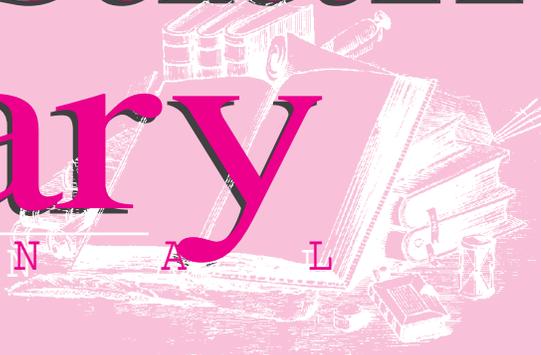


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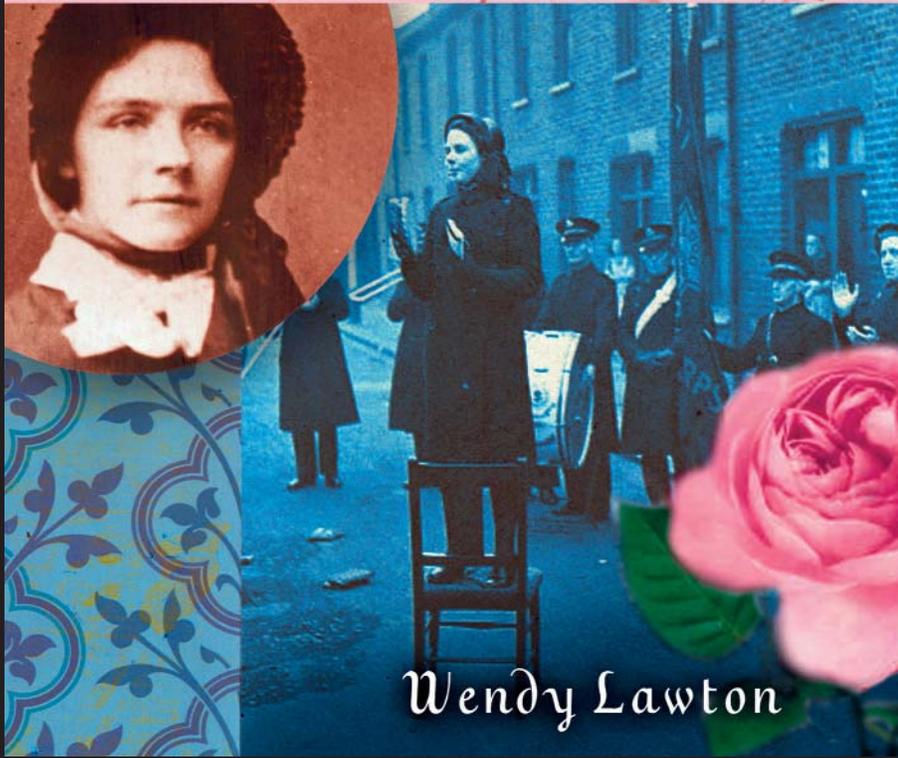
J O U R N A L



DAUGHTERS OF THE FAITH SERIES

The Hallelujah Lass

A STORY BASED ON THE LIFE OF
SALVATION ARMY PIONEER ELIZA SHIRLEY



Wendy Lawton

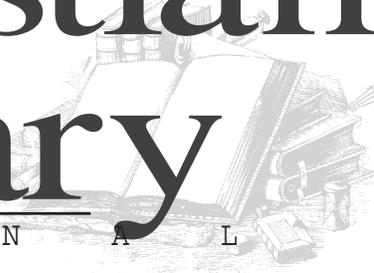
This Issue Features:

- ◆ Not Your Average Science Fiction
- ◆ Native Americans--Biography
- ◆ Western Myths, Western Realities
- ◆ Chronicles of Prydain
- ◆ Microsoft Windows :
Care and Maintenance
- ◆ A continuation of reviews of
older titles, some being award
winners & some being favorites

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J O U R N A L

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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. 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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Not Your Average Science Fiction

by Donna W. Bowling

Part 1—The Murry Family

*

A wrinkle in time / Madeleine L'Engle. LCCN 90192397. New York : Farrar, 1962.

HBB, 0374286137, list price: \$17.00; CLJ price: \$12.75

Yearling, 1998, PAP, 0440498058, list price: \$6.50; CLJ price: \$4.85

Fic. Fantasy; Science fiction. 224 p. : 22 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : *5

A wind in the door / Madeleine L'Engle. LCCN 73075176. New York : Farrar, 1973.

HBB, 0374284436, list price: \$17.00; CLJ price: \$12.75

Yearling, 1974, PAP, 0440487617, list price: \$6.50; CLJ price: \$4.85

Fic. Fantasy; Science fiction. 224 p. : 22 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : 5

A swiftly tilting planet / Madeleine L'Engle. LCCN 78009648. New York : Farrar, 1978.

HBB, 0374373620, list price: \$18.00; CLJ price: \$13.50

Yearling, 1980, PAP, 0440401585, list price: \$6.50; CLJ price: \$4.85

Fic. Fantasy; Time travel--Fiction. 288 p. : 22 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : 5

Many waters / Madeleine L'Engle. LCCN 86014911. New York : Farrar, 1986.

HBB, 0374347964, list price: \$18.00; CLJ price: \$13.50

Yearling, 1987, PAP, 0440405483, list price: \$6.50; CLJ price: \$4.85

Fic. Noah (Biblical figure)--Fiction; Noah's ark--Fiction; Twins--Fiction; Time travel--Fiction; Fantasy. 320 p. : 22 cm.

Grades 6-8. Rating : 4.

The Murry family is an extraordinary family. Father is an eminent physicist whose research sometimes involves top-secret clearance. Mother's specialties are biology and bacteriology; she often cooks meals over a Bunsen burner in the lab while she watches over her experiments.

As Madeleine L'Engle's "Time Quartet" begins, Meg is an impetuous, impatient young adolescent who is a math whiz, but is bored by her other school subjects. Precocious Charles

Wallace not only has an exceptional vocabulary for a preschooler, but he also has a special ability to perceive what others are feeling. However, in the middle, the twins Sandy and Dennys take pride in being "normal" boys; they get along well with their classmates and share the expected interests in sports, etc. The Murrys live in an old converted farmhouse in rural New England.

A Wrinkle in Time. Over a year ago Father became involved in a classified government research project into "tesseract." (A tesseract is a "wrinkle in time" that permits travel across space without the usual time constraints.) The family has received no word from him for some time. Because of the children's special strengths, three friendly "persons" show up to recruit Charles Wallace, Meg, and friend Calvin O'Keefe (a high school boy with strong empathic ability) to rescue Mr. Murry. His experiment with tessering had led to captivity on the stifling, rigid world of Camazotz. The three "Mrs. Ws" tesser with

the children to Camazotz where they must confront the domineering IT to free Father. As they rescue Mr. Murry, Charles Wallace is caught, so Meg must return alone to deliver him. (Newbery Medal 1963)

A Wind in the Door. First-grader Charles Wallace faces bullies at school and inexplicable declining strength in his body. Mother tells their friend Dr. Louise that her research leads her to believe the cause of his growing weakness is a problem with the submicroscopic farandolae in the mitochondria in his body's cells. Because of the cosmic implications of Charles Wallace's battle, a singular cherubim and other unusual "persons" involve Meg, Calvin, and a reluctant principal Mr. Jenkins to defeat the efforts of the Echthro (enemies). For the three of them to work together, Meg learns to appreciate the principal she has disliked so thoroughly. Meg has to recognize that size is irrelevant so she can mentally communicate (or "kythe") with the farandolae inside Charles Wallace's body to prevent his death.

A Swiftly Tilting Planet. As the family gathers for Thanksgiving dinner, Father receives a call from the White House warning that a rogue dictator from a small Latin American country is threatening nuclear war. The entire family is dumbfounded as Meg's mother-in-law, Mrs. O'Keefe, tells teenager Charles Wallace that he must do something to stop him. She insists that he memorize and use an old rune that invokes "all Heaven with its power." Charles Wallace asks Meg to provide an anchor for him at home by kything with him through whatever adventure may befall him. As he begins to recite the rune from a favorite "star-watching rock" a unicorn arrives to escort Charles Wallace back in history to successive time periods that could ultimately affect the crisis. In each time period he unobtrusively mentally "goes within" a boy there, thinking along with him through some crucial event. At those times he recites relevant parts of the rune as

needed, and is released to go on to the next time period. Meg and the family are called on to provide important clues in the process, including old letters from the home of Mrs. O'Keefe. At the end of the final event, Meg and Mom O'Keefe recite the rune and rescue Charles Wallace from imminent death, but the small changes he influenced in the timeline forestall the nuclear crisis.

Many Waters. The ordinary twins, teenagers Sandy and Dennys Murry, go into the lab looking for cocoa. Tempted by Father's computer, they type in, "Take me someplace warm and sparsely populated." On the way out they see a note on the door, "Experiment in progress. Please keep out." Too late; they are tessered back in time to near the home of Noah before the flood. First hand they face temptation and see the rampant evil, much of it encouraged by the nephilim. They are each attracted to Noah's kind, God-fearing daughter Yalith and become quite concerned about what will happen to her when the flood comes. Some friendly seraphim relieve their concern before returning the twins back to their own time.

Of the over sixty published books written by Madeleine L'Engle, approximately half of them are written for children or teenagers. Many of her books are religious nonfiction, and her fiction works also reflect her deep-seated Anglican faith. Among the many quotations used in *A Wrinkle in Time* are a number of Bible verses. Jesus is one of several worthy moral leaders her characters commend. Love as a powerful force is her most pervasive theme; others include persistence in duty, self-sacrifice, forgiveness, and providence.

L'Engle's ability with words is first rate. In *A Wrinkle in Time*, her lyrical descriptions of the pleasant planets, with long, flowing phrases rich with modifiers, are in stark contrast with the short, clipped sentences that present the rigid world of Camazotz. Her sympathetic characters are well developed, with faults that accompany their strengths, and they grow through their experiences. L'Engle's absorbing plots are full of suspense, and the concepts she suggests along the way provide much to ponder.

L'Engle's books about the Murrys defy

classification. The complicated plots involve both space and time and contain elements of fantasy as well as science fiction. Because the first three books are more similar in mood, some experts group them together as a "Time Trilogy." *Many Waters* then stands alone as a fantasy for slightly older children. These books are set in the future, and assume a past manned space trip to Mars. However, some alert readers may pick up on the reference to (now obsolete?) typewriters in *A Wind in the Door* (1973), but by *Many Waters* (1986) computers are in use. The worry about a nuclear holocaust in *A Swiftly Tilting Planet* (1978) is less prevalent today. Concern about war and the environment still remain.

In spite of her Christian perspective, L'Engle's books with elements of fantasy have sparked debate in the Christian community. Newbery Medal winner *A Wrinkle in Time* has many strong opponents, as well as strong advocates. For example, an October 1993, issue of *Christian Educators Journal* illustrated this controversy with several articles dealing with "Fantasy and Imagination in Literature." Some Christians disapprove of all fantasy; some others, like Michael O'Brien in *A Landscape with Dragons*, praise C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien while objecting to Madeleine L'Engle. Still others greatly appreciate fantasy by Lewis, Tolkien, and L'Engle. Notable among this last group are Gladys Hunt and Barbara Hampton in *Honey for a Child's Heart* and *Honey for a Teen's Heart*. William and Randy Petersen list *A Wrinkle in Time* (as well as the *Chronicles of Narnia*) among the *100 Christian Books that Changed the Century*. While any book by a human author has some shortcomings, in general L'Engle's fantasy/science fiction, as well as her family Austin series, have much to commend them. But Christian school librarians and teachers should be sympathetic to others who object to them. Highly recommended.

