earlier and their dad works out of state.

Sara begrudgingly takes Charlie down to the lake to see the swans on a summer afternoon. That night, after restlessly lying in bed, Charlie is agitated because of a missing button on his pajamas and so gets up and looks out the window. He feels the swans want him to come back to see them in that peaceful spot by the lake. It is not until the next morning that Sara and the rest of the family discover that Charlie is missing. Sara's emotions evolve as she searches for Charlie and comes to grips with what is truly important.

Summer of the Swans is an easy flowing read that teaches the truth about the emotional struggles of those who have mentally handicapped family members. Betsy Byars provides good insight through Sara's character and causes the reader to gain sensitivity and respect for the lives of others.

Sarah Fitch

***Secret of the Andes* / by Ann Nolan Clark ; with drawings by Jean Charlot. LCCN 76039987. New York : PenguinPutnam, 1976, c1952. Paperbound, \$4.99.**

F. Incas--Fiction; Peru--Fiction. 120 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Grades 6-10 / Rating : 5

In *Secret of the Andes*, readers have the extraordinary opportunity to walk in the shoes of an Indian boy who lives in a world unfamiliar to most English-speaking individuals. Cusi is a boy whose home is high in the Peruvian Andes with Chuto, an older Indian man who has raised him, but is not his father. Chuto has been training Cusi to raise a herd of llamas in the

ancient tradition of the Incas. Before Cusi can commit to this significant vocation, he takes his first journeys from his mountaintop home into Cuzco to seek answers about his heritage. His experiences of trading and his encounters with "modern" Peruvian culture are eye-opening to Cusi, who eventually discerns that his calling is indeed to return to his remote Andean home to raise llamas.

Ann Nolan Clark's book, a Newbery Medal winner, was first published in 1952, yet is a perpetually relevant story about family, choices, and the intricate culture of the Indians who still live in the Peruvian Andes. Clark's descriptions of the rugged mountains, the all-important llamas, and the traditions of the Incas are phenomenal. Her writing is gifted and powerful. Readers can easily feel as if they're ambling with Cusi among the llamas, exploring unfamiliar roads into Cuzco, and unraveling the secrets of Cusi's Incan ancestors. *Secret of the Andes* is an excellent means of gaining insights into a foreign culture while exploring themes common to every young person of any heritage. Though written for older elementary and older age children, this story will be appreciated by adults also.

Karen Schmidt

***The cat who went to heaven* / by Elizabeth Coatsworth ; illustrated by Lynd Ward. LCCN 58010917. New York : Simon & Schuster, 1967, [1930]. Hardbound, \$17.95.**

F. Cats--Fiction; Japan--Fiction; Newbery Medal.. 62 p. illus. 24 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 3

This 1931 Newbery Medal winner, *The Cat Who Went to Heaven*, remains popular today. A poor artist's housekeeper goes out to buy food but returns with a dainty calico cat. The horrified artist knows that cats are goblins unblest by Buddha, yet cannot deny his love to this devoted, humble little cat. Good Fortune becomes her name as she brings her master the good fortune of a commission from the monastery to paint the death of Buddha. Watching her unassuming, loving ways the artist draws Good Fortune in the painting, and a miracle from Buddha ensues.

Utilizing her wonderful gift for lyrical storytelling, noted American children's author and poet, Elizabeth Coatsworth, embroiders her neatly crafted, charming story with tales about Buddha's life and his animal incarnations. Lynd Ward's delicate, oriental-themed sepia and white

prints on rice paper enhance the narration. This story well displays family love, devotion, humility, courtesy, and the usefulness of all creatures. It sympathetically introduces Japanese art and religious thought.

Some themes may need the help of an adult mentor, such as the cat dying of sheer happiness, Buddha's animal incarnations, and other references to Buddhism. Cat and art lovers will enjoy *The Cat Who Went to Heaven*. This is a very good book but definitely draws upon a non-Christian background. Those libraries, schools, and families interested in its themes will find it useful.

Donna Eggett

Walk two moons / by Sharon Creech.
LCCN 93031277. New York :
HarperCollins, 1994. Hardbound, \$16.99.

F. Friendship--Fiction; Family life--Fiction;
Grandparents--Fiction; Death--Fiction; Idaho--Fiction;
Newbery Medal. 280 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 5-7 / Rating : 5

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech hits the ground running, and never looks back. Thirteen-year-old Salamanca Sugar Maple Tree Hiddle (Sal) is the storyteller. She and her maternal grandparents are on a road trip, traveling from Euclid, Ohio, to Lewiston, Idaho. The reason for their journey isn't apparent until the end of the book, when readers learn that Sal's mom has died, and the girl needs closure. To entertain her traveling companions, Sal tells them the story of her friend Phoebe whose mom has also left her family. That tale is full of intrigue and quirky neighbors, an over-zealous English teacher, a grieving father, and a character named Ben.

Creech cleverly uses the literary device of story within a story, each narrative dovetailing like the warp and woof of weaving. The strands are never lost, they criss-cross with patterned regularity. The twists in the plot add the texture needed to impel the dual stories to their appointed ends. When the climax is reached, all rapidly comes together in a surprising solution involving mothers who return, and mothers who never return. It is indeed a coming-of-age tale.

Walk Two Moons is suited for either independent reading or reading aloud to a class. The vocabulary is not difficult, but is full of the color of country lingo. For instance, Sal is called "chickabiddy" by her Gram and Grandpa. The reverence for nature, part of the Native American culture, also plays a part in this book. Loyalty is the keynote of *Walk Two Moons*: loyalty to family, to best friends, to new loves—loyalty, and acceptance. *Walk Two Moons* is a Newbery Medal winner.

Su Hagerty

All their names were Courage : a novel of the Civil War / Sharon Phillips Denslow.
LCCN 2002035327. New York :
Greenwillow, 2003. Hardbound, \$15.99.

F. United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--
Fiction; War horses--Fiction; Horses--Fiction;
soldiers--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction;
Letters--Fiction. 135 p. ; 20 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 5

This is the story of Sallie Burd and her brother William, told in an exchange of letters. Sallie is the younger sister at home in Kentucky while her brother is away, fighting in the Civil War. Horses play a major role in Sallie's life, and so, she gets the idea to write to all the generals, both North and South, asking them about their horses. Several of the generals respond to her request, extolling the virtues of their favorite horses, and their importance, resulting in the conclusion that all their names were Courage. These letters are interspersed with the correspondence between Sallie and William.

Sharon Phillips Denslow has given us an enjoyable story in spite of the serious issues of war that are included. The characters are realistic and easy to identify with. The letters from the generals on both sides of the war help to show the humanity of all involved. War is not glorified or glossed over. The story is honest, but due to the letter format, does not contain graphic descriptions of war.

The one thing this book lacks is illustrations. Sallie's friend Isaac draws pictures of the horses and her intent is to combine Isaac's drawings and the letters from the generals into a book. It would have been appropriate and helpful to have had Isaac's drawings included in this book.

Karla J. Castle

What a year! / written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola. (A 26 Fairmount Avenue book.) LCCN 2001019921. New York :
PenguinPutnam, 2002. Hardbound,
\$13.99.

F. De Paola, Tomie--Childhood and youth; De Paola,
Tomie--Homes and haunts--Connecticut--Meriden;
Authors, American--20th century--Biography;
Meriden (Conn.)--Social life and customs; Meriden
(Conn.)--Biography; Illustrators. 72 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 1-2 / Rating : 4

The first year in a new house things are in a new and different location, a little strange for a family whose life is built around tradition. Tomie, the main character in *What a Year!*, along with his Mom, Dad, older brother Buddy and baby sister Maureen, are a close-knit family. They join grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends, and the school community with predictable regularity. Birthdays (fêted both at school and at home), Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, even going home for lunch during the week, all become reasons to celebrate, with great gusto! And the children are the center of the universe.

In this autobiography, Tomie DePaola uses the voice of a six-year-old child telling his friend, a journal from Auntie, about the progression of holidays and special occasions. The young child is observant, and includes period minutiae in his account. He uses brand names, and describes the pictures on cereal boxes, as well as "morning milk," and the countless comforts that make up the life of a six-year-old. *What a Year!* is a delightful confection of nostalgia, another 26 Fairmount Avenue chapter book.

In truth, the timeline isn't a complete year. This author selects fall to winter of 1940 for his setting. The book ends with a prophetic-like thought "...I wonder what the new year will bring?"

What a Year! is a great read for a child, but will be even better shared with a grandparent.

Su Hagerty

The twenty-one balloons / written and illustrated by William Pene Du Bois.
LCCN 86042513. New York :
PenguinPutnam, 1986, c1947.
Paperbound, \$5.99.

F. Krakatoa (Indonesia)--Eruption, 1883--Fiction;
Balloons--Fiction; Voyages and travels--Fiction. 180
p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Grades 4-7 / Rating : 4

Professor Sherman, a slightly eccentric gentleman adventurer, sets out to be the first to cross the Pacific Ocean in a hot air balloon. He suffers a mishap and lands on Krakatoa. There he discovers a unique society, made up of twenty families carefully selected for creativity and inventiveness. Each family has two children, one boy and one girl, between the ages of three and eight. They've given up their names and are now families "A" through "T," the letters representing the cuisine they host. They all work together to build and refine each others' homes. Periodically they pick up the diamonds lying around and go out into the world to restock. They eagerly welcome the professor as a teacher for the children. As he begins to fit into their society, they show him their escape plans, for after all, it is 1883 and Krakatoa is about to blow its top.

The Twenty-One Balloons is a fun tale in the tradition of Jules Verne and Dr. Dolittle. Written in 1947, in the early post-war United Nations years, this book explores the ideas of utopian equality. What appears to be constant fun and pleasure is overshadowed by two imminent dangers. The fact that they live on the side of an active volcano would seem to be the worst danger, but it is not. The inevitable boredom of utopia is starting to creep in, and only the eruption of the volcano staves off the disintegration of their society. On the face of it,

William Pene du Bois tells an imaginative story of pleasure and adventure. On a deeper level,

brokenhearted that the great stallion is treated so badly. When he is thrown into prison for trying to help the horse, it appears that Agba will die forgotten and alone. However, a miracle occurs and Agba is reunited with Sham as property of the Earl of Godolphin, an avid horseman. Despite some setbacks, Sham is eventually restored to glory, and establishes the racing bloodline that eventually leads to the great Man O'War.

This Marguerite Henry book is more difficult to read than her others because most of the story is in narrative form, minimizing dialogue. A clever device which highlights Agba's inability to communicate his frustration and pain, it nonetheless makes the reader work a little harder to stay interested. The author makes up for the lack of dialogue with rich descriptive text which draws the reader into the story at an emotional level. This is more than a horse story. It is the story of Agba's patience and dedication, his courage, fortitude, perseverance, and loyalty. He never frets about himself, but only about Sham. There is some cruelty to the horse and the boy, in the context of the story and true to its time. Many lessons for life are present, as well as a happy ending.

Kelley Westenhoff

***Exiled to the Red River* / Dave and Neta Jackson ; illustrations by Anne Gavitt. (Trailblazer books.) LCCN 2003013900. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Paperbound, \$5.99.**

F. Spokane Garry, 1811?-1892--Fiction; Spokane Indians--Fiction; Kings, queens, rulers, etc.--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Indians of North America--Washington (State)--Fiction. 141 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 4

Exiled to the Red River is about a boy named Garry, a member of the Spokane Indian tribe, whose father wants to follow the prophecy of their shaman. The shaman predicts that the white men will bring the Leaves of Life but will also bring greed and will take the Indians' land. Garry goes to a mission school to learn more about these *Leaves of Life* (the Bible). Through many hardships, Garry learns about Christianity, and after he becomes a Christian he returns to his tribe, bringing them the *Leaves of Life* and the *Book of Common Prayer*.

Garry is devastated because his father passed away before he could bring him the *Leaves of Life*. Garry turns to the Bible to see that God is just and that he will be just with Garry's father, who had no opportunity to hear the Gospel. The epilogue tells how, as Chief Spokane, Garry became a great evangelist to the Indian peoples of the Northwest, and also how unfair the whites were to the Native Americans.

This book is set in the early 1800's, shortly after Lewis and Clark made their journey. It is very interesting to learn more about this time. I thought this book was sadder than some of the

other Trailblazer books so I didn't enjoy it as much as others. It hurts my heart to see that people treated each other that way, and the descriptions of the smallpox provided more details than I wanted to know.

Lindy Westenhoff, age 9, guest reviewer

***Thorn Ogres of Hagwood* / Robin Jarvis. (Hagwood trilogy ; 1.) LCCN 2001057606. San Diego : Harcourt, 2002. Hardbound, \$16.00.**

F. Fantasy. 244 p. : ill., map ; 22 cm.

Grades 7-9 / Rating : Recommended with caution

Werlings, a race of small, seemingly unimportant people, become involved in the struggles of the fey folk who live in the great green hill, ruled by the Lady Rhiannon. The werlings live in and rarely leave the treetops of Hagwood. They have survived due to their reclusiveness and ability to "wergle" into animal form—mice, rabbits, birds, etc.

Gamiliel Tumpkin heads off to school to begin learning the art of wergling from the grand master. Gamiliel and other young werlings become involved in dangerous adventures. Unbeknownst to them, minions of the Lady Rhiannon, the thorn ogres, are roaming the country looking for a dwarf who has the key to the box in which Lady Rhiannon's heart is hidden. The thorn ogres are nearly mindless killers. Gamiliel and his companions must rally the other werlings to battle the ogres and save their home. The book ends unresolved with the dwarf dead, but the key is now in Gamiliel's hands.

The first chapter of *Thorn Ogres of Hagwood* contains a graphic description of a mother fox being killed by the thorn ogres. This is done solely to set the dark tone of the book. Some of the dangers the characters encounter are frightening and the events are intense. The book jacket indicates ages ten and up, but I do not recommend this book for children so young.

Pen and ink illustrations by the author, Robin Jarvis, are limited to partial page pictures at the beginning of each chapter.

This book is an improvement over a previous trilogy by Jarvis, the Deptford Mice Trilogy (*CLJ* vol.7 no.2/3 p.9). The characters are easier to relate to and the book is less dark in tone and lacks the pagan religion of the first trilogy.

Karla J. Castle

***The view from Saturday* / E. L. Konigsburg. LCCN 95052624. New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1996. Hardbound, \$16.00.**

F. Teacher-student relationships--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Contests--Fiction; People with disabilities--Fiction. 163 p. ; 23 cm.

Grades 4-6 / Rating : 4

In the 1997 Newbery Medal book, *The View From Saturday* by E. L. Konigsburg, a sixth-grade team from Epiphany Middle School has made the finals in the State Academic (quiz) Bowl. Mrs. Olinski, a paraplegic teacher, hand-picks a team of four students, thought by the school's majority to be most unlikely to win. The team, nicknamed the Souls, consists of fact-oriented Noah; shy, cherubic Nadia; Ethan, grandson of Mrs. Olinski's former boss; and the unfashionable Julian, who initiates a Saturday afternoon tea that knits the group together. As the story unfolds, each of the four is skillfully drawn through chapter-style portraits of recent events affecting his or her life.

Although concepts and message layering can, at times, be lofty, dialogue is entertaining, with the change of narrators adding to reader appeal. Mood and atmosphere are created by blending the excitement of the tournament, and the fact that the protagonists are pitted against older students, with effective character building. These elements are woven together to create a satisfying finish. Recommended for school and public libraries, both for group and individual entertainment.

Konigsburg, a former science teacher, is known for her 1968 Newbery Medal winner, *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* (reprint; Aladdin Paperbacks; April 2002), as well as several Newbery Honor books. Subjects introduced include divorce, physical impairment, re-marriage of grandparents, bullies, and various facets of what makes a winner.

Kim Harris

***Carry on, Mr. Bowditch* / Jean Lee Latham ; illustrated by John O'Hara Cosgrave, II. LCCN 2003267707. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, [2003?]. Hardbound, \$17.00.**

F. Bowditch, Nathaniel, 1773-1838--Fiction; Navigation--Fiction. 251 p. : illus. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-6 / Rating : 5

Nat, the son of a beached sea captain in 1780's Massachusetts, has an amazing gift for mathematics and a thirst for useful knowledge. He sets his sights on going to Harvard. Instead, his mother dies and his father indentures him to become a bookkeeper for the chandlery. For the next nine years Nat determines that his time will be used wisely, serving first his master, and then his intellectual curiosity. Wanting to read Newton's *Principia*, Nat needs to learn Latin. With a New Testament (he starts with John 1:1), a grammar, and a dictionary, Nat teaches himself the language sufficiently to read any book in Latin from thereon. He follows with French and Spanish.

Finally released from his indenture, Nat goes to sea. At first for fun, he starts checking the mathematics in the standard Navigation tables. When he realizes the loss of life that has resulted

from mathematical errors at sea, he becomes determined to correct all the tables. Further, he resolves to teach any sailors who want to learn the science of navigation so they can save their own lives with accurate information.

Nathaniel Bowditch was a real scientist who changed navigation for the better. This fictional biography by Jean Lee Latham covers his early years and his contributions to mankind. Stories of the sea used to be a common theme in literature for boys but the arrival of the space age left many of the great classics on the shelf. *Carry On, Mr. Bowditch* is one that you should dust off and hand to a young reader. His curiosity and dedication to others will sail long in a fertile mind.

Kelley Westenhoff

Rabbit Hill / by Robert Lawson. LCCN 44008234. New York : PenguinPutnam, 1944. Hardbound, \$16.99.

F. Animals--Juvenile fiction; Animals--Fiction. 127, [1] p. incl. front., illus. 24 cm.

Grades K-3 / Rating : 5

All of Rabbit Hill is alive with excitement. Little Georgie Rabbit can hardly contain his excitement and it bursts out in a song, "new folks comin', oh my!" The last humans were shiftless, barely providing for their own needs, much less for the animals. But the new folks are "plantin' folks," and when the humans put up a sign in the drive warning people to slow down for small animals, Rabbit Hill fairly explodes with joy. Each step the humans take seems to be in the right direction, including their saving Willie Mouse from drowning. Still, the night Little Georgie is hit by a car tests all of them. The humans take him into the house and no one knows what will happen to him. As the days go by, some start to give up hope, causing dissension and fear. When Little Georgie finally emerges from the humans' care, and the folks' true kindness to the animals is clear, the animals are so awed they agree to leave the humans' gardens and fields alone forever.

A wonderfully engaging story of Little Georgie Rabbit's family and friends, *Rabbit Hill* shows gardening and stewardship from the animals' perspective. Lively descriptions of cantankerous Uncle Analdas, fretful Mother Rabbit, slightly pompous Father Rabbit and joyful Georgie make these characters vivid in the readers' minds. Robert Lawson's careful style conveys the love the new folks have for animals and the bond of trust they build with their little tenants. The recognition by the animals of Saint Francis of Assisi in the garden is touching. If you read this aloud and aren't smiling broadly at the end, and your eyes are dry, you haven't truly experienced *Rabbit Hill*. Don't be surprised if Georgie's song resonates in your classroom for days.

Kelley Westenhoff

Number the stars / Lois Lowry. LCCN 88037134. Boston : Walter Lorraine Books, 1989. Hardbound, \$16.00.

F. World War, 1939-1945--Denmark--Fiction; World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Rescue--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Denmark--Fiction; Newbery Medal. 137 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-6 / Rating : 5

In *Number the Stars*, Annemarie Johansen and her best friend, Ellen Rosen, are ten-year-old school girls in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1943. Their homeland has been overrun by the German army. The Johansens are Danish; the Rosens are Danish Jews. One night at the synagogue, the rabbi tells the worshippers that there will be a "relocation," a rounding up of all the Danish Jews who will be taken away from their familiar surroundings. The Johansen family harbors Ellen. The intrigue-filled story tells how she is eventually reunited with her parents, and how they are smuggled out of Denmark.

"...It is he who heals the broken in spirit and binds up their wounds, he who numbers the stars one by one..." From this ancient Psalm Lois Lowry draws the name of her book, *Number the Stars*. This tale fraught with the horrors of World War II is told with great bravery and bare facts, but on a level that connects with the vocabulary and experiences of children.

Perhaps the most important part of the book is the afterword where Lowry explains the origin of her fiction-based-on-fact characters. In some cases they are composites, but all show the courage of the Danish Resistance. This book is an excellent solo read, but would perhaps be more effective with a teacher reading it to a class. Either way the message is unmistakable: if we ignore history, we are doomed to repeat it.

Su Hagerty

Black and white / David Macaulay. LCCN 89028888. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1990. LIB, \$17.00.

F. Literary recreations. [32] p. : col. ill. ; 31 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 3

David Macaulay grabs the attention of the reader from page one of *Black and White*. The subtitle page offers four bits of information: Seeing Things, Problem Parents, A Waiting Game, and Udder Chaos. But these are not listed as a table of contents. Seeing Things tells of a young boy's first journey on a train alone. Problem Parents relates the migration of a mom and dad from stodgy, distant parents to interactive family members. A train station platform and its passengers play A Waiting Game, and a burglar and Holsteins are the feature characters in Udder Chaos. Are there unifying factors? Or is this book just an act of randomness?

Black and White demands more than one read.

Four sections per facing pages have four story lines. The mind tries to find the common thread. Is each like segment to be read straight through, or should the opposite pages be read, with the mind storing the narrative clues? It is the pictures that help keep track of the stories. The style and characters are dedicated to the same space on the page. For instance, Udder Chaos always appears on the lower right-hand page. This is a puzzle. For some readers, the challenge is overwhelming. For others, it is welcomed.

Su Hagerty

Silent dreams / written by Dandi Daley Mackall ; illustrated by Karen A. Jerome. LCCN 2002021608. Grand Rapids : Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2003. Hardbound, \$16.00.

F. Homeless persons--Fiction; Motion pictures--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Aunts--Fiction; Stories in rhyme. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 22 x 27 cm.

Grades 3-6 / Rating : 4

In the picture book *Silent Dreams*, author Dandi Daley Mackall introduces an unexpected cast of characters. There is the child Camille, an orphan who sleeps in a cardboard box. There is the aunt who has lost her mind. Supporting actors are kindly folk who are down on their luck. But their contribution of a few cents here and there helps Camille and Auntie go to the silent movies. The stories told on film provide a get-away from the bleak reality of their lives. Camille repays the kindnesses by acting out the story, frame-by-frame, for her skid road audience.

In rhyming couplets, Mackall tells the story without apology. Camille, Boxcar Betty, and the rest of the luckless are based on a true experience from her childhood, when she first met the homeless in New York City. They are real people. In *Silent Dreams*, the author moves back and forth between the harsh reality of life to the fantasy of the silent films. The drawings are as haunting as the storyline. Karen Jerome chooses a muted, dark palette for the pictures, providing a highlight of white for stark contrast.

The somber tone of the story itself, the way it is told, and the graphics bring the question to mind about the appropriateness of the topic for the very young. Older children can make the connection to the unfortunate in their own world and decide a course of action.

Su Hagerty

Sarah, plain and tall / Patricia MacLachlan. LCCN 83049481. New York: Harper & Row, 1985. Hardbound, 0060241012, \$14.99.

F. Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction; Stepmothers--Fiction; Witting family (Fictitious characters)--Fiction; Newbery Medal; Golden Kite Award; Scott O'Dell Award; Jefferson Cup. 58 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 2-4 / Rating: 5

Caleb and Anna Witting want a mother. Their mom died when Caleb was born. We meet Sarah when she answers an advertisement in the newspaper. The ad was placed by Jacob Witting, Caleb and Anna's father. Will Sarah fit into their rural Kansas lifestyle? Can Sarah overcome her homesickness for the ocean? Caleb looks for clues in every conceivable place. When she accepts the gift of chickens from a neighbor, or names the lambs after her eccentric aunts, or plants a garden, all signs point to permanence. But, when Sarah insists on going into town by herself, will she return?

Sarah, Plain and Tall is a chapter book. Each chapter is short, a nice bite-size for the young reader. Author Patricia MacLachlan spends much time comparing and contrasting the Kansas plains and the coast of Maine. Nonetheless, her characters are believable and sympathetic. She is in touch with the concerns youngsters have with the possibility of a step-parent joining the family circle, and the changes in dynamics that will bring. This book is particularly helpful in showing how getting a new parent can be a win-win situation for all.

Sarah, Plain and Tall is a Newberry Medal winner. The Hallmark video of the same title is closely based on this book.

Su Hagerty

A fine start / by Kate McMullan. (My America ; Meg's prairie diary ; 3.) LCCN 2002044580. New York : Scholastic, 2003. Hardbound, \$12.95.

F. First day of school--Fiction; Rural schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Tornadoes--Fiction; Kansas--History--1854-1861--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 106 p. : 20 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 4

Nine-year-old Margaret "Meg" Wells concludes her diary in this third installment in the Meg's Prairie Diary series. She writes of her family being reunited in Kansas Territory and of their move to Lawrence to open a general store. Meg also tells of her experiences going to a new school, and of getting her own pony. She vividly describes dangers on the prairie such as tornados and blinding blizzards, just as they might have happened in December of 1856.

Author Kate McMullan writes the words of Meg quite eloquently in *A Fine Start*. As with many diaries, some entries are short, while others are rather lengthy as Meg describes her experiences. There also are several gaps in the dates just as one would find in a real diary. The book includes a Historical Note and several pictures at the end which detail the actual history of the time period. I recommend adding this title to any collection, especially those with young readers of the My America and Dear America series.

Sherri Myers

A parable about the king / Beth Moore ; illustrations by Beverly Warren. LCCN . Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2003. Hardbound, \$12.99.

F. God--Fiction; Love--Fiction; Parables. 30 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades K-4 / Rating : 5

A young princess, tired of complying with her father's demand for obedience, decides to run away. Escaping the castle and getting to play with regular children brings much freedom, but there is a price. In order to fit in with the children outside, the princess has to act like one of them. Soon she finds herself cursing, pushing, and getting filthy just like them. When the children start throwing spitballs at the King though, the princess tries to stop them by telling them he is her father and she is a princess. They ridicule her, replying that she isn't a princess because she is just like them. Humiliated and ashamed, the princess tries to return to the castle. The secret back door is locked, forcing the princess to knock on the front door if she wants to get in. Her father the King answers and welcomes her home. He ministers to her, loves her, and tucks her in. When she says she is sorry and that she'll never stray again, the King gently replies that she will, but that he will always love her and the door will always be open.

Beth Moore's tremendous talent for writing Bible studies has been captured in this girls' version of the prodigal son story. The soft pencil wash illustrations by Beverly Warren highlight the story in such a way that they will place the reader in the princess' shoes. When read to a group of girls ranging from four to nine, all loved the story. We had a discussion afterward about what a parable is and what this one means. Based on that discussion, I am confident that *A Parable About the King* is an excellent gift book for children or adults, and may provide powerful opportunities to witness to unsaved children.

Kelley Westenhoff

A time to dance / by Mary Pope Osborne and Will Osborne. (My America ; Virginia's Civil War diary ; 3q.) LCCN 2002044581. New York : Scholastic, 2003. Hardbound, \$12.95.

F. Theaters--Fiction; New York (N.Y.)--History--1865-1898--Fiction; Reconstruction--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 107 p. : 20 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 4

Eleven-year-old Virginia "Ginny" Dickens continues her diary as she moves from Washington, D.C. to New York City with her family. The Civil War is now over and the country is rebuilding in its aftermath. Ginny's father is looking for work as a violinist, without much success, and her brother is writing for the newspaper. Ginny works on her lessons at home, with her sister-in-law, and helps to care for her baby nephew.

After going to a play, Ginny becomes interested in the theater and finds a job "behind the scenes" as a dresser for the actresses. She is given the opportunity to perform when an actress falls ill, and finds she loves acting. After reading a book of Shakespeare's plays, however, she finds she would also like to write plays, not just act in them. Ginny decides to concentrate more heavily on her schooling in order to do her best, and gives up the theater for a while in order to do so.

Will and Mary Pope Osborne have written a wonderful conclusion to the three-part Virginia Dickens diary entitled *A Time to Dance*. This book provides a detailed Historical Note at the end which also includes several black and white photos. I feel this book would be a valuable addition to any library. The history lessons each of these books teaches is an asset to any young child's education.

Sherri Myers

The paperboy / story and paintings by Dav Pilkey. LCCN 95030641. New York : Scholastic, 1996. Hardbound, \$15.95.

F. Newspaper carriers--Fiction; Morning--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades 1-3 / Rating : 5

The entire world is asleep, except the paperboy. He and his dog roll out of their nice, warm bed while the morning is cold and still, prepare the newspapers, and load up to begin yet another day of deliveries. The bag of papers is heavy, the morning dark, but the paperboy and his dog know the route by heart and concentrate on enjoying their time together. As the rest of the world wakes up, the paperboy and pup head home, back to their nice, cozy bed and sweet dreams.

Beginning with dark, heavy colors spattered with bits of light, Pilkey skillfully conveys the mood and atmosphere of the weighty decision to get up so early, and the temptation to crawl back into bed and forget about the commitment to the job ahead. As the world awakens, so does the sky, infused with oranges and sunrise brights. The African-American protagonist portrays the value of work, even when temptation calls him back to a warm, cozy bed. The bond between boy and his trusty dog charms the reader into soaking in each page. Lack of dialogue effectively adds to the undisturbed aura of a sleeping world.

Pilkey is well known for his Captain Underpants series, that has drawn the attention of reluctant readers from elementary grades and up. Highly recommended for all collections, this is a wonderful book to add to any multicultural collection development list.

The Paperboy, by Dav Pilkey, is a Caldecott Honor Book (1997).

Kim Harris

***Christmas tapestry* / Patricia Polacco. LCCN 2001007392. New York : PenguinPutnam, 2002. Hardbound, \$16.99.**

F. Christmas--Fiction; Jews--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 2-4 / Rating : 4

The Weeks family moves from their beautiful church and home in Memphis to a church in Detroit that is falling down. "Why?" asks Jonathan Jefferson Weeks. "Because (it) is in such need of new life," responds his mother. Hope rising out of despair is the theme of *Christmas Tapestry* by Patricia Polacco. Jonathan and his sister Beth work alongside their parents, renovating the decrepit church. The proposed mural site in the church is ruined by water damage, and that becomes a pivotal point, leading to an impulsive purchase, a chance meeting, and unexpected timing. God is still in control even when we don't realize it.

Based on two homilies Polacco heard decades apart, the tale of the reunion of Nazi concentration camp survivors begs the reader to "suspend disbelief." The account, with a new calamity on each page, lacks the gradual built-up to a climax typical of traditional storytelling. The heightened intensity of a series of events shouts, "this is the reason!" repeatedly, culminating in the touching reuniting of the Zukors. The words of Rev. Weeks, as written by Polacco declare, "Although we don't always understand, the universe unfolds as it should."

The illustrations by the author portray the sympathetic and compassionate Weeks family. Told from a strong Christian point of view, *Christmas Tapestry* can well be used for a family read-and-discussion time.

Su Hagerty

***The charm bracelet* / Emily Rodda ; illustrations by Raoul Vitale. (Fairy realm; 1.) LCCN 2002017276. New York : HarperCollins, 2003. Hardbound, \$8.99.**

F. Grandmothers--Fiction; Fairies--Fiction; Bracelets--Fiction; Magic--Fiction. 113, 5 p. : ill. ; 19 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 5

***The flower fairies* / Emily Rodda ; illustrations by Raoul Vitale. (Fairy realm; 2.) LCCN 2002017286. New York : HarperCollins, 2003. Hardbound, \$8.99.**

F. Fairies--Fiction; Griffins--Fiction; Dance--Fiction; Self-confidence--Fiction; Magic--Fiction. 116 p. : ill. ; 19 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 5

While visiting her grandmother, Jessie is unexpectedly pulled into a fairy realm. The magic is running out and the barrier between the Realm and the Outland is deteriorating. The evil creatures of the Outland will soon overrun the Realm. Maybelle, a talking horse, Patricia, the queen's housekeeper, and Giff, an elf, have called "Jessica" to the fairy realm to help avert this disaster. Jessie discovers that her

grandmother is actually the Jessica they expected, for she was once a princess of the Realm.

To make things more complicated, her cousin, Valda, who has been banished to the Outland, is plotting to overtake the Realm. Valda has arranged for Jessie's grandmother's charm bracelet to be stolen. The bracelet serves to remind her of the fairy realm, so she forgets her life in the fairy realm once the bracelet is stolen. Jessie steals back her grandmother's bracelet and, together, Jessie and her grandmother recite the words necessary to restore the magic.

The second book in this series details Jessie's second trip to the Realm. It appears that the renewed magic is causing some chaos. The Queen is away on a tour of the Realm. In her absence, the griffins who guard the royal treasury have gotten a little carried away and are now guarding the storehouse and Giff's house. Using her wits, Jessie gets the griffins to return to guarding the treasury by convincing them that the queen's collection of fairy wings must be guarded. However, Jessie makes the mistake of taking one pair of wings back to the world of humans, intending to use them to dance in her school presentation. A griffin follows her into the human world to retrieve the wings. Flower fairies also follow, complicating Jessie's life. By the end, all is set to rights and Jessie discovers her own ability to dance without the magic wings.

The illustrations by Raoul Vitale are full page pencil drawings, very realistic in nature; they support the story well.

The Charm Bracelet and *The Flower Fairies* are enjoyable fantasies by Emily Rodda, with a believable protagonist to whom readers will be able to relate. The stories have sufficient action without being too complicated. Jessie is an intelligent heroine who rises to the occasion. Recommended.

Karla J. Castle

***Holes* / Louis Sachar. LCCN 97045011. New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998. Hardbound, \$17.00.**

F. Juvenile delinquency--Fiction; Homeless persons--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Buried treasure--Fiction; Newbery Medal.; Boston Globe-Horn Book Award; National Book Award for Children. 233 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-6 (7-9) / Rating : 5

Stanley Yelnats finds himself wrongly sentenced to a boys' juvenile detention camp for stealing a pair of sneakers meant for a charity auction. He doesn't know how they came to fall from the sky onto his head, but he knows he's innocent, even if no one else believes him. Stanley makes a few friends at the camp, including a boy named Zero, whose real name is Hector Zeroni. Neither boy knows of the past relationship that their ancestors had, but this relationship plays a big part in the plot of the story.