Part 2 – The O'Keefe family

The arm of the starfish / Madeleine L'Engle. LCCN 65010919. New York : Laurel-Leaf Books, 1979, 1965.

PAP, 0440901839, list price: \$4.99; CLJ price: \$3.75

Fig. Adventure and adventurers--Fiction. 288 p. : 18 cm.

Grades 6-12. Rating : 4, with caution.

Dragons in the waters / Madeleine L'Engle. LCCN 76002477. New York : Laurel-Leaf Books, 1982, c1976.

PAP, 0440917190, list price: \$5.50; CLJ price: \$4.15

Fig. Venezuela--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories. 336 p. : 18 cm.

Grades 6-8. Rating : 5.

A house like a lotus / Madeleine L'Engle. LCCN 84048471. New York : Bantam Dell, 1985.

Prebound, 808566172, list price: \$13.00; CLJ price: \$9.75

Laurel-Leaf Books, 1985, PAP, 0440936853, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fig. Friendship--Fiction; Interpersonal relations--Fiction. 320 p. : 18 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 4, with caution.

An acceptable time / Madeleine L'Engle. LCCN 89084882. New York : Farrar, 1989.

HBB, 0374300275, list price: \$18.00; CLJ price: \$13.50

Laurel-Leaf Books, 1990, PAP, 0440208149, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fig. Fantastic fiction; Space and time--Fiction; Time travel--Fiction; Druids and druidism--Fiction; Love--Fiction. 352 p. : 22 cm.

Grades 6-8. Rating : 4.

Interspersed among Madeleine L'Engle's books about the Murry family, she has written about adventures of the children of Meg and Calvin O'Keefe. In these she demonstrates her versatility: a spy story about scientific/commercial espionage, a murder mystery, a coming-of-age novel, and a return to time travel fantasy. The O'Keefe children in the first two books are major supporting characters in stories. In the later two books, sixteen-year-old Polly (Polyhymnia), the eldest of the seven O'Keefe children, is the main character. In each of these stories forgiveness is a major theme.

The Arm of the Starfish. Adam Eddington, a young biology major, is excited to have the privilege of working with Dr. Calvin O'Keefe in his marine biology laboratories on the island of Gaea, off the coast of Portugal. On his flight from New York, Adam meets twelve-year-old Poly O'Keefe, traveling with a family friend, but before they arrive in Gaea, agents of an unscrupulous multi-national businessman kidnap Poly. Poly has been kidnapped as bait to try to recruit Adam to provide top-secret details from O'Keefe's research. Even after criminal agents kill their dear friend Josh, the O'Keefes and Adam help

save the scheming daughter when she is injured. The adverse effects of Adam's failure to obey Dr. O'Keefe at a crucial moment demonstrate the importance of obedience.

Dragons in the Waters. Traveling with their father aboard a freighter to Venezuela, Poly and Charles O'Keefe befriend thirteen-year-old Simon Renier. Simon is accompanying his "cousin" to deliver a family heirloom, a valuable painting, to a museum there. After the murder of his imposter cousin and a few kidnappings, a smuggling ring is exposed. Meanwhile Simon learns more of his family history, including his respected ancestor's failure to keep a promise to return to his family in Venezuela. After the death of his aged great-aunt, Simon decides to join his distant relatives in a local indigenous lakeside village. Dr. O'Keefe isolates the environmental threat to the marine life in that lake so that the lake can be restored. He and the children return to their home on Benne Seed island off the South Carolina coast. Simon learns about the consequences from failure to keep promises, and that respected people have faults.

A House Like a Lotus. Arriving in Athens with a few days to sightsee, sixteen-year-old Polly O'Keefe learns that her uncle and aunt have been delayed. [Poly has added another "L" to the spelling of her nickname so others will know it doesn't rhyme with "roly" as in "roly-poly."] As affluent young Zachary Gray befriends her and escorts her to various tourist sites, she maintains her emotional distance. After a few days sightseeing with her uncle and aunt she flies to Cyprus. Her dying older friend Max has arranged for her to serve there as a gofer at a conference with delegates from many nations outside the Iron Curtain. This time on her own offers many occasions for Polly to reflect back over the past year. Max has mentored Polly and encouraged her in her successes. But on one occasion, after drinking too much to ease her pain, Max makes a drunken lesbian pass at Polly. Crushed by her fallen idol, Polly finds comfort and loses her virginity in the arms of Renny, a sensitive intern friend. When Zach visits Polly on Cyprus, his foolishness

puts Polly's life in danger. Finally Polly is able to open her heart and calls Max to assure her of her love and forgiveness before Max dies.

In *A House Like a Lotus*, Madeleine L'Engle herself demonstrates that idols have feet of clay and inevitably cause disappointment when they fall. Although Renny apologizes repeatedly for his actions, Polly's lack of regret for their brief understated sexual experience does not reflect the biblical perspective that readers have come to expect from a Christian author. (Both Polly and Renny affirm a rejection of sexual promiscuity.) The older O'Keefes' recognition that interesting individuals are usually complex people is reflected in their tolerant hands-off attitude to the long-term homosexual relationship between Max and her friend Ursula. People should be accepted and loved for their strengths, not shunned for their shortcomings. Although the repeated flashbacks require some reader flexibility, this well-written novel has considerable value in a context where young readers are guided by the firm biblical views of insightful parents and Christian leaders. Because of the controversial nature of its sexual content it is not recommended for Christian school or church libraries.

An Acceptable Time. To guard Polly from encountering the reminders of her recent traumas at home, her parents arrange for her to spend the next school year in New England where she can pursue more advanced scientific studies with her Murry grandparents. Polly is puzzled when she finds herself unwittingly passing through a portal in the circles of time to a thousand years B. C. and back again. Although the scientist grandparents and doctor are skeptical, Dr. Louise's brother Bishop Colubra testifies that he also has visited those ancient people. When Zachary Gray comes to visit Polly, the two of them unsuspectingly pass through the time gate and find themselves involved in a conflict between two villages. To gain healing for his ailing heart Zach selfishly puts Polly at risk of becoming a human sacrifice, but after she escapes Polly chooses to face the risk and returns to rescue Zach.

Some of the ancient People of the Wind (previously visited by Uncle Charles Wallace in *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*) have adopted druid teachings brought by refugees from across the water. Polly's druid friend Annie worships the Presence, her name for the creator of all things, which the bishop understands to be the eternal Second Person of the Trinity, who later came as Jesus Christ of Nazareth. The refugee druid Karralys, Annie, and their friends disapprove of human sacrifice. The combined prayers of the bishop and Polly with two druids in that past time period, bring healing to Zach's dysfunctional heart. After the three return to the present, the time gate closes. Some readers refer to *An Acceptable Time*, as the fifth book in L'Engle's "Time Quintet."

Madeleine L'Engle's stories with the O'Keefe children demonstrate her superb ability to deal with serious issues in her engaging and suspenseful stories. The earlier two stories can be recommended without reservation. The later two are deeper and more complex. The cautions about *A House Like a Lotus* are mentioned above. For *An Acceptable Time*, readers who see I AM in the Presence will have no problem with Annie's druidism as L'Engle writes about it. Readers who see pagan idolatry in the druidism will find problems. Readers with reservations about *A Wrinkle in Time* would be more unhappy with *An Acceptable Time*. For other readers who enjoy fantasy, it is highly recommended.

References:

- 100 Christian books that changed the century* / William J. Petersen and Randy Petersen. Fleming H. Revell, 2000. (p. 139-140).
- Honey for a child's heart: the imaginative use of books in family life* / Gladys Hunt. 4th ed.. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002
- Honey for a teen's heart: using books to communicate with teens* / Gladys Hunt and Barbara Hampton. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002
- A landscape with dragons: Christian and pagan imagination in children's literature* / Michael O'Brien. Quyon, Quebec, Canada: Northern River Press, 1994.
- "Fantasy and imagination in literature." *Christian Educators Journal*, 33 (1), 5-21. 1993.
- Donna W. Bowling, *Library/Educational Consultant, Dallas, Texas*

Learning Native American Culture Through Children's Literature : Biographies

by Jane Mouttet

I "met" author Jeri Ferris last summer on the NFForKids listserv. As the author of one the books included in this column (NATIVE AMERICAN DOCTOR) I asked her to share some thoughts with us.

"In reading biographies, children enter the lives of people who experienced, even caused the events we can only read about. These are the stories of real people who created real history, and the child who reads a lively and gripping biography understands the past in a way he never can by reading a history book." Jeri has written eleven biographies, all published by Carolrhoda Books.

Jeri also shared, "Children MUST read about other cultures.

How can I know that another person, a person who doesn't look like me, has the same cares, worries, needs, and fears that I do if I've never had the chance to speak with and listen to that person. Susan LaFlesche saw herself as the bridge for her people, a bridge connecting two worlds. We are a world of many cultures, and we are the richer for it... but only if we know each other."

I encourage you to help your patrons KNOW people of another culture by introducing them to some of the books in this column.

Thank you Jeri Ferris for sharing with us.

Seeing the circle / by Joseph Bruchac ; photographs by John Christopher Fine. (Meet the author.) LCCN 99025330. Katonah, N.Y. : Richard C. Owen, 1999.

HBB, 1572743271, list price: \$14.95; Order direct: <http://www.rcowen.com/rcobooks.htm>

B (818/.5409). Bruchac, Joseph, 1942-; Authors, American.; Indians of North America--New York (State)--Biography. 32 p. : ill. (some col.); 24 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 4.

Seeing the Circle is autobiographical and part of the Meet the Author series of books. In it Joseph Bruchac has included some of his family history and much about his daily schedule and what he does. Mr. Bruchac is part Abenaki Indian and has written many books about Native Americans and different aspects of the Native American culture. Students who have read Mr. Bruchac's books or are interested in what an author does will most likely enjoy *Seeing the Circle*. The book is illustrated with photographs by John Christopher Fine.

Crazy Horse's vision / by Joseph Bruchac ; illustrated by S.D. Nelson. LCCN 99047451. New York : Lee & Low, 2000.

HBB, 188000946, list price: \$16.95; CLJ price: \$12.75

Fic. Crazy Horse, ca.1842-1877--Fiction; Oglala Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--Great Plains--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

Crazy Horse's Vision is the story of Crazy Horse's early life. Joseph Bruchac includes some background of the events leading up to Crazy Horse's vision quest. The book ends with his father's explanation of the vision. Illustrator S.D. Nelson, a Lakota Sioux, uses traditional Lakota style in his artwork, painting on wooden panels with acrylics. Readers will learn more about Native American vision quests, at least those of the Plains Indians, as well as learning about Crazy Horse's early life in *Crazy Horse's Vision*.