The boys at the juvenile detention camp must dig a 5x5 foot hole each day, which the warden says builds character, but which is actually a treasure hunt for her benefit. Her ancestors have been looking for the treasure for many years, and this also ties into Stanley's and Hector's story. No one is even sure if a treasure really exists, but the warden is determined to find it if it does—at the expense and sweat of the young boys under her care.

Holes deserves the Newbery Medal and other awards it has won. The length of the chapters is perfect for a young adult's attention span, and will keep them turning the pages. *Holes* is an engrossing book, and is full of surprises to the very last page. Humor also plays a part in making Louis Sachar's book a fun and enjoyable read. This is an excellent read, on its own, or as a companion to the movie of the same name. A few parts were changed for the movie, but it kept very much to the original storyline. This is one title I feel should be on every parents' and schools' required reading lists for their children, and is one that most children will read without complaint.

Sherri Myers

***The white stag* / written and illustrated by Kate Seredy. LCCN 79017074. New York : PenguinPutnam, 1979 ; c1965. Paperbound, \$4.99.**

F. Folklore--Hungary; Legends--Hungary; Hungary--Fiction. 94 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Grades 4-6 / Rating : 3

Nimrod the Mighty Hunter has been serving his god, Hadur, leading his people in search of the promised land. His sons, Hunor and Magyar, the Twin Eagles, have left to follow the White Stag. The night they return, they are anointed to lead the people to the promised land with the prophecy that they will not see it, but one of their sons will. The brothers keep leading the people westward.

The White Stag returns to lead the Twin Eagles to their intended brides, moonmaidens. Hunor's first born son is Bendeguz, the White Eagle. The two groups separate as Bendeguz leads the merciless Huns ever westward while Magyar, whose people more benevolent, stays where they are.

Bendeguz marries and his son, Attila the Red Eagle, is born. Because his wife dies birthing the child, Bendeguz quashes all mercy and love from his heart, and raises Attila to be the Scourge of God. Attila lives up to his title. Conquering Europe, Attila is finally thrown up against the Carpathian mountains, with no evident way through. Finally the White Stag appears again, and leads the people to the promised land.

The story of the Huns sweeping across Europe, decimating anything in their path, is well

documented. This version, told from the perspective of the descendants of the Huns, asserts that their bloody path was one of unalterable destiny. Kate Seredy, a descendant of the Magyars and Huns, wrote the legend down in 1937, having heard it from generations of her family. *The White Stag* is well crafted in a narrative style and provides an interesting perspective for a class discussion about how ancient legends and hatreds have determined political and social borders that exist even today. The similarities with the story of Moses are provocative as well.

Kelley Westenhoff

The fantastic journey of Pieter Bruegel / by Anders C. Shafer. LCCN 2002025024. New York : PenguinPutnam, 2002. Hardbound, \$18.99.

F. Bruegel, Pieter, ca. 1525-1569--Fiction; Voyages and travels--Fiction; Artists--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 30 cm.

Grades 5-8 / Rating : 5

Sixteenth century Europe found painters from the North traveling to Rome to study Italy's great art. In *The Fantastic Journey of Pieter Bruegel*, Anders Shafer imagines the journey of the young painter, Pieter Bruegel, from Antwerp in Belgium to Italy and offers them as a series of brief, but entertaining, diary entries that cover seventeen years. He illustrates the scenes that go with these entries with pencil washed with watercolor and acrylic.

Bruegel's journey, fraught with highway robbers in France, the steep paths, the cold and snow of the Alps in Switzerland, lice in his bed in northern Italy, and a naval battle in Calabria, gives him material for many paintings. In Rome at last he finds a job painting ceilings and walls in churches, and meets the great Michelangelo. Bruegel's later paintings reveal his preoccupation with people and the antics and events of their lives.

Shafer has included sixteen reductions of Bruegel's paintings at the back of the book, along with a description and the location of each. I don't see this as a child's favorite check-out book, but I can see its value when read aloud and discussed in an art class.

Helen Hunter

Sign of the beaver / Elizabeth George Speare. LCCN 83000118. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1983. Hardbound, \$16.00.

F. Friendship--Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction; Indians of North America--Fiction. 135 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 5

Young Matt is alone on the frontier. His father has returned to civilization to bring the rest of the family to the woods. Matt, who is twelve years old, thinks he can handle anything, but

quickly realizes he is woefully unprepared. In the midst of one of his more dangerous disasters an Indian chief rescues Matt. The chief, Saknis, asks Matt to teach his grandson, Attean, how to read. Grateful for the rescue, Matt assents. Attean is proud and fierce and absolutely opposed to anything the white people have to offer, but he obeys his grandfather. Attean uses the lesson time to show Matt how superior the Indians are. In the process of demonstrating his prowess, he teaches Matt how to feed, clothe, and take care of himself in the woods. Matt stubbornly persists in teaching and learning, eventually earning the Indian boy's respect and finally, friendship.

Sign of the Beaver is a wonderful book to read aloud to children. Set in colonial Maine, it provides a window into the earliest time of the European settlement. Elizabeth George Speare does not sugarcoat the story. It does not end with everyone getting what he wants most. In fact, Matt comes to realize that the two things he wants most cannot co-exist. The Indians move west, seeing that their hunting grounds are being taken over, and Matt's family finally returns, with news that neighbors are coming soon and a village will be established. This story raises some good questions about what is "right" and "fair." Offer this to your advanced 2nd grade readers; don't let your 4th graders miss it.

Kelley Westenhoff

Roll of thunder, hear my cry / Mildred D. Taylor. LCCN 39378. New York : Phyllis Fogelman Books, 2001, 1976. Hardbound, \$17.99.

F. African Americans--Fiction; Prejudices--Fiction; Mississippi--Race relations--Fiction; Depressions--1929--Fiction. 276 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-10 / Rating : 5

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry is written with keen insight by Mildred D. Taylor. A work of historical fiction story set in the South during the 1930's, this book is a realistic history lesson every middle-school child should partake in.

The story is based on the life of nine-year-old Cassie Logan and her black family. The Logans live in a highly prejudiced and segregated society where most interaction with white people is negative. Pa works on the railroad, Ma teaches in the black school, Big Ma runs the house, and everyone, including the children, work the land in order to pay the taxes on the property.

The Logan children walk to school, use the old books from the white school, shop only at certain stores, and spend many nights in fear and frustration. Life has its hard times and the children have to learn how things are. But, as Momma says, "That doesn't mean they have to accept them." The story climaxes when the foolish son of a sharecropper crosses the

acceptable behavior line of the local white people.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry is a well paced, rich portrayal of a black family surviving in the South during the Depression. The reader will make strong attachments to the Logan family; each incident has you cheering, laughing, sorrowing, or seeking justice for the characters.

This story shows the true character of sinful man while also teaching the triumph of integrity, love of God, and strong commitment to family. Highly recommend *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* for 12-to-15-year-olds and as a read-aloud for children ages nine and up.

Sarah Fitch

The boxcar children / Gertrude Chandler Warner ; illustrated by L. Kate Deal. LCCN 2002023482. Morton Grove, Ill. : Albert Whitman, 2002 ; 1942. Hardbound, \$18.95.

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories. 163 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

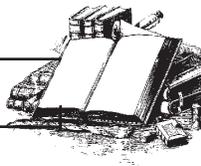
Grades 2-4 / Rating : 5

Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny Alden are four children who find themselves orphaned when their parents both die. Thinking their grandfather is a very mean, unloving man who would not welcome them, they set off to find a new home for themselves. Finding an abandoned boxcar purely by chance in the woods, they set about making it into a home to live in. The oldest boy Henry walks into town each day and earns money doing odd jobs for the town doctor while Jessie, the oldest girl, tends to the smaller children's needs. Henry earns just enough to provide a loaf of bread and some milk each day, to keep them from going hungry.

The ending is a happy one and while being somewhat predictable to an adult's mind, it will bring a smile to the face of any child reading this book.

This classic has now reached its 60th year and is still a children's favorite. Its simple wording and short chapters makes it ideal for younger children who have learned the basics of reading, and it is also an excellent bedtime story. The book contains black and white pictures throughout that are well drawn and pertinent to the subject of each chapter. The Boxcar Children teaches values such as depending on one another, honesty, and hard work in an easy to read and enjoyable story. Included at the end is a short biography and pictures of Gertrude Chandler Warner, which also explains how and why the series came about.

Sherri Myers



200's—Religion

Halley's Bible kidnotes / Henry H. Halley with Jean Syswerda. LCCN 2003009649. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2003. Hardbound, \$14.99.

220.7. Bible. 448 p. : col. ill. ; 21 cm.
Grades 2-5 / Rating : 4

A child's Bible handbook, *Halley's Bible Kidnotes* uses scripture from the New International Reader's Version. Similar to *Halley's Bible Handbook*, *Kidnotes* covers the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Each book is briefly introduced; then follows an outline of the pertinent thoughts relevant to each verse or group of verses. New or difficult words are explained as they appear. Maps and charts, suggested memory verses, character sketches, lists, thumbnail sketches, and photos encourage interest. A broad index and an explanation of symbols close this book.

Remaining true to the late Dr. Halley's ideas, editorial consultant, and author Jean Syswerda fills *Kidnotes* with a large amount of pertinent information in children's language. Art director Laura Maitner adds emphasis by using shades of blue for all the pictures and text. *Kidnotes* will be useful as a reference book, in individual study, for quizzes and games, and in all areas of church children's work. It is recommended for children's workers, Christian schools, church libraries, and homeschoolers. With a bright, wipeable cover, it will make a good prize or gift.

Donna Eggett

The Lord is my shepherd / illustrated by Anne Wilson. LCCN 2002010148. Grand Rapids : Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2003. Hardbound, \$16.00.

223'.2052034. Bible. O.T. Psalms XXXIII. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 28 cm.
Grades 4-7 / Rating : 5

An art book presented in picture book format, *The Lord Is My Shepherd* marries the King James Version of Psalm 23 with the vibrant graphic designs of English artist Anne Wilson. The phrases of this well loved Psalm are embedded within two page illustrative patterns that suggest reality while enlarging on the meaning of the words. Working with flamboyantly glowing colors, Wilson uses a wide range of techniques including collaged papers, printing methods, and various types of paint. An integral part of the narrative, the cover and end paper illustrations introduce the contents of this book.

Delighting both eye and spirit, this unique book will be appreciated by all ages, child through adult. The strong paper and binding used in this book will hold up to the touching the illustrations elicit.

Donna Eggett

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Shout for joy and sing! : Psalm 65 for children / retold by Christopher L. Webber ; illustrated by Preston McDaniels. (Psalms for children.) LCCN 2003011421. Harrisburg, Pa. : Morehouse, 2003. Hardbound, \$14.95.

223'.209505. Bible--Paraphrases--O.T. Psalms LXV. God. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.
Grades K-5 / Rating : *5

Shout for Joy and Sing! Psalm 65 for Children by Christopher L. Webber is a retelling of a familiar scriptural passage. Webber paraphrases the verses into everyday vernacular, listing all the reasons that God is worthy of praise. How does creation impact the lives of earth's inhabitants? Why should not we be grateful for the abundant generosity of our Creator? One of the themes deals with the fact that there are times when things do not go well, times when we act badly; part of God's provision is that he is willing to help us to do better.

The text leaves the reader breathless with excitement, in awe of the power, majesty, and goodness of God. Each page is full of the familiar things that are overshadowed by the presence of God: "You water the ridges that are left behind the plow." Preston McDaniels' illustrations likewise resonate with the prayer and praise due the Almighty. There is a softness, a gentleness in the use of color and pencil stroke. The lines are defined, yes, but they imply an energy flowing that is sufficient, not overpowering and frightening. The drawings of the children capture them in a multitude of poses, from all vantage points. The viewer seems to be the innocent by-stander, watching the blessing of nature gracing these young lives. The worldview is completely Christian. A lovely book.

Su Hagerty

A child's book of parables / illustrated by Trace Moroney ; retold by Lori Froeb. Cincinnati, Ohio : Standard, 2003. Hardbound, \$12.99.

226.809505. Jesus Christ--Parables. 30 p. : col. ill. ; 23 x 29 cm.

Grades PS-3 / Rating : 4

Intermingling illustration and word equally, *A Child's Book of Parables* paraphrases seven New Testament parables: The Lost Sheep; The Smart and Foolish Builders; The Mustard Seed; The Son Who Came Back; The Sower; The Good Samaritan; and The Great Banquet. The introduction explains the meaning and purposes of parables. Each parable narration begins with the pertinent Bible reference and closes with easily understood questions and ideas. Every page is splashed with colorful illustrations ranging in size from full page to small word illuminations.

A noted New Zealand based children's author and illustrator, Trace Moroney delights the eye while teaching the heart and mind with her bright, action filled pictures. Lori Froeb's age-appropriate, ear-pleasing narration remains true to Scripture. Preschoolers through grade one will enjoy listening to *A Child's Book of Parables*. Grades two and three will be able to read it for themselves.

Donna Eggett

Hymns for a kid's heart, vol. 1 / Bobbie Wolgemuth, Joni Eareckson Tada ; illustrations by Sergio Martinez. LCCN 2003002480. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 2003. Hardbound, \$19.99.

264.23. Hymns--History and criticism--Juvenile literature; Hymns. 96 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm. ; incl. CD-ROM

Grades 3-6 / Rating : 3

Hymns for a Kid's Heart is a liberally-illustrated hardbound book written to teach a love of hymns (and a love of God) to children. Twelve classic hymns are arranged in four categories (Hymns About God; Hymns of Truth from the Bible; Hymns About Christian Living; Hymns of Prayer for Our Country). In addition to the words and music for each hymn, there's background information on it and its author, related devotions on God's character, a Bible verse, and a prayer.

The book is meant for children, but adults will enjoy learning about the hymns, especially adults new to Christianity or Christian music. The selection of hymns includes "Holy, Holy, Holy," "Amazing Grace," "Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart," and even "America the Beautiful." Readers who are interested can find accompanying tracks and sheet music at www.hymnsforkids.com.

The four-color illustrations by Sergio Martinez add a sleepy sort of charm to the book. The

biographical information, written by Bobbie Wolgemuth, is detailed enough to provide facts and figures, but interesting enough to capture a child's attention. Joni Eareckson Tada's devotions are simple and suited for the child audience but are also forceful and moving. The prayers and Bible verses tie in nicely to each hymn. Younger children may not be able to read the text themselves but will enjoy sharing this book with an adult. A helpful touch: the "Do You Know What It Means?" glossary of unfamiliar words at the end of the book.

The enclosed CD is nicely produced. Full, lush orchestrations and vocals by Wolgemuth, Tada, and a kid choir make this a recording that will be listened to again and again. The only quibble: all the hymns sound somewhat the same. A very young child may get restless when hearing the CD straight through.

Rosemarie DiCristo

300's—Social Sciences

*

***Let it shine : stories of Black women freedom fighters* / Andrea Davis Pinkney ; illustrated by Stephen Alcorn. LCCN 99042806. San Diego : Harcourt, 2000. Hardbound, \$20.00.**

323. African American women civil rights workers--Biography; African Americans--Civil rights--History; United States--Race relations. xi, 107 p. : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades 5-8 / Rating : *5

Both art book and American history volume, *Let It Shine* relates the biographies of ten Afro-American women who "let their lights shine on the darkness of inequality." (p.10) Full-page portraits and simple, candid, appealing biographies portray all ten women, who range from famous Sojourner Truth to lesser known Biddy Mason. The author introduces herself and her motivations in the first chapter. *Let It Shine* closes with an intriguing list for further reading.

Children's book editor and biographer of black contributors to America's growth, Andrea Davis Pinkney grew up during the civil rights movement. She knows her subject by birth, and through first hand knowledge and loving research. Using words apropos to each heroine and her era, Pinkney speaks with the born storyteller's tongue using apt colloquialisms and engaging imagery. She frankly relates the horrors of slavery and other difficulties. She speaks clearly about the Christianity of these women. Acclaimed printmaker and painter, illustrator of famed historical characters, 1998 recipient of the Carter G. Woodson Book Award, Stephen Alcorn realizes in this book his dream of painting allegorical portraits to honor the heroines of civil rights. The oil on canvas portraits move rhythmically, swirling with color

and symbolic detail to emotionally portray each woman's life and work. *Let It Shine* appeals to all age groups. Even those too young to read it themselves will enjoy looking and listening.

Donna Eggett

***Thank you, Sarah : the woman who saved Thanksgiving* / Laurie Halse Anderson ; [illustrated by] Matt Faulkner. LCCN 2001049726. New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2002. Hardbound, \$16.95.**

394.2649. Thanksgiving Day--History; United States--Social life and customs; Hale, Sarah Josepha Buell, 1788-1879. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 29 cm.

Grades 3-6 / Rating : 5

Most American school children know that we celebrate Thanksgiving to commemorate the Pilgrims' first harvest celebration. They also know that many people celebrate it with family, food, and football. However, very few children know that the celebration of Thanksgiving almost died out. While many states celebrated a day for it, each had its own day.

Thank You, Sarah is the story of Sarah Hale, a woman who thought having a national celebration was so important that she persisted, in the face of all kinds of opposition and indifference, until she achieved her goal. Through five presidents Sarah petitioned, cajoled, pleaded, and bullied for a national day of Thanksgiving. Finally, during the dark hours of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln said "yes" and established the national holiday in 1863.

Written by Laurie Halse Anderson in an engaging style, *Thank You, Sarah* is a goldmine of information that is presented in a way that makes for fun read-alouds. Matt Faulkner's humorous ink and watercolor illustrations add a note of hilarity to the uphill battle Sarah Hale fought. (Don't miss the turkeys expressing their opinions on the subject). Ending with a feast of facts about Thanksgiving as well as notes about Sarah Hale's life, the author challenges readers to emulate Sarah by writing letters to change their world. This book lends itself to so many areas of curricula: Thanksgiving, letter writing, history, biography, and with a short bibliography on the last page, further study. Having enough copies to keep all your teachers happy might be a challenge, but they will thank you.

Kelley Westenhoff

***Adelita : a Mexican Cinderella story* / written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola. LCCN 2001057873. New York : PenguinPutnam, 2002. Hardbound, \$16.99.**

398.2. Folklore--Mexico; Fairy tales. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 4

Adelita has a loving father whose wife dies shortly after giving birth to Adelita. She grows into a beautiful young lady and is devotedly loved and cared for by her father and trusty housekeeper, Esperanza. One day her father remarries a cold woman with two ugly and equally cold daughters. Upon her father's death, Adelita is made a servant, and Esperanza is ousted from the household. When a wealthy family in the area has a fiesta to celebrate their grown son's return home, as well as to help him find a wife, the stepmother and her daughters attend, leaving Adelita home. Esperanza arrives to save the day by helping Adelita get dressed in some of her mother's old-fashioned, yet beautiful clothes, and encouraging her to attend the fiesta. Adelita wins the heart of the wealthy son, whom she had known as a child, and soon becomes his bride, forgiving all wrongs done to her by the stepmother and her daughters.

Adelita: a Mexican Cinderella Story by Tomie de Paola is the typical Cinderella tale, retold to better fit Latin traditions. Bright colors and mosaic backgrounds are attractive and add an authentic flavor to mood and atmosphere of the fairytale. Characters are accurately etched, complete with dark colors and clothing that depicts the wicked stepmother and her daughters and the light, bright colors used to depict the purity of Adelita. Dialogue is sprinkled with Spanish words, immediately translated into English. Seesaw of languages is disturbing, but values are solid. Recommended for all libraries.

Kim Harris

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***Joseph had a little overcoat* / by Simms Taback. LCCN 98047721. New York : Viking, 1999, 1977. Hardbound, \$15.99.**

398.2. Toy and movable books; Coats--Folklore; Jews--Folklore; Folklore--European, Eastern; Toy and movable books--Specimens; Caldecott Medal. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades K-3 / Rating : *5

Joseph Had a Little Overcoat, the 2000 Caldecott Medal winner, is Simms Taback's retelling of a Yiddish folktale. Joseph is an elderly Yiddish man who has an old overcoat. Through the story his coat gets worn out and eventually becomes a jacket, vest, scarf, necktie, handkerchief, and button. After Joseph loses the button, he writes a story about his overcoat, proving that you can always make something out of nothing.

The illustrations use watercolor, pencil, ink, and collage, and include exquisite detail, sure to grab the reader's attention. The shaped, cutout windows on every other page will offer emerging readers a clue to the vocabulary on the upcoming page. The pictures evoke a unique Yiddish flavor throughout the book, even in the smallest details.

This book is sure to captivate young children and will be read over and over again. The repetitive language makes it natural for young audiences to chime in. It would be a perfect read aloud to a classroom of kindergarten through second grade students, perhaps with props or a flannel board. Emerging readers will also enjoy reading the book independently, as the language is repetitive and fluent. *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat* is very similar to another book, *Something From Nothing* by Phoebe Gilman. Both books share the same moral: "You can always make something from nothing". Overall, *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat* is a high quality picture book, destined to become a well-worn favorite.

Jean Wensink

***Cinderella's dress* / by Nancy Willard ; illustrated by Jane Dyer. LCCN 2002151005. New York : Blue Sky Press, 2003. Hardbound, \$16.95.**

398.2. Fairy tales; Folklore. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 30 cm.

Grades 1-4 / Rating : 4

The setting for the beginning scene is a magpie's nest. *Cinderella's Dress*, by Nancy Willard, comes from this unlikely viewpoint. Magpies are packrats, scavengers, even finding treasure where others may see only trash. Things broken, discarded, Mamma and Papa Magpie know are "things that shimmer, dream, and shine." Their featherless adopted daughter must have finery to attend the Prince's Ball. But, the sacrifice that will make the evening successful is Mamma's prize trinket, a ring "Hammered from fairy gold, this simple band can change your fate." Will her affection for Cinderella supercede the magpie's love for the glittering gold ring?

The storyline is lyrical, meant to be read aloud. Not all the line endings rhyme, but there is a dance rhythm maintained throughout the book. Glimpses of the original fairytale keep the reader in touch with that familiarity, but told from a different perspective, *Cinderella's Dress* has the "what if" prospect. While the tenor of the story matches the original, the inclusion of a Girl Scout pin in the possessions of the magpies is a jolt. Perhaps it is too contemporary for this retelling. The drawings, which share space with the text, are full of detail. Jane Dyer is creative in her placement of the pictures in juxtaposition to the text. Sometimes the words are contained in a border, sometimes not. And some borders are ornamented with creatures from the story, other times, they are unadorned. The illustrations are soft, pastel with perhaps a wash overlay, perfect for the "let's pretend" character of this picture book.

Caution: The adult should read the book ahead of time to determine how to talk about the occasional mention of unkind actions in this household.

Su Hagerty

***Lon Po Po : a Red-Riding Hood story from China* / Ed Young. LCCN 88015222. New York : Philomel, 1989. Hardbound, \$16.99.**

398.2'0951. Folklore--China. [32] p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 1-3 / Rating : 4

Lon Po Po : a Red-Riding Hood Story from China is told by Ed Young. Mother is off to see Grandmother (Po Po) to celebrate the elderly woman's birthday. The three daughters are cautioned, in her absence, to shut the door at sunset. A wolf, disguised as Po Po, comes to the door and asks for entrance. Once in the house, the girls notice the not-quite-right appearance of the greedy wolf. He glibly explains their fears away. The clever Shang realizes that their visitor is not Grandmother, but the wolf! She and her sisters dupe the avaricious animal, ultimately causing his heart to be broken to pieces.

The winner of the Randolph Caldecott medal for Most Distinguished Picture Book for 1990, the retelling of Red-Riding Hood is deliciously scary. The reader roots for the three sisters: Shang the Clever, Tao the Plump, and Paotze the Sweet. The author, on the other hand, dedicates the book "to all the wolves of the world for lending their good name as a tangible symbol for our darkness." This juxtaposition of good and evil pulls the story along. Will the girls eventually outwit the wolf, or will his tenacity gain his diabolical purpose?

Watercolor is the medium of choice. However, it is the illustrator's cunning use of panels that intrigues the eye. The segments allow a dissection of the story, a bull's eye for each character. The passing of time is marked by the coloration of the sky.

Su Hagerty

***Once a mouse* / by Marcia Brown. LCCN 89032057. New York : Aladdin Books, 1989, 1961. Paperbound, \$6.99.**

398.24'52. Folklore--India; Fables. [32] p. : col. ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades 1-4 / Rating : 4

Marcia Brown uses a fable to tell the story of *Once a Mouse*. The hermit is thinking of things great and small when he happens to see a mouse. A series of circumstances causes the hermit to use his magical powers to change the mouse into increasingly larger and grander animals. The mouse begins to believe that he in fact is better than any of the other animals in the jungle. When the hermit calls him on his attitude, the tiger entertains thoughts of doing away with the hermit. Undaunted, the hermit sends him away, fated to spend the rest of his days as a lowly mouse.

Brown uses the tried-and-true "full circle" approach in telling the story. In the beginning, the hermit is contemplating things large and small. So, too, is he in the closing page. But, the definition for the reader may have changed, because we now have an insight into the story of a mouse who is turned into a tiger. The text divided into the pages is attention-grabbing. Many sentences are split to leave cliff-hangers. "Not long after that, a hungry tiger..."

The woodcuttings are a satisfying way of illustrating the book. They retain the primitive flavor of the tale: the hermit, the animals, the jungle. The use of color intensifies the narrative. For the most part, Brown uses neutrals of the brown palette. But, occasionally, as the fable dictates, there is a flash of orange. The orange is as strong as the roar of an arrogant tiger!

Su Hagerty

500's—Natural Sciences & Mathematics

***Pond* / Gordon Morrison. LCCN 2002003494. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2002. Hardbound, \$16.00.**

577.63'6. Pond animals; Pond plants; Ponds. 30 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 2-4 / Rating : 5

Pond is a breathtakingly beautiful book of watercolors covering four seasons in the life of a pond. Beginning with spring run-off, Gordon Morrison moves the reader forward with the changes the seasons bring. At the bottom of each page his black and white drawings show more detail of the plants, animals and geologic formations mentioned in the fully illustrated text above. There are wood ducks, chickadees, a barred owl, a kingfisher, red-winged blackbirds and tree swallows living at the pond along with snakes, frogs, turtles, badgers, raccoons, and fresh water mussels. How the animals and plants depend on each other for habitat and existence is clearly illustrated without anthropomorphizing. A discussion about the age of the ancestors of the reptiles as well as how the pond might have formed geologically argues for an old earth theory. Exquisite art work is the foundation for this excellent art and science book.

Kelley Westenhoff

***Time* / John Farndon. (Science experiments.) LCCN 2002004846. New York : Benchmark Books, 2003. Hardbound, \$16.95.**

529'.7'078. Time measurement--Experiments; Experiments. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 4

Motion / John Farndon. (Science experiments.) LCCN 2002005010. New York : Benchmark Books, 2003. Hardbound, \$16.95.

531'.11'078. Motion--Experiments; Experiments. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 4

Energy / John Farndon. (Science experiments.) LCCN 2002004631. New York : Benchmark Books, 2003. Hardbound, \$16.95.

531'.6'078. Force and energy--Experiments; Power (Mechanics)--Experiments; Experiments. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 4

Buoyancy / John Farndon. (Science experiments.) LCCN 2002019571. New York : Benchmark Books, 2002. Hardbound, \$16.95.

532'.25. Floating bodies--Experiments; Water--Experiments; Experiments. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 5

Chemicals / John Farndon. (Science experiments.) LCCN 2002018284. New York : Benchmark Books, 2002. Hardbound, \$16.95.

540'.78. Chemistry--Experiments; Experiments. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 5

Rocks and minerals / John Farndon. (Science experiments.) LCCN 2002000908. New York : Benchmark Books, 2003. Hardbound, \$25.64.

549'.078. Rocks--Experiments; Minerals--Experiments; Experiments. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 4-6 / Rating : 4

The Science Experiments series by Benchmark Books, aimed at 3rd through 5th grades, is designed to help children understand science through experiments. John Farndon does an incredible job of conveying the information clearly and explaining the experiments fully. All of the experiments are very basic, using materials one can find around most homes. Lavishly illustrated with pertinent photographs, these books cover all aspects of the subject of the book. Each volume has a section at the back called Experiments in Science, discussing whether experiments are done to get the right answer or whether we learn from wrong outcomes. The glossary and index in each book are complete and useful. Not all of the volumes jump out as the best in their field. The two best are *Chemicals* and *Buoyancy*.

Did you know that you treat a wasp sting with lemon juice because the sting is basic and the acid lemon juice neutralizes it? Don't try that with a bee or ant sting though—they're acidic and baking soda is the base to use! This is one of the interesting facts in the text of the *Chemicals* book. First defining chemicals, then distinguishing between elements and compounds, the author moves on to mixing chemicals, simple reactions, fire and oxygen, acids and bases and salts. He also explains how

chemical formulas work. One of the experiments explains how chromatography works. Simple and clear, it will send children looking for coffee filters or paper towels to try it at home. The experiment on Fire and Oxygen will get an enthusiastic reaction as well.

The buoyancy book begins by helping children understand why some things float and others sink. To illustrate the physics involved, the book goes through ships, fish, hovercrafts, submarines, and even floating rocks! One of the experiments, making a hovercraft, will start a physics revolution in your classroom if not the entire school. Start your students collecting two liter and one liter water bottles—you'll need them. The book does assert that the Earth formed 4600 million years ago, but this is one line in 32 pages of great explanations and experiments.

The book on energy has a splendid experiment using a candle, copper tubing, balsa wood, and water to demonstrate how heat engines work. Showing how solar energy works through making a solar cooker is ingenious and simple. The book expresses global warming as a fact and speaks about the Carboniferous Period 300 million years ago. It explains the various forms of energy we use today.

The volume on time asserts that astronomers believe the universe is about 14 billion years old. The experiments to demonstrate time are not as interesting as the ones in the other books, but they are also clearly explained. Each topic (Solar Time, Clocks, Calendars, Seasons, Months, and Standard Time) discusses its subject thoroughly. Perhaps because of the subject matter, I found myself growing sleepy reading this volume. It may resonate more to a group who hasn't heard this material over and over.

Like the volume on buoyancy, the book on motion has great experiments to accompany its excellent text. Some of the sidebars are a bit advanced for the younger age group this series is targeted toward, but a good teacher will be able to use that information to stretch the students' imagination. When you get to the Reaction Rockets experiment, you'll have no shortage of willing volunteers. Accurate measuring, required in this volume, could be a challenge.

Kelley Westenhoff

***I howl, I growl* / by Marcia Vaughn ; illustrated by Polly Powell.** LCCN 2003041366. Flagstaff, AZ : Rising Moon, 2003. Hardbound, \$6.95.

591.979. Zoology--Southwestern States; Animal behavior--Southwestern States; Zoology--Southwestern States--Poetry; Animal behavior--Southwestern States--Poetry. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 18 cm.

Grades PS-2 / Rating : 3

I Howl, I Growl is a picture book made up of a series of two-page spreads. Each page contains a painting of one desert animal. Each page also contains one trait of that animal, such as 'I howl' for the coyote, and 'I growl' for the mountain lion. (The traits are deliberately made to rhyme). Polly Powell's paintings, done in muted earth tones, are dreamily impressionistic. Author Marcia Vaughn recounts the animal traits as well as their names (in tiny print next to each animal).

Some traits, like 'I lick' for the bat, may be a bit confusing (is the first thing a child thinks of when thinking of a bat the fact that it licks?). Others seem to have been inserted for the sake of the rhyme (is a Gila monster's most significant trait its ability to 'rest'?). But the pairings are well done, and several are clever (as in 'wriggle' and 'squiggle' for the centipede and sidewinder). The book ends with an amusing twist—the arrival of a skunk. The caption? "I spray, we all run away."

There are many books about animal traits, but this one has a southwestern angle, a strength because it features animals not usually portrayed in kids' books. Another strength: Powell's illustrations, which manage to be both cute and realistic. *I Howl, I Growl's* biggest strength, however, is that it's quick and painless, perfect for children being read to by an adult (who can further explain other characteristics of the animals pictured). It's also wonderful for youngsters wanting to read on their own. Chunky and small with heavy cardboard pages, it would greatly appeal to little hands, its simple text is very readable, and its drawings are appealing. A nice choice for all libraries and home use.

Rosemarie DiCristo

***Bugs are insects* / by Anne Rockwell ; illustrated by Steve Jenkins. (Let's-read-and-find-out science, Stage 1.)** LCCN 99039846. New York : HarperCollins, 2001. Hardbound, \$15.89.

595.7. Insects. 33 p. : col. ill. ; 21 x 26 cm.

Grades K-2 / Rating : 5

Is a ladybug a bug or an insect? The cover illustration and title of this book, *Bugs Are Insects*, seems to answer this basic question. However, using progressive logic, Anne Rockwell shows that ladybugs are insects, but not bugs and teaches the reader that the words bug and insect are not interchangeable. Showing creatures with similar features, the author proceeds through the exoskeleton, antennae, body parts, and number of legs that the animals portrayed have. Narrowing down the possibilities of how to identify diverse insects, the reader contemplates different ways insects feed, sees other creatures with exoskeletons, and discerns how spiders differ

from insects. In this, Rockwell teaches the principles of orderly classification.

Steve Jenkins' paper sculptures are beautiful and inspirational. Seemingly simple, they are in fact complex works of art. Using paper with different textures and sheen, he cleverly portrays the hairiness of spider legs, the delicate joints of a grasshopper's body, and the bumblebee's fuzziness with great skill. These examples provide an inspirational source for artistic collage. Even the mosquito is beautifully crafted. The illustrations are large and brightly colored, making this an excellent science read-aloud book. *Bugs Are Insects* blends science and art to provide teachers a resource they can use to marvel at God's diverse design for His creatures. The last two pages provide activities and identification of the animals portrayed.

Kelley Westenhoff

***From caterpillar to butterfly* / by Deborah Heiligman ; illustrated by Bari Weissman. (Let's-read-and-find-out science, Stage 1.) LCCN 93039055. New York : HarperCollins, 1996. Hardbound, \$19.95.**

595.78'904334. Butterflies--Metamorphosis; Metamorphosis; Caterpillars. 31 p. : col. ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades K-2 / Rating : 3

When a child brings a caterpillar to school, the whole class starts a project to take care of it and see what will happen. Using very basic facts (eliminating mating), Deborah Heiligman describes the life cycle of the butterfly. She takes the reader back to the beginning when the mother butterfly laid the egg. Next she tells how the caterpillar emerged from its egg case and began eating. Shifting back to the classroom, the students watch the caterpillar eat and molt, eat and molt, and eat and molt. One day the caterpillar hangs upside down and molts into a chrysalis. After an interminable wait (actually only a week), the children see the Painted Lady butterfly emerge and let it go free.

Bari Weissman has illustrated each page of *From Caterpillar to Butterfly* with charming pen, ink, and watercolor illustrations of the children, classroom, and of course, the subject at hand. Each illustration has tiny printing in it giving further details about caterpillar and butterfly life. The last page gives locations of butterfly gardens to visit and the two prior show six common butterflies and their caterpillars. Part of the "Let's Read And Find Out Science" series from HarperCollins, this is a good resource for doing a unit on insects and metamorphosis with younger children.

Kelley Westenhoff

700's—The Arts and Recreation

***Folklore & fairy tale funnies* / edited by Art Spiegelman & Francoise Mouly. (Little lit.) LCCN 99051484. New York : HarperCollins, 2000. Hardbound, \$19.95.**

741.5'973. Cartoons and comics; Short stories. 64 p. : col. ill. ; 34 cm.

Grades K-3 / Rating : 3

***It was a dark and silly night* / edited by Art Spiegelman & Francoise Mouly. (Little lit.) LCCN 2003042307. New York : HarperCollins, 2003. Hardbound, \$19.99.**

741.5'973. Cartoons and comics; Short stories. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 34 cm.

Grades K-3 / Rating : 3

***Strange stories for strange kids* / edited by Art Spiegelman & Francoise Mouly. (Little lit.) LCCN 67147. New York : HarperCollins, 2001. Hardbound, \$19.95.**

741.5'973. Cartoons and comics; Short stories. 64 p. : col. ill. ; 34 cm.

Grades K-3 / Rating : 3

These books are collections of graphic short stories (comic strip style) by a variety of writers and illustrators, such as Walt Kelly, Maurice Sendak, and Martin Handford. Each volume has its own theme indicated by the subtitle. There are a variety of story lines and illustration styles. Interspersed among the comic strip stories are single pictures challenging readers to find particular shapes or oddities. The endpapers of the first volume provide a board game, complete with play pieces and instructions. The endpapers of the second volume provide silly instructions for drawing your own cartoons. The endpapers of the third volume have "Where's Waldo" style pictures. Short biographical entries are included in the contributor notes.

Caution should be taken in choosing these volumes. Some of the stories are dark, especially the folktales, which by nature are cautionary and meant to scare children into being good. Some of the stories are very strange and others are very silly. Personal sense of humor and taste will influence which stories appeal to each individual reader. Kids will respond to the visually stimulating nature of these books and the silliness of the stories.

Karla J. Castle

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***Look what you can make with dozens of household items!* / Boyd's Mills. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyd's Mills, 2003. LLB, \$24.99.**

745.54. Handicrafts. Looseleaf, various pagings. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades K-Adult / Rating : *5

An amply illustrated how-to book, *Look What You Can Make...* teems with ideas for handicrafts. Incorporating eight separate books, this volume encourages handcrafters of all ages to use readily accessible materials. Make

musical instruments from boxes, a log cabin from paper bags, a train from toilet rolls; celebrate Hanukkah with a paper plate Menorah, Thanksgiving with a craft stick turkey, Christmas with greeting card magnets, Columbus Day with detergent bottle ships. Each section begins with a listing of materials and equipment and ends with an in depth index. Each project lists supplies needed, and provides generous, easily followed directions, enhanced by a colorful photo of the finished product.

Boyd's Mills Press has gathered their most popular handcraft books into this one convenient volume. Printed on sturdy paper, bound in binder style, the size of a big binder, *Look What You Can Make...* opens flat for great display of each project. Younger children may need help doing the projects. Older children will be able to swing right into the projects on their own. Parents, teachers, church youth workers, homeschoolers, grandparents, and child-care givers will find this a most useful reference book. Other areas of use include convalescents of all ages, nursing homes, gift giving, and teacher training. Recommended for everybody.

Donna Eggett

***Fiestas : a year of Latin American songs of celebration* / selected, arranged, and translated by Jose-Luis Orozco ; illustrated by Elisa Kleven. LCCN 2003535351. New York : PenguinPutnam, 2002. Hardbound, \$17.99.**

782.42'083. Children's songs--Latin America. 48 p. : col. ill., music ; 32 cm.

Grades 3-6 / Rating : 5

A bilingual music collection for the young and the young at heart, *Fiestas : A Year of Latin American Songs of Celebration* presents over twenty songs from Spanish speaking countries. Arranged in calendar order, each song is introduced by a brief description of the Latin American celebration it commemorates. The side-by-side English/Spanish lyrics are accompanied by simple music adaptable to piano, voice, and guitar. Illustrator Elisa Kleven's joyous, Latin American flavored, colorful collage pictures and borders abound on every page. An index of song subjects profitably ends this book.

Continuing the series begun with "De-Colores," Latin-American folk song collector, songwriter, singer, teacher, author Jose-Luis Ortega imbues *Fiestas...* with knowledge, love, and fun. With an accessible format, *Fiestas...* will enchant young singers and instrumentalists, and be a treasure trove for teachers and parents. Ortega wrote several of the songs. The marriage of narrative, music, and illustrations makes this an interesting book to read. Information for obtaining a CD of all music and songs, a table of contents, and traditional rhymes further enhance this book. All schools and libraries will want

this one, as will homeschoolers, families, and children's clubs.

Donna Eggett

800's—Literature & Rhetoric

***Alphathoughts : alphabet poems* / by Lee Bennett Hopkins ; illustrations by Marla Baggetta. Honesdale, Pa. : Wordsong/Boyd's Mills, 2003. Hardbound, \$15.99.**

811. Alphabet—Poetry; Children's poetry, American; American poetry. [30] p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades PS-2 / Rating : 4

The alphabet is the foundation of our language. *Alphathoughts : Alphabet Poems from A to Z* by Lee Bennett Hopkins, a long-time friend of American children's poetry, takes this tool and uses it to create a thought-provoking text. Each letter is the beginning of the word defined, and also finds its way into the crafted explanation. For example, he writes: "Y yarn Hanks of color, rainbow bound, yearning to become a knitted something." "F friendship Never apart, even when far away." The result is charming content, and perhaps, an incentive for the child to make up and draw pictures of his own alphathoughts.

Alphathoughts gives us a new read on the alphabet. Instead of the traditional "a is for apple" approach, Hopkins takes ordinary items, such as the lowly handkerchief or nachos, brings them center-stage and for the moment, they own the spotlight. The vocabulary is a reading stretch for the young child, but certainly is within their aural experience. Indeed, this delightful picture book presents definitions to further knowledge. Learning is low-keyed but sound.

The illustrations illumine the text. Marla Baggetta uses a combination of reality and imagination. The pictures are stylized: they are not quite real, but not wholly cartoon. They blend well with the topic of conversation.

Su Hagerty

***In the spin of things* / by Rebecca Kai Dotlich ; illustrations by Karen Dugan. LCCN 2002108406. Honesdale, Pa. : Wordsong/Boyd's Mills, 2003. Hardbound, \$16.95.**

811. Motion—Juvenile poetry; Children's poetry, American. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades 4-7 / Rating : 4

Every day items and activities sometime inspire stringing words together in the curious rhythm we call "poetry." Rebecca Kai Dotlich gives us a fresh idea about life in *In the Spin of Things : Poetry of Motion*. It is the ability of the thing to turn that makes it eligible for this collection. That is what cereal, ice cubes, rubber bands, and a kitchen broom have in common. Would you think that wind chimes could be described as

"tin ballerinas on a tangle of string?" This and many other thought-provokers are presented in this picture-book of poems.

Dotlich's style brings to mind the writings of Eve Merriam. Both authors are liberal with onomatopoeia. Literary factors make this book a great addition to teachers' and students' collections alike. Only the occasional poem is in iambic pentameter. Tongue twisters, descriptions, directions, and alliteration also give information to be analyzed, the poem bringing a smile to the mind because the data is presented in a humorous way.

Karen Dugan, illustrator, peoples the illustrations with children and nature, things from the household and out-of-doors. For use in the home, classroom, or library, *In the Spin of Things: Poetry of Motion* brings a different read to this genre of literature: unusual theme portrayed in an uncommonly fine manner.

Su Hagerty

***Joyful noise : poems for two voices* / Paul Fleischman ; illustrated by Eric Beddows. LCCN 87045280. New York : Harper & Row, 1988. Hardbound, \$15.99.**

811. Insects—Juvenile poetry; Children's poetry, American; Insects—Poetry; American poetry. 44 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 2-12 / Rating : 5

Written by Paul Fleischman with illustrations by Eric Bellows, *Joyful Noise* is a remarkable volume of poetry for two voices, a companion to Fleischman's earlier book, *I Am Phoenix*. Having used it myself for library presentations to elementary, middle school, and high school students, I can attest to its value and how much young people enjoy this tandem poetry.

In *Joyful Noise*, each poem describes characteristics and activities of a particular insect, such as Book Lice, a great choice for library poetry programs. The poems are designed to be read aloud and the author gives a note in the beginning of the book that one reader is to take the right-hand part, one reader the left-hand part and at times these will be recited simultaneously. What results is almost a musical duet, very pleasing to the ears.

Young people of almost any age will enjoy this book and could use the poetry for a presentation. Teachers also will find this a valuable resource for their classroom poetry unit, for a poetry slam or during celebrations of National Poetry Week in April.

Ceil Carey

900's—Geography, History, & Biography

***The Lewis and Clark Trail : then and now* / Dorothy Hinshaw Patent ; photographs by William Munoz. LCCN 2002070857. New York : Dutton Children's Books, 2002. Hardbound, 0525469125, \$19.99.**

917.80. Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail--Description and travel; West (U.S.)--Description and travel; Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806); West (U.S.)--Discovery and exploration. 60 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), col. maps ; 29 cm.

Grades 4-8 / Rating : 4

Patent does a wonderful job of writing the story of the Lewis & Clark Trail. She makes use of familiar historical information to describe the trip of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark from St. Louis, Missouri, to the mouth of the Columbia River on the Pacific Ocean.

The book is divided into 25 two-page spreads—each two pages having a theme of its own, i.e., Members of the Expedition, Recording the Expedition, Entering Indian Country, Getting Through the Winter, The Great Falls, and other chapters that relate to the area of the country they were crossing. A small map shows the area traveled in each two-page chapter. The old prints and photographs of Lewis and Clark, the maps, and the paintings gathered from various archives and museums depict the West before the changes brought by modern times. Patent brings the reader into the trip by describing the territory the expedition members are crossing, the weather, and their physical and mental condition throughout the trip. Children should really appreciate the hardships Lewis and Clark endured to discover the West.

What makes the book unique, doubly interesting, and even more readable is William Munoz' photography. He captures the amazing contrast between the American West then and now. Many of his photos are so lush they are worthy of a travel book. They incite the reader to want to travel this country, too.

Patent has two other related titles available: *Animals Along the Trail with Lewis and Clark* and *Plants Along the Trail with Lewis and Clark*. Both books are published by Clarion, New York.

Helen Hunter

***All the world's a stage* / Rebecca Piatt Davidson ; pictures by Anita Lobel. LCCN 2001033274. New York : Harper, 2003. Hardbound, \$15.99.**

822.3'3. Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616; Dramatists, English--Early modern, 150-1700--Biography. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 30 cm.

NL (Primary) / Rating : Recommended with caution

In *All the World's a Stage* by Rebecca Piatt Davidson, through a building poem like "This is the house that Jack built," we meet the young William Shakespeare, his muse, Queen Elizabeth I, and the characters of the Bard's plays. On the left hand page, we see Shakespeare scribbling away with his quill pen

by candlelight. On the right hand page the characters and scenery of a play are represented. *The Comedy of Errors, Hamlet, The Taming of the Shrew, Romeo and Juliet, The Tempest, Twelfth Night, A Midsummer Night's Dream, King Lear, and The Winter's Tale* are all depicted in the oil paintings by Anita Lobel. The appendix provides a brief biographical description of Shakespeare and a legend to each picture identifying each play character and giving a brief description of the play's plot.

This book may have seemed like a good idea, but there is a problem with audience age and interest. Children who are interested in picture books are usually unaware of Shakespeare's plays and those old enough to be studying Shakespeare's plays will have little interest in this picture book and its repetitive rhyme. Recommended only for large collections or die hard Shakespeare fans.

Karla Castle

Audubon : painter of birds in the wild frontier / by Jennifer Armstrong ; illustrated by Jos. A. Smith. LCCN 2002011921. New York : Abrams, 2003. Hardbound, \$17.95.

921 (598'.092). Audubon, John James, 1785-1851 -- Juvenile literature.; Audubon, John James, 1785-1851. ; Ornithologists--United States--Biography--Juvenile literature.; Animal painters--United States--Biography--Juvenile literature.; Naturalists.; Artists. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 31 cm.

Grades 1-4 / Rating : 4

Audubon : Painter of Birds in the Wild Frontier is an engaging picture book biography of naturalist John James Audubon. Rather than spend time tending the store in the Kentucky wilderness he ran with his friend, Ferdinand Rozier, Audubon explored the woods with his paints and canvas. Fascinated by birds, he intended to paint life-sized portraits of each species he could find. The result was a monumental four volumes, *The Birds of America*, containing 1065 birds.

Rather than detailing his whole life, author Jennifer Armstrong focuses on an eight-year period (1804-1812) in Audubon's life. Though a bit chronologically disjointed, Armstrong succeeds in creating an exciting tale tightly woven with historic facts. Focusing on dramatic events in the painter's life, she shows Audubon's curiosity and dedication as a young man traveling America's early frontier in search of different birds. Readers will marvel at the adventures Audubon faced, from an earthquake in Kentucky, to witnessing flocks of passenger pigeons (now extinct) darkening the noonday sky for 21 minutes, and sharing a hollow sycamore tree with 9,000 swifts one night.

Joseph A. Smith illustrates the drama in beautifully rendered watercolors detailed with pencil, watercolor pencil, pen and ink. A few of Audubon's own illustrations are also included in

the Author's Note and Artist's Note sections. Both artist and author explain their research for creating this marvelous book and these notes include a few additional facts, such as Audubon's ability to paint with both hands simultaneously. Readers will gain much from this book, whether read for enjoyment or for school research.

Lisa Wroble

Luba: the angel of Bergen-Belsen / as told to Michelle R. McCann by Luba Trzysynska-Frederick ; illustrations by Ann Marshall. LCCN 2003000543. Berkeley, Calif. : Tricycle Press, 2003. Hardbound, \$16.95.

921 (940.53'18'092). Trzysynska-Frederick, Luba.; Jewish women in the Holocaust--Biography--Juvenile literature; Jewish women in the Holocaust--Netherlands--Juvenile literature; Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Netherlands--Juvenile literature. [64] p. : col. ill., map ; 28 cm.

Grades 6-Adult / Rating : 4

Picture books are not always for children. The subject matter may too weighty for their young minds and hearts. *Luba : The Angel of Bergen-Belsen* by Michelle R. McCann is such a book. Luba has been incarcerated in a German concentration camp during World War II. The camp guards think she is just a nurse, not suspecting that she is also a Jew. One freezing night, Luba hears children crying. She investigates to find 54 children that have been left in a field by the soldiers. This leads to an incredible adventure, keeping these abandoned youngsters alive through the winter of 1944/1945.

Luba, as told by McCann, has its genesis in the biography of Luba Trzysynska-Frederick. In the words of the real-life Luba, "...I found that inside every human being there is a hero waiting to emerge. I never could have done what I did without the help of many heroes." The story, clearly told, brings the pathos and terror of those dark times to life. And yet, McCann's writing always emphasizes the possibilities. Ann Marshall's illustrations, shrouded in darkness and glum, invariably have a focal point of light. Hope shines throughout this volume. The inclusion of author's note, prologue, epilogue, "World War II and the Holocaust," bibliography, and acknowledgements turn this picture book into a reference on the Nazi death camp of Bergen-Belsen.

Su Hagerty

Lorenzo de' Medici and Renaissance Italy / Miriam Greenblatt. (Rulers and their times.) LCCN 2002001975. New York : Marshall Cavendish, 2003. LIB, \$19.95.

921 (945'.5105). Medici, Lorenzo de'. 1449-1492; Renaissance--Italy--Florence; Florence (Italy)--History--1268-1737; Italy--History--1268-1392. 80 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 27 cm.

Grades 5-9 / Rating : 4

Suleyman the Magnificent and the Ottoman Empire / by Miriam Greenblatt. (Rulers and their times.) LCCN 2002001974. New York : Marshall Cavendish, 2003. LIB, \$19.95.

921 (956.1'015'092). Süleyman I, Sultan of the Turks, 1494 or 5-1566. ; Kings, queens, rulers, etc.; Turkey--History--Süleyman I, 1520-1566.; Turkey--Civilization--History--16th century.. 80 p. : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades 5-9 / Rating : 4

Queen Victoria and nineteenth-century England / by Claire Price-Groff. (Rulers and their times.) LCCN 2002001095. New York: Benchmark Books, 2003. Library edition, 0761414886, \$19.95.

921 (941.081). Victoria, Queen of Great Britain, 1819-1901.; Queens--Great Britain--Biography.; Kings, queens, rulers, etc.; Great Britain--History--Victoria, 1837-1901.; England--Social life and customs--19th century.; England--Social conditions--19th century.; Great Britain--History--Victoria, 1837-1901.; England--Social life and customs--19th century.; England--Social conditions--19th century. 96 p. : ill. (some col.), col. map ; 27 cm.

Grades 5-9 / Rating : 4

These three volumes in the Ruler and Their Times series not only contain well researched facts about each time period and country, but are also filled with many colorful paintings and drawings from artists in each time period. Each book is easily understood, has captivating descriptions of the rulers and people. There are brightly colored maps of each kingdom along with portraits of each of the three rulers highlighted. The final section of each book contains letters, stories, poetry, and essays written by people of the period, inviting the reader to see through their eyes.

Although this series is written for middle school children, younger ones can benefit with little instruction, and older children and adults can be drawn in by the fascinating way each author has written and organized the volumes. The last few pages in each volume include websites and additional book titles, as well as a glossary, index, and bibliography encouraging the readers toward further research.

My only caution in this series would be in the volume *Queen Victoria and Nineteenth-Century England*, where the author gives a short summary of Darwin. Although she gives both sides, she concludes that "nearly every scientist and most educated people accept that evolution is fact." Aside from this statement, I would highly recommend these books as virtually unbiased, showing the good and bad of the people and the time period. It is reading the whole family can enjoy.

Katy R. Pent

Hernando Cortes : fortune favored the bold / Patricia Calvert. (Great explorations.) LCCN 2002018462. New York : Marshall Cavendish, 2003. LIB, \$19.95.

Cuba / Sharon Gordon. (Discovering cultures.) LCCN 2002015302. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, 2003. Library edition, 0761415173, \$25.64.

972.91. Cuba. 48 p. : col. ill., map : 24 cm.
Grades 4-6 / Rating: 3

Egypt / Lewis K. Parker. (Discovering cultures.) LCCN 2002015305. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, 2003. Library edition, 076141519X, \$25.64.

962. Egypt. 48 p. : col. ill., col. map : 24 cm.
Grades 4-6 / Rating: 3

India / Patricia J. Murphy. (Discovering cultures.) LCCN 2002015306. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, 2003. Library edition, 0761415165, \$25.64.

954. India. 48 p. : col. ill., map : 24 cm.
Grades 4-6 / Rating: 3

Ireland / Patricia J. Murphy. (Discovering cultures.) LCCN 2002015303. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, 2003. Library edition, 0761415157, \$25.64.

941.7. Ireland. 48 p. : col. ill., map : 24 cm.
Grades 4-6 / Rating: 3

Spain / Lewis K. Parker. (Discovering cultures.) LCCN 2002015301. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, 2003. Library edition, 0761415203, \$25.64.

946. Spain. 48 p. : col. ill., map : 24 cm.
Grades 4-6 / Rating: 3

Philippines / Sharon Gordon. (Discovering cultures.) LCCN 2002015304. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, 2003. Library edition, 0761415181, \$25.64.

959.9. Philippines. 48 p. : col. ill., map : 24 cm.
Grades 4-6 / Rating: 3

Color photos or illustrations on each page compliment the text offered. The perspective intends to look at the culture of the county focused upon through the eyes of a pre-teen. Photos include children and the text is written in a simple style with topical chapters clearly geared toward a child perspective, e.g., where in the world is the country? What's it like to live there? What are school days like? What can one do just for fun, and what celebrations are part of living in that country? Each volume offers one page with book, website, and video suggestions to find out more about the country, along with an index.

Recommended for students who are slow readers or for students to digest on their own. Home schooling families could utilize this series when children are working on their own. Commentary is geared toward general

understanding and does not bring out the nuances of issues and practices.

France / Robert Prosser. (Countries of the world.) LCCN 2003063137. New York: Facts on File, 2003. Hardbound, 0816053804, \$.

944. France. 61 p. : 26 cm.
Grades 4-8 / Rating: 4

Brazil / Brian Dicks. (Countries of the world.) New York: Facts on File, 2003. Hardbound, 0816053820, \$.

981. Brazil. 61 p. : 26 cm.
Grades 4-8 / Rating: 4

United Kingdom / Rob Bowden. (Countries of the world.) New York: Facts on File, 2003. Hardbound, 0816053839, \$.

941.085. United Kingdom. 61 p. : 26 cm.
Grades 4-8 / Rating: 4

Kenya / Rob Bowden. (Countries of the world.) New York: Facts on File, 2003. Hardbound, 0816053847, \$.

967.62. Kenya. 61 p. : 26 cm.
Grades 4-8 / Rating: 4

United States / Sally Garrington. (Countries of the world.) New York: Facts on File, 2003. Hardbound, 0816053855, \$.

973. United States. 61 p. : 26 cm.
Grades 4-8 / Rating: 4

Japan / Robert Case. (Countries of the world.) New York: Facts on File, 2003. Hardbound, 0816053812, \$.

952. Japan. 61 p. : 26 cm.
Grades 4-8 / Rating: 4

Illustrated with full color, specially commissioned photographs, and informative maps, these volumes draw students into some of the world's countries with current information on what defines life in a particular place, making the country appear as interesting and with a myriad of features. Each volume traces a similar path through life in each country, making comparisons possible. A geography specialist with interest and experience in the nation represented has researched and written each volume. A glossary of key terms and case studies highlight particular locations, industries, and people.

Recommended for school libraries where geography students utilize study time to explore specific countries. Public library collections seeking to provide a series with current information and detailed information on issues related to the country's future, tourist destinations, environmental concerns, family life, and country reports will find these give grades 4 to 8 something to both enjoy and mull over. High school students who usually need guidance to work through research can find

enough here to entice interest and offer a unique approach for a report.

Taiwan / [by Michaela Ryan]. (Countries of the world.) LCCN 2003042394. Milwaukee, Wis.: Gareth Stevens, 2003. Hardbound, 0836823680, \$29.27.

951.249. Taiwan. 96 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), 2 maps (1 col.) : 26 cm.
Grades 4-6 / Rating: 4

Jamaica / [written by Kerry-Ann Morris]. (Countries of the world.) LCCN 2003041784. Milwaukee, Wis.: Gareth Stevens, 2003. Hardbound, 0836823648, \$29.27.

972.92. Jamaica. 96 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), 2 maps (1 col.) : 26 cm.
Grades 4-6 / Rating: 4

Romania / [by Tiberiu Oprea]. (Countries of the world.) LCCN 2003050408. Milwaukee, Wis.: Gareth Stevens, 2003. Hardbound, 0836823672, \$29.27.

949.8. Romania. 96 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), 2 maps (1 col.) : 26 cm.
Grades 4-6 / Rating: 4

Jordan / [written by Patricia Skinner]. (Countries of the world.) LCCN 2002044642. Milwaukee, Wis.: Gareth Stevens, 2003. Hardbound, 0836823656, \$29.27.

956.95. Jordan. 96 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), 2 maps (1 col.) : 26 cm.
Grades 4-6 / Rating: 4

Liberia / [by Paul Rozario]. (Countries of the world.) LCCN 2003045560. Milwaukee, Wis.: Gareth Stevens, 2003. Hardbound, 0836823664, \$29.27.

966.62. Liberia. 96 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), 2 maps (1 col.) : 26 cm.
Grades 4-6 / Rating: 4

Venezuela / [by William Wardrope]. (Countries of the world.) LCCN 2003042737. Milwaukee, Wis.: Gareth Stevens, 2003. Hardbound, 0836823699, \$29.27.

987. Venezuela. 96 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), 2 maps (1 col.) : 26 cm.
Grades 4-6 / Rating: 4

The Gareth Stevens series offers a detailed look at the countries, devoting one-quarter of the book to an overview covering geography, history, government, people, language, arts, festivals, and food. Another half of the book concentrates on a closer look, getting to unique aspects of the country, and this the reader a close perspective on the country. The last quarter is devoted to the country's relations with North America, with focus on the United States and Canada, the people in these nations, and the contribution of each culture to the other. Inviting and frequent photos throughout the text may help some students to linger longer with the material, and also encourage slower readers to keep going.

Tanzania / Patricia J. Murphy. (Countries of the world.) LCCN 2001008225. Mankato, Minn.: Bridgestone Books, 2003. Hardbound, 073681373X, \$19.93.

967.8. Tanzania. 24 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), col. maps ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-4 / Rating: 3

Denmark / Patricia J. Murphy. (Countries of the world.) LCCN 2001008368. Mankato, Minn.: Bridgestone Books, 2003. Hardbound, 0736813713, \$19.93.

948.9. Denmark. 24 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), col. maps ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-4 / Rating: 3

Cambodia / Marc Tyler Nobleman. (Countries of the world.) LCCN 2001008084. Mankato, Minn.: Bridgestone Books, 2003. Hardbound, 0736813705, \$19.93.

959.6. Cambodia. 24 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), col. maps ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-4 / Rating: 3

Panama / Marc Tyler Nobleman. (Countries of the world.) LCCN 2001008082. Mankato, Minn.: Bridgestone Books, 2003. Hardbound, 0736813721, \$19.93.

972.87. Panama. 24 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), col. maps ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-4 / Rating: 3

The Bridgestone Books series offers a quick glance at the country, devoting one page to the land, cities, people, school, food, animals, sports and music, and holidays respectively,

with short exercises giving directions for a children's game, phrases in speaking the language, and words to know. Full color photos appear across from the one page synopsis.

Overall Commentary

Schools and libraries and home schooling families who seek a series geared toward grades 3 and 4 (and possible use with grade 2) would do well to consult Countries of the World from Bridgestone Books. Discovering Cultures from Benchmark Books uses simple vocabulary and can be read by advanced third graders. Those who seek an approach for grades 4 to 6 will find adequate coverage in Discovering Cultures from Benchmark Books, Countries of the World from Facts on File, and Countries of the World from Gareth Stevens. Those who seek a series that reaches a wider range of students, e.g. grades 4 to 8 and 9 to 10 should consider Countries of the World from Facts on File.

Layout, attractive spacing, and pointers to others resources are shared by all four series.

The two series offering more unique approaches to looking at a country and culture are Countries of the World from Facts on File (case studies and frequent comparison references) and Countries of the World from Gareth Stevens (compares culture/country to North America and since most readers are in North America, they may find the comparisons more easy to relate to). All four series offer inviting and colorful photos throughout the commentary but Countries of the World from

Facts on File deserves honorable mention as its photos are specially commissioned photos which provide an added dimension.

While each series is attentive and gears commentary toward a younger audience, Discovering Cultures from Benchmark Books and Countries of the World from Gareth Stevens have more photos of children and at times commentary that relates directly to concerns a child might think about. This can at times also be a disadvantage for some issues are oversimplified or have commentary so generic one could easily argue with the statement(s) or say 'that applies to everything or everyone.'

Those needing a series to use frequently with slower learners and readers should consider Discovering Cultures from Benchmark Books and Countries of the World from Gareth Stevens. Honors students and students needing more diversity and challenge are best served by Countries of the World from Facts on File and Countries of the World from Gareth Stevens (The Gareth Stevens series is longer in commentary with 32 more pages, enabling more levels of comprehension in its development). Teachers and parents wanting students to make comparisons to other countries and cultures would also be best served by these two series (from Facts on File and Gareth Stevens).

No series covers every country so one might be able to choose some countries based on specific audience need

Leroy Hommerding

this is a good class read to inspire discussions about true egalitarianism and communism.

Kelley Westenhoff

The bells of Christmas / Virginia Hamilton ; illustrations by Lambert Davis. LCCN 89007468. San Diego : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1989. Hardbound, \$19.00.

F. Christmas--Fiction; African Americans--Fiction; Family life--Fiction; Ohio--Fiction. 59 p. : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades 4-6 / Rating : 4

In 1890, the National Road in Springfield, Ohio has become a major thoroughfare. Jason's family life is intertwined with its dangerous and exciting traffic. As Jason awaits the arrival of his relatives, he experiences the many sights and sounds of the holiday rush. The bells around horses' necks add to the musical backdrop of this cozy family tale. Although he tries to be patient with friends and family, Jason gets in a scrap with his best friend, is grouchy with his parents and older brother, and cannot seem to rid himself of the constant presence of his little sister. When

the snows begin to fall, snowball fights mess up new Christmas outfits. Jason's relatives, the Bells, finally arrive in their Conestoga wagon-style sleigh to help celebrate the holiday in feast and song.

Reminiscent of the Little House on the Prairie series, *The Bells of Christmas*, written by Virginia Hamilton and illustrated by Lambert Davis, tells of a hard-working, middle-class African-American family eagerly preparing for a wonderful Christmas celebration. In a mixture of muted dark and pastel colors, Davis accurately portrays the mood and atmosphere of the shadowy winter transformed by the brightness of the holidays. Picture-book-style chapters are interspersed with full-page color scenes of family life. Dialogue is natural, as experienced by twelve-year-old Jason. Mild plot development and pacing build toward the excitements and disappointments of the holiday.

Hamilton, multiple award-winner for previously published works, has long been hailed as one of the greatest African-American children's writers of our time. She allows the reader a view of the

culture that is a relief from the more intense offerings of much African-American literature. Highly recommended for all Christmas collections.

Kim Harris

King of the wind / by Marguerite Henry ; illustrated by Wesley Dennis. LCCN 2001020433. New York : Simon & Schuster, 2001. Hardbound, \$21.00.

F. Arabian horses--Fiction; Horses--Fiction; England--Fiction. 172 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-6 / Rating : 4

In *King of the Wind*, the Sultan of Morocco sends six of his finest horses to the King of France in order to improve the European horse bloodlines. Thus, Agba, the mute stableboy, and his charge, Sham, are on their way to France. Mistreated by the ship's captain, the horses look awful upon arrival and are received accordingly. Sentenced to be a kitchen horse, Sham begins a downward spiral of misery and mistreatment, dragging Agba down with him. Occasional bright spots and kindnesses occur, but overall, Agba is

921 (972'.02'092). Cortes, Hernando, 1485-1547; Explorers; Mexico--History--Conquest, 1519-1540. 80 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), col. maps ; 26 cm. Grades 7-9 / Rating : 4

Spanish explorer Hernando Cortés was wily, persistent, and often brutal, according to Patricia Calvert in *Hernando Cortés : Fortune Favored the Bold*. In this volume of the Great Explorations series, Calvert describes Cortés' sickly childhood and early adventures to Hispaniola. His exploits as a discoverer, seeker of fortune, and bearer of the Catholic faith led him into Mexico where he gained a taste for Aztec gold. Cortés appeared to have an unwavering thirst for conquering the Indians and gaining their treasures. After rebuilding the captured Tenochtitlán and renaming it Mexico City, Cortés eventually returned to Spain a rich and famed man until his death in Seville at age 63.

Calvert presents a multi-faceted portrait of Cortés. She augments the main text with frequent sidebar boxes on various aspects of Spanish life, explorations, the New World Indian groups, and Mexico's geography. Maps and fine art pictures add color and detail. A timeline of Cortés and his times, a bibliography, and suggestions for further reading and website research are beneficial for student use. Calvert doesn't flinch from including blood and gore scenes related to Cortés' exploits; squeamish readers could be disturbed. And her repetitive use of passive sentence construction is annoying. *Hernando Cortés: Fortune Favors the Bold* is a useful, colorful, research and history studies title, and enlightening for readers from seventh grade and up interested in New World explorations.

Karen Schmidt

Who was Thomas Jefferson? / by Dennis Brindell Fradin ; illustrated by John O'Brien. LCCN 2003005232. New York : Grosset & Dunlap, 2003. Hardbound, \$13.89.

921 (973.4). Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826; Presidents. 103 p. : ill., maps ; 21 cm. Grades 4-6 / Rating : 2

Thomas Jefferson, like many of the founding fathers, has suffered somewhat from close scrutiny in the last several years. Rather than focusing on and celebrating the positive influences, many contemporary biographies give equal weight to the founders' human failings. This biography is no exception. Written in a style and format designed to appeal to nine to twelve year old readers, *Who Was Thomas Jefferson* is a chapter book that attempts to put Jefferson in his historically correct place. Jefferson's early years, education, first romance, and eventual marriage are covered in the first two chapters. Chapters three and four deal with Jefferson's service in the First Continental Congress and as Minister to France. Dennis Fradin discusses Jefferson as Secretary

of State, Vice President, and President in two chapters. Finally, the book closes with the third president's declining years.

John O'Brien's black and white cartoon-like illustrations make this volume appealing to the age group it targets. The book contains a bibliography, a short list of Jefferson's sayings, and two timelines. The timelines compare world events with Jefferson's life, placing him in context chronologically. Out of approximately 90 pages of text, five pages are devoted to Jefferson's relationship with Sally Hemings, presenting his fathering her children as fact. Nowhere in the volume does it mention Jefferson's spiritual life of any kind. This is ironic considering that one of the three achievements Jefferson wanted commemorated on his grave marker was that he authored the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom.

This book contains a great deal of information, written in an engaging style, but narrows the reader's appreciation of Jefferson's accomplishments through its contemporary treatment of his personal life. Other biographies are likely to be of more lasting value.

Kelley Westenhoff

Daniel Boone : wilderness scout / now fully told by Stewart Edward White, and illustrated by James Daugherty. Whitefish, Mont. : Kessinger Publishing, 2003, 1926. Paperbound, \$24.00.