Hau kola, hello friend / by Paul Goble ; photographs by Gerry Perrin. (Meet the author.) LCCN 93048167. Katonah, N.Y. : Richard C. Owen, 1994.

HBB, 1878450441, list price: \$14.95; Order direct: <http://www.rcowen.com/rcobooks.htm>

B (813/.54). Goble, Paul.; Authors, American.; Authorship.; Indians in literature. 32 p. : ill. (some col.), col. map ; 24 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 3.

Hau Kola, Hello Friend is an autobiography by Paul Goble. While Mr. Goble is not a Native American, he has written many books about Native American topics and your patrons will probably recognize the name. The book is easy to read and is illustrated with photographs by Gerry Perrin. The book contains reference to the spirits of Native American ancestors visiting him

in his dreams. The book is interesting and students who have enjoyed Paul Goble books will probably enjoy this autobiography.

Quanah Parker : Comanche chief / Rosemary K. Kissinger. LCCN 90023036. Gretna, La. : Pelican, 1999, c1991.

PAP, 1565545575, list price: \$14.95; Order direct: <http://www.pelicanpub.com/findex.htm>

Fic. Parker, Quanah, 1845?-1911 --Fiction.; Comanche Indians--Fiction.; Indians of North America--Fiction. 136 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades 6-12. Rating : 4.

Nine-year-old Cynthia Ann Parker was abducted by Comanche Indians. She soon forgot her Anglo life and lived and thought like a Comanche. Quanah, her first-born, eventually became a Comanche chief and leader of his people during the transition to reservation life. The first part of the book is a narrative covering most of Quanah's life. The final chapters are more like snapshots of specific events in his final years. Ms. Updyke includes an extensive bibliography, some entries appearing to be primary documents. The book will be useful for research as well as pleasure reading for those who want to learn more about Native Americans.

Native American doctor : the story of Susan LaFlesche Picotte / Jeri Ferris. LCCN 90028503. Minneapolis : Lerner, 1990.

HBB, 0876144431, list price: \$18.95; Order direct: <http://www.lernerbooks.com/>

PAP, 876145489, list price: \$7.95; Order direct: <http://www.lernerbooks.com/>

B (610/.92). Picotte, Susan LaFlesche, 1865-1915. ; Physicians.; Omaha Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Biography.; Women--Biography. 88 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : 5.

When Susan LaFlesche was born, a way of life was ending for the Plains Indians. *Native American Doctor* is her biography, but it is also the story of the struggle of Native American people learning to live in a white world. Susan LaFlesche Picotte was the first Native American woman doctor and the first Native American to serve as a missionary. *Native American Doctor* is a winner of the National Council for Social Studies Secondary Carter G. Woodson Award and a Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies. Author Jeri Ferris has turned her research into an enjoyable read.

Susan LaFlesche Picotte, M.D. : Omaha Indian leader and reformer / by Benson Tong ; foreword by Dennis Hastings. LCCN 99021714. Norman : Univ. of Okla. Press, 1999.

HBB, 0806131403, list price: \$34.95; Order direct: <http://www.oupres.com/>

2000, PAP, 806132841, list price: \$19.95; Order direct: <http://www.oupres.com/>

B (610/.92). Picotte, Susan LaFlesche, 1865-1915. ; Omaha women--Biography.; Indian women physicians--Nebraska--Biography.; Women social reformers--Nebraska--Biography. xix, 285 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

In *Susan LaFlesche Picotte, M.D.*, author Benson Tong looks at the life of Picotte and the history of the Omaha people during her lifetime. The book is academic in nature and is recommended only for the serious researcher of Dr. Picotte or the Omaha people. Much detail is included on Dr. Picotte's dealings with the federal government on her people's behalf. The book ends with over 80 pages of notes, bibliography, and index.

POCAHONTAS

Pocahontas / Joseph Bruchac. LCCN 2002007214. Orlando, Fla. : Harcourt/Silver Whistle, 2003.

HBB, 152167374, list price: \$17.00; CLJ price: \$12.75

B (975.5/01/092). Pocahontas--Fiction; Smith, John, 1580-1531; Powhatan Indians; Jamestown (Va.)--History. 173, [1] p. : map ; 22 cm.

Grades 6-12. Rating : 5.

Pocahontas played a role in the Jamestown colony. Joseph Bruchac, an Abenaki Indian,

spent much time researching this book. He tells the story from two viewpoints, those of Pocahontas and John Smith, who narrate chapters throughout the book. Mr. Bruchac consulted documents written at the time of the Jamestown colony, including Smith's own writings for the chapters which he narrates. For the Pocahontas chapters, Bruchac draws on his knowledge of the Algonquin people (which include the Powhatan people) and the writings of those who have studied the Powhatan people. Mr. Bruchac understands the worldview of the Powhatan people and portrays the beliefs of the Powhatan people in an accurate way.

SACAJAWEA

Sacajawea : the story of Bird Woman and the Lewis and Clark Expedition / Joseph Bruchac. LCCN 99047653. San Diego, Calif. : Harcourt/Silver Whistle, 2000.

HBB, 152022341, list price: \$17.00; CLJ price: \$12.75

Scholastic, 2003, PAP, 0439280680, list price: \$4.99; CLJ price: \$3.75

Fic. Sacajawea--Fiction; Clark, William, 1770-1838 --Fiction; Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806) --Fiction; Shoshoni Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--Fiction. 199 p. : maps ; 22 cm.

Grades 6-12. Rating : 5.

Pomp wants to hear about the great Lewis and Clark Expedition—he was too young to remember it. His mother Sacajawea and his “uncle” William Clark tell him the story. Author Joseph Bruchac studied the journals of the expedition in preparation to write this book. He successfully achieves two distinct voices for his alternating point of view format. Students will find this a good book to read and a helpful reference source.

SITTING BULL

Sitting Bull / by Lisa Trumbauer. (First biographies.) LCCN 2003011425. Mankato, Minn. : Capstone Press, 2004.

HBB, 0736823719, list price: \$17.95; Order direct: <http://www.capstonepress.com/>

B (978.004/9752). Sitting Bull, 1834?-1890. ; Dakota Indians--Biography.; Hunkpapa Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Great Plains--Biography.; Little Bighorn, Battle of the, Mont., 1876. 24 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 19 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 4.

Sitting Bull is part of the First Biographies series. The book has only 217 words; most first graders should be able to read it with a little help. A time-line across the bottom of each page helps the reader visualize the progression of the events in Sitting Bull's life. A glossary explains unfamiliar terms but most readers will need an adult's help using it. The photos and drawings complement the text. For young students interested in learning more about Native American leaders or for those doing research projects, *Sitting Bull* is an appropriate book.

SQUANTO

Squanto / by Feenie Ziner. LCCN 88013982. Hamden, Conn. : Shoestring, 1993.

PAP, 0208022740, OP; buy used

B (974.4/00497). Squanto.; Wampanoag Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Massachusetts--Biography.; Pilgrims (New Plymouth Colony). 154 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 6-12. Rating : 4.

Squanto is the biography of the man who helped the Pilgrims through their first difficult year. Mrs. Ziner relied on primary documents from the 1600's in writing the book. She uses the Native American perspective to tell of the early European conquests in the New World. The story begins when fifteen-year-old Tisquantum is first kidnapped and taken to England. His return to the New World is soon followed by another kidnapping and sale to slavery in Spain. His escape from slavery, stow-away trip to England, return to the New World, and eventual return to his home continues the story, which ends soon after Squanto joins the Plymouth Colony. While the author says in her notes that parts of the book are fictionalized, the story seems to stay true to history.

Squanto and the miracle of Thanksgiving / Eric Metaxas ; illustrated by Shannon Stirnweis. LCCN 99022912. Nashville : Tommy Nelson, 1999.

HBB, 0849958644, list price: \$9.99; CLJ price: \$7.50

B (974.4004/973). Squanto.; Wampanoag Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Massachusetts--Biography.; Pilgrims (New Plymouth Colony); Thanksgiving Day. 1 v. (unpagged) : col. ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades K-5. Rating : 4.

Squanto and the Miracle of Thanksgiving is a beautiful nonfiction picture storybook. Shannon Stirnweis's paintings illustrate the text. Eric Metaxas has written a biography that younger children will listen to and older children can read alone. The influence God had in Squanto's life is included, something you don't always find in books about Squanto. If you want a good storybook about Squanto, *Squanto and the Miracle of Thanksgiving* is a good choice.

Squanto's journey : the story of the first Thanksgiving / Joseph Bruchac ; illustrated by Greg Shed. LCCN 99012012. San Diego, Calif. : Harcourt/Silver Whistle, 2000.

HBB, 152018174, list price: \$16.00; CLJ price: \$12.00

Fic. Squanto--Fiction.; Wampanoag Indians--Fiction.; Indians of North America--Massachusetts--Fiction.; Pilgrims (New Plymouth Colony)--Fiction. 1 v. (unpagged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 28 cm.

Grades PS-5. Rating : 5.

Squanto's Journey is the story of the first Thanksgiving from a Native American perspective. Using the first person, Joseph

Bruchac tells the story of how Squanto came to learn English; of his capture, his time in Spain and England, and his return to his land. This picture storybook is for the younger child who is a good listener or for the older child. There are several paragraphs of text on each two-page spread. The book does include a glossary. Artist Greg Shed spent time at the Plimoth Plantation researching for the paintings which illustrate the book. Joseph Bruchac did extensive research, with the help of his sister, for this book.

JIM THORPE

Jim Thorpe : the legend remembered / by Rosemary K. Updyke. LCCN 96041488. : Pelican, 1997.

PAP, 1565545397, list price: \$17.95; Order direct: <http://www.pelicanpub.com/finde.htm>

B (796/.092). Thorpe, Jim, 1887-1953. ; Athletics.; Indians of North America--Biography. 96 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades 6-8. Rating : 4.

"The greatest athlete in the world." That is what King Gustav of Sweden said of Jim Thorpe when he awarded Jim his second gold medal of the 1912 Olympic Games. In *Jim Thorpe : The Legend Remembered*, author Rosemary Updyke provides middle schoolers with a biography of this Native American legend. She does not hide his faults (an apparent drinking problem and three marriages) but spends more time talking about his love for sports. A bit of family history and information about the town named Jim Thorpe are included.

SERIES OF BIOGRAPHIES

American Indian Biographies

Sequoyah : 1770?-1843 / by Yvonne Wakim Dennis. (American Indian biographies.) LCCN 2003017584. Mankato, Minn. : Capstone Press/Blue Earth Press, 2004.

HBB, 0736824472, list price: \$17.95; Order direct: <http://www.capstonepress.com/>

B (975.004/97557/0092). Sequoyah, 1770?-1843. ; Cherokee Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Biography. 32 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 27 cm.

Sitting Bull : 1831-1890 / by Anne M. Todd. (American Indian biographies.) LCCN 2001008224. Mankato, Minn. : Capstone Press/Blue Earth Press, 2003.

HBB, 0736812156, list price: \$17.95; Order direct: <http://www.capstonepress.com/>

B (978.004/9752). Sitting Bull, 1834?-1890. ; Dakota Indians--Biography.; Hunkpapa Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Biography. 32 p. : ill. (some col.), col. map ; 27 cm.

Pocahontas : 1595-1617 / by Liz Sonneborn. (American Indian biographies.) LCCN 2001006473. Mankato, Minn. : Capstone Press/Blue Earth Press, 2003.