921 (976.9'02'092). Boone, Daniel, 1734-1820. 312 p. : ill. ; 27 cm. Grades 3-5 / Rating : 3

This biography of Daniel Boone shows a man who was anything but ordinary. Fortunate to live in a time when a man who was courageous and tough could make a significant impact on the history of the country, Boone became a legend. This biography covers his entire life. As a young man, Daniel Boone rode with Washington and Braddock in the campaign against the French. He married and started a family but settling down was not for Daniel Boone. For the next forty years he fought Indians until it was safe for settlers to live in Kentucky.

This Newbery Medal winner documents the taming of the mountains with lively descriptions. James Daugherty's conversational style makes the book very readable, although the four color lithograph illustrations are not likely to interest today's reader. Written in 1939, this is a book of its time. Drawing largely on accounts written contemporaneously with Boone's life, it celebrates the courage of Boone and the other pioneers who were trying to gain a foothold for a man's right to live free in the infant United States. It has not been published in this format since 1962, and in today's climate, is not likely to be republished unedited. Yet, it

is still a good adventure story about a time long gone.

Kelley Westenhoff

Lost city: the discovery of Macchu Picchu / Ted Lewin. LCCN 2002004461. New York : Philomel, 2003. Hardbound, \$16.99.

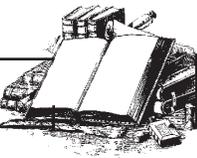
985. Machu Picchu Site (Peru); Yale Peruvian Expedition. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm. Grades 3-6 / Rating : 5

A Caldecott award-winning book, *Lost City: the Discovery of Machu Picchu* is written and illustrated by Ted Lewin. A young Quechua boy dreams of a man with a black box. Instead of helping his father cultivate the terrace gardens high in the Andes, the youth looks towards a greater adventure. Meanwhile, in Cusco, the old capital of Peru, explorer Hiram Bingham examines an ancient Incan wall. The precision of the workmanship boggles his mind. The lost city of Vilcapampa is the goal of this Yale professor. The year is 1910. Through a journey of great tenacity, Bingham connects with the Quechua boy. He leads the American to Machu Picchu.

The story is told simply. While that is a bonus in and of itself, when laid alongside the illustrations, it may be a detriment. The illustrations, also by the author, take over the book. They are lush and exact. The watercolors draw in the observer, surrounding him or her with the sights and almost the sounds of the mysterious Peruvian landscape. The words on the printed page seem almost secondary.

It is obvious that the journal of Hiram Bingham is the foundation of *Lost City*. Lewin also studied with Professor Brent Porter (Pratt Institute, Brooklyn) and actually retraced the original expedition's excursion to Machu Picchu. The vocabulary is direct and accessible for the intermediate student. The weaving of the storyline between the native child and the explorer make anything seem possible.

Su Hagerty



Nothing but the truth : a documentary novel
/ by Avi. LCCN 91009200. New York :
Scholastic, 1991. Hardbound, \$16.95.

F. High schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 177p. ; 24
cm.

Grades 6-9 / Rating : 4

Avi is a favorite author of many young people; he has written such books as *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, *Something Upstairs* and *Perloo the Bold*; over fifty books in all. *Nothing But the Truth* is a documentary novel, written in dialogue, as if in a play. It's an unusual format but fast paced and easy to read.

I'm sure you've heard that old saying, "You're making a mountain out of a molehill"? Well, it was just a small thing at first. Philip Malloy was humming along with the tape of the "Star Spangled Banner," played each day in his homeroom. Sure, it was supposed to be a silent, respectful attention to our national anthem but after all, it was just humming. How could this minor incident turn into a major national scandal? Philip wasn't trying to cause trouble...or was he? Suddenly everyone has an opinion, a prejudice, a cause, and not many facts. Things spiral out of control, and Philip's life is irrevocably changed as charges and countercharges about freedom and patriotism swirl through the school, the town and the national media.

Examine the memos, diary entries, conversations, news releases, and talk-radio transcripts on this case, so you can decide what really happened. You be the judge and sift through the evidence. If you can't come up with a satisfactory ending, with all the loose ends tied together, don't be surprised.

Despite its title, is this book really about the search for truth? More accurately, it could be said that *Nothing But the Truth* is a study in glossing over the truth, justifying actions and looking good, rather than being good. But it is a thought-provoking novel that leaves much to the reader's conclusion. Middle school and early high school students will be drawn into its plot and perhaps gain new perspective on issues of great importance today, such as freedom of speech, freedom of the media, and the real meaning of truth. Because of this, it would be a good choice for a book discussion with young adults.

Ceil Carey

***Gypsy Summer* / by Betty Barclift. LCCN 2003015989. Grand Rapids : Kregel, 2003. Paperbound, \$6.99.**

F. Christian life--Fiction; Family problems--Fiction; Homelessness--Fiction. 154 p. : 21 cm.

Grades 5-8 / Rating : 4

Katie's family is homeless; temporarily, she hopes. Her father lost his job and hasn't been able to find a new one. Her family moves from Kansas to Washington State after hearing factory jobs are easier to find there. They camp in a state park until their money runs out. Now, they have to leave.

Despite the homeless angle, *Gypsy Summer* is a light and innocent look at a teen girl's struggles. Unlike some modern Christian novels that delve into somewhat seamy "teen" topics, this book is more positive and—except for the homelessness—Katie has a normal family life.

Betty Barclift's writing is crisp and clear, with definite appeal for teen girls as well as fans of girls' mysteries. Like many classic girls' heroines, Katie, the protagonist, is spunky (she once out-arm-wrestled an older boy), tomboyish, and not pretty (she has black hair, sallow skin, and is mistaken for a gypsy, hence the book's title).

The mystery here involves Katie's grandmother, who's given her a small chest with \$2000 hidden inside. The chest is stolen. It's pretty clear who stole the chest, but since the solution in most girls' mysteries are fairly obvious, this shouldn't be a problem for the ten to thirteen age group the book is intended for.

Gypsy Summer has many elements to delight the reader. There's innocent romance with Tim, an awkward, big-footed redhead who clearly likes Katie, and a help-the-underdog subplot involving Gwen, a poor-little-rich-girl from Los Angeles. This is a fun, light, well-written book with extremely likeable characters.

Rosemarie DiCristo

***A gathering of days : a New England girl's journal, 1830-32 : a novel* / by Joan Blos. LCCN 79016898. New York : Atheneum, 1979. Hardbound, \$16.00.**

F. New Hampshire--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 144 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 5-9 / Rating : *5

Fourteen-year-old Catherine renders a journal account of the life and times of early 1830s New Hampshire. Having lost her mother and brother to sickness, Catherine lives with her sister and

father. Their close friends and neighbors, the Shipleys, play important roles in Catherine's maturation process, with Mrs. Shipley often filling in as a second mother to Catherine and her sister. Days are filled with survival, school activities, and local events. The question of slavery is a recurring theme; whether it is best left alone or changed at whatever cost. When Catherine receives a note from a mysterious 'phantom' pleading for mercy and help in the middle of the bitter, cold winter, she and her friends begin to see how compassion can and must sometimes over-rule tradition and antiquated beliefs about human beings.

A Gathering of Days by Joan W. Blos, is a sensitively drawn portrait of what life must have been like for the average American growing up in New England during the early 1800s. Writing style and theme is similar to the Dear America series, Little House on the Prairie series, and *Little Women*. Blos has thoroughly researched the area: archives, museums, and graveyards; in order to create realistic, three-dimensional characters who live with the reader long after the book ends. Quality morals and a quick read add to this charming story. Mood, atmosphere, and dialogue are skillfully portrayed. Highly recommended.

Kim Harris

***Daring rescue at Sonora Pass* / Stephen Bly. (Adventures on the American Frontier ; 1.) LCCN 2003009872. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 2003. Paperbound, \$6.99.**

F. Stagecoach stations--Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life--Arizona--Fiction; General stores--Fiction; Robbers and outlaws--Fiction; Arizona--History--To 1912--Fiction. 142 p. ; 20 cm.

Age 10-12, (8-12) / Rating : 4

***Dangerous ride across Humboldt Flats* / Stephen Bly. (Adventures on the American Frontier ; 2.) LCCN 2003010616. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 2003. Paperbound, \$6.99.**

F. Pony express--Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life--Nevada--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Nevada--History--19th century--Fiction. 127 p. ; 20 cm.

Age 10-12, (8-12) / Rating : 4

***Mysterious robbery on the Utah plains* / Stephen Bly. (Adventures on the American Frontier ; 3.) LCCN 2003011592. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 2003. Paperbound, \$6.99.**

F. Railroads--Fiction; Robbers and outlaws--Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 142 p.; 20 cm.

Age 10-12, (8-12) / Rating : 4

Stephen Bly's *Adventures on the American Frontier* is a series geared to boys, but girls will like it, too. These well-written, exciting books are set in the 19th Century and show young teens interacting with different historical events.

Each book in this series is complete in itself. Each begins with a two-page historical overview of the times. And each is beautifully written, with rich, realistic, likeable characters and fast moving, compelling plots. (One quibble: the girls, who tend to be indistinguishable from one another, are rather silly and manipulative "girl-y" girls).

There's enough history in the adventures to make the books more than fluff reading, yet the history is woven in so seamlessly that most readers won't be aware they're "learning." The stories are wholesome although there is some innocent sexual innuendo played for laughs; the characters, however, are strong, God-fearing Christians.

Daring Rescue at Sonora Pass, one of two mysteries in the series, recounts the story of the Joynton family, who run a station on the Butterfield Stage Line in southern Arizona. It's a solitary, peaceful life until the stage rolls up with a dead man inside. Everyone believes the man accidentally shot himself. Everyone except 14-year-old Drew and his sister Blaze, who set out to discover who murdered the man and why.

In *Dangerous Ride across Humboldt Flats* the only non-mystery in the series, orphan Gabe Young longs to find a home in 1860's Nevada Territory. He finds one with a family on the Pony Express run but not before he has to save them from Indians and gets a harrowing turn as Pony Express rider when the real rider is injured.

Mysterious Robbery on the Utah Plains tells of Alex Hopewell and his family, who've come to Utah Territory in 1869 to witness the joining of the Pacific and Central Pacific railroads. Valuable stock engraving plates are stolen, and then hidden in Alex Hopewell's belongings. Who did it, and why?

The series is marketed to kids aged ten to fourteen, but it's unlikely the older end of this age group would enjoy the books; despite the adventure aspects, they're really written for eight to twelve year olds. Although they have boy heroes and are meant for boys, the covers look rather sweet; this may create problems for parents or librarians hoping to interest boys over ten in this otherwise wonderful series.

Rosemarie DiCristo

***My brother Sam is dead* / James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier. LCCN 84028787. New York : Four Winds Press, 1985, 1974. Hardbound, \$17.95.**

F. United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Fiction; Historical fiction. 216 p., [2] leaves of plates : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 7-12 / Rating : 5, with caution

Authors James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier team together to write Newbery winning book *My Brother Sam Is Dead*. Set in Redding, Connecticut, during the Revolutionary War, the book chronicles the lives of the Meeker family who become divided over the war. One son, Sam, volunteers to fight with Benedict Arnold's regiment, while his father remains loyal to the king of England. Young Tim is caught in the middle, between the two people he loves and admires the most. With the rift in his family and his tavern business running low on supplies, Mr. Meeker and Tim travel to New York to sell cattle. Upon their return, highwaymen ambush them and Mr. Meeker is taken captive. Months later, news reaches the Meekers that he has died. Faced with the death of his father and soon his brother's, Tim matures into a man at an early age.

Written in first-person, this historical fiction portrays life realistically during the Revolutionary War, while creating tension effectively in the well-developed characters. The authors reveal genuine inner conflict in Tim as he tries to balance the relationships of his father and brother without alienating either. The mood and pacing reflect the desperate times the family faces and adds to the authenticity of the book.

My Brother Sam Is Dead is a Newbery winner because it is well written, with complex characters, realistic dialogue, and a convincing plot. However, in an attempt to achieve realism, the authors do include profanity throughout the book, some of which is mild while some is severe, including references to God. The rating for this book has been adjusted accordingly.

Eileen Zygarlicke

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***The midwife's apprentice* / by Karen Cushman. LCCN 94013792. New York : Clarion Books, 1995. Hardbound, \$12.00.**

F. Midwives--Fiction; Middle Ages--Fiction; Newbery Medal.. 122 p.; 19 cm.

Grades 4-7 / Rating : *5

A homeless girl is taken in by the local midwife of a medieval English village and made to work hard for food and shelter. She soon takes on the name of Alyce, befriends a cat, and begins to find her place in the village. Alyce helps the villagers with the knowledge she gains from serving and watching the midwife at work.

One day she is unsuccessful at helping to deliver a baby. She runs away, knowing she is a failure,

and takes a position at a local inn. After several months of being the inn girl, Alyce finds the courage to return to her village and the midwife.

The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman is the 1996 Newbery Medal winner. Cushman, known for her many accolades over her previous Newbery Honor book, *Catherine, Called Birdy* (Clarion, 1994), delivers a narrative about an underdog who finds herself, her place, and a family, of sorts, in spite of her humble beginnings. Thorough research of the times adds a three-dimensional quality to both backdrop and characters. This quietly triumphant tale is a fun, safe way to introduce the time period to impressionable students. Mood and atmosphere are appropriately gloomy. Sensitivity to the reader through clear thought introductions and clean dialogue are finely tuned. Highly recommended for both school and public library collections.

Kim Harris

***Julie of the wolves* / by Julie Craighead George ; pictures by John Schoenherr. LCCN 72076509. New York : Harper & Row, 1972. LIB, \$16.89.**

F. Wolves--Fiction; Eskimos--Fiction; Survival--Fiction; Newbery Medal. 170 p. illus. 22 cm.

Grades 4-7 / Rating : 4

In *Julie of the Wolves*, Miyax, the Eskimo girl, tries to survive alone on the tundra. She has to draw on all the folklore her father, the great hunter, passed on to her in her first nine years of life. By observation and mimicry of an Arctic wolf family, Miyax becomes one of the pack, earning the right to food and protection. The second section of the book explains how Julie the American girl became Miyax in the wilderness. From age nine to thirteen, Julie lived with her Aunt Martha as an Eskimo-American girl, going to school and learning the ways of the gussak (white people). At thirteen Julie married but fled when the boy tried to assert marital rights. Completing the circle, part three has Miyax trying to find civilization by applying what she has learned from the wolves and from her Eskimo upbringing. When she does, she is no longer certain she wants it.

The word pictures Jean Craighead George draws in this classic survival story are precise. The reader shares every small victory, every anxiety, and every fear. The identification Miyax has with the wolves is so compelling that one begins to wonder why she would ever want to go back to civilization. Yet, the urge to be with one's own kind drives Julie forward, even while Miyax would linger in the old ways. The author writes clearly about the hopelessness of the Eskimo/American settlements including alcohol abuse and Daniel's attempted rape of Julie. These subjects are part of the fabric of the story as is when Miyax has to use wolf language to get food by causing the hunters to regurgitate it for her. The unpleasantness does not diminish the

quality of the book. This is an excellent class read for grades 5-8.

Kelley Westenhoff

***Bronx masquerade* / by Nikki Grimes. LCCN 31701. New York : Dial Books, 2002. Hardbound, \$16.99.**

F. Poetry--Fiction; Identity--Fiction; Ethnicity--Fiction; African Americans--Fiction; High schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Bronx (New York, N.Y.)--Fiction. 167 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 8-10 / Rating : 5

Chankara is beaten by her boyfriend, which seems to be a family curse. Raynard is dyslexic and tired of being thought of as stupid. The only thing they have in common with the sixteen other students in Mr. Ward's English class is that they are all totally different. Or are they? Mr. Ward begins to utilize poetry as an alternative opportunity for self-expression; which, in effect, becomes an instrument of communication that draws the group together. Each student feels the difference in how s/he perceives her/himself and his/her classmates. As they begin to share their truths with the class, a close bond is formed.

Bronx Masquerade by Nikki Grimes, a Coretta Scott King Award winner, is the story of eighteen teens and one teacher in a city school who, despite obvious differences in cultures and lifestyles, begin to understand and have compassion for each other.

Some profanity is evident, but less is used than in the harsher areas of the city, from whence this story emanates. Both poetry and brief first person accounts intertwine as Grimes tells the story-behind-the-story of life for this group of teens. Nikki Grimes, known for having a heart for broken teens from broken homes, is most articulate with her portrayal of the African American experience on the streets. Of the many books she has written for children and young adults, her most recent success, *Jazmin's Notebook* (Dial Books for Young Readers, 1998), was a Coretta Scott King Honor Book. Highly recommend for public library young adult collections.

Kim Harris

***Olive's ocean* / by Kevin Henkes. LCCN 2002029782. New York : Greenwillow Books, 2003. Hardbound, \$15.99.**

F. Grandmothers--Fiction; Family life--Fiction; Self-perception--Fiction. 217 p. ; 20 cm.

Grades 7-9 / Rating : 4

Martha unexpectedly receives a journal entry from Olive, a nerdy girl in school who has recently been killed in a car accident. Martha never really knew Olive, so is stunned to find that, not only have she and Olive shared some of the same dreams, but that Olive has secretly admired her for some time. When Martha and her family go to stay the summer with her grandmother by the sea, Martha and her

grandmother begin sharing secrets about themselves. Meanwhile, Martha is blossoming into a writer, coming to terms with Olive's death, and learning about love, secrets, and betrayal.

Olive's Ocean by Kevin Henkes is about the secrets we keep, even from those closest to us. The seashore, as a backdrop, adds to the poetic mood of the story and clearly brings the bond between Martha and Olive to the fore. Dialogue is realistic and gracefully sprinkles humor over the more serious emotional moments. Unfortunately, in this coming of age story, Henkes also sprinkles unnecessary profanity throughout. An award winning author of books for children and teens since the late 1960's, Henkes shows his ability to emotionally touch the reader. Recommended for public library and supervised collections.

Kim Harris

***Green angel* / Alice Hoffman. LCCN 2002006980. New York : Scholastic, 2003. Hardbound, \$16.95.**

F. Gardening--Fiction; Grief--Fiction. 116 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 6-8 / Rating : 4

Fifteen-year-old Green is left at home to care for the house when her parents and younger sister Aurora go into the city to sell their homegrown produce. Upset at being left behind, Green refuses to say goodbye to them. When they fail to return, Green begins a struggle to survive. Several days pass until Green ventures outside, finding everything covered with ashes. She travels down to the city, only to learn of a devastating fire that all but leveled the city. She is told that her parents and sister were lost in the fire, along with most of the town's citizens. Green returns to her ruined home and changes her name to Ash, because much of her life has turned to ash. She begins tattooing roses, vines, and bats all over her body, cuts her hair short, and retreats into herself as depression sets in. As time passes, the emotional and physical pain lessens and Green (Ash) begins to heal.

Green Angel is an emotional book written in first-person, beginning on a depressing note with the loss of Green's family. By the end, however, we find Green (Ash) realizing her life must go on with the help of several characters we meet throughout the book. Alice Hoffman does an excellent job of keeping the reader's attention with the many metaphors found in *Green Angel*. While not a book for easily upset youngsters, this is a thought-provoking short novel that will have the reader cherishing his family and friends as never before. We learn to never take anything for granted, and also that when things seem hopeless, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Sherri Myers

***Memories of sun : stories of Africa and America* / edited by Jane Kurtz. LCCN 2003049067. New York : Greenwillow Books, 2004. Hardbound, \$15.99.**

F. Africa--Literary collections. 272 p. ; 24 cm.

Grades 5-8 / Rating : 4

Memories of Sun, a collection of contemporary writings from and about Africa and African impact on America, provides much thought cultivating material. The three sections, Africa, Americans in Africa, and Africans in America uses stories and poems to illumine a wide range of themes, including empathizing with other cultures, youth impacted by violence, adolescence vs. tradition, divorce, coping with inner fears, and dealing with other mores. A closing chapter gives brief biographies of each contributor to this collection.

With love for both Africa and America and an understanding of the problems common to each, editor Jane Kurtz, daughter of missionaries, and a prolific writer, chose interest arresting, relevant material for *Memories of Sun*. Each item comes from a contemporary African or American author noted for writing about Africa and/or African Americans. Forthright, with a knowledgeable eye to current writing, Kurtz presents several sides to each idea.

Well conceived and written, each narrative presents an interest-catching problem with either a solution or encouragement for the reader to consider a solution. Some ideas may need adult direction, e.g. the introduction places the dawn of humanity in Africa, and Ella's Dunes refers to semi-nudity by a "civilized" girl as she seeks to empathize with an "uncivilized" girl. A multi-use book for mature thinkers, *Memories of Sun* will be a valuable discussion starter, as well as finding a place in English, psychology, and African American studies. Recommended for all interested libraries.

Donna Eggett

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***The silent boy* / Lois Lowry. LCCN 2002009072. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2003. Hardbound, \$15.00.**

F. People with mental disabilities--Fiction; Babies--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Unmarried mothers--Fiction. 178 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 5-8 / Rating : *5

Katy Thatcher, now a great-grandmother, looks back on her childhood, specifically the time frame from eight to nine-years-old, at the turn of the century. Daughter of the town doctor, Katy is very interested in abnormalities in people and things. She accompanies her father on his medical visits and develops sensitivities to tragedies most children overlook. When the Thatchers hire Peggy, a farm girl, to help with the housework, Katy makes friends with Peggy's brother Jacob, an autistic boy, who is gentle with animals. Because he is considered an imbecile, Jacob is blamed for a mill fire and eventually, for the death of a baby.

The Silent Boy by Lois Lowry is a graphic reminder of how humans have historically treated people different from themselves. Lowry uses her special brand of storytelling to introduce the reader to the secrets, prejudices, and cast system of a farming community from the early twentieth-century. Chapters are formatted into journal-style entries. Lowry, known for her Newbery Medal winners *Number the Stars* (Houghton Mifflin, 1990) and *The Giver* (Houghton Mifflin, 1994) once again renders a tale that is not only enjoyable input, but stays with the reader long after the last words are read. Dialogue and atmosphere are exquisite. Main characters are vividly sketched. Jacob's physical and mental challenges are gracefully rendered. Highly recommended for all libraries.

Kim Harris

All the stars in the sky : the Santa Fe Trail diary of Florrie Mack Ryder / by Megan McDonald. (Dear America.) LCCN 2002044579. New York : Scholastic, 2003. Hardbound, \$10.95.

F. Santa Fe National Historic Trail--Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life--Southwest, New--Fiction; Overland journeys to the Pacific--Fiction; Pioneers--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 188 p. : 20 cm.

Grades 3-5 / Rating : 4.5

Twelve-year-old Florrie Mack Ryder is on her way west in a wagon from Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1848. Florrie, her brother Jem, her mother and stepfather are traveling the less-traveled Santa Fe Trail, which is mostly used by traders. Florrie shares her experiences on the trail as she travels across the west. She tells of losing her best friends as they separate at a fork in the trail, and of the loss of an artist friend she has made. Her spirits are lifted by the new friendships she makes later in the story. Florrie also shares the Spanish words and meanings as she begins to learn Spanish and tells of the silly adventures of her dog Mr. Biscuit.

Written as a diary, *All the Stars in the Sky* is an informative look at what life on the trail heading west might have been like for a young girl. As in the case of a real diary, there are gaps in dates and some entries are short, while others are quite lengthy. While some parts are rather sad, Florrie also makes us laugh with her humorous stories of goings-on on the trail. Many children will identify with the sadness of losing a friend and having to move to a new area, leaving much of what they know and love behind. Megan MacDonald includes a Historical Note at the end of *All the Stars in the Sky*, which includes detailed information about life in the west in 1848, also includes a map and pictures. This is a great addition to any collection, most especially to ones with a Dear America readership.

Sherri Myers

Diary of an anorexic girl / by Morgan Menzie. LCCN 2002013629. Nashville : W Publishing, 2003. Paperbound, \$7.99.

F. Anorexia nervosa--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction. vii, 181 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 8-12 / Rating : 5

Diary of an Anorexic Girl, by Morgan Menzie, chronicles, diary-style, the life of Blythe, a young girl caught in the vortex of being an anorexic. The story spans five years and shows the various stages a person goes through with this sickness.

Blythe at first refuses to accept she has a problem, dodging help at every corner. Finally she admits her troubles, yet still balks at getting help. Blythe, like most teens, is more concerned with attracting the attention of the boy she likes than admitting she has a problem. It isn't until she is faced with the finality of her life, that Blythe accepts the help she desperately needs.

Based on true-life experiences, *Diary of an Anorexic Girl* weaves a credible tale of a teen girl's struggle to fit in, be noticed, and be accepted by those around her. Menzie's real-life struggles with anorexia lend authenticity to the book. Because the story is given from Blythe's point of view, the reader receives an eerie insight into the thought processes of those suffering from anorexia, both their perceptions of themselves and the concern of those around them.

Similar in style to Sarah Sumpolec's *The Masquerade*, the writing is succinct, perceptive, and relatable to today's teens. Youth and adults will appreciate this look into the minds of those who suffer from this illness. An excellent resource for those wishing to learn more about the thoughts of girls afflicted with anorexia.

Eileen Zygarricke

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Monster / Walter Dean Myers ; illustrations by Christopher Myers. LCCN 98040958. New York : HarperCollins, 1999. Hardbound, \$15.95.

F. Trials (Murder)--Fiction; Prisons--Fiction; Self-perception--Fiction; African Americans--Fiction. 281 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 8-12 / Rating : *5

Sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon was the lookout for his two friends at a robbery gone bad. Now he is on trial for conspiracy to commit robbery and murder. Labeled "Monster," he spends his days before the courts and his nights listening to prisoners screaming from abusive treatment. In order to stay sane, he begins to "produce" a movie of his experiences leading up to and during the time of the trial. Written in the form of a collage-like play, Harmon logs court debates, character sketches witnesses, prosecutor, judge, guards, and other prisoners, and records bits of conversations he overhears.

Monster by Walter Dean Myers has won the Michael L. Printz Award (2000), was a Coretta Scott King Honor Book (2000), as well as a National Book Award Finalist (1999). Myers has been winning awards for his children and young adult books since the late 1960s. His lived-it style communicates to even the most reluctant readers.

Monster effectively mirrors the violence and terrors of prison life as a living death. Dialogue and atmosphere completely dissipate any romantic notions attached to the life of a thief. Some graphic descriptions and mildly offensive language is used to appropriately depict scenes. Highly recommended for young adult collections and supervised group discussions.

Kim Harris

SLAM! / Walter Dean Myers. LCCN 95046647. New York : Scholastic, 1996. Hardbound, \$15.95.

F. African Americans--Fiction; Basketball--Fiction; High schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Prejudices--Fiction; Coretta Scott King Award. 266 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 9-12 / Rating : 4

SLAM! is a work of contemporary fiction by Walter Dean Myers. This Coretta Scott King award-winning novel portrays the life of a young African-American male named Greg "Slam" Harris growing up in the inner city. Readers experience first hand his struggles to fit in at his new (mostly white) school and build a sense of pride and camaraderie with his basketball teammates. During the course of the novel Slam also seeks to learn whether his friend Ice is dealing crack and if there may be a future for him and prospective girlfriend Mtisha.

SLAM! is excellently written. The plot moves along at a pace that keeps the reader well engaged. The characters are teens grappling with the real problems of the inner city. It contains a few vague references to homosexuality, but does not promote it. The same is true of other objectionable material in the story. There is discussion of drug use as a fact of life in the inner city, but it is looked down upon as a snare to avoid at all costs. Slam has thoughts about being with girls physically, but his thoughts are not detailed and he also considers the consequences of such actions. "You got to worry about things like safe sex and girls getting pregnant before they get married." There is one scene where Slam makes out with a girl that he just met, but he later regrets this action as well.

Overall, Slam is looking for a way to rise above his current circumstances and not get caught up in the problem life of the inner city. He uses basketball as a positive outlet and also learns to recognize the importance of building a solid educational foundation for his life.

Timma Mills

Period pieces : stories for girls / selected by Erzsi Deak and Kristin Embry Litchman. LCCN 2002017295. New York : HarperCollins, 2003. Hardbound, \$15.99.

F. Menstruation--Fiction; Short stories. xii, 144 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 5-8 / Rating : 5

Period Pieces : Stories for Girls is an anthology of fictional stories about the onset of menstruation. Several of the stories are somewhat autobiographical, as admitted by the authors in the "About the Contributors" section. Illustrations are limited to small pen and ink decorations. A wide variety of attitudes and reactions are represented in the stories, from denial and fear of change to eagerness to grow up. Embarrassment and inconvenience are dealt with honestly.

This is a book that could result in some controversy simply because it deals with puberty. However, it is tastefully done and serves an important role. It is important for girls facing or going through puberty to know that their feelings and concerns are normal. It is also important that they know that even if horribly embarrassed they can survive and go on. Even though it's been a long time since I went through puberty, I enjoyed reading these stories and feeling a bond with these girls. Highly recommended.

Karla J. Castle

Nightmare Academy / Frank Peretti. (The Veritas project ; 2.) LCCN 2002070060. Nashville : Tommy Nelson, 2002. Hardbound, \$16.99.

F. Schools--Fiction; Runaways--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories. 311 p. ; ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 7-12 / Rating : 4

Teen runaways are being lured into a coltish colony where they are brainwashed to believe there's no right or wrong, and reality is whatever they want it to be. Those who disagree have their minds blanked out, making them gibbering, terrified wrecks. But who is doing this, and why?

Nightmare Academy is Volume 2 in The Veritas Project, Frank Peretti's new young adult suspense series featuring the Springfield family, twin teens Elijah and Elisha and their parents Nate and Sarah. The Springfields are Christian investigators hired by the U.S. government to find the truth behind apparently supernatural goings on. (*Hangman's Curse* is volume one in the series).

This book takes place in Seattle and Idaho and has Elijah and Elisha disguised as teenage runaways to investigate the Knight-Moore Academy, the "school" for troubled youth that every brainwashed kid attended. Unfortunately, Elijah and Elisha are immediately captured by the folks at Knight-Moore and separated from

their increasingly frantic parents. How they outwit the villains and how their parents locate them is, of course, what drives the rest of the book.

It's a fast-paced, highly suspenseful read, loaded with paranoia and nail-bitingly exciting plot twists. This book is both a twist on the usual whodunit (the reader knows what people are doing...but not who they actually are) and a what-are-they-doing. A gifted writer, Frank Peretti brilliantly crafts *Nightmare Academy* into a slick, sharp, spare read.

On the down side, the parents take up a bit too much of the action, and Elijah and Elisha are a bit too perfect to be completely likeable. Also, the hi-tech gadgetry, while razzamatazz and thrilling, necessitates much suspension of disbelief. However, this is a blazing-good book with a strong Christian core. It should appeal to teen boys and girls.

Rosemarie DiCristo

The Westing Game / by Ellen Raskin. LCCN 77018866. New York : Dutton, 1978. Hardbound, \$15.99.

F. Mystery and detective stories; Boston Globe-Horn Book Award. 185 p. ; 24 cm.

Grades 6-8 / Rating : 3

Sunset Towers, a luxurious apartment building, has been open to a handful of exclusive tenants who seem to have nothing in common. When they are all invited to the reading of the Samuel W. Westing's Will, the tenants find that, unbeknownst to them, they are nieces and nephews of the mysterious, deceased entrepreneur.

Strict instructions are given to band unlikely pairs, give each group ten thousand dollars, a few cryptic clues, and turn the teams loose. The object is to discover who murdered Westing and win the fortune he has left behind for the case crackers. A blizzard, explosions, burglaries, and family loyalties complicate this seemingly simple task.

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin is a Newbery Medal Book (Dutton, 1979). Much like a game of Clue, it is modeled on the Agatha Christie style of mystery. A wolf in sheep's clothing roams among the sheep, which must discover the wolf's identity before they are all killed. Although graphics are tame, story line is often hard to follow. Characters and dialogue are well done. Mood and atmosphere are quite appropriate for this diabolical game. Raskin's background is impressive, ranging from designing book jackets to illustrating to writing several children and young adult books. Recommended as a purchase for larger libraries or mystery collections.

Kim Harris

Rowan of Rin / Emily Rodda. (Rowan of Rin ; 1.) LCCN 63619. New York : Greenwillow Books, 2001. Hardbound, \$15.99.

F. Fantasy; Heroes--Fiction. 151 p. ; map ; 22 cm.

Grades 5-7 / Rating : 4

Rowan is a timid boy who lives in the village of Rin. He is known as "skinny rabbit" by the villagers and considered to be a coward. He loves his job tending the bukshah (gentle cattle like creatures).

When the stream from the mountain above Rin dries up, the bukshah's lives become threatened. A group of strong, brave villagers want to travel to the top of the mountain but it is believed that a dragon resides there and anyone who ventures near will never return. The volunteers locate Sheba, an old, wise woman, considered by some to be a witch, who Sheba gives the map to Rowan, and only when he holds the map does the image appear. When in the hands of others the map is blank. Therefore, Rowan must go on the adventure despite his overwhelming fear.

Seven villagers start up the mountain; all are self-professed, strong, and brave, all except Rowan. The wise woman has predicted that one by one they will be tested and their courage will fail. Only one brave heart will succeed.

On their journey each is confronted with their fears—spiders, a haunted swamp, etc. One by one the strong and brave desert Rowan and return home. Eventually, only Strong Jonn and Rowan reach the top of the mountain. Jonn is exhausted, so Rowan is the one brave heart that faces the dragon and saves the day.

Rowan of Rin by Emily Rodda is an easy reader. The story is not dull or simplistic nor is it a complex fantasy/heroic saga. The magic component is minimal. The map is magical, the predictions of the wise woman are in the form of poetic riddles, and a dragon is not just a myth. The sentient dragon does not speak, but seems to know that he should not harm Rowan.

The value of this story is seen as Rowan, who is labeled as cowardly and believes it, faces his fears with a perseverance that the adults cannot muster. This book could be used to open a discussion of fear, courage, and choices.

This is the first book about Rowan. Four more titles have been published: *Rowan and the Travelers* (2001), *Rowan and the Keeper of the Crystal* (2002), *Rowan and the Zebak* (2002), and *Rowan and the Ice Creepers* (2003).

Karla Castle

The witch of Blackbird Pond / Elizabeth George Speare ; [illustrations by Barry Moser]. (Illustrated American classics.) LCCN 2001278818. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2001, c1958. Hardbound, \$22.00.

F. Puritans--Fiction; Witchcraft--Connecticut--Fiction; Prejudices--Fiction; Connecticut--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775--Fiction. 288 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 9-12 (6-8) / Rating : Recommended with caution

In this historical novel set in the Connecticut Colony of 1687, 16-year-old orphan Kit Tyler must leave the luxury of her grandfather's plantation in Barbados when he dies insolvent. Arrived in Connecticut, Kit casts herself upon the charity of her aunt and uncle Matthew and Rachel 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, and 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 suitors while the beautiful but self-centered Judith must settle for the ones Kit rejects. The noble, young divinity student Judith chooses rejects her for 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 of Kit's sailor suitor who reveals he has named his new ketch in her honor: "The Witch."

David Haddon

***Journey through the night* / by Anne De Vries ; [translated by Harry der Nederlanden]. LCCN 2001000785. Neerlandia, Canada : Inheritance Publications, 2001. Paperbound, \$14.90.**

F. Netherlands--History--German occupation, 1940-1945--Fiction. 373 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades 6-12 (Adult) / Rating : 5

The fictional De Boer family, mother, father, and five children, live in a quaint Dutch farming village when the Germans invade the Netherlands at the start of World War II. Through the lengthy story, the family resists the German occupation by hiding British pilots and Jews, transports resistance messages and ration cards, and endures confrontations with German soldiers. Their family is separated and some are imprisoned while others are stalked by Nazi agents. Despite the fear and uncertainty of their future, the De Boers maintain their family ties

and their faith while compassionately caring for those in need. The story comes to a quick satisfying conclusion when the Allies return the Netherlands to independence and Father is freed from prison.

Though written several decades ago, *Journey Through the Night* is a perpetually relevant account of how a Christian family endures a horrendous epoch of modern history. Possibly due to translation from Dutch, the dialogue is often a bit stiff. However the characters are well portrayed; their motives and emotions are clearly displayed, as is their Christian faith. Middle school and high school readers, who would benefit from basic understanding of WWII history and geography before reading this book, will have a wider understanding of the war's effects on individuals and families. Adults as well as students will appreciate seeing into the lives of Christians who endured a tumultuous period of history. Be aware that some situations involve shootings, fistfights, and other types of violence.

Karen Schmidt

***Medallion : a fantasy for young readers* / by Dawn L. Watkins ; [edited by E. Anne Smith]. LCCN 87110226. Greenville, S.C.: JourneyForth, 1985. Paperbound, 0890842825, \$6.49.**

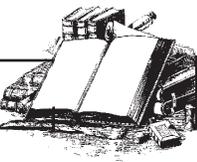
F. Fantasy. 213 p., [1] leaf of plates : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-6 / Rating: 4

In the five years since King Dokos of Gadalla died in battle, his son Prince Trave has lived in luxury yet oppression under his usurping uncle, Panii. Then an old ally of his father's, King Gris, arrives to warn the complacent Panii of the Dark Alliance and tell Trave of a golden medallion. The army of Gadalla has sworn to follow the one who wears it. To find the medallion, Trave must journey with King Gris across strange lands, facing earthquakes, giant birds of prey, betrayal, and his own pride as he discovers what it means to be a king.

In this fantasy, a genre sometimes difficult to understand, the first scene of a boy and his pet immediately establishes parallels with readers. Motion is quickly swept into an epic struggle through distinct well-crafted characters. The simple and brisk wording packs much action into a quick read. Formal dialog suits the setting, and many character qualities such as obedience, humility, and forgiveness are taught through the old king's mentorship of Trave. One minor character that speaks only in rhymes disrupts the flow of the story, but he becomes another catalyst to reveal Trave's pride. While the chunky black and white sketches do not fit the prose, young fans of the Chronicles of Narnia can enjoy another fantasy written in the same spirit.

Katie Hart



000's—Generalities

Teen genrelecting : a guide to reading interests / Diana Tixier Herald. LCCN 2003054610. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2003. Hardbound, \$40.00.

016.813008. Young adult literature, American--Bibliography; Young adult literature--Stories, plots, etc.; Popular literature--Stories, plots, etc.; Fiction genres--Bibliography; Teenagers--Books and reading; Fiction--Bibliography; Reading interests. 272 p. ; 27 cm.

Grades 6-12 / Rating : 4

This guide is intended to help readers' advisors connect teens with the books they most enjoy. It utilizes and describes more than 1,500 fiction titles by genre, subgenre, and theme. This second edition differs a great deal from its predecessor (published in 1997), as most titles included are new, and this edition provides more explanatory text about the genres, as well as plot summaries for most titles. A new chapter on Christian fiction is also added.

Of particular help for school and public librarians who have graduated from library school some time ago will be the chapter on alternative formats, for it offers an overall grasp of the nontraditional formats being used to present stories. Three indexes: title, author, and subject enable advisors to offer suggestions. The use of genres, subgenres, and themes makes this more comprehensive than recommendations offered in *Books for the Teen Age* (New York Public Library, Annual). It is also geared to a wide range of readers whereas works as *High/Low Handbook: Best Books and Web Sites for Reluctant Teen Readers* (Libraries Unlimited, 2002) address a particular segment.

Recommended as a timely resource for all youth librarians and ministers serving teens. Highly recommended as a resource for parents who want to explore books published for adult readers that are also popular with teens. Also helpful for home schooling parents and Christian school teachers who would like to recommend particular titles on subjects or genre themes. (Editor's note: Use with caution, as titles are not selected from a Christian viewpoint.)

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

Calvin for armchair theologians / Christopher Elwood ; illustrations by Ron Hill. LCCN 2001045474. Louisville, Ky. : Westminster John Knox, 2002. Paperbound, \$12.95.

230. Reformed Church--Doctrines. xiii, 182 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

Aquinas for armchair theologians / Timothy M. Renick ; illustrations by Ron Hill. LCCN 2001045367. Louisville, Ky. : Westminster John Knox, 2002. Paperbound, \$12.95.

230. Thomas, Aquinas, Saint, 1225?-1274. vii, 163 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

Augustine for armchair theologians / Stephen Cooper ; illustrations by Ron Hill. LCCN 2003271165. Louisville, Ky. : Westminster John Knox, 2002. Paperbound, \$12.95.

242. Augustine, Saint, Bishop of Hippo; Augustine, Saint, Bishop of Hippo. Confessiones; Christian saints--Algeria--Hippo (Extinct city)--Biography. vii, 222 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades 10-12 / Rating : 4

Westminster John Knox published three books in their Armchair Theologian series in 2002. The three volumes are bare bones introductions to the life and works of important figures in Christian history: Aquinas, Augustine, and Calvin. The individual authors hold associate professorships at Georgia State University (Renick), Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA (Cooper), and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Elwood). The reader can count on light reading while learning about each subject's views on various theological topics, such as sin, predestination, politics, faith, and God.

Renick's *Aquinas* seems to be the most readable. The author explains Aquinas' views on topics that are of special interest to youth: sex, abortion, and homosexuality. Renick admits that *Aquinas* is difficult to read, that his works tend to be very long. He writes, "Somewhere amid Aquinas's fifteenth objection to an obscure point of theology, the average reader might well want to scream, 'Get to the point!'" Then he goes on to make suggestions ("a few tricks") to make reading and understanding Aquinas easier.

Ron Hill's cartoon-like illustrations of key points are likely to appeal to young readers, though his depictions of God may put off some older readers. Even if they appear comic-bookish at first glance, the Armchair Theologian books are scholarly works (albeit with

humorous asides) that teach the historical impact of these giants of the faith.

These books may well inspire some to read more works of theology and Christian history. Each book has a brief index and helpful suggestions for further reading.

Jeanette Hardage

200's—Religion

Not even a hint / by Joshua Harris. LCCN 2003010045. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2003. Hardbound, \$12.99.

241. Lust--Religious aspects--Christianity. 184 p. ; 19 cm.

Grades 9-12 (Adult) / Rating : 5

Joshua Harris' popular *I Kissed Dating Goodbye* made him famous as a young author, and his latest book is another timely message aimed primarily at Christian singles, a careful exhortation to allow not even a hint of lust in their lives. Harris is also a popular speaker and has tested some of his material at his annual student conference.

Not Even a Hint stands firmly upon the Bible and consists essentially of the application of biblical sanctification to the specific problem of sexual lust. Harris uses illustrations adeptly and makes his points with clarity and quickness in each chapter.

Josh first tells "The Truth About Lust," urging his readers not to look to law or to resolutions to keep themselves from sinning. Next, Josh offers practical advice as to how to "make no provision for the flesh" as Romans 13:14 teaches. He takes time to recognize the different temptations faced by guys and girls, then deals frankly—but not graphically—with the issue of masturbation. He argues firmly that this practice violates the commands of Scripture.

Harris then incorporates into his book lessons he learned while studying through the topic of worldliness in the Bible. He shares his personal experience in coming to stricter standards for himself concerning entertainment, then applies his lessons to the book's theme.

In the chapter "Lone Rangers are Dead Rangers," Harris speaks about the appropriate place of accountability in the fight against lust, and then lays out several sharp swords of the Spirit—specific verses combating specific lies

of the lustful flesh. He concludes with a call to believers to sow to the Spirit, and a helpful appendix lays out steps of repentance.

Christian luminaries with ministry emphases similar to Harris's endorse *Not Even a Hint*, such as Nancy DeMoss, John Piper, and Jerry Bridges.

Mark L. Ward, Jr

300's—Social Sciences

***Sandy Silverthorne's surviving middle school : how to manage the maze* / Sandy Silverthorne. Cincinnati, Ohio : Standard Publishing, 2003. Paperbound, \$5.99.**

373.18. Middle school students; Middle school students--Conduct of life; Middle schools. 95 p. : ill. ; 19 cm.

Grades 4-6 / Rating : 5

Surviving Middle School: How to Manage the Maze by Sandy Silverthorne expresses the excitement, tensions, and fears of starting middle school that are common to most students. Suggestions are provided for how to navigate through the hallways of the new school, how to organize classes and assignments, and how to prioritize home and school activities. Oliver Flavinoid, or Flav for short, is the character used for question and answer sections concerning understanding materials and where to go for help, how to maintain a Christian value system, and successful study tips. Other suggestions include how to handle bullies and peer pressure, the importance of lunch for socializing, and a personality quiz to help the reader get into classes that will keep him/her interested. Most of all, the reader is encouraged to realize that s/he is not alone and that this is a natural progression in the maturation process. Cartoon sketches lavishly interspersed add interest and provide for a pleasant, quick read. Encouraging Bible verses, prompts to pray through the tough times, and journaling opportunities combine throughout the book to promote an interactive read.

Silverthorne, has worked with youth for over two decades. Other additions to the Survival series include *Surviving When You're Home Alone : How to Avoid Being Grounded for Life* and *Surviving Zits : How to Cope With Your Changing Self* (both, Standard Publishing, 2003). Style and content are similar to *The Middle School Survival Guide* by Arlene Erlbach (Walker Publishing, 2003), though with a Christian emphasis.

Kim Harris

600's—Technology (Applied Sciences)

***Dr. Jenner and the speckled monster : the search for the smallpox vaccine* / Albert Marrin. LCCN 2002002698. New York : Dutton Children's Books, 2002. Hardbound, \$17.99.**

614.5'21'09. Smallpox--History; Jenner, Edward, 1740-1823; Diseases--History. 120 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-7 / Rating : 4

Prepare to be horrified and fascinated as you read this history of smallpox. Albert Marrin has done his customary job of exploring all aspects of his subject. The book begins with the real story of how the powerful Aztecs were destroyed. In this, Marrin places the disease in its context of shaping world events. Despite the book's title, Edward Jenner does not make an entrance until the sixth chapter of the book. All the chapters leading up to that point give the historical and scientific backdrop for Jenner's accomplishment. Inoculation with live smallpox virus (the only preventative at the time) made Jenner uneasy. He knew that milkmaids who had had cowpox never got smallpox. Pondering the connection over the course of twenty years Jenner finally surmised that the timing of taking the cowpox virus determined its efficacy against smallpox. After extensive experiments, Jenner published his findings in 1798, changing the world forever.

In modern times, we are so far removed from the terror of smallpox; it is difficult to imagine why Jenner's leap of intuition had such an impact. Reading this book and studying the awful photographs remove any doubts about Jenner's gift to mankind. Learning about Jenner himself is uplifting as well. He was a religious man, quiet of mien and deliberate in purpose. Despite the great acclaim he received, for the rest of his life he vaccinated for free one day per week anyone who could not afford to protect himself from the dreaded disease. Because smallpox was declared "eradicated" in 1979, the children reading this book will likely not have ever been vaccinated, which could lead to some pointed questions and interesting discussions. The book has a nice bibliography and index, and a list of useful internet sites. One caveat: the photographs are not for the squeamish.

Kelley Westenhoff

800's—Literature & Rhetoric

***Walking with Frodo : a devotional journey through The lord of the rings* / Sarah Arthur. LCCN 2003013922. Wheaton, Ill. : Thirsty(?), 2003. Paperbound, \$9.99.**

823'.912. Tolkien, J.R.R. (John Ronald Rueul), 1892-1973. Lord of the rings; Tolkien, J.R.R. (John Ronald Rueul), 1892-1973--Religion; Christianity and literature--England--History--20th century; Middle Earth (Imaginary place)--Religious aspects--Christianity; Fantasy fiction, English--Religious aspects--Christianity; Middle Earth (Imaginary place)--Devotional literature; Fantasy fiction, English--Devotional literature. xxiii, 179 p. : 21 cm.

Grades 9-12 / Rating : 4

A devotional traveler's guide through the pitfalls of life, *Walking with Frodo* uses Tolkien's famous adventurers to illustrate Bible themes important to today's youth. Opening with interesting, pertinent preface material, author Sarah Arthur presents a nine weeks journey. Each week contrasts the choices of two Lord of the Rings characters, e.g. Gollum and Sam, betrayal and loyalty. Each lesson develops depth through relevant Bible passages, insights, culminating with ideas for personal action. Endnotes and a glossary provide further helpful data.

Christian educator, youth leader, speaker, illustrator, author, and intense Tolkien fan Sarah Arthur speaks from knowledge of both her subject and her audience. With vitality, humor, and love for her Lord, Arthur presents an interest catching, life deepening devotional appealing to fans of The Lord of the Rings. Useful for personal and group devotions, and as a resource for youth leaders, *Walking with Frodo* is recommended for all Christian libraries, schools, and youth groups.

Donna Eggett

900's—Geography, History, & Biography

The great expedition of Lewis and Clark : by Private Reubin Field, member of the Corps of Discovery / as recorded by Judith Edwards ; pictures by Sally Wern Comport. LCCN 2001059756. New York : Farrar Straus Giroux, 2003. Hardbound, \$17.00.

917.804'2. Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806); Field, Reubin, ca. 1771-1822?--Travel--West (U.S.); West (U.S.)--Discovery and exploration; West (U.S.)--Description and travel. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades K-4 / Rating : 5

In 1803 an expedition to the unknown Western frontier was offered to young men seeking adventure. Reubin and Joseph Field, farmer brothers from Kentucky, signed on for the duration. In the next three years they experienced hardship like they had never known, but delighted in discoveries that they had never imagined. *The Great Expedition of Lewis and Clark* by Private Reubin Field, Member of the Corps of Discovery purports to be his narrative of his grand adventure. Drawing from credible sources, Judith Edwards has given a folksy, believable voice to one of the lesser-known sojourners. Despite the misery of mosquitoes, danger from hostile Indians, and frightening encounters with grizzlies, Field's respect for his leaders is apparent, as is his pride in being part of the Corps.

With the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition, it is fitting to have a book about their journey directed at the youngest of

our readers. The beautiful watercolors by Sally Wern Comport are interspersed with drawings and notes in the style of the Expedition journals. A short biographical note about Reubin Field and a short bibliography complete the volume. The only flaw is the lack of page numbers. Otherwise, this is an excellent addition to your library for read-aloud as well as circulation.

Kelley Westenhoff

Words West : voices of young pioneers / Ginger Wadsworth. LCCN 2003003764. New York : Clarion Books, 2003. Hardbound, \$18.00.

917.804'2'083. Pioneers; Overland journeys to the Pacific; Frontier and pioneer life--West (U.S.); West (U.S.)--History. xiii, 191 p. : ill., maps ; 25 cm.

Grades 5-8 / Rating : 5

From 1830 - 1870 thousands of families built sturdy wagons, gathered necessities, left behind everything familiar, and headed westward. The allurements of new land stretched before them like a carrot at the end of the string. Ginger Wadsworth chooses to tell this familiar story from the viewpoint of young travelers—children and teenagers.

Quotes from diaries and journals written on the trail, as well as from letters to folks left behind add authenticity. Wadsworth also quotes from articles or books these once-young travelers wrote many years later. They all reveal everyday life amid dust, drought, unimaginable inconveniences, evening sing-alongs, and Sunday worship services.

Framed, shaded insets give additional explanation about certain aspects of this formidable journey. These do not interfere with the story flow appropriately divided into chapters, each dealing with particular topics. Wadsworth includes fascinating black and white photos and drawings from her own collection and those of others, including museums, libraries, and historical societies. Readers will enjoy pictures of people Wadsworth quotes, with information about what happened to them after they arrived in the West. Two pages of chronology, 1801 – 1912, give a good overview of those years.

Out of her own vast research, Wadsworth makes the pioneer story come alive with good writing, spiced with actual words of the young travelers. This book is a fine resource for young students studying and writing about this period of time. Those interested in additional reading about these hardy folks and the westward trail will appreciate her list of additional material.

Betty M. Hockett

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I remember Korea : veterans tell their stories of the Korean War, 1950-1953 / Linda Granfield. LCCN 2003005397. New York : Houghton Mifflin, 2003. Hardbound, \$16.00.

920 (951.904'2'0922). Korean War, 1950-1953--Personal narratives, American; Korean War, 1950-1953--Personal narratives, Canadian. 136 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 7-12 (Adult) / Rating : *5

An eyewitness history book, *I Remember Korea* provides thirty-three interest catching, personal accounts from Korean War male and female military personnel. Narratives vary from grim battle horror to peaceful fun; from food for GIs to food for hungry Koreans; from nursing to requisitioning; from children to adults. Peoples represented in these international accounts include American, Canadian, Australian, European, and Korean. Divided by years, significant dates introduce each section. Photos pertinent to each account add depth and poignancy to the narrative. Closing resources contain a timeline, glossary, bibliography, Internet resources, and index.

Information Book Award winning author Linda Granfield's expertise in non-fiction research and writing, and her reporter's sense of a good story catch the reader's interest, encouraging further study. The ending resources enhance the usefulness of this volume. Listed for middle and high school students, *I Remember Korea* also appeals to adults. It speaks directly and knowledgeably to today's world impacted sorely by war, and the concomitant civilian and military problems. This book will aid intergenerational discussion, especially in families impacted by the Korean War. Recommended for all schools and libraries, *I Remember Korea* will be useful in history and sociology classes, as well as for special presentations and book reports.

Donna Eggett

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A strong right arm : the story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson / Michelle Y. Green ; introduction by Mamie Johnson. LCCN 2001028616. New York : PenguinPutnam, 2002. Hardbound, \$15.99.

921 (796.357). Johnson, Mamie; Baseball players; Women--Biography; African Americans--Biography. xiv, 111 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-6 / Rating : *5

Even the most devoted baseball fans might be surprised to find that there were three women who played professional baseball. *A Strong Right Arm* is the story of one of them. Raised in South Carolina by her grandmother, Mamie Johnson's early days were filled with a passion for baseball. Early on she developed a pitching arm that belied her stature. Relocated to New Jersey after her grandmother's death, Mamie's

sheer gumption got her the chance to play baseball with the white Police Athletic League. When she was 15, she watched Jackie Robinson's first appearance with the Brooklyn Dodgers and never doubted that her next step would be to play in the professional ranks. At age 17 Mamie signed to pitch for the Indianapolis Clowns, a Negro League team. Through the next three seasons, her talent and self-confidence carried her through the unjust barbs of segregation as the team traveled into the deep South. By the end of the third season, it was clear that the breaking of the Major League color barrier spelled the demise of the Negro League. Just then, Mamie says God opened another door for her, this time to go to college and become a nurse.

This biography, told in first-person format by Mamie Johnson, needed to be written. This woman, diminutive in stature, was mighty in accomplishment and integrity. Born and raised during segregated times, Mamie had all the spiritual strength and upbringing she needed to withstand anything life dealt her. While she was a truly talented pitcher, her story is about more than baseball. It is a story about courage, persistence, and character. Michelle Y. Green has respectfully and artfully preserved this biography that might have been lost in time. Baseball fans and librarians searching for good biographies for children are in her debt.

Kelley Westenhoff

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Lincoln : a photobiography / Russell Freedman. LCCN 86033379. New York : Houghton Mifflin, 1987. Hardbound, \$18.00.

921 (973.7'092'4). Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865; Presidents. 150 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-7 / Rating : *5

There are many books for children about Abraham Lincoln, but this is the best. Weaving the story of Lincoln's life with photographs and drawings that illuminate the text, Russell Freedman provides a resource that will inspire readers and admirers of all ages. Fortunately for us, Lincoln lived at a time when photography was in its infancy. His willingness to pose has accrued to the benefit of the ages. Some of the most interesting photographs are the series that show the toll the White House years took on his face. The photographs of Lincoln with his sons will be particularly interesting to children. A slave family and slave market building will provide opportunity to discuss the issue of slavery. For the more sensitive it is important to note that there are two photographs of dead soldiers (Antietam and Gettysburg) and one of Lincoln lying in state.

The selection of photographs in this book is masterful. Freedman breaks up the text with relevant resources. However, the strength of the

book is not solely in the visual effects. The text, well written, puts the reader in Lincoln's shoes, giving human facts about Lincoln not usually profiled in children's biographies. This book is a valuable resource for any class studying the Civil War, but it will go beyond that because Lincoln is studied and admired across curricula. The book includes a Lincoln sampler of his writings, a list of places to visit (in Lincoln's footsteps) that will enlighten the reader more about Lincoln, a bibliography and an excellent index. If it is possible to get it in hardback, it will be worth the price as this will be a well-used book in your collection.

Kelley Westenhoff

Pocahontas / Joseph Bruchac. LCCN 2002007214. Orlando, Fla. : Silver Whistle, 2003. Hardbound, \$17.00.

921 (975.5). Pocahontas, d.1617; Powhatan Indians; Smith, John, 1580-1631; Jamestown (Va.)--History. 173, [1] p. : map ; 22 cm.

Grades 7-11 / Rating : 4

Eleven-year-old Pocahontas, favorite daughter to the Powhatan Chief, tells about the reactions of her people to the white man invading their land. Although the tribes have endured sickness and abuse from these "Coatmen" on more than one occasion, they are still hopeful of finding common ground with them. Each chapter begins with tribal customs and important bits of historical accounts pertaining to occurrences from alternating viewpoints.

Twenty-seven-year-old John Smith documents the petty jealousies and lordly attitudes of much of the crew, which nearly becomes their undoing in relations with the natives. John is a well-traveled soldier and storyteller, who has gained extensive knowledge of the importance of different cultural politics.

Pocahontas by Joseph Bruchac, written in alternating journal-style entries, documents the Chesapeake Bay invasion of the English colonists and the beginnings of Jamestown. Contrary to the popular Disney version (*Pocahontas*, Disney, 1995) of the romance between Pocahontas and John Smith, Bruchac points out that Smith is viewed by her as more of a favorite uncle. Well-known for his quality rendering of *Sacajawea* (Silver Whistle, 2000), Bruchac once again pays attention to details that add a three-dimensional effect to the story, lifting characters, atmosphere, and customs off the page. Dialogue is believable, and the journal entries allow the reader to see inside the protagonists' thoughts. Recommended for all Native American historical fiction collections.

Kim Harris

A visitor's guide to ancient Greece / Leslie Sims ; designed & illustrated by Ian McNee. (Usborne timetours.) Tulsa, Okla. : Usborne Books, 2003. Paperbound, \$9.95.

938. Greece--Civilization - To 146 B.C.. 64 p. : col. ill. : 24 cm.

Grades 3-6 / Rating : 4

If you feel like a bit of armchair traveling to someplace sunny and warm, this is the guide for you. While you're moving through the various parts of Ancient Greece, you might actually learn something new about their civilization during the Classical Period (500-336BC). Written in the entertaining Usborne style and thoroughly illustrated by Ian McNee, this new guide provides a resource for students that will keep them coming back for more. It is divided into five major sections: Tourist Information, Sightseeing & Leisure, Shopping & Trade, Trips Out of Athens, and Background. Lesley Sims includes an excellent map, a timeline, and a thorough index. In the front is a teaser for the Usborne Internet links program although this book is not linked per se. Sidebars occur every couple of pages giving more detailed information about the culture explored on that page under the guise of "Top Tips for Tourists." The only flaw is that the answers to the riddles on page 16 are not on page 17 as advertised. The hardback version of this book came out in February 2003. If this is to be a classroom resource, it is worth getting the hardback version for durability.

Kelley Westenhoff

Commodore Perry in the land of the Shogun / by Rhoda Blumberg. LCCN 84021800. New York : HarperCollins, 1985. Hardbound, \$18.95.

952'.025. United States Naval Expedition to Japan (1852-1854); United States--Foreign relations--Japan; Japan--Foreign relations--United States; Perry, Matthew Calbraith, 1794-1858. 144 p. : ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 7-12 / Rating : NR

Commodore Perry and the Land of the Shogun is rich with historical details of Perry's 1853 mission to force Japan to open its ports to outsiders. The text is clear and factual, providing a wealth of information to the reader. The negotiation and posturing that went on is amusing to read about today. The description of what life was like for the ordinary Japanese people under the Tokugawa Period is fascinating. Perry's patience and resolve communicated to the Japanese that the period of isolation was over.

The true value of Rhoda Blumberg's book is in the choice of artwork. Japanese artists made many sketches and paintings of Perry and his crew which are reproduced in the book. Many of the portraits look like caricatures, yet they reflect the cultural chasm between Japan and outsiders. The artists were struggling to portray something completely new to their experience,

yet to place it in the context of their own artistic standards. Many of the sketches in the book made by the Commodore's official artists similarly give a flavor for how different they found Japanese culture of the time. All of the illustrations and photographs are black and white.

This book is for the serious student. It has appendices including Fillmore's letter to the Emperor, the Emperor's answer, lists of some of the presents the Americans brought for the Japanese and vice versa, and the treaty of Kanagawa which opened the Japanese ports to American ships. Extensive footnotes and a bibliography provide resources for further study. The book is factual about sailors who got drunk and made embarrassing mistakes as well as the difference between geishas the sailors were allowed to visit and women who were off limits.

Kelley Westenhoff

Ben Franklin's almanac: being a true account of the good gentleman's life / Candace Fleming. LCCN 2002006136. New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003. Hardbound, \$19.95.

973.3'092. Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790; Statesmen; Inventors. ix, 120 p. : ill. ; 31 cm.

Grades 4-5 / Rating : 4

Benjamin Franklin was a man of letters. In fact, he was a man of so many letters he left a plethora of information from which to choose when writing a biography about him. In *Ben Franklin's Almanac*, Candace Fleming has chosen the best of fact, fiction, and fun to bring Benjamin Franklin to life. Written in newspaper style, the book divides Franklin's life into eight sections. They range from his family history, to his service to the fledgling America, to his scientific and printing endeavors.

Well researched and documented with bibliography, picture sources, and lists of books and websites about Benjamin Franklin, this book provides a lively biography of one of the most entertaining of the founders. Franklin's own words, black and white illustrations and engravings of the day, and the broadsheet style are very appealing, though the newspaper style may be too busy for the youngest readers, especially without any color photographs or illustrations. The most intimidating feature will be the weight of the book. It is printed on heavy paper and bound securely. The 120 pages will seem like more when carried home in a library bag. Still, this is an excellent biography of Franklin and will provide the young researcher a thorough grounding in Franklin's times. The subject of Franklin's somewhat unorthodox family life is treated sensitively and non-judgmentally. His opinions on God and Christ are presented as he wrote them, without comment.

Kelley Westenhoff

Civil War A to Z : a young readers' guide to over 100 people, places, and points of importance / Norman Bolotin. LCCN 2001033370. New York : PenguinPutnam, 2002. Hardbound, \$19.99.

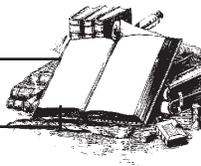
973.703. United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Encyclopedias, Juvenile; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Encyclopedias. xi, 148 p. : ill., maps ; 24 cm.

Grades 5-7 / Rating : 4

A one volume encyclopedic dictionary, *Civil War A to Z* contains over one hundred entries related to the American Civil War. Alphabetically arranged, subjects range from the well known, like Robert E. Lee and Abraham Lincoln, to the lesser known, like Lincoln's private secretaries and the number of Union Indian soldiers; from important data, such as main battles, to intriguing detail such as lucifers and sanitary fairs. Liberal use of sidebars, black and white photos, maps, and other illustrations adds extra information and encourages attention. A glossary of words and dates, and a selected reading list fruitfully close this book.

Businessman, historian, prolific author, manager of The History Bank, Norman Bolotin brings much expertise to this interesting, well-researched history text. Bolotin uses language, humor, drama, and detail relevant to the upper elementary to lower middle school student. Adults new to Civil War history will also enjoy this book. With a hardbound cover and sturdy paper, *Civil War A to Z* should last through a great deal of use. A practical volume on its own, it works cooperatively with Bolotin's Young Readers' History of the Civil War series. Recommended for all schools, and libraries.

Donna Eggett



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Fire by night / by Lynn Austin. (Refiner's fire ; 2.) LCCN 2003014248. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Paperbound, \$12.99.

F. United States--History--Civil War, 1862-1865--Fiction; Passing (Identity)--Fiction; Female friendship--Fiction; Women soldiers--Fiction; Young women--Fiction; Nurses--Fiction; Christian fiction; War stories. 429 p. ; 22 cm.

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

Spoiled socialite Julia Hoffman has her sights set on Rev. Nathaniel Greene, but when he describes her as shallow and self-absorbed, she becomes a Union nurse to prove that she isn't. Raised by her late widowed father and three brothers, Phoebe Bigelow feels more comfortable in overalls than a dress. When her brothers leave her to join the army, she disguises herself and joins up too. Both Julia and Phoebe must learn to rely on God's strength as they face the horrors of the Civil War.

Sweeping drama begins right in the first scene, taken from the sidelines of Bull Run, and action is sustained throughout the rest of the book. Characters live amid the pages, fully portrayed through thoughts, words, and actions. Hospital and battlefield scenes are shown in vivid, but not gruesome, detail, giving readers a realistic picture of the war, but as such are more appropriate for older teens and adults. The dialog suits the characters and setting, though slightly contemporary. Evident character growth is vital to the story line. Women should enjoy this highly recommended tale from a Christy Award winning author.

Katie Hart

The sister circle / Vonette Bright & Nancy Moser. (The sister circle ; 1.) LCCN 2002012409. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2003. Paperbound, \$12.99.

F. Traffic accident victims--Family relationships--Fiction.; Female friendship--Fiction.; Boardinghouses--Fiction.; Widows--Fiction.; Christian fiction.. 339 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

Round the corner / Vonette Bright & Nancy Moser. (The sister circle ; 2.) LCCN 2003008301. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2003. Paperbound, \$12.99.

F. Female friendship--Fiction; Boardinghouses--Fiction; Widows--Fiction; Christian fiction. 368 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

The Sister Circle and its sequel *Round the Corner* (to be joined by *An Undivided Heart* in the Summer of 2004) are set in Peerbaugh Place, the boardinghouse and home of Evelyn Peerbaugh. Recently widowed, Evelyn determines taking in boarders might just be the solution to her financial problems. Never did she imagine the energy it would take to cope with the emotions and lives of a very incompatible group of women. But these women become her sisters in almost every sense of the word, discovering the true meaning of friendship among women and with the Lord himself.

Round the corner contains many of the same characters but the need for new boarders at Peerbaugh Place arises and once again Evelyn is in the throes of choosing tenants, praying the Lord will guide in her choices and make them a loving, cohesive group once again. What God does among these women is truly miraculous, bringing them once again into a life-changing *Sister Circle*.

Delightful stories, quick to read yet filled with Christian truths, these books will be enjoyed particularly by women and could be used as evangelistic tools to pass on to unsaved friends, as well as a source of encouragement for growth among believers. Each book also concludes with a preview of the next book in the series.

Ceil Carey

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The solitary envoy / by T. Davis Bunn & Isabella Bunn. (Heirs of Acadia ; 1.) LCCN 2003021806. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2004. Hardbound, \$17.99.

F. United States--History--War of 1812--Fiction; Women--Washington (D.C.)--Fiction; Americans--England--Fiction; Washington (D.C.)--Fiction. 319 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 7-12) / Rating : *5

The granddaughter of Nicole and Gordon Goodwind, Erica Langston has a head for data and figures and a heart for her father and his shipping business. When a banker tries to ruin the business amid the turmoil of the War of 1812 and the invading British army kills her father, Erica is left with no choice but to travel to England herself to regain the stolen funds. When she meets Gareth Powers again, a former British major turned pamphleteer, she is unprepared for the changes this most distasteful of allies will bring to her life.

The book begins a bit slowly, establishing the detailed setting before introducing the main conflict. The lifelike characters dominate the novel as historical events are carefully woven throughout the plot, providing a seamless read. Eighteenth-century dialog suits its serious tone, while a curious eight-year-old adds a ray of lightness to the tale. As Erica seeks recompense from those who have wronged her family, she also struggles with giving her desire for revenge to God. Other valuable lessons taught include forgiveness and diligence. *The Solitary Envoy* captures the attention of adults, yet is written in a way suitable for a family read-aloud. While the book contains references to the previous series, *Song of Acadia*, it can be read on its own. This delightful glimpse of early America and the Regency era will appeal to most women.

Katie Hart

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Glimpses of truth / Jack Cavanaugh. (Book of books; 1.) LCCN 98051956. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1999. Paperbound, \$9.99 - Buy used.

F. Wycliffe, John, d. 1384--Friends and associates--Fiction; Bible--Translating--Fiction; Reformation--England--Early movements--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 318 p. : map ; 22 cm.

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

Beyond the sacred page : a novel : the Tyndale translation / Jack Cavanaugh. (Book of books; 2.) LCCN 2002151905. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2003. Paperbound, \$10.99.