HBB, 0736812148, list price: \$17.95; Order direct: <http://www.capstonepress.com/>

B (975.5/01/092). Pocahontas, d. 1617. ; Powhatan Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Biography.; Women--Biography.; Jamestown (Va.)--History. 32 p. : ill. (some col.), col. map ; 27 cm.

Tecumseh : 1768-1813 / by Rachel A. Koestler-Grack. (American Indian biographies.) LCCN 2001006462. Mankato, Minn. : Capstone Press/Blue Earth Press, 2003.

HBB, 0736812121, list price: \$17.95; Order direct: <http://www.capstonepress.com/>

B (977.004/973/0092). Tecumseh, Shawnee Chief, 1768-1813. ; Shawnee Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Biography. 32 p. : ill. (some col.), col. map ; 27 cm.

Crazy Horse : 1842-1877 / by Anne M. Todd. (American Indian biographies.) LCCN 2001006235. Mankato, Minn. : Capstone Press/Blue Earth Press, 2003.

HBB, 0736812105, list price: \$17.95; Order direct: <http://www.capstonepress.com/>

B (978.004/975/0092). Crazy Horse, ca. 1842-1877. ; Oglala Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Great Plains--Biography. 32 p. : ill. (some col.), col. map ; 27 cm.

Squanto : 1858?-1622 / by Arlene B. Hirschfelder. (American Indian biographies.) LCCN 2003013017. Mankato, Minn. : Capstone Press/Blue Earth Press, 2004.

HBB, 0736824464, list price: \$17.95; Order direct: <http://www.capstonepress.com/>

B (974.4004/97348/0092). Squanto.; Wampanoag Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Massachusetts--Biography.; Pilgrims (New Plymouth Colony); Plymouth (Mass.)--History--17th century.; Massachusetts--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775. 32 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), col. map ; 27 cm.

Chief Red Cloud : 1822-1909 / by Judy Monroe. (American Indian biographies.) LCCN 2003012063. Mankato, Minn. : Capstone Press/Blue Earth Press, 2004.

HBB, 0736824456, list price: \$17.95; Order direct: <http://www.capstonepress.com/>

B (978.004/975244/0092). Red Cloud, 1822-1909. ; Oglala Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Great Plains--Biography. 32 p. : ill. (some col.), col. map ; 27 cm.

Chief Joseph : 1840-1904 / by Mary Englar. (American Indian biographies.) LCCN 2003011071. Mankato, Minn. : Capstone Press/Blue Earth Press, 2004.

HBB, 0736824448, list price: \$17.95; Order direct: <http://www.capstonepress.com/>

B (979.5004/9741). Joseph, Nez Percé chief, 1840-1904; Nez Percé Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Northwest, Pacific--Biography. 32 p. : ill. (some col.), col. map ; 27 cm.

Sacagawea : 1788-1812 / by Rosemary Wallner. (American Indian biographies.) LCCN 2001008088. Mankato, Minn. : Capstone Press/Blue Earth Press, 2003.

HBB, 073681213X, list price: \$17.95; Order direct: <http://www.capstonepress.com/>

B (978.004/9745). Sacagawea.; Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806); Shoshoni Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Biography.; Women--Biography. 32 p. : ill. (some col.), col. map ; 27 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

American Indian Biographies are beautifully illustrated with photographs and paintings. The captions clearly identify each illustration. Maps and a timeline help readers put information into context. Quotes from primary documents are used throughout the text. A glossary, index, and list of other resources (including Internet sites) make this series useful for student research. Games, recipes, and other activities are included in each book, which will help readers understand the culture the Native American represents.

Each book opens with a famous or important scene in the life of person. The book then goes back to explore the person's life leading up to the event. Each book ends with the person's death.

The information in the biographies seems to be well researched. One problem I noted is that, at least in the case of Sacagawea, if there are differing "expert" views on certain aspects of the person's life, it is not necessarily reported. However, I would not hesitate to put this series in my school library.

Famous Native Americans

Sequoyah : inventor of the Cherokee written language / Diane Shaughnessy, Jack Carpenter. (Famous Native Americans.) LCCN 97017643. New York : Rosen/Power Kids Press, 1997.

HBB, 0823951103, list price: \$13.95; Order direct: <http://www.powerkidspress.com/>

B (973/.049755/0092). Sequoyah, 1770?-1843. ; Cherokee Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Biography.; Cherokee Indians--Alphabet.; Cherokee Indians--Writing. 24 p. : ill. (some col.); 19 x 20 cm.

Sacajawea : Shoshone trailblazer / Diane Shaughnessy, Jack Carpenter. (Famous Native Americans.) LCCN 97017642. New York : Rosen/Power Kids Press, 1997.

HBB, 0823951073, list price: \$13.95; Order direct: <http://www.powerkidspress.com/>

B (978/.004974/0092). Sacagawea.; Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806); Shoshoni Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Biography.; Women--Biography. 24 p. : ill. (some col.); 19 x 20 cm.

Sitting Bull : courageous Sioux chief / Diane Shaughnessy. (Famous Native Americans.) LCCN 97000220. New York : Rosen/Power Kids Press, 1997.

HBB, 082395109X, list price: \$13.95; Order direct: <http://www.powerkidspress.com/>

B (978.004/975). Sitting Bull, 1834?-1890. ; Dakota Indians--Biography.; Hunkpapa Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Biography. 24 p. : ill. (some col.); 19 x 20 cm.

Pocahontas : Powhatan princess / Diane Shaughnessy. (Famous Native Americans.) LCCN 96030024. New York : Rosen/Power Kids Press, 1997.

HBB, 0823951065, list price: \$13.95; Order direct: <http://www.powerkidspress.com/>

B (975.5/01/092). Pocahontas, d.1617. ; Powhatan Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Biography.; Women--Biography.; Jamestown (Va.)--History. 24 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 19 x 20 cm.

Chief Joseph : Nez Perce peacekeeper / Diane Shaughnessy, Jack Carpenter. (Famous Native Americans.) LCCN 97000222. New York : Rosen/Power Kids Press, 1997.

HBB, 0823951111, list price: \$13.95; Order direct: <http://www.powerkidspress.com/>

B (979/.004974/0092). Joseph, Nez Percé Chief, 1840-1904. ; Nez Percé Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Biography. 24 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 19 x 20 cm.

Chief Ouray : Ute peacemaker / Diane Shaughnessy, Jack Carpenter. (Famous Native Americans.) LCCN 97000221. New York : Rosen/Power Kids Press, 1997.

HBB, 0823951081, list price: \$13.95; Order direct: <http://www.powerkidspress.com/>

B (978.8/0049745/0092). Ouray.; Ute Indians--Biography.; Indians of North America--Biography. 24 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 19 x 20 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : 4.

The Famous Native Americans series is a set of biographies for children in grades 3-5. The books contain pronunciation guides within the text for difficult words. The words are defined in the book's glossary. The books also contain an index, which add to their usefulness as reference books. Photos, both new and old, paintings, and drawings complement the text.

The series seems pretty well researched although I found a couple of differences between information in two of the books and other information I had. The SEQUOYAH book states that the Cherokee now only live in Oklahoma; there are actually Cherokee in many of their original home places in the northeastern states. The POCAHONTAS book contains information somewhat contrary to that in Joseph Bruchac's biography of Pocahontas. Since no references are given for books in this series, there is no way to double-check the information given.

Most books in the series are about famous Native Americans: Pocahontas, Chief Joseph, Sitting Bull, Sacajawea, and Sequoyah. Chief Ouray is less familiar. He was made chief by the United States government and helped the Ute people keep peace with the government and the white settlers.

Students who are interested in famous Native Americans or who need to research for a biography report may find what they need in this series.

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.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Compare the information in the biographies to the information in your history textbooks. Discuss the differences and why they may have occurred.

Assign a research project requiring the students to read at least one biography of the chosen person, using encyclopedias and magazine articles to supplement the biography. This would be a good time to discuss how to research without plagiarizing. The use of primary documents and not fictionalizing history could also be discussed.

Discuss with your class what Jeri Ferris said about learning about history from people who lived it. Invite some people who have "experienced" history in to your classroom for your students to interview. The students could write a report on the interview.

Closely related to this would be to have your students interview a grandparent or other older person and write a biography of that person.

WESTERN MYTHS, WESTERN REALITIES

by Rosemarie DiCristo

Mention the American West to just about anyone and immediately certain images come to mind: cowboys and Indians, cattle ranches, vast open spaces, and the ideals of rugged individualism, freedom, and self-reliance. But how much of this is perception and how much is truth? How much was influenced by movies we watched or books we read? What was the West really like? The following books, mostly geared to junior high, high school, and college-age readers, address these issues in scholarly, historical, and pop-culture fashion.

Mythmakers of the west : shaping America's imagination / by John A. Murray. LCCN 2001030112. Flagstaff, Ariz. : Northland, 2001.

HBB, 0873587995, list price: \$40.00; Order direct: <http://www.northlandpub.com/store/index.cfm>

PAP, 873587723, list price: \$21.95; Order direct: <http://www.northlandpub.com/store/index.cfm>

978. West (U.S.)--Civilization; Legends--West (U.S.); Landscape--West (U.S.); Regionalism--West (U.S.); West (U.S.)--Intellectual life; West (U.S.)--In mass media. vii, 184 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 23 x 26 cm.

Grades 9 & up. Rating : 3.

This lavishly-produced book looks at the American West as seen through history, literature, art, music, popular culture, and modern and classic Westerns. Although it provides an interesting look at many aspects of the West and American culture, it's not really a book to be read in one sitting. It's more a collage of information about the West.

Each section of *Mythmakers of the West* is divided into two to four page "chapters" on a particular person or event. Covered in this manner are artists or photographers such as Frederic Remington, Ansel Adams, and Georgia O'Keefe; writers such as Washington Irving, Mark Twain, John Steinbeck, Zane Grey, Willa Cather, and Larry McMurty; musicians such as Woody Guthrie, Bob Wills, John Denver, Buddy Holly, and Selena; and filmmakers such as

John Ford, Clint Eastwood, Robert Redford, and Kevin Costner. (Author John A. Murray even manages a chapter on Marilyn Monroe and one on TV Westerns). Also covered: Lewis and Clark, Mormonism, Fred Harvey, and Route 66. There is a history/pop culture timeline of notable events in the West as well as a select bibliography.

Murray handles all these topics logically and well. The book's heavy focus on illustration (there are many black and white and color photos as well as reproductions of the featured artwork) make it look more like a coffee-table book than a serious study of the West. Murray's tone, however, is very serious—as well as decidedly anti-mythic and anti-romanticism, as if he were scornful of the whole idea of the American West. This can make his point of view rather subjective, although the amount of detail in his book helps counteract that.

While younger readers would benefit from a buffet-style read-through and will probably enjoy skimming the text or using it as a jumping off point for further research, the writing style is a bit too consciously ethereal to appeal to them. High school, college, and adult readers would be better audiences for the book.

A few cautions: one photo shows a profile shot of a nude woman crouched in a fetal position; some movie quotes contain profanity; there are occasional misuses of God's name.

Mythmakers of the West is a lovely book for general collections or for collections specializing in the West, but may not be the best choice for libraries with limited funds looking for one seminal book on the West.