F. Tyndale, William, d. 1536--Fiction; Foxe, John, 1516-1587--Fiction; Bible--Translating--Fiction; Translators--Fiction; Reformation--Fiction; Great Britain--History--tudors, 1485-1603--Fiction; Biographical fiction; Christian fiction. 336 p. : map ; 22 cm.

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

Peasant Thomas Torr aids John Wycliffe in bringing glimpses of truth to the common English people. Thomas' gift with languages earns the attention of Lord Harborough and Bishop Pole. The bishop offers Thomas the opportunity of a lifetime—to present Wycliffe's translation to cardinals in the Vatican. But dark secrets lie behind the invitation that will compel Thomas to leave the woman he loves and the man who raised him at the mercy of a vengeful bailiff.

In *Beyond the Sacred Page*, Pernel Foxe devotes his life to capturing his former student William Tyndale and destroying Tyndale's translation of the New Testament. Pernel's wife, Meg comes across a copy of the English

Bible while serving Queen Anne Boleyn. The few verses that catch her eye bring her such comfort that she cannot continue with her plan to burn the book. Slowly, Meg meets others who read and distribute the English New Testament, while her husband gets closer to another of his prey, the infamous Bible smuggler North.

Jack Cavanaugh's plots sizzle with action from page one and the many twists keep the reader guessing right up to the last scene. But these novels are not merely adventure stories. The accurate and richly drawn historical backdrop illuminates both real and fictional characters, all shown with depth and clarity. The villains have violent tendencies, which show up in retrospect and in averted danger during a few scenes, none of them overly graphic. A keen spiritual theme pervades the novels, focusing on the characters' love for the written word of God. An experienced writer and pastor, Cavanaugh offers a series recommendable to lovers of historical fiction and others who want to get an exciting look at the development of the English Bible.

Katie Hart

***A quarter for a kiss* / Mindy Starns Clark. (Million dollar mysteries ; 4.) LCCN 2003020826. Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House, 2004. Paperbound, \$10.99.**

F. Nonprofit organizations--Fiction; Saint John (V.I.)--Fiction; Widows--Fiction; Romantic suspense fiction; Christian fiction. 300 p. : 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

In this fourth installment of the Million Dollar Mysteries, Callie Weber is back and this time we get to see more personal interaction between her and Tom, her boss. After spending some quality time as their personal lives begin to intertwine, Callie is informed that her mentor has been gunned down by a sniper in Florida. Tom and Callie rush down to be at his bedside, and find out that his last words pointed to Callie knowing who did it and how to track him down. This revelation sets Tom and Callie on a tropical trip, chasing the last leads that he had before he was shot. Will he survive the gunshot, and can they figure out his cryptic last words to find out who did it?

This series by Ms. Clark has been a godsend to those readers who enjoy a great mystery, and a little romance. Ms. Clark has been ever so intriguing with her characters and how they interact, to the point that you can't wait for the next book to come out. In this book, now that Callie and Tom have shared their personal feelings with each other, Ms. Clark explores in an almost "by-the-way" discussion how unmarried Christians should behave around each other. She places them in very compromising positions throughout the book, but showcases how each of them rely on him and what him first in their relationship! As a final plus to this storyline, Ms. Clark in the end

has Callie walking one of the characters through the Roman Road and accepting Christ into her life! What a way to end a book!

Rick Estep

***Stranded in paradise : a story of letting go* / by Lori Copeland. (Women of faith fiction.) LCCN 2002008987. Nashville : W Publishing, 2002. Paperbound, \$13.99.**

F. Unemployed women workers--Fiction; Women travelers--Fiction; Vacations--Fiction; Hawaii--Fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. 245 p. : 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

In *Stranded in Paradise*, Tess Nelson acknowledges her personal and professional life is a fiasco when she loses her job and expected promotion. She decides to vacation in Hawaii and visit her friend, even though she receives several signs of a disastrous vacation. Sporting a twisted ankle and lost luggage, Tess arrives in Hawaii to discover her friend is abroad. Through humorous interactions Tess meets Carter McConnell, an Air Traffic Controller, who's vacationing because of the stress of his job. Tess is impressed with Carter's inner-peace, but hesitant to believe God generates it. After fire damages their hotel, a local resident Stella DeMuer opens her home to Carter and Tess. With a hurricane approaching, Tess finds herself stranded in paradise. Facing an imminent fear of death and struggling with problems within her life, Tess begins questioning life without God.

Copeland does an excellent job relating with readers, using life experiences while twisting in humor. Her writing challenges readers to reevaluate their own lives. *Stranded in Paradise* is a touchingly funny, contemporary fiction that will keep readers reading just to find out what happens next.

Lori Murphy

***Eye of the storm* / Janice L. Dick. (Crossings of promise ; 2.) LCCN 2003106489. Scottsdale, Pa. : Herald Press, 2003. Paperbound, \$14.99.**

F. Mennonites--Fiction; Russia--History, 1801-1917--Fiction; Christian fiction; Historical fiction. 397 p. : 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

An historical novel, *Eye of the Storm* uses the electrifying backdrop of the Russian Revolution and World War I, 1917-1919, and the crumbling world of the Russian Mennonites. Affianced Katarina and Johann struggle against continually worsening conditions to maintain culture, family, and faith. Already reprobate, and a Communist, Paul Tekanin finds his dream dying amidst death and darkness. In the midst of betrayal, all seek to find their way through despair to the God who never betrays.

A descendant of Russian Mennonites, and a Russian history buff, Janice Dick combines a

natural story telling flair with historical accuracy in this sequel to *Calm Before the Storm*. Keeping the complicated plot clear, the narrative of *Eye of the Storm* moves back and forth between Paul, starting in Moscow, and Katarina and Johann in the Crimea, as war and atrocities pull them ever nearer to each other. Dick writes clearly, and concisely, holding the reader's interest. From her Christian position and her in-depth research, she produces conversations, historical data, and observations to explore pacifism vs. fighting, Communism vs. Christianity, the growth of Christ within the characters, and the ties between family, friends, and Christian denominations. A pertinent map begins this story, and a useful glossary ends it. History aficionados, and those who enjoy romance or adventure will appreciate *Eye of the Storm*.

Donna Eggett

***Abduction* / Wanda L. Dyson. Uhrichsville, Ohio : Barbour Press, 2003. Paperbound, \$8.99.**

F. Abduction--Fiction; Missing children--Fiction; Murders, Serial--Fiction. 359 p. : 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

Zoe has been haunted by that day in the past when her twin sister was abducted. Her body was never found, and the criminal was never caught. Fast forward now to the present where Zoe has been given a "gift" to see where children who have been abducted are buried. She joins forces with the local police department to "look" into a string of child abductions, only to run into a detective who doesn't believe in psychics. Along the way she has a run-in with a local pastor's wife who informs Zoe that no matter how she is using this "gift", that she is using it against the wishes of God. As Zoe ponders this discussion, the abductor is leaving items on her doorstep taunting her with the realization that her sister's abductor and this one are one and the same. Does she use her "gift" to finally get closure to her sister's death, or will she honor God's wishes and lay the "gift" aside?

Ms. Dyson's first fiction novel touches on the subject of psychics and whether their abilities are God-given or provided by some other force. She allows the character to thoughtfully mull this decision after having a pastor's wife share pointed scripture with her concerning this specific topic. I enjoyed this discussion, as it is always something that has sent me pondering. I'm glad to see the specific use of scripture in this way to clarify the author's stance on this topic.

Rick Estep

***The lights of Tenth Street* / Shaunti Feldhahn. LCCN 2002156081. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2003. Paperbound, \$14.99.**

F. Lust--Religious aspects--Christianity--Fiction; Strip-teasers--Fiction; Christian fiction. 467 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult / Rating : Recommended with caution.

Fleeing her abusive stepfather, Ronnie pursues her dream of college in the city. With the help of her best friend, she lands a job at a strip club. Doug, a Christian father, struggles with pornography. When their paths cross, neither understands the impact. As heavenly forces urge believers to reach out to those deemed shameful, the enemy plans an all-out terrorist attack following the events of September 11th.

The plot unfolds naturally, allowing readers to understand Ronnie's and Doug's descent into sin and the healing that redemption brings, and builds to a fast-paced climax. Characterization shows true-to-life people and the masks they use to hide their real selves. The setting is definitely for an adult-only audience. Feldhahn's goal was to write nothing to cause a fourteen-year-old boy to stumble, with which she succeeds, but her writing includes many details about the ins and outs of running a strip club and the lives of exotic dancers. Adults struggling with these issues can find help and hope in this novel, and others will enjoy a Peretti-like read.

Katie Hart

Dark horse / John Fischer. LCCN 2003009759. Grand Rapids : Baker Books, 2003. Paperbound, \$12.99.

F. Horses--Fiction; Self-perception--Fiction; Christian fiction; Fables. 89 p. : 19 cm.

Grades 10-12 / Rating : 3

Revell has issued *Dark Horse* twenty years after its first publication by Multnomah under the title *Dark Horse: The Story of a Winner*. Author John Fischer is probably best known as a songwriter, but he has had several books published, including this brief allegory.

The horse who tells the story lives in a stable of white-horse wanna-be's, who are primped and posed and praised for whatever degree of whiteness they can display. They enjoy a life of comfort, as they strive to reach their ideal of becoming whiter. The teller of the tale accepts the challenge of a dark horse to break away from the herd and follow him on a difficult journey to freedom. "White isn't what you look like," his liberator tells him. "It's what you do when you follow the will of the White One."

Dark Horse would be a good gift for horse lovers of any age. Younger children will enjoy the story line, whether or not they understand the challenges of the allegory.

Jeanette Hardage

Out of time / Alton Gansky. (J.D. Stanton mysteries ; 3.) LCCN 2003010752. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2003. Paperbound, \$12.99.

F. Stanton, J. D. (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Naval historians--Fiction; Retired teachers--Fiction; Christian fiction; Mystery fiction. 347 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12 / Rating : 3

Retired Navy submariner J.D. Stanton once again finds himself at sea, only this time he is topside, on a swanky catamaran accompanied by five hostile and troubled teenagers from military families. As Stanton attempts to reach out to these hurting young people, the ship is thrust into a sudden and violent storm. When calm returns to the sea, they discover a severely cracked mast, engines leaking diesel oil, stopped watches, non-functional compasses, and virtually no electricity or battery power of any kind. To complicate matters, Mary, a withdrawn young teen, appears to be suffering from acute appendicitis.

Even more mysterious is their foggy surroundings, out of which looms a pre-World War I battleship in prime condition. They board the apparently deserted HMS Archer, and as they struggle to sort out the realization that they have been caught "between times," they must also figure out how to return to the present to get the medical help Mary requires. Used to being in charge, Stanton finds himself powerless to do much but trust in the Lord to guide him and the others. He comes to believe that they are on the HMS Archer for a purpose, as part of a miracle of God; the concluding events of the novel attest to this fact.

Out of Time is book three in Alton Gansky's science fiction series. Although it bogs down a bit in the middle when Stanton seems oblivious to the obvious fact that they are no longer in the present time, the book picks up pace again and ends satisfyingly. The story takes a clear doctrinal stance on the non-existence of ghosts, but offers biblical rationale, and gives a logical, rational explanation of time travel. *Out of Time* does contain some mild slang, and it has the obligatory happy ending where all the standoffish teens unite together, and healing from their troubled pasts begins. However, the novel is full of enough suspense and mystery to give readers an intriguing sci-fi experience.

Sherri Beeler

Garden of dreams / Leslie Gould. LCCN 2003000612. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2003. Paperbound, \$11.99.

F. Friendship--Fiction; Gardening--Fiction; Christian fiction. 322 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

Jill and Caye are the very best of friends whose lives are tightly interwoven. They share the most intimate details of each other's lives except for one thing—Jill has been keeping a secret from those she loves most. She cannot seem to bring herself to tell anyone about the hereditary disease that threatens her future. She has watched all of her hopes and dreams come true, and tries to hide the one thing that could shatter

her happy life. When Jill's worst nightmares come true and she is diagnosed with deadly pancreatic cancer, their friendship is tested to the limits as Caye puts her life on hold to care for her best friend. Caye finds herself stretched as she tries to care for Jill's and her own children and home. This story is as much about Caye as it is about Jill and her illness, and the struggles each face.

Garden of Dreams is an emotional story of love, faith, and friendship. While a fictional account of a woman trying to die with dignity, this book is so realistic that readers will be drawn into the story. The story is one that many women have experienced in their lives and many more will experience in the future. Leslie Gould has written an amazingly touching story that reminds us if we put our faith and trust in God that he will see us through life's challenges. I would recommend this book mainly to adult women with some life experience, as it is a very emotionally gripping novel, but one that will give you a whole new perspective on life and death.

Sherri Myers

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From dust and ashes : a story of liberation / Tricia Goyer. LCCN 2002035754. Chicago : Moody, 2003. Paperbound, \$12.99.

F. Executions and executioners--Fiction; War crime trials--Fiction; War criminals--Fiction; Austria--Fiction; Widows--Fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. 463 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : *5

Tricia Goyer may not have been alive during World War II, but the research job she did for her historical novel, *From Dust and Ashes*, has produced a story as riveting and accurate as though she'd gone back in time and lived through it all herself.

When the G.I.s of the 11th Armored Division are told to take and hold a bridge near a small Austrian town, they discover, to their horror, a prison camp filled with dead and dying prisoners and more grief and pain than they can comprehend. Goyer uses three points of view, a prison guard's wife, a young G.I., and a liberated prisoner, to explore the camp's liberation from several angles, and although she doesn't pull any punches, she doesn't wallow in the details, either. She deftly uses only enough darkness to make the subplots of brokenness and healing, love, forgiveness, and new beginnings shine like stars.

In order to do this story justice, Goyer interviewed many of the men who served during World War II with the 11th Armored Division and they have one thing to say about the results: Goyer tells it like it was. Older teens may benefit from Goyer's take on the topic. She doesn't just record the plain truth about the evils

of the concentration camps. She leavens it with human emotion and weaves into it all an even greater truth—God can make new life and beauty out of anything, even the dust and ashes of a concentration camp.

Betty Winslow

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

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

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

"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.

The unique and hilarious plot of Rene Gutteridge's latest offering will hold the reader's attention from start to finish. Rene paints a romantic and often hilarious tale of the lengths the townfolk 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.

I had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Gutteridge in person, and I can tell you that the author was every bit as excited to write this book as any she has done to date. Her other books offer a mystery (*GhostWriter*), a drama (*Troubled Waters*) and now she's giving us the opportunity to laugh.

Rick Estep

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Arena / Karen Hancock. LCCN 2002000969. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2002. Paperbound, \$12.99.

F. Psychology, Experimental--Fiction; Psychological fiction; Christian fiction; Christy Award. 393 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult / Rating : *5

In order to make a little extra money, Callie signs up for an experiment that, at first, seems harmless enough, but soon becomes a real life and death adventure. Upon entering the Arena, Callie finds herself equipped with only a few cryptic words of advice from the "Benefactor" and a backpack of strange supplies, including a book that makes little sense, to guide her. When she is nearly killed by one of the native

inhabitants, a caveman-like savior comes to her rescue. Callie spends the next thirteen months in the Arena. She joins with other humans to fight off mutant creatures, which rape and eat their victims, as well as poisonous plants and wildlife. Callie faces imperfections, both within herself and in those she grows to care for; finds human love; and learns about the true depth of Elanhu's (God's) love for her.

Of all the different genres available to the writer, that of science fiction most vividly displays the strange and awesome authenticity of God. *Arena* by Karen Hancock is an exquisite example of how spiritual warfare, though very real, can feel more like a trip through virtual reality. Hancock's background in wildlife studies and painting are clearly displayed in the cinematic atmosphere and believable creatures she challenges her characters with. Much like *The Pilgrim's Progress* (Oxford University Press, 1998), Hancock's tale is rich in allegory. Although the theme is definitely Christian, some graphic violence, as well as real temptation that involves sex, drugs, and eternal failure, is included. Highly recommended for adult science fiction and allegory collections.

Kim Harris

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The light of Eidon / Karen Hancock. (Legends of the guardian-king ; 1.) LCCN 2003002568. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Paperbound, \$12.99.

F. Kings and rulers--Fiction; Christian fiction; Fantasy fiction. 432 p. ; 22 cm.

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

The fifth and weakest son of the king of Kiriath, Abramm chooses a life of sacrifice and holiness, dedicating himself to the service of the Sacred Flames of Eidon. But surprises await when he returns home after eight years of training to take his vows. Three brothers have died, leaving only King Raynen, Abramm's twin sister Carissa, and bullying younger brother Gillard. While despised Terstans hint at evil surrounding his beloved mentor, Abramm, still not feeling Eidon's touch, starts to doubt his calling. As the deceit builds, Abramm's brothers sell him into slavery, but his story has only begun.

Hancock instantly plunges the reader into a strange world, a bit confusing at first, but the intriguing plot keeps things moving. The well-drawn characters grow and change throughout the novel, as hidden traits are brought to light and sympathies are revealed. Dialogue is sparse but majestic, suiting the tale perfectly, and the allegorical threads run most clearly in portraying the way non-Christians view Christians. While this book is exceptional in its genre, the gruesome aspects of Abramm's slavery are shown in a detailed way. Fans of Tolkien will find another author whose

Christianity brings light into her imaginative fiction.

Katie Hart

Vital signs / Kathy Herman. (The Baxter series ; 3.) LCCN 2002008541. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2002. Paperbound, \$11.99.

F. Illegitimate children--Fiction; Missionaries--Fiction; Birthfathers--Fiction; Quarantine--Fiction; Viruses--Fiction; Twins--Fiction; Christian fiction. 316 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12) / Rating : 4

High stakes / Kathy Herman. (The Baxter series ; 4.) LCCN 2002151605. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2003. Paperbound, \$11.99.

F. Christian fiction. 306 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12) / Rating : 3

Two diverse sets of characters inhabit Kathy's Herman's *Vital Signs* and *High Stakes*, books three and four in The Baxter Series. In *Vital Signs*, a young missionary couple on furlough brings a virulent virus and quarantine to Baxter. Panic begets violence as believers and non-believers cope with anxiety and illness. *High Stakes* centers around Angie Marks, a seemingly homeless Gen Xer who lands in Baxter with unspoken motives. Her story interweaves with many other Baxter residents as she is kidnapped, seeks answers to her mysterious background, and discovers hope as she finds answers.

Both these novels are a complex gathering of characters—sometimes a confusion of them. Their strength is in contemporary dramas and settings. *High Stakes* especially has appeal for older high school and young adult readers with its young adult protagonist, and the reactions of Baxter residents that Herman realistically portrays. Both novels can stimulate Christians to consider how their reactions to situations and to people different from themselves can build or tear down the kingdom of God.

Karen Schmidt

The pearl / by Angela Hunt. (Women of faith fiction.) LCCN 2002153181. Nashville : W Publishing, 2003. Paperbound, \$12.99.

F. Radio broadcasters--Fiction; Women in radio broadcasting--Fiction; Christian fiction. 320 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult / Rating : 4

In this contemporary novel, Diana Sheldon has everything—a loving husband, meaningful career, and two beautiful children. Then her five-year-old son is killed, and Diana cannot believe God would permit such a tragedy. A research company offers a chance to regain what she has lost by creating a clone of Scott, and she hopes a baby with Scott's genetic makeup will heal the ache in her heart. Her husband rejects the idea outright when he learns of the

organization's cultic ties. Diana determines to let nothing prevent her dream, but the price may be higher than she imagines.

Vividly described characters dominate this novel as their relationships fray under the pressure of tragedy and a divisive offer, but readers looking for a thrilling plot may want to avoid *The Pearl*. The beginning is gripping, conflict builds throughout the middle, but about two-thirds into the book the story starts to become a bit hard to believe, and the ending is predictable, though touching. Hunt's use of dialogue and her haunting portrayal of one woman's search for healing make this novel memorable. Also notable is the expert utilization of both first- and third-person viewpoints with nearly imperceptible transitions. Diana's teenage daughter, Brittany, deceives her parents, which leads her into difficult situations, shown without detail in retrospect. She also speaks to and regards her parents disrespectfully; an issue that is not fully dealt with, as Brittany is headed to college. For that reason, I would not recommend this book for teens, unless they are mature enough to understand that Brittany's example is one not to follow. Other women, especially mothers, should enjoy this well-crafted novel.

Katie Hart

***Ice : the greatest truths hide in the darkest shadows* / Shane Johnson ; foreword by Charles Duke. LCCN 2002007820. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2002. Paperbound, \$13.99.**

F. Astronauts--Fiction; Moon--Exploration--Fiction; Manned space flight--Fiction; Science fiction. xv, 396 p. : 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12) / Rating : 4

Spaceflight historian and film consultant Shane Johnson spins a gripping tale of fictional Apollo 19 mission, to have taken place after the actual space program was ended. When NASA astronauts Gary Lucas and Charles Shepherd are stranded in space and left to die because of a malfunctioning engine, their team partner, the astronaut's wives, and the entire country must deal with the futile agony of waiting to proclaim them dead. The first part of the book chronicles the waiting astronauts on the moon and the scrambling brainiacs on earth trying to find a solution to bring the men home.

Just when it seems that all is lost and the men will die, they find a secret moon station with cryptic symbols and spacesuits for eight-foot humanoids. At this point, the book gets interesting as Christian Charles Shepherd tries to make sense of what his eyes are seeing—could there possibly be intelligent life on other planets? And if so, did God just conveniently forget to mention it? When mummified remains of the "big guys" confirm that these are no smart Russians, the two men go through the station looking for food and trying to make sense of it

all. Here, Lucas somehow disappears to the alien's homeworld and is exposed to some gory scenes of violence and an intended rape. There is also a scene describing an altar with human sacrifices and torture. While Lucas is off on the other world, Shepherd manages to set off a shut down sequence which is heard on earth and a second team is sent to retrieve the men's bodies because of public outcry.

The Apollo 20 team arrives just in time to save the two astronauts from the explosion of the moon station. Lucas, now a Christian, explains at the end of the book, when the decision is made not to share the information about the station or the aliens found there, that they were not aliens at all, but pre-flood humans who were on the moon at the time of the flood. The book is intense in the last half and has a satisfying ending.

Marilynn Griffith

***Shepherds abiding* / Jan Karon. (The Mitford years.) LCCN 2003060096. New York : Viking, 2003. Hardbound, \$24.95.**

F. Clergy--Fiction; North Carolina--Fiction; Creches (Nativity scenes)--Fiction; Mitford (N.C. : Imaginary place)--Fiction; Christmas stories. 304 p. : 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

Fans of Jan Karon always feel as if they have a gift in their hands when they hold a copy of a new addition to the Mitford series. *Shepherds Abiding* is no exception. You hesitate to open the pages and begin, because, of course, it must eventually come to an end. Oh, but the time spent in the middle, reading her beautiful prose and once again visiting Father Tim and Cynthia and their Mitford! Karon's book is truly a gift.

Father Tim has always lived what he calls "the life of the mind." That is, until he happens upon a neglected nativity scene and purposes to restore it as a surprise Christmas gift for his wife, Cynthia. It is a step of faith for him to undertake a physical challenge and believe that God can help him bring it to pass—and keep it a secret from Cynthia in the process. It is only imagining her joy in the finished work that inspires him to begin and to continue. While he is in the midst of his project, Cynthia is caught up in a project of her own—a gift from her heart to his and hopefully a reflection of God's gift of His Son at the Nativity.

In *Shepherds Abiding* you will again join the characters of Mitford—the godly, the quirky, the lovable, the affable, the cranky. You won't want to miss the holiday season and celebration in this delightful village, all the while you are meditating on the best of all presents—the gift of one's heart.

Ceil Carey

***A sweetness to the soul* / Jane Kirkpatrick. (Dreamcatcher ; 1.) LCCN 95211393. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 1995. Paperbound, \$12.99.**

F. Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction; Pioneers--Oregon--Fiction. 425 p. : 23 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

This is the first in Kirkpatrick's Dreamcatcher collection. Though they are admittedly fiction and labeled as such, the first and third books in this collection are based on the lives of real, historical Oregon women and the events surrounding them; the major character in the second is a composite of many children.

A Sweetness to the Soul recounts the captivating story of the young, spirited pioneer, Jane Herbert. At the age of twelve Jane is present when each of her three siblings—two sisters and a brother—die from the fever, and Jane blames herself for letting them get wet in the swollen Fifteen Mile Creek. From that date she begins a life-long search for love and forgiveness when both her mother and father turn away from her.

Little does Jane know that at the same time she was licking the wounds of losing her entire family in one way or another, Joseph Sherar, an Oregon territory visionary, is wishing for a family and someone to share his life. On a chance visit to the farm of Jane Herbert's father, Sherar catches sight of Jane's violet eyes and is never able to forget them or her; he comes back to ask for her hand in marriage while she is still a young teen.

Woven in and through the lives of Jane and Joseph are those of native Americans—the Paiutes, the quiet Sahaptin people, and the brassy Wascos—many of them good friends to Jane and Joseph, and all seeking their livelihood along the Columbia River.

Other families and their hardships lend tension to this story of survival in the west. Though Jane never bears children of her own, God uses her in supernatural ways in the lives of other young girls. This is a wonderful tale of redemption, forgiveness, and acceptance. Readers of history will love Kirkpatrick's stories.

Helen Hunter

***Love to water my soul* / Jane Kirkpatrick. (Dreamcatcher ; 2.) LCCN 96021135. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 1996. Paperbound, \$12.99.**

F. Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction; Oregon--Fiction; Paiute Indians--Fiction; Women pioneers--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 368 p. : map ; 23 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

Volume two in The Dreamcatcher collection picks up the story of "Alice M." whom we meet briefly as a young woman in *A Sweetness to the Soul*. An abandoned toddler rescued by the Modoc Indians, the little girl has many names as

a child, though she never remembers the name given by her parents. The first name she remembers, Asiam, is plucked from memories of her father saying, "as you were" to his children and her replying "as I am." So, that is what the Modoc Indians who rescued her from the sand and sage called her, and which was translated to Alice M in later years.

After three or four summers, at about the age of six, while away from the tribe exploring, she falls from a cliff and breaks her leg. There, in pain and unable to move, she is found by a member of the Paiute tribe. While with them she receives the name Shell Flower. And there she finds love and place of belonging; where she is as fully accepted as ever in her life, only to be cast away later in a ceremony of death from the only home she ever knew in her teens. In the years that follow, she faces a new life in the world of the white man—a life filled with both attachment and loss. There she learns about the God who faithfully unites her in a love that fills all her longings—a love to water her soul.

I think this is the best of the three books in the Dreamcatcher collection and provides a beautiful glimpse into the heritage and rituals of Oregon's Paiute people. It also reveals a depth of human love that will bring joy to any young person who reads it. The National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center voted it Outstanding Western Novel of 1995.

Helen Hunter

***A gathering of finches / Jane Kirkpatrick. (Dreamcatcher ; 3.)* LCCN 97027682. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 1997. Paperbound, \$12.99.**

F. Simpson, Cassie Hendrick Stearns--Fiction; Simpson, Louis--Fiction; Coos Bay (Ore.)--History--Fiction. 388 p. : maps ; 23 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12) / Rating : 4

Third in The Dreamcatcher collection, Kirkpatrick draws from the very real, tangled life of Cassie Hendrick Stearns Simpson who joined Louis Simpson in 1899 on Oregon's wild and rugged coast. The Simpson's legacy lives on at Shore Acres, the site of their mansion and now an Oregon state park. There, visitors may wander by the Japanese pond and through the rose gardens and imagine the prosperous and charmed life Cassie and Louis Simpson lived in their mansion on the bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Her story, however, is one of longing and hunger. A hunger for tender words and love from her father and mother as a young child, hunger for love from her first husband, hunger for attention and approval from anyone who knew her as she matured, and most of all, I believe, hunger for God. She searches for meaning through different organizations, and particularly with the Christian Scientists. With several family members and friends who are

strong Christians, discussions about her need are frequent. But she always turns away, still hungering.

Cassie commits adultery with Simpson during the time she is married to Stearns. Ultimately they leave Washington, leaving behind Cassie's daughter, and live together without benefit of clergy for many years. Consumed with self, Cassie's poor choices and their consequences rob her heart of peace and she lives an unhappy life for much of her younger years. Only through service to others in the last years of her life does she find some peace. She dies at the age of forty-nine.

Helen Hunter

***The betrayal / Beverly Lewis. (Abram's daughters ; 2.)* LCCN 2003013781. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Hardbound, \$17.99.**

F. Lancaster County (Pa.)--Fiction; Sisters--Fiction; Amish--Fiction; Christian fiction; Domestic fiction. 358 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

Fans of Beverly Lewis and her Amish fiction will not be disappointed in this latest book, *The Betrayal*, second in the Abram's Daughters series. Although not necessary to have read the first in this series, it is helpful and makes the story flow more easily.

This is the tale of Leah and her beloved Jonas, separated by hundreds of miles as Jonas apprentices as a carpenter in Ohio, leaving Leah to spend their time apart with her family. As a reader, if you feel that Amish life, so simple and uncomplicated, would make for a boring read, think again! Plain life contains all the emotions, intrigue, mistakes, and joys that are present in any lives. Even in close-knit Lancaster County, things are not always as they seem and the reticence native to the Amish often seems to cause some of the very problems, leaving words unsaid and situations misinterpreted. Yet through all the struggles, the commitment of the characters to their community and their faith in God continuing strong becomes the adhesive that holds them together.

This book will appeal more to women readers. Younger women in high school will definitely enjoy its story of courting-age young men and women, the courting customs of the Amish, and the ways in which their faith is interwoven throughout their lives.

Ceil Carey

***The Jericho Sanction : a novel / Oliver North and Joe Musser.* LCCN 2004266696. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2003. Hardbound, \$24.99.**

F. United States--Marine Corps--Fiction; Nuclear weapons--Iraq--Fiction; Middle East--Fiction; Suspense fiction; Christian fiction. xxi, 553 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 3

Will Israel use nuclear weapons preemptively if threatened by a Middle Eastern adversary? What role will the United States play in the escalating terrorism in that region? Oliver North gives readers a detailed thrill ride through potential scenarios in *The Jericho Sanction*, a continuation of *Mission Compromised* and its protagonist, Marine hero Peter Newman.

Newman finds himself working in tandem with Ze'ev Rotem, an Israeli intelligence officer, racing to discover the whereabouts of nuclear weapons in Iraq before Saddam Hussein launches them at Israel. Meanwhile, Russian spy Dimitri Komulakov is hunting Newman with deadly intentions; then Newman and the Israeli find both their wives have been kidnapped.

Tension escalates as each nation tries to reach its goals while thwarting those of their enemies. Many loose ends are tied up in the final chapter, but not all—Komulakov roars away with one of the three nuclear weapons.

With a multi-layered series of intricate mini-plots similar to Tom Clancy's political suspense tales, *The Jericho Sanction* demands concentration and interest in the details of governments, military actions, and current events. North and Musser have woven together a story combining so much reality with fiction, it's a bit disconcerting to return to one's "real" life. For authenticity's sake, North performed much on-the-scenes research and gives readers plenty of fodder for thought about the megathemes of terrorism and Middle Eastern affairs. Adults and older high school readers who like lots of action alongside heavy description and detail, and those who are intrigued by current day events in the Middle East will enjoy *The Jericho Sanction*.

Karen Schmidt

***The beloved land / Janette Oke & T. Davis Bunn. (Song of Acadia ; 5.)* LCCN 2002009549. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2002. Paperbound, \$11.99.**

F. United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Fiction; Acadians--Fiction; Sisters--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 285 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

The Beloved Land is the fifth book of The Song of Acadia series written by Janette Oke and T. Davis Bunn. This particular book finds Anne and Nicole trying to make it back home to see their ailing father in Georgetown before his death. It is set during the time of the American Revolution and both women find travel to be especially difficult. Anne seeks passage with her husband Thomas from England, leaving her young son behind to be cared for by Charles and Judith. Nicole must make her way from Massachusetts with her soon-to-be husband Gordon, who was once a British officer now

turned American sympathizer. This book details the two women's struggles to make it home and their struggles with trusting God to handle the situation before them both.

I found this book to be interesting but somewhat confusing, not having read the earlier four titles. I would highly recommend reading these books in the order they were written to fully experience the engaging and emotional writing of Oke and Bunn.

Sherri Myers

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***Emma's journal* / Ed Rowell. LCCN 2003008735. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2003. Paperbound, \$10.99.**

F. Christian fiction. 164 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : *5

Emma Estes is an elderly widow who always writes in her journal on the first day of each new year that she wants to make a difference in someone's life that year. When she dies from a stroke, her son and daughter finally come home. They have both stayed away—Judy because of her shameful past and Stuart his neglect. When Judy's daughter finds Emma's journal, she catches a glimpse into her grandmother's life. Promising to return the next day for some of Emma's items, Judy and Ashley leave the house. However, Stuart's wife quickly cleans out the house by donating everything to charity and the journal disappears. A worker for the charity finds the journal and keeps it instead of giving it back, feeling the urge to read it first. And so a hunt begins for the journal, and wonderful changes occur to each person in this story due to the inspiring words written by Emma's hand.

Emma's Journal is a touching and life-changing book. Written by a multi-talented pastor and author, this book is one that will remain on my bookshelf for years to come and will be reread often. The strength of Emma's love for and trust in God is truly something every Christian should strive for. This amazing book reminds each of us that living a faithful life dedicated to God can and will make a difference in our own life and others' lives too. One person living with God as the Master in his life can truly change the world. If you only read one book this whole year, be sure it's this one. I am certainly thankful I did and have started my own journal to hopefully enable myself to live as Emma did.

Sherri Myers

***Only the wind remembers* / by Marlo Schalesky. LCCN 2003009488. Chicago : Moody, 2003. Paperbound, \$12.99.**

F. Ishi, d. 1916--Fiction; Indians of North America--Museums--Fiction; Women museum curators--Fiction; Yana Indians--Fiction; California--Fiction; Biographical fiction; Christian fiction. 376 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

Being the assistant curator of the new Museum of Anthropology in San Francisco, and wife of the youngest anthropologist at the University, validates Allison Morgan's existence. The only person who knows the hidden secrets of her past is the proud and mean-spirited Mrs. Whitson, her benefactress.

When Ishi, the last of the Yahi Indian tribe, comes to live at the museum, he perceives the hurt inside Allison and determines she must learn his language. She must be the one to hear the story of Yuna. With compassion and love, Ishi relates a legend that changes everyone's heart—even Mrs. Whitson's.