Western places, American myths : how we think about the West / Gary J. Hausladen, editor. (Wilbur S. Shepperson series in history and humanities.) LCCN 2002015360. Reno : Univ. of Nevada Press, 2003.

HBB, 0874175313, list price: \$49.95; Order direct: <http://www.nvbooks.nevada.edu/>

978. West--Historical geography; Frontier and pioneer life--West (U.S.); West (U.S.)--Ethnic relations; Ethnology--West (U.S.); West (U.S.)--Description and travel; Regionalism--West (U.S.). xiv, 343 p. : ill. (some col.), maps ; 25 cm.

Grades 10 & up. Rating : 3.

Strongly scholarly in tone (*Western Places, American Myths* is published by the University of Nevada Press), this book is a collection of essays on the historic vs. the mythic West. It's broken down into three sections: Continuity and Change (focusing on how geography and other features, like ranches and national parks, helped shape the West); Enduring Regional Voices (a look at non-male, non-European views of the West); and The West as a Visionary Place (the more mythic aspects of the West, including ghost towns, gambling, and the West in film).

As with *Mythmakers*, this book is best used as a jumping-off point for further research. It's a strongly written and interesting look at its topic, but the text sometimes assumes the reader has a familiarity with certain historical events and does not explain them in detail; footnotes can provide clarification but more often refer the reader to other sources. The essays lend themselves more to opinion than to recounting the historical record, and again as in *Mythmakers*, the slant is subtly anti-mythic and anti-European. Sometimes the slant is not so subtle.

Western Places, American Myths lacks the pop culture emphasis of books like *Cowboy: How Hollywood Invented the Wild West* and *Reel Cowboys* and is more seriously-written than *Mythmakers*, meaning it would have its greatest appeal to older readers (high school and college students) or readers with a

strong interest in the West. The essays on the formation of our national parks, on the Hispanic settlement of and influence in the West, and on the Native American presence, are the most generally written and the most likely to appeal to the younger or casual reader. Also helpful for these groups: the book's liberal use of historical and contemporary photos and maps. Be warned, though, that among the photos is one of a topless woman (it's not a particularly provocative shot and her arm completely covers her private parts) and one of a 'shamanic-mud man' taken from the side (he's nude and his rear end is partly exposed). Also to keep in mind: a legend where God's name is used as an oath is recounted numerous times in the ghost town chapter.

The reel cowboy : essays on the myth in movies and literature / by Buck Rainey. LCCN 96003191. Jefferson, N.C. : McFarland, 1996.

HBB, 0786401060, list price: \$42.50; Order direct: <http://www.mcfarlandpub.com/>

791.43. Western films--United States--History and criticism; Cowboys and literature; Wild West shows--United States. x, 309 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 7 & up. Rating : 4.

The Reel Cowboy: Essays on the Myth in Movies and Literature is a lively, easily-readable, and humorous look at "reel" cowboys (the cowboys of Hollywood movies) as well as real cowboys. Also included: cowboys in Western novels and in Western shows and circuses.

Author Buck Rainey, a fan of Westerns as well as an author of eleven books and many articles on the West, nicely covers his topic. He contrasts the realities of the West with its portrayal in movies and fiction but, unlike some of the other authors highlighted in this article, does so in a gentle, affectionate way. The bulk of his book focuses on Western myths in movies and fiction, with much information on the films of William S. Hart, Tom Mix, Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, etc., and on authors such as Zane Grey, Max Brand, James Fenimore Cooper, Edna Ferber, and O. Henry. Rainey includes quotes from serious studies on the cowboy genre as well as primary sources and fanzines. There are also many black and white photos and

movie stills.

A nice touch is Rainey's detailed history of the rise of both pulp magazines and the film industry; there's enough information here for students looking to do a school report on these topics. For film buffs there are detailed filmographies of movies based on the novels of Zane Grey and James Oliver Curwood.

The book uses some very mild sexual innuendo (when contrasting a reel cowboy's impeccable morals with what a real cowboy might do with a girlfriend). It also contains a few casual references to film characters or actors who smoked, drank, swore, etc., although no details are given. One movie still from *Valdez in Coming* shows actress Susan Clark in bed with a man; it's obvious they're both naked beneath the sheets but there's nothing sexual about the shot.

Because *The Reel Cowboy* is not a particularly serious "literary" study of its topic, it would be a nice choice for general audiences looking for information on the West, the film industry, and the publishing world. The writing style is simple enough for older elementary school students but the book would also be helpful for junior high or high schoolers. Adult fans of Westerns would enjoy this book as well.

Cowboy : how Hollywood invented the Wild West : featuring The real West, Campfire melodies, Matinee idols, Four legged friends, Cowgirls & lone guns / Holly George-Warren. LCCN 2002021357. Pleasantville, N.Y. : Reader's Digest, 2002.

HBB, 0762103752, list price: \$32.95; CLJ price: \$24.75

George-Warren, Holly791.43. Western films--United States--History and criticism. 224 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 5 & up. Rating : 4.

Copiously illustrated, with large color and black and white photos, reproductions of movie posters, and other illustrations on every page, *Cowboy* is a feast for the eyes. Smoothly written and immensely readable, it will surely will appeal to today's shortened-attention-span youngsters. Yet there are also enough facts and trivia to appeal to teens and adults.

Holly George-Warren has written a nice look

at the rise of cowboys in truth and fiction. She uses short, to-the-point chapters to deliver information on the American West, including its Spanish/Mexican beginnings and African-American and women's roles in its settlement. There's a potpourri of historical data on such far-ranging topics as Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders, the Chisolm Trail, cattle drives, ranch life, and the growth of the railroad, as well as a more pop culture focus on cowboy songs, dime novels, and Buffalo Bill and his Wild West show. There's also an extensive section on movie and television Westerns and the early film industry.

This is the most readable of the books reviewed here, meaning it would have the greatest appeal to elementary school and junior high audiences. Note, however, that there are a few mild profanities (and one not so mild one) in the quotations used; allusions to prostitution, gambling, and heavy drinking in the cowboy life sections; a steamy photo of Jane Russell in her role in the movie *The Outlaw*; and a somewhat heavy focus on the amoral heroes of and violence in the post-1960s anti-Westerns.

While the book wouldn't be suitable for an extensive research paper on cowboys or the West, there's more than enough detail for a basic school report, as well as enough interesting facts to spur further research. (There's a bibliography listing approximately 60 books). Readers just wanting to know more about the West, real or imagined, would enjoy this, too. It will greatly appeal to general audiences and would be a good choice for libraries looking for a starter book on the topic.

Rosemarie DiCristo is a freelance writer who has published nonfiction and fiction for children and young adults in various magazines. She also regularly reviews childrens' books for five publications.

Chronicles of Prydain

by Donna W. Bowling

*

The book of three / Lloyd Alexander. rev. ed. (Chronicles of Prydain ; 1.) LCCN 98040901. New York : Henry Holt, 1999, 1964.

HBB, 0805061320, list price: \$19.95; CLJ price: \$14.95

Yearling, 1978, PAP, 0440407028, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Fantasy. ix, 190 p. : map ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : *5.

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The Black Cauldron / Lloyd Alexander. rev. ed. (Chronicles of Prydain ; 2.) LCCN 98040896. New York : Henry Holt, 1999, 1965.

HBB, 0805061312, list price: \$19.95; CLJ price: \$14.95

Yearling, 1985, PAP, 0440406498, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Fantasy. viii, 182 p. : map ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : *5.

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The castle of Llyr / Lloyd Alexander. rev. ed. (Chronicles of Prydain ; 3.) LCCN 98040897. New York : Henry Holt, 1999, 1966.

HBB, 0805061339, list price: \$19.95; CLJ price: \$14.95

Yearling, 1969, PAP, 0440411254, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Fantasy. ix, 172 p. : map ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : *5.

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Taran wanderer / Lloyd Alexander. rev. ed. (Chronicles of Prydain ; 4.) LCCN 98040904. New York : Henry Holt, 1999, 1967.

HBB, 0805061347, list price: \$19.95; CLJ price: \$14.95

Yearling, 1969, PAP, 0440484839, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Fantasy. ix, 222 p. : map ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : *5.

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The high king / Lloyd Alexander. rev. ed. (Chronicles of Prydain ; 5.) LCCN 98040900. New York : Henry Holt, 1999, 1968.

HBB, 0805061355, list price: \$19.95; CLJ price: \$14.95

Yearling, 1969, PAP, 0440435749, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Fantasy. ix, 253 p. : map ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : *5.

The foundling and other tales of Prydain / Lloyd Alexander. rev. and expanded ed. LCCN 98042807. New York : Henry Holt, 1999, 1966.

HBB, 0805061304, list price: \$19.95; CLJ price: \$14.95

Puffin, 1996, PAP, 0140378251, list price: \$4.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Children's stories, American; Fantasy fiction; Fantasy; Short stories. ix, 98 p. : map ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : 5.

The Book of Three – Taran, Assistant Pig Keeper, sets out to recover the frightened oracular white pig, Hen Wen. The princess Eilonwy, the bard-king Fflewddur Fflam, and shaggy Gurgi join the search. They find Hen protected by the Fair Folk, and Doli comes with them as a guide. Before they can warn others, they face the dreaded Horned King and his army. In the nick of time, Prince Gwydion arrives and kills the Horned King. After Taran recovers from his battle wounds, his friends accompany him and Hen Wen as they return home to Caer Dallben.

The Black Cauldron – Prince Gwydion convenes a council at Caer Dallben to destroy the Black Cauldron before the Dark Lord Arawn can use it to bring to life more “Cauldron-Born,” his deathless warriors. Taran and his companions find and retrieve the Cauldron, but face unexpected treachery from “allies” before the Cauldron is destroyed. Newbery Honor Book, 1966.

The Castle of Llyr – Taran accompanies Eilonwy to the Isle of Mona where she is to “learn how a princess should behave.” The steward Magg kidnaps Eilonwy and takes her to the enchantress Achren in an ancient abandoned castle. The companions find Eilonwy and return her “bauble,” the Golden Pelydym, which frees Eilonwy from Achren’s spell and destroys Achren’s power.

Taran Wanderer – Taran leaves home to discover his parentage. Through his travels he learns of the nobility of the common man as he tries his hand at several trades. He sees defeat, shame, and also victory. At the Mirror of Llunet he sees himself as he really is; and having found his identity—although not his parentage—he returns to his home with the enchanter Dallben.

The High King – Arawn, the Death-Lord, has risen, and Gwydion asks Taran to gather

warriors from among his friends in the east to fight against Arawn’s forces. Taran finds the mighty sword, Dyrnwyn, which Arawn had stolen and hidden. With Dyrnwyn, Taran destroys the Cauldron-Born and finally the Death-Lord himself. The seemingly impossible prophecy is fulfilled. Newbery Medal, 1969.

The Foundling and Other Tales of Prydain – Although they also shed light on Prydain before the adventures of Taran, these eight short stories can each be enjoyed independently: The Foundling; The Stone; The True Enchanter; The Rascal Crow; The Sword, The Smith, the Weaver, and the Harper; Coll and His White Pig; The Truthful Harp. The last two were previously published as individual picture books with illustrations by Evaline Ness; an earlier edition of *The Foundling* included only the first six stories.

Author Lloyd Alexander wrote for adults before he started writing for children. Now, of his more than forty published titles, more than thirty are books for children. Among his earlier works are the *Chronicles of Prydain*, which received wide acclaim, including a Newbery Honor Book, and finally the Newbery Medal. The fantasy world of Prydain grew out of Alexander’s familiarity with Welsh myths, but quickly developed its unique essence. A few names came from those myths, but the characters in the Prydain series have their own personalities. The *Chronicles of Prydain* can be viewed as one whole work, with independent parts that can stand alone. Each book has a different mood, rather like the movements of a symphony. The plot in each involves an evil enchantment to be overcome. As evil forces gain power, time itself often becomes an enemy. Taran and other major characters face internal struggles as well and grow through them. From an impetuous youth Taran develops into a noble, but humble and compassionate, leader of men. Even Gurgi, the shaggy, whimpering, comical companion to Taran, whose chief concerns were to partake of “crunchings and munchings” and to avoid “smackings and crackings,” acquires loyalty, courage, and generosity. Other memorable characters include: Eilonwy, a self-assertive enchantress-princess; Fflewddur Fflam, a boisterous bard-king who is inclined to exaggerate; and the good enchanter Dallben who could not kill. A major theme is duty, the necessity to attempt the appointed task whether or not one feels capable or brave. Other themes include cooperation, mercy, and sacrifice.

Alexander's style is exuberant, humor interspersed with fast-moving action.

Some have noted that the Chronicles of Prydain have certain similarities to Tolkien's trilogy, *The Lord of the Rings*. Tolkien's work is grander in scale and has fewer touches of humor. Although it also deals with momentous issues, including loss during warfare, Alexander's work is more high-spirited and more easily accessible to younger readers. Like some of the appendices in Tolkien's trilogy, the eight stories in *The Foundling* provide valuable background to the Chronicles. However, each of these short stories by Alexander stands alone with its own inventive plot, skillful characterization, and significant theme.

Each of the Prydain books has a black-and-white map and a brief author's note at the front of the volume. The new editions include pronunciation aids and expanded information "About the author" at the end of each volume. Readers who can find out-of-print picture-book copies of *Coll and His White Pig* and *The Truthful Harp* will enjoy the illustrations by Evaline Ness. I regret that none her illustrations for *The Truthful Harp* are in the new edition of *The Foundling*. (Is Fflewddur a caricature of Lloyd Alexander?) Highly recommended for all readers who enjoy high fantasy.

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

MS WINDOWS :

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

by

Debra Stombres

Nowadays library work often includes babysitting any number of PC workstations for a veritable plethora of library related software applications. It doesn't make any difference if you have Win XP, Win 98, Win ME, Win 2000 or Win Whatsamacallit. What starts out fast always ends slow. It just seems to be the nature of the beast. And when the patron complains that your catalog is slower than cards, well, we kind of start to bristle a little don't we?

There are some up-keeping chores and other tricks that can help you maintain optimal PC health and performance. Many of these utilities and maintenance activities Microsoft assumes we all know and enjoy performing, but I am guessing they don't realize most of us have other hobbies. For more information, check out web sites for *PC World* magazine, *PC Magazine*, etc.

BUILT IN CLEAN UP APPLICATIONS

Let's start with the programs Microsoft provides. START<PROGRAMS<ACCESSORIES<SYSTEM TOOLS holds several helpful fixes. Disk Cleanup will empty your recycle bin,

wipe out temp files and clear out temp web pages. It does not, however, clean up your cookies (files left by web pages you visit that give information back to the site the next time you go their).

To further clean up your web activity, open a browser, click TOOLS<INTERNET OPTIONS<DELETE COOKIES. It is also a good idea to DELETE ALL OFFLINE CONTENT from this page.

Even after these two fixes, you should still search for temp folders in the Windows directory, the system directory and anywhere else you find a temp file. Right click on the START button and choose EXPLORE from the menu that appears. Scroll the files on the left. You can leave the yellow temp files

but delete cookies and http files that fill them up. (to delete a long list of items, click the top item, hold down the shift key and click the last item you wish to select. All should turn gray or blue. Continuing holding the shift key, right click and choose delete from the menu that appears)

Also in SYSTEM TOOLS is a handy tool called DISK DEFRAG. Be prepared to leave the PC running for quite awhile, perhaps hours once you launch this. What the program is actually doing is moving data from scattered locations on the hard drive and rewriting them in a nice orderly pattern. This is especially helpful if you have deleted or upgraded software. It will save hard drive space and may speed up performance. Norton offers a suite of more enhanced applications for better scanning and repairing of frequently changing hard drives.

POPUP CONTROLS

What about those nasty pop-ups? "I've been told once I go to this site, I am stuck with these forever!" Hardly. While it is yet another utility to maintain, there is a free fix to popup controls. Go to

<http://www.lavasoftusa.com/support/download/#free> and download the free version of AdAware. Run it once a week for a PC that is frequently surfing the web. It is the ultimate exterminator for buggy pop-ups!q

VIRUS OF THE MONTH CLUB

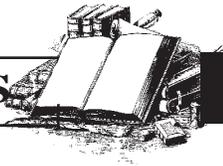
For frequent web surfing, a virus checker is a must. Update it at least weekly! You only need to lose your entire PC to a virus once to become hooked on this one. (Speaking meekly from experience.)

START-UP MAGIC, OR IS IT?

Software designers seem to think we want each of their respective programs to do something special on the desktop and at startup. Broderbund will put a scheduler in your start-up when you install PrintMaster, one of my favorite fun programs for easy desktop publishing. RealAudio and similar media programs place icons on the toolbar make themselves your default media viewer. In this case, whomever was added last wins. Instant messaging adds a host of programs that launch at start up unless you stop them. All of this grossly slows down the time it takes to start up a computer, and these also use up precious RAM memory as they run continuously in the background. In most cases, find the options menu in the respective program and telling it not to launch at start up will solve the problem. Sometimes you have to go into MSCONFIG and uncheck the boxes. Use caution in doing this as you need certain MS programs to launch, and you probably want your anti-virus software running, but you don't need extra schedulers, alarms, IM windows, etc.

So, now that you have spent hours reviving your PC investments, relax and let those software programs save you the time they were meant to!

Debra Stombres is a former school librarian and currently works for a communications network company in West Chicago, Illinois.



Song and dance man / by Karen Ackerman ; illustrated by Stephen Gammell. LCCN 87003200. New York : Knopf, 2003, c1988.

HBB, 0394893301, list price: \$15.95; CLJ price: \$11.95

LIB, 0394993306, list price: \$17.99; order direct: <http://www.randomhouse.com/knopf/home.html>

E. Entertainers--Fiction; Grandfathers--Fiction; Caldecott Medal. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. : 28 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 4.

Often children don't have the opportunity to really know their grandparents. Were they ever vital? Did they have aspirations, dreams, joys? The children in *Song and Dance Man*, by Karen Ackerman, have the unique honor to be the audience as Grandpa reenacts some favorite times when he was a song and dance man doing "the circuit." Does he miss those good old days?

"He smiles and whispers that he wouldn't trade a million good old days for the days he spends with (his grandchildren.)"

With gentle pacing, Ackerman tells the story of this hour spent together. They ascend the stairs into the attic and put on treasured costumes. Grandpa lets the children in on the details of his past. The climax comes as no surprise. Does he miss his past? Does he have regrets? Grandpa is content today because he shares the time with his grandchildren.

Stephen Gammell's illustrations pair nicely with the text. In good storybook tradition, the pictures can stand alone. The drawings are not always exact, but their soft colors seem to justify their lack of squareness. The children are merry; Grandpa, that energetic young man again for a

brief moment. The book provides an excellent opportunity to discuss dance vocabulary with the reader: vaudeville, tap shoes, shammy.

Song and Dance Man is a 1989 Caldecott Medal winner.

Su Hagerly, MA. Elementary Music Specialist, Issaquah, Washington.

I don't like mosquitoes! / written by Michael Ambrosio ; illustrated by Bob Langan. Folsom, Calif. : LionX Publishing, 2003.

HBB, 0971608520, list price: \$16.95; CLJ price: \$12.75

E. Dogs--Fiction; Mosquitoes--Fiction; Puppies--Fiction; Animals--Infancy--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 29 cm.

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

Based on the quality of the work, comparing this book with others in the same genre.

*** — Outstanding**

5 — Excellent

4 — Very good

3 — Readable

Recommended with caution (see specific reservations within the review)

Not recommended (see the problems described within the review)

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

Grades PS-3. Rating : 3.

"I don't like mosquitoes!" wails Poochiegrass the puppy, as his hindquarters are assaulted repeatedly by stubborn Minnesota mosquitoes. Full-page pictures and narration show Poochiegrass displaying ingenuity and determination, but the victorious final solution comes from his master.

An amusing Ode to Poochiegrass begins this moral tale. Children's author Michael Ambrosio, noted for his "I Don't" picture book series, tells a simple, humorous tale with scope for several morals, including be brave, persevere, and trust your master. Freelance illustrator and animator Bob Langan's felt tip and computer illustrations are bright and animated. The stars of the story decorate the sturdy binding.

I Don't Like Mosquitoes will lend itself to individual reading or reading aloud.

Donna J. Eggett. Freelance Writer, Radford, Virginia.

Togo / Robert J. Blake. LCCN 2001045926. New York : PenguinPutnam/Philomel Books, 2002.

HBB, 0399233814, list price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75

E. Sled dogs--Fiction; Siberian husky--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction; Diphtheria--Fiction; Alaska--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 22 x 29 cm.

Grades 1-4. Rating : 4.

In 1925, Nome, Alaska, was in the midst of a deadly diphtheria outbreak. Antitoxin was desperately needed, yet trains only ran to Nenana—600 miles from Nome. There had to be a way to get the antitoxin to Nome and there was: dogsled. *Togo*, a children's picture book with paintings and text by Robert J. Blake, describes one portion of that trek to Nome.

Blake's well written but easy to understand text ably covers the tension of the serum run, but it also nicely sets up Togo's pre-serum run background, including how his small size was a liability. Togo, a Siberian husky, was thought to be too small, independent, and feisty to be a good team member (and thus, a good sled dog). But he actually used his sense of direction and stubbornness to become one of the best sled-racing dogs in early 20th Century Alaska. His greatest test came during the serum run.

Although Togo's team was only one of several in the relay, and he didn't get to actually bring the serum into Nome, his persistence and skill in the face of a severe blizzard makes a compelling story. The hardships, the cold, the worsening weather, and the agony of dogs pushing themselves past the limits of their stamina are all vividly portrayed. A nice touch that emphasizes the pressures Togo and his sled faced: Blake provides date headers on some pages to show the day by day crawl as they attempt to carry the serum to its destination.

Blake's lush oil paintings wonderfully complement the story. They are realistic yet appealing. Togo's thoughts are clearly transmitted by his eyes and facial expressions, which seem almost human. Child readers, especially dog fans, will be delighted by this lovely book.

Rosemarie DiCristo. Children's Author, Bronx, New York.

On Noah's ark / Jan Brett. LCCN 2003001281. New York : PenguinPutnam/G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2003.

HBB, 0399240284, list price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75

E. Noah (Biblical figure)--Fiction; Noah's ark--Fiction; Animals--Fiction; Grandfathers--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 30 cm.