Only the Wind Remembers by Marlo Schalesky is based on the true story of Ishi, the last remaining member of the Yahi tribe. A historical page is included on how Ishi came to Oroville, California in 1911, and lived out his life with an anthropologist at the University of San Francisco. A page of Indian words is included at the back of the book.

This heart tugging, enticing historical romance will appeal to high schoolers as well as adults. The authentic sounding legend of Yuna lends itself to what Jesus did for his children. A great work of fiction. Schalesky is also a columnist for *Power for Living*.

Maxine Cambra

***More than a dream* / Lauraine Snelling. (Return to Red River ; 3.) LCCN 2002152648. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003. Paperbound, \$12.99.**

F. Epidemics--Fiction; Floods--Fiction; Journalists--Fiction; Minnesota--Fiction; North Dakota--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 316 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 5

More Than a Dream is the third book in the Return to Red River historical series, and continues the story of Thorliff Bjorklund (from Blessing, North Dakota, finishing his college in Northfield, Minnesota) and Elizabeth Rogers (from Northfield, seeking a college where she can further her degree in medicine).

Snelling toggles chapters back and forth from Blessing to Northfield. In Blessing readers gets acquainted with Thorliff's parents and siblings. At Northfield Elizabeth's father runs the newspaper where Thorliff works, writing columns and serialized stories. Elizabeth spends the summer in Chicago, working in a hospital in a ghetto area, and is invited to be the first student at a new medical school. In Chicago the plot thickens, interesting characters are added, danger lurks, and love blooms.

The harshness of life in the late 1800s is underlined as mothers die in childbirth, farm accidents take lives, and the rampaging Red River wipes out farms and homes and leaves a cholera epidemic in its wake. A strong faith in God gives Snelling's characters depth. The

Bjorklund Family Tree at the beginning of the book is helpful in following the many Norwegian characters.

If Snelling's Red River of the North Series is any guide, there could be several more titles in this series. Suitable for high school students.

Helen Hunter

***Cannery Row* / John Steinbeck ; with an introduction by Susan Shillinglaw. LCCN 93011713. New York : Penguin Books, 1994. Paperbound, \$11.00.**

F. Cannery Row (Monterey, Calif.)--Fiction; Monterey (Calif.)--Fiction; Marine biologists--Fiction; Community life--Fiction; Love stories. xxx, 185 p. ; 20 cm.

Grades 10-Adult / Rating : 5

Cannery Row, Monterey, CA. Mack and his tramps, Gay, Hazel, Eddie, Hughie, Jones, and later, Henri are the main impetus of the story. They decide to give Doc of Western Biological Laboratories a party to show their appreciation for his "goodness." The community joins in: Lee Chong, entrepreneur and owner of a thriving grocery store; Dora Flood, madam of the Bear Flag Restaurant; Mr. and Mrs. Malloy, squatters, living in a discarded cannery boiler. From a disastrous frog hunt to the final success of the unbirthday party, Cannery Row speaks of the generosity of the human spirit

John Steinbeck, an American institution, is at his best in this comedy of errors. The author administers large doses of philosophy, but the reader admits that this foundation clearly explains the bumbling behavior of the group that Steinbeck charitably calls "the Virtues, the Graces, the Beauties." The trail of the story is not always in a straight line; the detours into descriptions of the natural habitat draw a backdrop against which the narrative suddenly re-emerges. Cannery Row is not told from the Christian point-of-view. The inhabitants are prostitutes and hard-drinkers. But, the story is worth the read because it gives insight into human behavior.

Su Hagerly

***Circle of honor* / Carol Umberger. (The Scottish crown series ; 1.) LCCN 2002069074. Bedford, Tex.: Integrity Publishers, 2002. Paperbound, 1591450055, \$12.99.**

F. Scotland--History--War of Independence, 1285-1371--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. vii, 292 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12) / Rating : 3

***The price of freedom* / Carol Umberger. (The Scottish crown series ; 2.) LCCN 2002038834. Bedford, Tex.: Integrity Publishers, 2003. Paperbound, 1591450063, \$12.99.**

F. Scotland--History--War of Independence, 1285-1371--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. v, 280 p. ; 22 cm.
Adult (Grades 11-12). / Rating: 3

Mark of salvation / Carol Umberger. (The Scottish crown series ; 3.) LCCN 2003015140. Bedford, Tex.: Integrity Publishers, 2003. Paperbound, 1591450071, \$12.99.

F. Scotland--History--War of Independence, 1285-1371--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. vii, 262 p. ; 22 cm.
Adult (Grades 11-12). / Rating: 3

Carol Umberger's *The Scottish Crown* series tracks the events of the war between England and Scotland—between King Edward, and Robert the Bruce—in the 1300's. *Circle of Honor* is the strongest book in the series, describing a young noblewoman, Gwenyth, who is caught and raped by an enemy clan member. Her attacker, jealous of Adam Mackintosh, who has legitimate claim to lead Clan Chattan, falsely accuses Adam of committing the crime, and threatens Gwenyth if she does not agree to accuse Adam. Gwenyth, seeing no way out of the situation, accuses Adam of the rape, but instead of demanding his death, as she has the right to do, she chooses to be handfast to him, thus sparing the innocent man his life. They both agree that at the end of the one year chaste handfast, they will separate, as is legally allowed; however, Adam's kindness and protection helps heal Gwenyth's emotional scars far more than she dreamed possible. The two of them must sort out their complicated family and political situations before deciding to trust one another and enter into a true marriage relationship.

In *The Price of Freedom* Bryan Dubh, the Black Knight, is the illegitimate Scottish son of Robert the Bruce. Bryan serves his father unswervingly in all matters of war, even if it means marrying Lady Kathryn of Homelea against his wishes, and then burning her estate to the ground to prevent the English from using it as a stronghold. Kathryn desperately needs the protection of a man for herself and her illegitimate daughter against the wicked Lord Carelton, who would use her as a pawn for his pleasure. Reluctantly united in marriage, their relationship eventually becomes based on true love rather than mere obligation.

The Mark of Salvation describes the agonizing secret of Cellach, once a Templar Knight, now a hunted and broken man. Falsely accused of heresy, and hideously tortured, he confesses to any sin laid to his name, betrays the friend he loved most, and betrays his Savior, Jesus Christ—anything to avoid the pain. He eventually escapes from prison and goes to fight with Robert the Bruce who makes him guardian of Countess Orelia, an English widow. Almost against his will, Cellach falls in love with Orelia, but the vows he makes as a monk and Templar Knight seem to prevent him from marrying her. Once he comes to realize the unconditional love

of God, despite the worst of his failures, Cellach finds himself free to love again as God intended him to.

There is a sameness about these three books, all of which revolve around true love being found between a man and woman initially forced into an unwilling relationship with each other—the man being noble and honorable, the woman being in desperate need of protection of some kind. However, the series provides an interesting look at historical events in fourteenth-century England, and is full of interesting details about the times, customs, and real people of the era.

Sherri Beeler

Happily ever after / Susan May Warren. (Heart quest.) LCCN 2002151822. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2003. Paperbound, \$9.99.

F. Minnesota--Fiction; Women book sellers--Fiction. xxv, 347 p. ; 21 cm.
Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

Mona Reynolds' dreams are finally beginning to come true. With the purchase of an old Victorian house in Deep Haven, Minnesota, near the shores of Lake Superior, she and her best friend Liza can open the Footstep of Heaven Bookstore and Coffee Shop. Realizing they will never have the rather dilapidated house restored by themselves in the six weeks before the tourist season officially begins, they seek a handyman to help them get the house repaired.

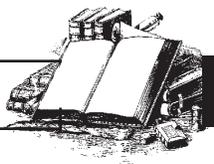
Joe Michaels seems to be in the right place at the right time and just happens to be looking for work and a place to stay. He has his own reasons for being in Deep Haven, but he's not about to reveal them to Mona and Liza. He proves himself to be a hardworking jack-of-all-trades, and as Liza points out to Mona, Joe seems to be everything that Mona wants in her perfect mate. It's too bad that Joe is a wandering drifter set to leave town when the restoration job is finished. Or is he?

Mona and Joe both are afraid to love and trust others, but through their mutual dependency on each other, and God's caring for them, they begin to face their pasts together while trusting in God's guidance. As Joe reminds us, God is the author of dreams, and he will help us fulfill them, sometimes just not quite in the way we thought they would be fulfilled. We just need to trust in God's wisdom to see us through to the end and not give up along the way.

Susan May Warren has written a heartwarming book that I found very difficult to put aside. I was reminded throughout the book about how trusting in God always sees us through any situation, even when we feel like it is useless to go on. Mixed with bits of humor and mystery, this romance is perfect for curling up by the fire or reading in bed. When done with this book,

you will yearn for more and won't be able to forget about Mona and Joe long past the final page is turned.

Sherri Myers



000's—Generalities

Serving older teens / edited by Sheila B. Anderson. (Libraries Unlimited professional guides for young adult librarians.) LCCN 2003061053. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2004. Hardbound, \$38.50.

027.62'6. Libraries and teenagers--United States; Young adults' libraries--Activity programs--United States; Young adults' libraries--Collection development--United States; Teenagers--Books and reading--United States; Young adult literature--Bibliography. xxiv, 240 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Adult / Rating : 5

Serving Older Teens is intended for young adult librarians, public library generalists, reference librarians, and children's librarians. It can be used by Christian school and small school librarians and teachers to choose titles that are more customized for the school collection and public library services for older teens (ages 16-19). Anderson and the other four contributors have extensive experience in working with teens

Chapter 1 discusses topics enabling librarians to understand older teens. Chapter 2 offers detailed information about nonfiction resources for teens. Chapter 3 offers ideas for creating and maintaining a space in public libraries for older teens. Chapters 4 to 7 offer thorough lists of young adult fiction and non-fiction interest titles, as well as subdivided lists devoted to topics like family problems, high school life, and pregnancy and parenting.

Recommended as a title for collection development responsive to older teens. Young adult librarians and teachers working with older teens will gain insight into what older teens are currently reading and interested in, as well as specific titles to consider for various topics. (Editor's note: use with caution; not written from a Christian point of view.)

Leroy Hommerding

100's—Philosophy & Psychology

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Boundaries face to face : how to have that difficult conversation you've been avoiding / Henry Cloud and John Townsend. LCCN 2003015623. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2003. Hardbound, \$22.99.

158.2. Conflict management--Religious aspects--Christianity; Conversation--Religious aspects--Christianity; Oral communications--Religious aspects--Christianity; Interpersonal conflicts--Religious aspects; Interpersonal relations--Religious aspects. 266 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult / Rating : *5

Confrontations have long been looked upon as situations to avoid at all costs, but healthy confrontational techniques actually draw people closer together and encourage longer lasting relationships. Using anecdotal-style examples, Dr.'s Cloud and Townsend present patterns to model in dealing with hurtful behavior. What do you do when a co-worker contradicts everything you say? How do you handle an embarrassing situation with a parent without permanently estranging them? Where do you draw the line with spouse and children between caring for them and being their doormat? These are just some of the situations addressed in *Boundaries Face to Face*. In this companion to *Boundaries: When to Say Yes, When to Say No to Take Control of Your Life* (Zondervan, 2002) the authors present easy to understand and follow examples of how to balance grace and truth to bring about neutral ground in otherwise volatile situations. As speakers and radio cohosts for the New Life Live! radio broadcast and co-authors of various books on how to encourage healthy relationships, Cloud and Townsend reach multiple thousands of people every year. Through the use of role-playing to aid in understanding the other person's position, they teach people how to prepare for and have more effective "boundary conversations."

Dr. Cloud is a clinical psychologist with expertise in adult psychotherapy, biblical models of personality functioning, and character and spiritual facets of psychopathology. Dr. Townsend is also a clinical psychologist, but with expertise more devoted to marriage, family, and child therapy. Highly recommended for self-help, group studies, and personal collections.

Kim Harris

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The message : the Bible in contemporary language / Eugene H. Peterson. LCCN 2002024653. Colorado Springs : NavPress, 2002. Hardbound, \$39.99.

220.5'209. Bible. English. Message. 2002. 2265 p. ; 24 cm.

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

Eminently readable, written to encourage people to make the Bible an intimate part of their lives, *The Message* grips attention from the beginning

of Genesis, holding that interest all the way through to the end of Revelation, "The grace of the Master Jesus be with all of you. Oh, Yes!" Using today's words garnered from students and lay people, omitting verse numbers and arranging in paragraphs to help thought flow and invite the reader into the narrative, but not simplifying thoughts into oblivion, *The Message* presents God's word as a vital, personal message to you. A preface and introduction provide pertinent information about each book and author. A friendly, thought provoking prologue opens each section and each book.

In the transition from Hebrew and Greek professor with interested students to a pastor with a congregation discouraged with personal Bible reading caused pastor, scholar, writer, and poet Eugene Peterson to think deeply about ways to expand the biblical imagination and hunger of his people. Out of this transition grew *The Message*, a paraphrasing translation that inspires leisurely, thoughtful, interest filled, enjoyable Bible reading. As Peterson points out, this is not a study Bible, but rather a reading Bible. He encourages the concomitant use of "a standard study Bible to facilitate further study." *The Message* is for all ages. Uses include family devotions, youth, adult, and intergenerational study groups, reading to an audience, individual recreational and devotional reading, and religion classes. Recommended for all libraries.

Donna Eggert

200's—Religion

Life in biblical Israel / Philip J. King, Lawrence E. Stager. (Library of ancient Israel.) LCCN 2001026334. Louisville, Ky. : Westminster John Knox, 2001. Hardbound, \$44.95.

221.9'5. Jews--Social life and customs--To 70 A.D.; Palestine--Social life and customs--To 70 A.D.; Bible--Antiquities. xxii, 440 p. : ill., maps ; 26 cm.

Adult / Rating : 5

King and Stager, with the assistance of others, recreate the lifeways and mental attitudes of the biblical Israelites. They seek data in ancient texts (including the Bible in a major role), inscriptions, archaeologist finds, iconography, and ethnography. The discussion and recreation is oriented around topics, e.g., family ways, gender ways, death ways, work ways, religious ways. King's experience and command of biblical studies, and Stager's expertise with archaeological research and the Mediterranean cultures give this work depth.

The discussion is easy to follow as vocabulary and examples, augmented with 175 full-color pictures and illustrations, enable the general reader to grasp the social realities of the ancient Israelites. The vivid description is not in terms of wars, leaders, or elite society but describes how the common person lived during biblical times. Those desiring further research on specific points will find the careful footnotes, bibliography, index of biblical passages and ancient sources, index of modern authors, and general subject index of much help. While the book is too heavy for one continuous reading for many readers, it enables one to probe specific topics or biblical passages for insight. This text will be worthy of addition in libraries.

Recommended for public libraries offering exposes of ancient civilizations, having a collection enabling biblical study, or ones enabling users to utilize primary sources for study of earlier events and documents. This is a must for any detailed collection on biblical studies.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

***The great book : the New Testament of our Lord Jesus Christ in plain English.* Shippensburg, Pa. : Destiny Image, 2003. Hardbound, \$19.99.**

225.5. Bible. N.T. English. xix, 523 p. ; 24 cm.
Adult (Grades 4-12) / Rating : 4

This new translation, *The Great Book*, remains true to the original texts while providing the scripture in easy to read format, using understandable, contemporary English. The introduction presents the authors' aims emphases for this translation, reasons for writing, and Bible based beliefs. Helpful aids in the body of this New Testament include footnotes and Old Testament references on each page, outlined key verses in bold lettering, both paragraph format and numbering of each verse, paragraph headings, and italics and bold face for important words and phrases. A small, competent Scripture Index concludes this book.

Renowned language and Bible scholars comprise the translation group, The International Bible Translators, Inc. Endorsements for this New Testament include noted names from several denominations, missions, and professions. Printed on strong paper, this book has a sturdy binding. This version generally reads understandably with other versions including the King James. Because of the simple, accurate English, *The Great Book* will be of value to adults learning to read. Listed under adult non-fiction, this New Testament is actually for all ages interested in reading the Bible, elementary through high school, as well as adults.

Donna Eggett

***Secure in God's embrace : living as the Father's adopted child* / Ken Fong. LCCN 2003010915. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2003. Paperbound, \$11.00.**

231'.6. Adoption (Theology); God--Love. 129, [1] p. ; 21 cm.
Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

Ken Fong, himself the adoptive father of a young daughter, uses the analogy of adoption throughout this book exploring the extravagant love of God for each of us. He focuses on the theme of adoption and the way in which God chooses to love us and make us part of his family.

Fong weaves his own story of the infertility that he and his wife suffered through their quest for a family, and ultimately the addition of a daughter to their family. He demonstrates the parallel of God's wonderful and abiding love for his children and the secure love each Christian can enjoy. He particularly uses the insights he has learned and compares them to "kisses," God's holy breath, both at human birth and at spiritual birth. The author's goal is that the reader will experience security in God's embrace and love.

Although any Christian will be blessed by reading *Secure in God's Embrace*, those that either have adopted a child or been adopted themselves, will be particularly blessed and encouraged by the comparisons in this book between human adoption—frail though it might be—with God's limitless and deliberate love for us.

Ceil Carey

***The perfect date : God's only answer for finding true love* / Joshua & Kerry Williams. Enumclaw, Wash. : WinePress, 2003. Paperbound, \$11.99.**

241.4. Dating (Social customs); Interpersonal relationships. 157 p. : 22 cm.
Grades 10-12 / Rating : 3

Picture your perfect date. Does it involve soft music, candlelight, a fine dinner? Does it involve sweaty palms, butterflies in your stomach? Or is it something that has never been thought of yet?

Joshua and Kerry Williams, in their new book *The Perfect Date* explore such subjects as no dating, waiting on God, and matters of the heart. Joshua and Kerry share straightforward, no nonsense answers for these questions and more. They share their amazing, true testimony of how God allowed them to pattern their relationship after the most romantic love story ever told, that of Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 24). Like the Old Testament couple they agreed to marry having never seen or spoken to one another. Braving the odds, Joshua and Kerry decided to take the leap and allow God to work his plan, his own way in their lives.

Joshua Williams, raised in a Christian home as a pastor's son, is a strong believer in the crucified life. Kerry Williams was raised in Scotland, half way across the world from her future husband. Though she was not raised in a Christian home, Kerry found the Lord through the help of a friend at the age of 15. They have learned that true love is something much deeper than they every imagined. Their union was truly formed by God and not based on human emotions or circumstances.

Rick Estep

***A musician looks at the Psalms : 365 daily meditations* / by Don Wyrzten. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2004. Paperbound, \$19.99.**

242'.5. Bible. Meditations. O.T. Psalms; Music in the Bible--Meditations; Devotional calendars. 404 p. : 23 cm.
Adult / Rating : 5

Don Wyrzten is a "statesman of Christian music" and has composed or arranged over 400 anthems and sacred songs. This book is an everlasting example of how a modern day psalter can apply the precepts and promises from the 150 Psalms to modern-day life. As a trained composer and theologian, he has made a considerable contribution through this revised devotional piece of literature. Since its' first publication in the 70's, *A Musician Looks at the Psalms* has guided readers through the sometimes shallow expectations of daily living by applying the ancient lessons and parables of the Psalms to the workplace, the home, and the temple of the heart. Designed as a book of "365 Daily Meditations," each day begins with the Psalm and is followed by a personal testimony and a prayer. Gospel lyrics and hymns from our modern musical repertoire are linked to these daily themes where applicable.

The intimate origins of this devotional work arose from a grieving heart for the loss of two loved ones, his mother and his pastor, early in his career. He found strength in Psalm 40:1-3 and a friend recommended that he share his spiritual and musical pilgrimage with the world. He adds from his testimonies and training to the lyrical language of those searching for a more authentic relationship with God.

Worship meditations range in thesis from the "Suffering Servant" to "True Prosperity" as explored through the eyes and emotions of a music minister and Bible therapist. Grounded in scripture with an emphasis on sharing, and musically creative with a spirit of gratitude, this inspirational paperback is a soul nurturing labor of love for any reader. His witness is particularly adept for the musical artist. Wyrzten's timeless themes are not tied to current events but rather current challenges that involve longstanding issues of sustenance, relationships and human ambition. An excellent series of

seasonal devotions for believers seeking to “strip away some of the superficialities” of life.

Song credits and a brief subject index at the end of the book.

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo

***Don't waste your life* / John Piper. LCCN 2003007833. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 2003. Paperbound, \$12.99.**

248.4. Christian life. 191 p. : 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12) / Rating : 5

John Piper, theologian, writer, and pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, is known for his passionate calls to all Christians to glorify God by being utterly satisfied in him. In his new book, Piper explores some of the implications of a God-glorifying life as he urges every believer, “don't waste your life!”

Piper's father was an evangelist, and as a boy John remembers being struck by one of his father's sermon illustrations. A man converted only on his deathbed cries out concerning his life, “I've wasted it! I've wasted it!” This was one means God used to animate John not to waste his own life.

At Wheaton in 1966 Piper was laid flat with mono in the college's health center, and there he committed himself to reject the existentialist American culture surrounding him and dedicate his life to the ministry of the Word. Piper shares insights he gleaned in those formative days from his two great earthly luminaries, Jonathan Edwards and C.S. Lewis, and he builds the foundation of his case that only a life lived for God's glory is a life not wasted.

In succeeding chapters Piper applies some of Paul's famous life-unifying statements: Paul “boasts only in the cross” and proclaims that for him “to live is Christ and to die is gain.” Piper urges upon believers a life of faith-filled risk, and he stirringly calls Christians to give up the banal pleasures of the world and invest their lives in the eternal purposes of God. He explains why this vision will not make everyone a missionary—and dedicates a chapter to the topic of living for God's glory in the workplace—but then calls for more believers to spread Christ's glory among the heathen.

Don't Waste Your Life constitutes a ringing summons to all Christians.

Mark L. Ward, Jr.

***365 days of celebration and praise : daily devotions and activities for homeschooling families* / Julie Lavender ; foreword by Maureen McCaffrey Williamson. LCCN 2003005199. San Francisco : Jossey-Bass, 2003. Paperbound, \$13.95.**

249. Family--Prayer-books and devotions--English; Home schooling--Prayer-books and devotions--English; Devotional calendars. xxii, 377 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Adult / Rating : 3

Julie Lavender, a former editor of *Homeschooling Today* magazine, briefly presents a myriad of ideas and unusual subject matter in *365 Days of Celebration & Praise*. Well known and expected dates such as Reformation Day, National Bible Week, and Flag Day are blended in with Insect Appreciation Day, Bingo Month (December), and the anniversary of the patenting of liquid soap. For each celebration, Lavender offers a sentence or two of background, a few discussion questions, an activity (a craft, food item or interactive idea), a curriculum connection, a verse to memorize, and a prayer suggestion. Curriculum connections vary from math equations, history and geography ideas, writing prompts, science discovery, and social concerns. Content is suited to most ages from late preschool through elementary.

The introductory background about each day's highlight is interesting and informative, and Lavender does a commendable job of relating each commemoration to a Scriptural concept. Homeschoolers—and parents in general—who like eclectic ideas or who seek unusual angles to tie in Scripture will appreciate borrowing this book. Other potential audiences might be preschool and private school elementary teachers and those who work with children regularly.

Karen Schmidt

***The Minirth guide for Christian counselors* / Frank Minirth. Nashville, Tenn. : Broadman & Holman, 2003. Paperbound, \$19.99.**

253.5. Counseling--Religious aspects--Christianity. 191 p. : 23 cm.

Adult / Rating : 5

As individuals grow in Christ, “many problems in counseling abate.” Therefore, Dr. Frank Minirth emphasizes the Bible as the main guide to life. The author, however, includes excellent secular help in *The Minirth Guide for Christian Counselors*. Several chapters stress four common emotions—anxiety, depression, anger, and guilt. Homework assignments for the counselee address common topics: burnout, worry, guilt, losing weight, knowing God's will, handling anger, and methods to make better grades.

This book provides diverse resources such as forms for the counselor, self-reporting for counsees with various types of problems, and the DSM-IV Classification of Mental Disorders covers nearly 20 pages.

The author stresses God's love, universal human sin, kindness to other people, and “our overwhelming need for Christ to bring a sense

of completion to our lives.” The KJV, NKJV, and NASB are commonly cited Bible translations. Dr. Minirth promotes a trichotomous (rather than a dichotomous) person viewpoint. Each individual possesses a body, a soul, and a spirit.

Roberta Lou Jones

***The Christmas book : friendship : a resource for leaders and mentors* / [Geri Vooy]. Grand Rapids : Faith Alive, 2003. Paperbound, \$39.95.**

259.4. Christmas; People with mental disabilities; Church work with people with disabilities; Church work with people with mental disabilities. 163 p. : ill. ; 28 cm.

Adult / Rating : 4

The Christmas Book provides two Christmas session plans—each part provides scripture, a key Biblical truth, group session goals and mentoring session goals—for use with people with mental disabilities. The two cover the Christmas story in Luke and the story about the wise men. “The mission of Friendship Ministries is to share God's love with people who have mental impairments and to enable them to become an active part of God's family.” Mentoring is the key to the philosophy of this text. “Mentor Helplines” provide alternate ideas if “your friend” has reading and comprehension issues.

The curriculum is developed into focusing on God's word through history, prophecy, and symbolism. In a six-step process participants are guided from greeting God, to preparing and listening to his story, reflecting on its truths, to finally living and growing with God's word. Leader tips with suggested songs, audiovisual support, dramas, ideas for worship, craft activities, service projects, patterns, signing, and other resources are provided for the Advent season. Optional ways to approach each story makes this a versatile mentoring manual. Patterns, signing, craft activities, celebration ideas and service projects are clearly illustrated with eye-catching black and white cartoon sketches. All the materials may be photocopied, so one book can be shared with groups and leaders.

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo

***Jesus and the hip-hop prophets : spiritual insights from Lauryn Hill and Tupac Shakur* / Alex Gee and John Teter. LCCN 2003016147. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2003. Paperbound, \$7.00.**

261.5'78. Spiritual life--Christianity; Hip-hop--Religious aspects--Christianity; Hill, Lauryn; Shakur, Tupac. 116 p. : 18 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

Jesus and the Hip-Hop Prophets is not for everyone. It is well written, an easy read not only in length but also in style and will

definitely appeal to the young person who is familiar with hip-hop and the likes of Lauryn Hill and 2Pac. Teter and Gee know their stuff, both the truth of God's Word and how to convey it to teens. They know the vernacular and also where the needs of youth lie and what teens are searching and seeking for.

The authors use the lyrics of singers Hill and 2Pac to reach kids for Christ. Offensive words in these lyrics are ***ed out although some slang that may be considered crude is included. This approach is not conventional but for those teens—hurting, needing Christ, and relating to the music of today's world—it could be the very thing they have been waiting to hear regarding Christianity.

Cecil Carey

***Why not women? : a fresh look at Scripture on women in missions, ministry, and leadership* / Loren Cunningham, David J. Hamilton ; with Janice Rogers. Seattle, Wash. : YWAM Publishing, 2000. Paperbound, 1576581837, \$14.99.**

270.082. Women in Christianity--History; Women in church work--History; Women in the Bible; Bible--Study and teaching. 279 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Adult / Rating : 3

A Bible study/teaching volume, *Why Not Women?* speaks to the women in ministry controversy, presenting deeply considered and researched arguments encouraging women to work in Christian ministry. This book is a dialogue with the author's name heading each chapter. Starting with reasons for women in ministry, the introductory chapters progress ever deeper into the subject: the authors' experience with women in ministry; Christian and world history; Jesus and Paul's affirmation of women. Then David Hamilton uses his own translations of the original Greek of the scriptures to explain the pro-woman emphasis in 1 Corinthians 11 and 14, and 1 Timothy 2. A recommended reading list and the extensive footnotes for each chapter close this book.

Founder of Youth With A Mission, Loren Cunningham brings pertinent experience of his own and his fellow workers, both men and women, to *Why Not Women?* Missionary, scholar David Hamilton based his master's thesis on what the Bible says about women in ministry. With each subject growing systematically from simple introduction to in depth study, this book is easy to follow and cultivates interest. Explanatory illustrations illuminate new ideas. Unusual words are fully explained. Written by men, there is an emphasis on the reciprocal work of men and women for the Lord. A useful reference book, the information in *Why Not Women?* will interest parents and teachers seeking to guide young women feeling a call towards Christian ministry.

Donna Eggett

300's—Social Sciences

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***Marching to a different drum : successful learning for all kids* / Arthur P. Attwell. LCCN 2002107011. Enumclaw, Wash. : WinePress, 2003. Paperbound, \$11.95.**

370.15'2. Cognitive styles; Learning; Learning. Psychology of. 141 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult / Rating : *5

Why does one child seem to learn so easily and another just doesn't "get it"? In his unusual book, *Marching to a Different Drum*, Dr. Arthur P. Attwell hands the reader six keys to understand how to unwrap the gift of a child's learning. His keys include, An unfolding of natural abilities, love, peace, trust, joy, and commitment. "Whole-brain" learning places styles of learning into seven categories: verbal-linguistic, mathematical-logical, visual-spatial, bodily-kinesthetic, musical-rhythmic, interpersonal, and intrapersonal. "Once learning strengths are identified and special learning styles addressed, abilities will emerge and begin to flow." (pp. 24-25)

Attwell, with words strong and direct, addresses teaching to the broad spectrum of individual learning styles. The format of the book is teacher-friendly. The layout is standardized. Chapters two through eight present the "six keys to optimize learning for kids." (Contents). The explanation of the key is followed by a variety of activities that can readily be tailored to fit the unique teaching-learning situation. While *Marching to a Different Drum* is written from the Christian point-of-view, including quotations from the Bible, the contents are equally applicable to any secular situation. The book's auxiliary features include contents, acknowledgements, foreword, preface, "We Haven't Turned Out Yet," a recipe for nutritious play.

Su Hagerty

***The heart of home schooling : teaching & living what really matters* / Christopher Klicka. LCCN 2003266745. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2002. Paperbound, \$12.99.**

371.04'2. Home schooling--Biblical teaching. xxii, 218 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult / Rating : 4

Christopher Klicka, home-school father and a lawyer with the Home School Legal Defense Association, believes home schooling is a spiritual revival, one in which all Christian families should be involved. Klicka passionately details why he believes the Bible mandates parents educating their children. He provides numerous scriptural references about parents' role in child rearing and devotes three chapters to a father's responsibility in this area.

His wife, Tracey, writes to mothers in another chapter. Klicka also discusses how to teach a biblical worldview, why teens should be taught at home, and ideas on sharing Christ both locally and outside one's home country. He concludes with an urgent recap of his premise and how it will impact one's family in eternity.

The Heart of Home Schooling is unique in its male perspective. Klicka places the weight of responsibility for education—spiritual and academic—unflinchingly on the shoulders of husbands and fathers. His experience as a home school parent and as representative of the home schooling movement add weight to his practical ideas. It would be difficult to read this book and be unaffected by Klicka's bold assertions. He's zealous in his position on home education and parental responsibility for spiritual training. His chapter on understanding suffering, including meaningful personal examples and a brief theology of the subject, applies to any Christian, home schooler or not. Recommend this book to parents on the fence about home schooling and to those who hunger for encouragement on the topic.

Karen Schmidt

600's—Technology (Applied Sciences)

***An unexpected joy : the gift of parenting a challenging child* / Mary Sharp. LCCN 2003008365. Colorado Springs, Colo. : Pinon Press, 2003. Paperbound, \$12.99.**

618.92'8982. Javier, John Dominic Mahlon--Mental health; Sharp, Mary, MD; Autism in children--Patients--United States--Biography; Mothers--United States--Biography; Caregivers--United States--Biography. 141 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult / Rating : 5

If we truly believe that when God calls he also provides, then it doesn't take long to see the plan in *An Unexpected Joy* by Mary Sharp M.D. Dr. Sharp takes us on a journey, introducing us to her Nic. He is a special child who was undiagnosed for a long period of time, but whose life defined the comings and goings of Mary, her husband, Raphael, also a doctor. Nic is the pivot-point of the family because he is autistic. From a hyperactive infant to a sheltered preteen, Nic's story helps supply answers to families who also have their own unexpected joy, a special needs child.

Above all, Mary Sharp is frank in her telling of the story. The format of the book divides life into categories, such as "Compulsions and Obsessions" and "Schooling," for instance. Every section is a fountain of information for the uninformed but searching reader. Snippets of wisdom include "We had to let a lot of dreams die," (page 32) but "Letting a child be a tragedy is a form of disrespect." (page 43) Sometimes this mother advises to "Find a solution that allows him to save face," (page 55). Other times

she realistically affirms that there is no specific way to handle a tantrum; just ride it out. (page 57) The narrative is superb story-telling, each anecdote building to a greater understanding of the mystery of autism.

Su Hagerty

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***More-with-less : a world community cookbook* / Doris Janzen Longacre ; foreword by Mary Emma Showalter Eby ; foreword to Anniversary edition by Mary Beth Lind. LCCN 33473. Scottsdale, Pa. : Herald Press, 2000. Paperbound, \$13.99.**

641.5'66. Cookery, Mennonite. viii, 328 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 8-12) / Rating : *5

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***Extending the table : a world community cookbook* / Joetta Handrich Schlabach, Kristina Mast Burnett, recipe editor. LCCN 91014756. Scottsdale, Pa. : Herald Press, 1991. Paperbound, \$13.99.**

641.59. Cookery, International. 332 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 8-12) / Rating : *5

Celebrating its 25th anniversary of helping families to eat well and deliciously, yet frugally, the *More-With-Less Cookbook* still excites the taste buds, helps the pocket book, and joyfully presents the Christian theology of breaking bread together. The forewords and early chapters explain the philosophy of this cookbook, giving workable examples of how and why to eat prudently, yet pleasingly. A section of comparative weights, measurements, substitutions, and dietary information opens the cooking section. Then follows, by categories, all the nutritious, mouth-watering, international recipes. History, proverbs, testimonials, and suggestions are scattered throughout these pages. A large index usefully closes this book.

Following in the footsteps of *More-With-Less*, *Extending the Table* introduces the people, recipes, and joyful hospitality of the third world. The first section explains the Christian values and attitudes encouraged by this book, and provides anecdotes about collecting the recipes worldwide. Recipes range from beverages, soups and breads, main dishes, and festive dishes, to appetizers, condiments, and desserts. Each recipe and section contain details about the people and their food. A scattering of photos, adages, and illustrations add further information. *Extending the Table* closes with an index arranged both geographically and by food.