Grades PS-K. Rating : 5.

What is more intriguing? Jan Brett's breathtakingly beautiful pictures of the animals boarding the ark, or the Noah story told through the voice of Noah's young granddaughter? In the center of each set of pages is an illustration: Noah's preparation for the animals, their entrance two by two into the ark, the cramped quarters for forty days and nights, and land, at last! Side bars reveal the thoughts of Noah's granddaughter and smaller illustrations, each shaped like a different animal. This is a lovely and interesting layout, easily encouraging dialogue between reader and listener.

Preschoolers and children in early elementary school will love this childlike retelling of Noah. Older children and adults will be fascinated by the stunning drawings of Jan Brett. *On Noah's Ark* would also be a great choice for a church or Christian school storytime.

Ceil Carey, LTA. Young Adult Public Librarian, Plano, Illinois.

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Little Bear's little boat / by Eve Bunting ; illustrated by Nancy Carpenter. (The Little Bear adventure series.) LCCN 2001037233. New York : Clarion Books, 2003.

HBB, 0395974623, list price: \$12.00; CLJ price: \$9.00

E. Growth--Fiction; Size--Fiction; Bears--Fiction; Animals--Infancy--Fiction; Boats and boating--Fiction. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades PS-1. Rating : *5.

Children who are outgrowing their favorite possessions will identify with the main character in *Little Bear's Little Boat*. Eve Bunting writes of a lovable, huggable Little Bear. He is beautifully illustrated by Nancy Carpenter. The artist uses much blue water, the green outdoors, and always the little red boat.

Each day, Little Bear rows his little boat around Huckleberry Lake. He is growing. One day, he falls in the water. He is too large for his little

boat! Mother Bear explains, "It is a little bear's destiny to grow and grow till he is a BIG BEAR. It is a little boat's destiny to stay the same size." Big Bear is sad. Then, he says, "I know! I will find another little bear who will love my little boat..."

Big Bear gives his beloved little boat to a little bear. Big Bear states, "You will get bigger...then you must find another little bear to fit the little boat." He continues, "...it is a little boat's destiny to keep sailing on a blue, blue lake." Big Bear watches the new little bear enjoy the little boat. Both bears are happy. Big Bear finds boards and carpentry tools. What do you think he begins to make? Yes, the last page shows Big Bear happily making a big boat.

The word "destiny" is carefully mentioned. Children will learn the word, without really trying. They will realize the destiny of outgrown possessions is sharing with younger children. Little Bear shared his beloved boat. He is a fine role model.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Church Library Volunteer, Freelance Writer, Dexter, Kentucky.

Shadow / translated and illustrated by Marcia Brown from the French of Blaise Cendrars. LCCN 81009424. New York : Simon & Schuster/Scribner's, 1996, 1982.

HBB, 0684172267, list price: \$17.00; CLJ price: \$12.75

E. French poetry; Shadows--Poetry; Africa--Poetry. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : 5.

In the translation from French, *Shadow* (originally by Blaise Cendrars) is defined. But, how to explain the undefinable? The Ancients wrestled with the mystery. What was its genesis? How does it exist? One thing we know: the shadow has no shadow. This picture book explores this unusual theme. Throughout the hours of the day and night, *Shadow* is present in differing forms because *Shadow* is omnipresent. "Shadow is always Shadow, it needs no ornament, no tattoo. The zebra's shadow has no stripe."

The words of *Shadow* unsettle the reader. How can this be? The writer explores the natural setting, that of primitive man. The book is best absorbed when read aloud. The text is provocative, setting out statements that demand some thought, some sorting through what is known and what is unknown to test the validity.

The drawings that accompany *Shadow* are angular. They are silhouettes that show the eye slits and animal tooth necklaces. The shadow lurks in the background: a wraith, almost a premonition of the future, a symbol of remembrance. Sometimes the likeness is exact, sometimes augmented or diminished, depending on the light source. Marcia Brown summons the spirit of Africa in her collages and with a

minimum use of color, blending the words with not soon forgotten images. For this, she was awarded the 1983 Caldecott Medal. This is an unusual book. Both the text and the illustrations should be previewed by an adult prior to sharing it with children.

Su Hagerty, MA. Elementary Music Specialist, Issaquah, Washington.

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Drummer Hoff / adapted by Barbara Emberley ; illustrated by Ed Emberley. LCCN 87035755. New York : Simon & Schuster, 1987, c1967.

HBB, 0671662481, list price: \$17.95; CLJ price: \$13.50

Aladdin Books, 1972, PAP, 067166249X, list price: \$6.99; CLJ price: \$5.25

E. Folk songs. [32] p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : *5

Drummer Hoff, adapted from an old folk song by Barbara Emberley, is first and foremost a picture book. The storyline is simple. Drummer Hoff, who may seem to be the least of the characters, has the most important job of actually firing the cannon. Others are in charge of bringing the carriage on which to set the fire piece, the barrel, powder, and rammer. The shot is entrusted to Major Scott. General Border may give the order, but "Drummer Hoff fired it off." Even a single activity is best performed by a company of people, each an expert in his own right.

Drummer Hoff is written in the cumulative style. Each character is introduced, along with his role. The second person is named, then the first one's name and position is repeated. This process continues until the General's name is revealed and the culminating action is put in motion: the cannon is fired.

Ed Emberley, well-known artist, decorates *Drummer Hoff* with drawings that are richly stylized and worthy of note. The soldiers bring to mind the nutcrackers from the Christmas fantasy "The Nutcracker Suite." Entire pictures are detailed with lines that heighten the excitement towards the explosion at the end of the tale. Primary and secondary colors make up Emberley's main palette with just a touch of other colors to maintain authenticity. The illustrations are a "wow" factor in this book.

Su Hagerty, MA. Elementary Music Specialist, Issaquah, Washington.

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Big week for Little Mouse / written by Eugenie Fernandes ; illustrated by Kim Fernandes. Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 155337665X, list price: \$14.95; CLJ price: \$11.25

E. Mice--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 cm.

Grade PS. Rating : *5.

The terrific rhyming verses in *Big Week for Little Mouse* convey lots of enthusiasm for activities each day leading up to Little Mouse's birthday. Preschool readers will learn the days of the week and about opposites such as low and high, wet and dry, messy and neat, sour and sweet, as they watch her working side-by-side with her mother. They mop, launder, shop for goodies, bake, and decorate. Perhaps Little Mouse's most exciting activity is making party hats for her friends—"A hat for sunshine. One for rain. One that's fancy. One that's plain."

The playful, brightly-colored, three-dimensional images are of high quality and alive with activity, enhancing the theme of the story. Eugenie Fernandes' book will appeal to a wide range of children because of the quickly-moving narration and birthday theme that excite all children. Readers will also learn that work can be fun when shared with someone you love. The illustrations by Kim Fernandes are so much fun that a youngster could "read" the book all by themselves, and later imitate some of the images using modeling clay. This picture book is not only wonderful to read, but rich in teaching potential.

Florence G. Craig. Freelance Writer, Telford, Pennsylvania.

Buster / Denise Fleming. LCCN 2002010857. New York : Henry Holt, 2003.

HBB, 0805062793, list price: \$15.95; CLJ price: \$11.95

E. Dogs--Fiction; Cats--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

Denise Fleming's *Buster* introduces a dog whose perfect life with Brown Shoes (his owner, who appears only as the tip of a brown shoe in one scene, hence the name) is invaded by a little white bundle of feline trouble named Betty. Buster, who is afraid of cats, is terrified and decides that if he ignores her, she'll leave him alone. When that doesn't work, he runs away to the park, where he revels in not having Betty's attentions to annoy him—until he discovers he's lost and needs help to find his way back home.

As usual, Fleming tells the story with her trademark-style bright colorful paper pulp paintings. Buster is a hoot, running in and out of his house through a doggy door, dancing to the radio set to his favorite station, and demanding Brown Shoes' attention to take him on a walk. Betty is cute and cuddly and completely unthreatening, which makes Buster's fearful reaction even funnier. And the way Fleming presents people and scenery from a dog's point of view (mostly knee-high) gives the illustrations extra appeal.

Fleming includes a map (complete with legend) at the end of the story, which can be used to give little readers a sense of how maps work. Notice

the streets; they're named after some of Fleming's friends and family members, including husband David Powers, daughter Indigo, and Henry Holt editor Laura Godwin. And don't miss the picture of Fleming (aka Red Toes) on the back flap of the book jacket, shot from Buster's and Betty's point of view.

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

*

Ox-cart man / by Donald Hall ; illustrated by Barbara Cooney. LCCN 79014466. New York : PenguinPutnam/Viking, 1979.

HBB, 0670533289, list price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75

Puffin, 1983, PAP, 0140504419, list price: \$6.99; CLJ price: \$5.25

E. New England--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 22 x 28 cm.

Grades K-2. Rating : *5.

Life on an early 19th century New England farm is the subject of Donald Hall's book, *Ox-Cart Man*. It takes us through the seasons as we watch the family work together, each one using their own talents, to produce saleable items for father to take to the Portsmouth Market. Sheep shearing, fruit and vegetable growing, flax spinning, and carpentry are some of the important pieces of the family tapestry Hall weaves together to demonstrate the variety of activities on an American farm. Young readers learn the value of working with their hands for the common good of the family in a time when life moved at a slower pace, like the sap flowing from the farm's sugar maple trees.

The lyrical repetition is pleasant for oral reading. This also enhances the sense of continuity in the farmer's family as they perform their tasks year after year. The tranquil pace of *Ox-Cart Man* makes it a perfect bedtime book.

Barbara Cooney's folk art illustrations, which awarded her the Caldecott Medal in 1980, are warm and rich, evoking the gentle, peaceful home life and countryside of a time gone by. The pictures alone are worth the price of the book.

Florence G. Craig. Freelance Writer, Telford, Pennsylvania.

Recess riddles / Marilyn Helmer, Jane Kurisu. (Kids can read.) C2003902332X. Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 1553375777, list price: \$14.95; CLJ price: \$11.25

PAP, 1553375785, list price: \$3.95; CLJ price: \$2.95

E. Riddles. 31 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Funtime riddles / Marilyn Helmer, Jane Kurisu. (Kids can read.) C20039023281. Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 1553375793, list price: \$14.95; CLJ price: \$11.25

PAP, 1553375807, list price: \$3.95; CLJ price: \$2.95

E. Riddles. 31 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades K-1. Rating : 4.

Kids love joke and riddle books. I even know a child who taught herself to read so she could decode the jokes and riddles in a book no one had time to read to her. If you're always looking for clean joke books for your students, KidsCan has made the search easier by publishing these two riddle books targeted for the newly independent reader.

Marilyn Helmer has taken the best of the oldies, added a few newbies, and illustrated them with Jane Kurisu's cute drawings. Children will particularly enjoy *Recess Riddles*, as all the jokes center on school activities. There is a riddle about Dracula learning his counting at school but the rest of the book is innocuous. The *Funtime Riddles* entertained my first grade son. It has one joke about ghosts liking to play moanopoly but the rest of the riddles are again, innocent. Children will delight that they can read these books themselves. Be prepared to groan at corny jokes if you put these books in your library.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.