Mennonite dietician, hostess, and missionary Doris Jantzen called on both home and international mission experience in producing *More-With-Less*. Mennonite missionary, teacher, and home economist Joetta Handrich

uses her worldwide experience with people and food to produce *Extending the Table*. Both these cookbooks immediately catch the new and the experienced cook's imagination. Encouraging generosity, nutrition, and frugality, both cookbooks expressively present a Christian ethic for hospitality involving food. Written simply, offering authentic recipes, with easy-to-follow directions, and thought provoking ideas, these two books will be useful for middle and high school cooking classes, social studies projects, and special assignments. *More-With-Less* and *Extending the Table* are also recommended for families, homeschoolers, adult and youth church groups, and all libraries.

Donna Eggett

800's—Literature & Rhetoric

***The novel 100 : a ranking of the greatest novels of all time* / Daniel S. Burt. LCCN 2003040263. New York : Facts on File, 2003. Hardbound, \$45.00.**

809.3. Fiction--History and criticism. 384 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

Each entry in *The Novel 100* provides a plot summary and assessment, with an emphasis on details about the novel's creation, reception, and contribution to literary history. Burt utilized these standards to arrive at the list of 100: the "test of time" for novels maintaining their importance over the long haul; the prevailing conventions of a particular time that esteem certain works and devalue others; the power of age, culture, gender and personal experience that somehow is able to engage readers with varying assumptions, experiences and techniques of interpretation over time. Novels appear in alphabetical order by title, though an appendix includes a listing of the novels by year of publication. There is also a list of the Second Hundred (honorable mentions).

By considering which novels dominated their eras, the reader is treated to both depth and breadth of this unique artistic form. By evaluating each novel's impact comparatively, the reader is able to get a sense of why each work is important as well as what each is about. I found helpful that classics were included. But more than this I applaud the editor's clear commentary about the aspects of works needing attention, e.g., when discussing *The Age of Innocence* he notes the two strong characters need to face moral dilemmas involving sexual choices, or in *The Counterfeiters* clear mention is made how truth is portrayed—is it relative or absolute? The commentaries include phrases like "never loses its human focus..." or "helping the reader understand..." without promoting a particular bandwagon. Adults yearning to capture the best of what to read, to enrich themselves in classics, or in quality literature

will find much to digest here. Honors high school students who look for particular works will find analysis worthy of their time for the biographical and literary historical context accompanying each look at why the work is important is concise and filled with ideas.

Recommended for public libraries offering reader's advisory, and for those who wish to enable readers to enjoy works of lasting value.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

***Arsenic and old lace, a comedy* / Joseph Kesselring. New York : Dramatist's Play Service, 1995, c1941. Paperbound, \$6.50.**

812.32. American drama (Comedy); Poisoning--Drama: Murder--Drama; Serial murders--Drama. 187 p. 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

Written in 1941, *Arsenic and Old Lace* mixes mystery, mayhem, and farce-comedy into one hilariously captivating play. As the curtain rises, the two benevolent, devout, elderly Brewster sisters have charitably managed to poison twelve aged men and bury them in their basement, which just happens to be the Panama Canal where their nephew, Teddy, who thinks he is President Roosevelt, digs locks. Enter their other nephew, drama critic and bird lover, Mortimer, accompanied by his girlfriend, who just happens to be a minister's daughter. Mix in homicidal nephew, Jonathan, and his sidekick, plastic surgeon Dr. Einstein, and stir it well with several slightly balmy police officers. Three acts of this will have you hilariously exhausted.

Not so very well known playwright, Joseph Kesselring, and his two famous producers Howard Lindsay and Russell Crouse, presented *Arsenic and Old Lace* in January 1941. It ran for a record 1,444 performances. Theater companies, including church groups, still present it. The nature of farce is to make fun of things. In this macabre play Christians, the police, drama critics, murder mysteries, and psychology are brilliantly panned. The stage play's plot differs slightly from the movie's plot. For instance: marriage is not a central theme, and at the finish there is a hint of lust between Mortimer and Elaine. The ample stage directions help both producer and actors. Drama students and teachers will enjoy *Arsenic and Old Lace* as will everybody else who enjoys laughing at themselves.

Donna Eggett

***A family guide to Narnia : biblical truths in C.S. Lewis's The Chronicles of Narnia* / Christin Ditchfield. LCCN 2003003724. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 2003. Paperbound, \$12.99.**

823'.912. Lewis, C.S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963. Chronicles of Narnia; Children--Books and reading--Great Britain--History--20th century; Children's stories, English--History and criticism; Christian fiction, English--History and criticism; Fantasy fiction, English--History and criticism; Narnia (Imaginary place); Bible--In literature. 208 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Adult / Rating : 5

A Family Guide to Narnia is an excellent companion guide to The Chronicles of Narnia series written by C. S. Lewis. It is thorough in its explanations of each reference to the biblical themes that are interwoven throughout the pages of the Narnia books, of which there are seven in the series. This guide goes through each book in the series and explains chapter by chapter each biblical reference and also gives scripture verses for further reading and research. I also found the summation of each book to be well-written and informative. Christin Ditchfield does an exceptional job in her work on this book and it should be on each parent's bookshelf right beside the Narnia series. As this book points out, teaching our children about God through their reading materials need not be a boring process; it can be filled with love and adventure instead.

Sherrri Myers

900's—Geography, History, & Biography

Molokai : the story of Father Damien. Worcester, Pa. : ERA Films; dist. by Vision Video, 1999. Videocassette, \$24.99.

921 (266). Damien, Father, 1840-1889; Catholic Church--Hawaii--Clergy--Biography; Missionaries--Hawaii--Biography; Missionaries--Belgium--Biography. 1 videocassette ; col., 112 min.

Adult / Rating : 5

To deal with the leprosy problem in the Hawaiian Islands in 1872, sufferers were exiled to Molokai, a barren isle off the coast. This deeply moving film, with stellar supporting cast and rich cinematography, blends the documentary aspects of the story in an entertaining drama format. It follows the life of Father Damien in his journey to and on the island, earning the trust of the lepers and continually reaching out to their needs.

The quality cast enables a wide range of viewers, both high school student and adult, to appreciate what one can do in faith, how caring for others is at the heart of our lives, and the realistic challenges a faith-filled life brings. Teachers can utilize this with high-school students, and it's a title for media centers and school and public libraries reaching a timeless audience. An outstanding feature is its avoidance of a soap-opera story, a feeling the actors genuinely care about the script, the use of real lepers as background in the story, and director with an eye for detail.

Highly recommended for its sensitivity and realistic portrayal of both an historical person and event, and the value/influence of a Christ-

centered faith life. Special features enable one to view with or without English subtitles, chapter titles for easy scene access, theatrical trailer, and biographical information on leading actors.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

The Billy Graham story / John Pollock. LCCN 2003015307. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2003. Paperbound, \$14.99.

921 (269'.2'0924). Graham, Billy, 1918-; Evangelists--United States--Biography. 328 p. : 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

The Billy Graham Story is an authorized biography by John Pollock, the official biographer of Billy Graham. The book details the life of Billy Graham from his humble beginnings in North Carolina to the present day and allows you glimpses into the many crusades and missions Billy and his team held throughout the years. Billy Graham has had many experiences in his decades-long ministry and this book attempts to outline many of them, touching mainly on the ones that helped change history.

This book is a well-researched offering by John Pollock, with parts being abridged from some of his earlier writings on Dr. Graham's life. I enjoyed reading the present-day parts the most and especially liked the inclusion of the words to Billy's Sept. 14th address to the nation after the Sept. 11th catastrophe. Some parts of the book were somewhat heavy reading with so many dates and foreign names, but this book is an inspiring glimpse into the life of a well-loved, humble man of God. This book is recommended for anyone looking to learn more on Billy Graham's life as an evangelist. The "NOTES" section in the back of the book is useful to anyone looking for further information on references to books and quotes throughout the book.

Sherrri Myers

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Babe : the legend comes to life / Robert W. Creamer. (Fireside sports classic.) LCCN 067176070X. New York : Simon & Schuster, 1992. Paperbound, \$14.00.

921 (796.357'092). Ruth, Babe, 1895-1948; Baseball players--United States--Biography. 443 p., [16] p. of plates : ill. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : *5

Published in 1974, *Babe : The Legend Comes to Life*, an in depth, frank biography, remains the definitive work about baseball legend George Herman 'Babe' Ruth. Author Creamer presents the story in two parts, childhood through first baseball experience, 1894-1919, and growth of success, notoriety, and failures, through to death, 1920-1948. With no sugar coating, Babe's whole story is here: fame; the massive eating

and drinking binges; charisma and kindness vs. out of control temperament and selfishness; the womanizing; his love for family; baseball triumphs and disasters; good and bad relations with other baseball greats; overwhelming glory and heart-breaking tragedy. Sixteen pages of interesting black and white photos add value to the narrative.

Dean of Sports Illustrated's 1970's baseball writers (and still today one of their prominent writers), noted baseball historian Robert Creamer spent years in research, interviewing Ruth's friends, enemies, and family, reading articles and books. Creamer, an accomplished sports raconteur, distilled this information into the no-holds barred, interest catching biography, *Babe: The Legend Comes to Life*. Some context applicable profanity is used. With admiration for his sports achievements, Ruth is bluntly but not distastefully presented as the flawed human he was. Comparable to the contemporary sports arena, *Babe: The Legend...* will be of interest to high school through adult readers.

Donna Eggett

Virginia Lee Burton : a life in art / by Barbara Elleman. LCCN 2002000220. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2002. Hardbound, \$20.00.

921 (813). Burton, Virginia Lee, 1909-1968; Authors, American; Illustrators; Authorship; Illustration of books; Women--Biography. 136 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 26 cm.

Adult / Rating : 5

Virginia Lee Burton authored and illustrated some of America's best known and best loved children's books. *Mike Mulligan, The Little House*, and *Choo Choo* all reflect her appreciation for a less complicated life than the twentieth century was offering. This new biography of Virginia Lee Burton shows that her designs and artwork were firmly rooted in a loving, tranquil home life that was full of song, dance and fun. Burton rose above a tumultuous childhood to surround her own sons with stability and joy of life. Lovingly written by Barbara Elleman, *Virginia Lee Burton : A Life in Art* is an excellent, readable biography with many photos, drawings and personal interviews of those who knew Burton well.

This volume would be most useful for teachers who like to gather background about favorite authors in order to teach about the author in more depth. The book does not lend itself to sharing directly with a grade school audience. It might serve as a reference for older students interested in design and art.

Kelley Westenhoff

G.I. Joe and Lillie / Joseph S. Bonsall. LCCN 2002116492. Green Forest, Ark. : New Leaf Press, 2003. Hardbound, \$14.99.

921 (940.54). Bonsall, Joseph Sloan, 1925-2001; Bonsall, Lillie Maude Collins, 1924-2001; World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Normandy; United States--Army--Biography; United States--Army--Women's Army Corps--Biography; Soldiers--United States--Biography; Women soldiers--United States--Biography. 189 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12) / Rating : 4

G. I. Joe and Lillie is an inspiring book about Joe Bonsall's parents who both served in World War II. Joe Bonsall (from The Oak Ridge Boys quartet) tells the story of how his parents met and quickly fell in love and married only five days later. They remained together for the next 55 years through the strong commitment they felt for each other, even though they suffered many hardships during their life together. We are taken on a remarkable journey through their lives until both are laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery.

This is a book all Americans should read as a reminder of the struggles and sacrifices so many of our fellow men and women went through to preserve America's freedom from the oppression of Hitler in WWII. It is written in simple language that will keep the reader involved from beginning to end. We are reminded of the tough sacrifices that our men and women endured during this tragic time period and this book brings out a sense of patriotism and pride in our soldiers. It also has a lot of little "extras" such as a foreword from Barbara Bush and a detailed credits section, not to mention the words to the song by the same name as the book written by Joe Bonsall for his parents. This was a thoroughly enjoyable read that I highly recommend to any and all.

Sherri Myers

***America's Christian heritage* / Gary DeMar. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2003. Hardbound, \$9.97.**

973. United States--History--Religious aspects--Christianity. 85 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 29 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12) / Rating : 4

As a history text, *America's Christian Heritage* presents convincing evidence regarding the Christian beginning, growth, maturity, and gradual loss of biblical standards of the United States of America. Chapter by chapter DeMar portrays the impact of Christianity, in colonial America, on the writing of the Constitution, through scholastic institutions, and in Washington D.C. He discusses the Christian vs. the non-Christian view of the First Amendment, and today's battle over the Ten Commandments. Closing chapters cover the continuing necessity of Bible values on America. Paintings, original documents, and photos of historical memorabilia add interest to information on each page. An index of the illustrations closes this volume.

President of American Vision, Christian magazine editor, noted author Gary DeMar has adapted *America's Christian Heritage* from his

in-depth book, *America's Christian History: The Untold Story*. Abridged without losing the main emphases, *America's Christian Heritage* is an eye-appealing book providing the basic data for Christian standards in studying American History and in coping with today's arguments against Christianity's impact on America. This book makes a good basis from which to study this subject. Footnotes at the end of each chapter provide suggestions for further reading as well as documenting data. Useful in school, church, and home, and as a coffee-table book, *America's Christian Heritage* is recommended for all libraries, especially for Christian libraries.

Donna Eggett.

***The colonial era* / Faith Jaycox. (An eyewitness history.) LCCN 2001033565. New York : Facts on File, 2002. Hardbound, \$75.00.**

973.2. United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775; United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775--Biography; United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775--Sources. xvi, 576 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 29 cm.

Grades 9-12 / Rating : 5

An encyclopedic history, *The Colonial Era* chronicles American history from the mid-1500s to 1776. Each chapter opens with a concise essay of relevant data, and ends with a chronicle of events, and eyewitness testimony from that period. Many black and white illustrations and photos provide emphasis. Four appendices, documents, biographies, maps, and glossary, add important detail. Notes, bibliography, and the extensive index help the researching student.

With expertise in history, Jaycox brings extensive knowledge to *The Colonial Era*. She presents the facts clearly, succinctly, and without condescension. Although written in textbook style, this volume captures the reader's interest and curiosity. The eyewitness sections closing each chapter are taken from diary entries, letters, speeches, and articles of both common and famous people contemporary to that time. Such important documents as the English colonial charter and the Declaration of Independence make up the appendix, Documents. While written mainly for grades nine through twelve, college students and adults will find this book noteworthy. One of the volumes in the seventeen volume series, Eyewitness History, *The Colonial Era* is recommended for all high school and public libraries.

Donna Eggett

A 26 Fairmount Avenue book	21	Brown, Marcia	29	Cushman, Karen.	38
365 days of celebration and praise	58	Bruchac, Joseph	46	Dangerous ride across Humboldt Flats	37
Abduction	49	Brundibar	4	Daniel Boone : wilderness scout	36
Abram's daughters ; 2	53	Bugs are insects	30	Daring rescue at Sonora Pass	37
Adelita : a Mexican Cinderella story	28	Bunn, Isabella	48	Dark horse	50
Adventures on the American Frontier	37	Bunn, T. Davis	49, 53	The dark is rising	11
Alcorn, Stephen	28	Bunting, Eve	14	Darkness over Denmark	3
Alexander, S.	4	Buoyancy	30	Daugherty, James Henry	36
All the stars in the sky	40	Burnett, Kristina Mast	61	Daughter of Suqua	8
All the world's a stage	32	Burt, Daniel S.	60	Davidson, Rebecca Piatt	32
All their names were Courage	21	Burton, Virginia Lee	14	Davis, Lambert	35
Alphathoughts : alphabet poems	32	Byard, Carole M.	19	De Paola, Tomie	14, 21, 28
Altman, Linda Jacobs	2, 3, 4	Byars, Betsy Cromer	20	Deak, Erzsi	41
America's Christian heritage	62	Callahan, Kerry P.	2	Deal, L. Kate	26
Andersen, Hans Christian	13	Calvert, Patricia	33	Dear America	40
Anderson, Laurie Halse	28	Calvin for armchair theologians	43	Defying the tide	4
Anderson, Sheila B.	56	Cambodia	35	DeMar, Gary	62
Ape in a cape	15	Cannery Row	54	Deniers of the Holocaust	3
Aquinas for armchair theologians	43	Carew-Miller, Anna	4	Denmark	35
Arena	51	Carmi, Danielle	5	Dennis, Wesley	35
Armstrong, Jennifer	33	Carry on, Mr. Bowditch	22	Denslow, Sharon Phillips	21
Arsenic and old lace, a comedy	60	Case, Robert	34	Diary of an anorexic girl	40
Arthur, Sarah	44	The cat who went to heaven	20	Diaz, David	14
Attwell, Arthur P.	59	Cavanaugh, Jack	48	Dick, Janice L.	49
Audubon : painter of birds...	33	Chambliss, Maxie	13	Dicks, Brian	34
Augustine for armchair theologians	43	Charlot, Jean	20	Dictionary of American literary characters	10
Auschwitz : the story of a Nazi death camp	3	The charm bracelet	25	Dillon, Diane	14
Austin, Lynn N.	48	Chemicals	30	Dillon, Leo	14
Avi	37	Children of Israel	4	Discovering cultures	34
Babe : the legend comes to life	61	Children of the Tlingit	8	Ditchfield, Christin	60
Bad boys	17	A child's book of parables	27	Don't waste your life	58
Baggetta, Marla	32	Christie, Gregory	15	Dotlich, Rebecca Kai	32
Barclift, Betty	37	The Christmas book	58	Dr. Jenner and the speckled monster	44
Bard, Mitchell	4	Christmas tapestry	25	Draper, Allison Stark	2
Bauer, Yehuda	3	The Chumash	6	Dreambirds	9
The Baxter series	51	Cinderella's dress	29	Dreamcatcher	52, 53
Bayer, Linda	2	Circle of honor	54	Du Bois, William Pene	21
Beddows, Eric	32	Civil War A to Z	47	Dugan, Karen	32
Behold the trees	4	Clark, Ann Nolan	20	Dyer, Jane	29
The bells of Christmas	35	Clark, Mindy Starns	49	Dyson, Wanda L.	49
The beloved land	53	Claybourne, Anna	4	Edwards, Judith	44
Ben Franklin's almanac	46	Clinton, Cathryn	5	Egypt	34
Berenbaum, Michael	3	Cloud, Henry	56	Eichenberg, Fritz	15
The betrayal	53	Coatsworth, Elizabeth Jane	20	Elie Wiesel : spokesman for remembrance	2
Beyond the sacred page	48	Cober, Alan E.	11	Elleman, Barbara	61
The Big Kerplow!	20	Coconis, Constantinos	20	Ellison, Chris	18
The Billy Graham story	61	Cole, Henry	17	Elwood, Christopher	43
Black and white	23	Collier, Christopher	38	Emma's journal	54
Blind fury	9	Collier, James Lincoln	38	The enemy has a face	5
Blos, Joan W.	37	The colonial era	62	Energy	30
Blumberg, Rhoda	46	Colors of Israel	5	Escape : teens who escaped...	2
Blumenthal, Scott E.	4	Commodore Perry in the land of the Shogun	46	Escape to the forest	3
Bly, Stephen A.	37	Comport, Sally Wern	44	Exiled to the Red River	22
Bolotin, Norman	47	Cooper, Stephen Andrew	43	Extending the table	60
Bonsall, Joseph S.	61	Cooper, Susan	11	Eye of the storm	49
Boo : a novel	51	Copeland, Lori	49	An eyewitness history	62
Book of books	48	Cosgrave, John O'Hara	22	Fairy realm	25
Boraas, Tracey	4	Countries of the world (Bridgestone Books)	35	A family guide to Narnia : biblical truths...	60
Boundaries face to face	56	Countries of the world (Facts on File)	34	The fantastic journey of Pieter Bruegel	26
Bowden, Rob	34	Countries of the world (Gareth Stevens)	34	Farndon, John	29, 30
The boxcar children	26	Cox, Paul	61	Faulkner, Matt	28
Brazil	34	Creamer, Robert W.	61	Feldhahn, Shaunti Christine	49
Bright, Vonette Z.	48	Creation of Israel	4	Fiestas : a year of Latin American...	31
Brinley, Bertrand R.	20	Creech, Sharon	21	Finders keepers	19
Brisson, Pat	13	Crossings of promise ; 2	49	A fine start	24
Bronx masquerade	39	Cuba 3	4	Fire by night	48
Brothers in valor : a story of resistance	3	Cunningham, Loren	59	Fireside sports classic	61

INDEX

Fischer, John	50	Harris, Joshua	43	Konigsburg, E. L.	22
Fleischman, Paul	32	The heart of home schooling	59	Kort, Michael G.	4
Fleming, Candace	46	Heart quest	55	Kurtz, Jane	39
Florczak, Robert	15	Heiligman, Deborah	31	Kushner, Tony	4
The flower fairies	25	Heirs of Acadia ; 1	48	The last stronghold	7
Folklore & fairy tale funnies	31	Henkes, Kevin	39	Latham, Jean Lee	22
Fong, Ken Uyeda	57	Henry, Marguerite	35	Lavender, Julie	58
The founding of the state of Israel	4	Herald, Diana Tixier	43	Lawson, Robert	23
Fradin, Dennis B.	36	Herman, Charlotte	16	Lawton, Clive A.	3
Frame, Jeron Ashford	15	Herman, Kathy	51	The legend of Jimmy Spoon	7
France 3	4	Hernando Cortes : fortune favored the bold	33	Legends of the guardian-king ; 1	51
Freedman, Russell	45	Heslop, Michael	11	Let it shine : stories of Black women...	28
Froeb, Lori	27	High stakes	51	Let's-read-and-find-out science, Stage 1	30, 33
Frog girl	6	Hill, Ron	43	Levine, Anna	5
From caterpillar to butterfly	31	A history of the Holocaust	3	Levine, Ellen	3
From dust and ashes : a story of liberation	50	Hobbledy-clop	13	Lewin, Ted	36
G.I. Joe and Lillie	61	Hoffman, Alice	39	The Lewis and Clark Trail : then and now	32
Gansky, Alton	50	Holes 2	5	Lewis, Beverly	53
Garden of dreams	50	Holm, Sharon Lane	16	Liberia	34
Garrington, Sally	34	The Holocaust : death camps	3	Libraries Unlimited professional guides...	56
A gathering of days	37	Holyfield, John	17	Library of ancient Israel	56
A gathering of finches	53	Home to Medicine Mountain	7	The life and death of Adolph Hitler	2
Gavitt, Anne	22	Hopkins, Lee Bennett	32	Life in biblical Israel	56
Gay, Michel	15	Hunt, Angela Elwell	51	The light of Eidon	51
Gee, Alex	58	Hymns for a kid's heart	27	Lighthouse : a story of remembrance	17
Geer, Charles	20	I am a Holocaust Torah	2	The lights of Tenth Street	49
George, Jean Craighead	38	I call my hand gentle	15	Lincoln : a photobiography	45
Giblin, James Cross	2	I howl, I growl	30	Litchman, Kristin Embry	41
Gibson, Karen Bush	6	I remember Korea	45	Little lit	31
Giddens, Sandra	2	Ice : the greatest truths hide...	52	Lobel, Anita	31
Gill, Margery	11	Illustrated American classics	42	Lon Po Po	29
Glimpses of truth	48	In the spin of things	32	Longacre, Doris Janzen	60
Go, go, go! : kids on the move	18	India 3	4	Look what you can make with...	31
God's love is like	6	Inside Israel's Mossad	5	The Lord is my shepherd	27
Golda Meir	4	Ireland	34	Lorenzo de' Medici and Renaissance Italy	33
Goldman, Alex J.	2	Israel 4	2	Lost childhood	3
Gordon, Sharon	34	It was a dark and silly night	31	Lost city: the discovery of Macchu Picchu	36
Gottfried, Ted	3	J.D. Stanton mysteries ; 3	50	Love to water my soul	52
Gould, Leslie	50	Jackson, Dave	22	Lowry, Lois	23, 39
Goyer, Tricia	50	Jackson, Neta	22	Luba: the angel of Bergen-Belsen	3, 33
Gran, Julia	16	Jamaica	34	Macaulay, David	23
Granfield, Linda	45	Japan 3	4	Mack, Todd	16
The great big wagon that rang	17	Jarvis, Robin	22	Mackall, Dandi Daley	23
The great book : the New Testament...	57	Jaycox, Faith	62	MacLachlan, Patricia	23
The great expedition of Lewis and Clark	44	Jenkins, Steve	30	Mama will be home soon	17
Great explorations	33	Jenny of the Tetons	7	Many moons	18
Great Israel scavenger hunt	4	The Jericho Sanction : a novel	53	Marching to a different drum	59
Green angel	39	Jerome, Karen A.	23	Mark of salvation	55
Green, Michelle Y.	45	Jesus and the hip-hop prophets	58	Marrin, Albert	44
Greenblatt, Miriam	33	The Jewish victims of the Holocaust	3	Marshall, Ann E.	33
Greenwitch	11	Johnson, Shane	52	Martinez, Sergio	27
Gresko, Marcia S.	4	Jordan 3	4	McCann, Michelle R.	3, 33
The grey king	11	Joseph had a little overcoat	28	McCully, Emily Arnold	16
Grimes, Nikki	4, 5	Journey through the night	42	McDaniels, Preston	27
Grossman, Laurie	4, 5	Joyful noise : poems for two voices	32	McDonald, Megan	40
Gutteridge, Rene	51	Julie of the wolves	38	McMullan, Kate	24
Gypsy summer	37	Kacer, Kathy	3	McNee, Ian	46
Haan, Amanda	15	Karon, Jan	52	Medallion : a fantasy for young readers	42
Hagwood trilogy ; 1	22	Kenya 3	4	Memories of sun	39
Halley, Henry H.	27	Kesselring, Joseph	60	The memory cupboard	16
Halley's Bible kidnotes	27	The key is lost	4	Menzie, Morgan	40
Hamilton, David J.	59	King Bidgood's in the bathtub	19	The message : the Bible...	56
Hamilton, Virginia	35	King of the wind	35	The midwife's apprentice	38
Hancock, Karen	51	King, Philip J.	56	Mike Mulligan and more	14
Handbook of the Middle East	4	Kirkpatrick, Jane	52, 53	Miklowitz, Gloria D.	5
Happily ever after	55	Kleven, Elisa	31	Million dollar mysteries ; 4	49
The hard-times jar	17	Klicka, Christopher J.	59	Minchella, Nancy	17

The Minirth guide for Christian counselors	58	Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw	32	Seredy, Kate	25
Minirth, Frank	58	The pearl	51	Serving older teens	56
Mirette on the high wire	16	Peretti, Frank E.	41	Shafer, Anders C.	26
The Mitford years	52	The perfect date	57	Sharp, Mary	59
Moho Wat	8	Period pieces : stories for girls	41	Shepherds abiding	52
Molokai : the story of Father Damien	61	Peterson, Eugene H.	56	Shmuel, Burstein	2
Monster	40	Philippines	34	Shout for joy and sing!	27
Moore, Beth	24	Pilkey, Dav	24	Sign of the beaver	26
Mordechai Anielewicz	2	Pinkney, Andrea Davis	28	The silent boy	39
More than a dream	54	Pinkney, Jerry	13	Silent dreams	23
More-with-less	60	Piper, John	58	Silver on the tree	11
Moroney, Trace	27	Pocahontas	46	Silverthorne, Sandy	44
Morris, Kerry-Ann	34	Polacco, Patricia	25	Simon Wiesenthal	2
Morrison, Gordon	29	Pollock, John Charles	61	Sims, Leslie	46
Moser, Barry	42	Pond 2	9	The sister circle	48
Moser, Nancy	48	Powell, Polly	30	Skinner, Patricia	34
Motion 3	0	The price of freedom	54	Slam!	40
Mouly, Françoise	31	Price-Groff, Claire	33	Slate, Joseph	17
Munoz, William	32	Princess Penelope	16	Slobodkin, Louis	18
Munsch, Robert	17	Promise to remember	3	Smith, E. Anne	42
Murder at the 1972 Olympics in Munich	5	Propp, Vera	4	Smith, Frank Dabba	4
Murphy, Patricia J.	34, 35	Prosser, Robert	34	Smith, Joseph A.	33
A musician looks at the Psalms	57	Psalms for children	27	Smoke and ashes	3
Musser, Joe	53	A quarter for a kiss	49	Smoky night	14
My America ; Meg's prairie diary ; 3	24	Queen Victoria and nineteenth-century England	33	Smothers, Ethel Footman	17
My America ; Virginia's Civil War diary ; 3	24	Rabbit Hill	23	Snelling, Lauraine	54
My brother Sam is dead	38	Radin, R. Y.	3	Sokolow, Reha	4
My canary yellow star	3	Rangner, Mike	18	The solitary envoy	48
My secret camera : life in the Lodz ghetto	4	Raoul Wallenberg	3	Song of Acadia ; 5	53
Myers, Christopher	40	Rap a tap tap : here's Bojangles--think...	14	Sonneborn, Liz	5
Myers, Walter Dean	40	Raskin, Ellen	41	Spain	34
Mysterious robbery on the Utah plains	37	Refiner's fire ; 2	48	Speare, Elizabeth George	26, 41
Narahashi, Keiko	17	Renick, Timothy Mark	43	Spearing, Craig	17
Naya Nuki : Shoshoni girl who ran	8	Return to Red River ; 3	54	Spiegelman, Art	31
Nederlanden, Harry der	42	Rifa'i, Amal	5	Stager, Lawrence E.	56
A new Barker in the house	14	Rocks and minerals	30	Stahl, Ben F.	16
Nicholas	19	Rockwall, Anne	30	Stavicek, Louise Chipley	4
Night spies	3	Rodda, Emily	25, 41	Steinbeck, John	54
The nightingale	13	Rogasky, Barbara	3	Stiegemeier, Julie	18
Nightmare Academy	41	Rogers, Janice	59	A stone in my hand	5
Nir, Yehuda	3	Roleff, Tamara L.	3	Storm boy	7
Nobleman, Marc Tyler	35	Roll of thunder, hear my cry	26	The story of the Holocaust	3
North, Oliver	53	Romania	34	A story to tell : traditions of a Tlingit...	8
Not even a hint	43	Round the corner	48	Stranded in paradise : a story of letting go	49
Nothing but the truth	37	Rouss, Sylvia	5	Strange stories for strange kids	31
The novel 100	60	Rowan of Rin	41	Streissguth, Thomas	3
Number the stars	23	Rowell, Edward K.	54	A strong right arm	45
O'Brien, John	36	Rozario, Paul	34	Suleyman the Magnificent & the Ottoman Empire	33
Oke, Janette	53	Rulers and their times	33	The summer of the swans	20
Olive's ocean	39	Run, boy, run	4	Surviving Hitler : a boy in the Nazi...	4
On one foot	4	Running on eggs	5	A sweetness to the soul	52
Once a mouse	29	Ryan, Michaela	34	Swinburne, Stephen R.	18
Only the wind remembers	54	Sachar, Louis.	25	Syswerda, Jean	27
Oprea, Tiberiu	34	Sagona, Marina	15	Taback, Simms.	28
Orlev, Uri	4	Saint Nicholas	18	Tada, Joni Eareckson	27
Orozco, Jose-Luis	31	Samir and Yonatan	5	Taiwan	34
Osborne, Mary Pope	24	Sammy Spider's first trip to Israel	5	Tali's Jerusalem scrapbook	5
Osborne, Will	24	Sandy Silverthorne's surviving middle school	44	Tanzania	35
Out of time	50	Sarah, plain and tall	23	Taylor, Mildred D.	26
Over sea, under stone	11	Schalesky, Marlo	54	Teen genrelecting	43
Palatini, Margie	17	Schlabach, Joetta Handrich	60	Teter, John	58
The Palestinians	4	Schoenherr, John	38	Thank you, Sarah	28
Panama 3	5	Science experiments	29, 30	Thorn Ogres of Hagwood	22
The paperboy	24	The Scottish crown series	54, 55	The three pigs	19
A parable about the king	24	Secret of the Andes	20	Thurber, James	18
Parker, Lewis K.	34	Secure in God's embrace	57	Ticket to Israel	4
Pastor Andre Trocme	2	The seed and the giant saguaro	18	Time	29

INDEX

A time to dance	24	Words west : voices of young pioneers	45
To live and fight another day	3	Working cotton	19
Totem poles	7	The worry stone	6
Townsend, John Sims	56	Wyrzten, Don	57
Traditional Native American arts and activities	9	Yesterday I had the blues	15
Trailblazer books	22	Yikes!	15
Tryszynska-Frederick, Luba	33	Young, Ed	29
Tunnell, Michael O.	3	Zee	15
The twenty-one balloons	21	Zoe's hats : a book of colors and patterns	16
Umberger, Carol	54, 55		
An unexpected joy	59		
United Kingdom	34		
United States	34		
Usborne timetours	47		
Vaughn, Marcia	30		
Venezuela	34		
The Veritas project ; v. 2	41		
The view from Saturday	22		
Virginia Lee Burton : a life in art	61		
A visitor's guide to ancient Greece	46		
Vital signs	51		
Vitale, Raoul	25		
Vooy's, Geri	58		
Vos, I.	4		
Vries, Anne de	42		
Wadsworth, Ginger	45		
Walk two moons	21		
Walking with Frodo	44		
War against God and his people	2		
Ward, Jennifer	18		
Ward, Lynd	20		
Wardrope, William	34		
Warner, Gertrude Chandler	26		
Warren, Andrea	4		
Warren, Beverly	24		
Warren, Susan	55		
Watkins, Dawn L.	42		
The wave of the Sea-Wolf	8		
We just want to live here	5		
Weaving a California tradition	7		
Webber, Christopher L.	27		
Webster, Matt	5		
Weisbarth, Bracha	3		
Weissman, Bari	31		
The Westing game	41		
What a year	21		
When the soldiers were gone	4		
The white stag	25		
White water	9		
White, Stewart Edward	36		
Who was Thomas Jefferson?	36		
Why not women?	59		
Wiesner, David	19		
Wild fire	9		
Will	19		
Willard, Nancy	29		
Williams, Joshua	57		
Williams, Kerry	57		
Williams, Sherley Anne	19		
Wilson, Anne	27		
Wilson, Janet	17		
Wiseman, Eva	3		
The witch of Blackbird Pond	41		
Wolgemuth, Bobbie	27		
Women of faith fiction	49, 51		
Wood, Audrey	19		
Wood, Don	19		