One winter's night / by John Herman ; illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. LCCN 2002015408. New York : PenguinPutnam/Philomel Books, 2003.

HBB, 0399234187, list price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75

E. Cows--Fiction; Birth--Fiction; Jesus Christ--Nativity--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades PS-1. Rating : 4.

A twist on the familiar Christmas story, *One Winter's Night* by John Herman tells the tale from the perspective of a young pregnant cow. She is lost. She wanders, searching for a safe place to have her calf. She moves through the snow, viewing the wildlife, the abandoned buildings, the brilliant star in the east. Then she sees a shelter ahead. As Martha enters the stable, the cow is met by a young couple. In the course of the night, both a calf and a human child are delivered. "'Well, now, two glorious babies on one winter's night,' the man said. And he smiled at Mary beside him."

One Winter's Night is a good read aloud book. The illustrations are a lovely mixture of woodcuts and softly rendered drawings. The woodcuts are colored in shades of neutral tones. The other pictures are in muted hues, in keeping with this tale of the night Jesus was born. With an eye for the realistic, the Dillons present visual support to this gentle story.

Su Hagerty, MA. Elementary Music Specialist, Issaquah, Washington.

My first horse / by Will James. (Tumbleweed series.) LCCN 2003014814. Missoula, Mont. : Mountain Press, 2004.

HBB, 0878424881, list price: \$16.00; CLJ price: \$12.00

E. Horses--Fiction; Cowboys--Fiction; Ranch life--Fiction. vii, 38 p. : col. ill. ; 18 x 24 cm.

Grades 2-4. Rating : 4.

My First Horse is a simple tale about a horse-crazy little boy's love for his very first horse—a toy rocking horse—and then his joy at getting his first real horse. It's a charming, well-written story, with a quiet, nostalgic air.

Will James was quite well known in the early part of the 20th century as an author/illustrator of books and articles about cowboys, horses, and the American West. After he died at age 50 in 1942, his work fell out of favor. Mountain Press is currently reprinting most of his fiction, including children's books.

The story is told in first person, with the assumption that the little boy protagonist is Will James. The way he describes his love for his toy horse, his eventually outgrowing it, and his delight at finally getting a real horse will ring true to children and adults. The book is advertised as being for all ages, but the plot and style make it best suited for preschool and early elementary students.

James' illustrations, done in pen and ink with added watercolor, are simple and charming; oddly, though, they often appear on the page following the scene they are depicting.

Some children might find this dreamy story too slow moving, but most children should recognize and be able to relate to a boy's love for a favorite toy... and the flights of fancy the toy brings about.

My First Horse is a nice choice for libraries and personal collections.

Rosemarie DiCristo. Children's Author, Bronx, New York.

Franklin and the contest / story written by Sharon Jennings ; illustrated by Sean Jeffery, Sasha McIntyre and Alice Sinkner. (Kids can read.) C20039042502. Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 1553374916, list price: \$14.95; CLJ price: \$11.25

PAP, 1553374924, list price: \$3.95; CLJ price: \$2.95

E. Contests--Fiction; Determination (Personality trait)--Fiction. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades K-2. Rating : 5.

The ever popular Franklin the turtle is at it again, this time trying to decide what he could do "for five hours without stopping" in order to win the *Gee Whiz Magazine's* contest.

Franklin and the Contest is a Kids Can Read with Help, level 2 reader. This means the book has a longer story than a beginning reader, contains a varied vocabulary yet some repetition, and also includes visual clues to give assistance to kids that can read but still might need a little help.

The story comes to a clever conclusion, as always in Franklin's adventures, giving the reader something to think about. Author Sharon Jennings offers illustrations that are bright and appealing. Young readers will love the story and parents will be pleased at the opportunity for their child to practice reading skills and perhaps gain some new ones.

Ceil Carey, LTA. Young Adult Public Librarian, Plano, Illinois.

Orphan train / Verla Kay ; illustrations by Ken Stark. LCCN 2001048129. New York : G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2003.

HBB, 0399236139, list price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$11.95

E. Orphans--Fiction; Orphan trains--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Stories in rhyme. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 x 26 cm.

Grades K-4. Rating : 5.

If you want a touching story, consider *Orphan Train*. Verla Kay's short rhymes and Ken Stark's heart-rending pictures realistically portray orphaned children. Although fiction, the book is based on real orphan trains from 1854 to 1929.

Harold, Lucy, and David watch their parents die. The children survive by begging, stealing, and sleeping in store doorways on snowy nights. The artist skillfully uses dark colors to portray the crowded, dirty city. You'll see a typhoid fever quarantine, a boy dangling a rat by the tail, and barefooted Lucy. Finally, a woman welcomes the children to an orphanage.

The three siblings must ride an orphan train to western United States. The steam engine chugs along, with billowing black smoke. The illustrations become brighter...green pastures, sunshine, flowers, farm animals, and the blue sky. The change in colors give a subtle sign of hope.

At each stop, people select children. "Small feet scuffle, Shuffle, walk. Lines of children, Townsfolk gawk." At an early stop, a farmer chooses David. Eventually, a woman wants Lucy. Life appears promising. The neat farmhouse includes a feather pillow and a hand-stitched quilt for the young girl. Lucy misses Harold and David, however. At Sunday service, Lucy wears a beautiful blue dress. To Lucy's delight, Harold appears in a brown suit with his new family.

Lucy and Harold stand by the white clapboard church. Hurts remain in their tender, young hearts. They think "Thoughts of David, Far away. Prayers they'll find him—Safe—someday." *Orphan Train* teaches compassion and encourages empathy for less-fortunate people. Be prepared to answer serious questions from children about social injustice and unfairness in life.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Church Library Volunteer, Freelance Writer, Dexter, Kentucky.

Orville : a dog story / by Haven Kimmel ; illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker. LCCN 2002155649. New York : Clarion Books, 2003.

HBB, 061815955X, list price: \$15.00; CLJ price: \$11.25

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

Grades PS-3. Rating : 4.

Orville, by Haven Kimmel, tells the story of a big, ugly dog who has just about given up on life. A farmer with simple dreams and a wife full of sorrow find him and take him in, but soon find they must put him on a chain as he is too big and too wild to run free. In his isolation and longing, Orville finds the only outlet left to him: "He knew about the broken hearts of people, and how they failed to love or do right, and knowing what he knew just made him want to bark."

Life is bleak until the arrival of a young woman next door who has three desires: "To visit the county fair. To learn to knit a sweater. To be loved, just once in her life." Orville is smitten and determines to break his chains to be with her. She, of course, is frightened to death to wake and find an ugly mutt with a big bark by her bed. All ends well in Haven Kimmel's poignant tale of one dog's search for love and relationship, but nothing is sappy, and children will identify with the range of Orville's emotions along the way.

Robert Andrew Parker's watercolor and ink illustrations are understated and impressionistic, allowing the unusually long text for a picture book to pull the reader along. The story is quietly gripping and although shadows of life's heartbreak darken the book, Orville's desire that people know that "there are ways to slip free of a chain," leaves readers with hope.

Lillian Heytvelt, BA/BS. Library Director, Denny Ashby Memorial Library, Pomeroy, Washington.

Sam gets lost / written by Mary Labatt ; illustrated by Marisol Sarrazin. (Kids can read.) C20039023303. Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 1553375629, list price: \$14.95; CLJ price: \$11.25

PAP, 1553375637, list price: \$3.95; CLJ price: \$2.95

E. Dogs--Fiction. 30 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Sam goes to school / written by Mary Labatt ; illustrated by Marisol Sarrazin. (Kids can read.) C20039023311. Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 1553375645, list price: \$14.95; CLJ price: \$11.25

PAP, 1553375653, list price: \$3.95; CLJ price: \$2.95

E. Dogs--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 31 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades K-1. Rating : 4.

Sam is a mischievous little puppy who reminds me of some kindergartners I know. That's a good thing because this story is ideal for them. Part of the Kids Can Start to Read series, the Sam books by Mary Labatt captivate young

readers with a story they are capable of reading themselves. Sam is a lot like Curious George in her antics and the children will laugh, recognizing a fellow conspirator.

In *Sam Goes to School*, the puppy's curiosity leads her onto the school bus. All the children want to assist her in her outing so they conceal her in a backpack and feed her a cookie. Sam thinks school is pretty fun! But after a while she gets bored and decides to join the class, with predictable results.

In *Sam Gets Lost* the author very gently deals with the fear of being lost that many children have. Sam makes a bad choice to leave the side of her owners and wanders around the city for a while. All turns out well in the end. This book might open up a discussion about choices and obedience as well as safety rules.

The books are illustrated by Marisol Sarrazin in lovely chalk drawings. There are children and adults of all hues, and Sam is an adorable black and white mop. Both books are charming.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.

Paul Revere's ride / by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow ; illustrated by Monica Vachula ; historical note by Jayne E. Triber. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyds Mills, 2003.

HBB, 1563977990, list price: \$16.95; CLJ price: \$12.75

E. Revere, Paul, 1735-1818; Lexington, Battle of, Lexington, Mass., 1775--Poetry; United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Poetry; Narrative poetry; American poetry. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 29 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 5.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, American writer, is perhaps best known for his poem, "Paul Revere's Ride," with the familiar opening "Listen, my children, and you shall hear of the midnight ride of Paul Revere." American hero Revere and an unnamed friend agree to warn the countryside about the British invasion. The friend spies on the British, trying to learn more about their plans. To alert Paul Revere, the compatriot agrees to place lanterns,— "One if by land, two if by sea"—in the Old North Church window. That night, two lamps are lit. The poem narrates those historic night hours of April 17, 1775, as Paul Revere rides through the countryside to spread the word.

Longfellow, according to the Historical Note written by Dr. Jayne E. Triber, was concerned about America, who was on the brink of the Revolutionary War. He wanted to remind the people of the foundation of their nation: liberty and equality. Triber says Longfellow took a few liberties with the course of history, but ended up with the same result. The iambic pentameter of the poem is a classic example of this literary rhythm. Of great interest to the scholar is the

loose form of the rhyme. The randomness serves to accent the rollicking cadence.

Monica Vachula uses the words of the poem as an inspiration and faithfully paints the scenes in oil. The detail takes the reader through the eastern countryside, riding along with Revere. The text and a small drawing share a page, and the facing page is a visual rendering of the narrative.

Su Hagerty, MA. Elementary Music Specialist, Issaquah, Washington.

Thank you, Ruth & Naomi / by Charlotte Lundy ; illustrated by Margaret Ray James. Mooresville, N.C. : Bay Light, 2004.

HBB, 0974181706, list price: \$15.95; CLJ price: \$11.95

E. Friendship--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 3.

Thank You, Ruth & Naomi is a story about two best friends, Keana and Ashley. They take turns playing at each other's house every weekend. One day, a new girl, Grace, moves into Ashley's neighborhood. Grace also comes to Sunday school at the same church Keana and Ashley attend. That Monday at school, Keana overhears Ashley inviting Grace over to play. Keana is upset. She thinks Grace will now be Ashley's new best friend. When Keana's mother notices she is sad, Keana tells her about Ashley and Grace. To help Keana understand about making and keeping friends, Keana's mother tells her the Bible story of Ruth and Naomi. The story ends with Keana and Ashley remaining best friends.

Using action and dialogue from the beginning would make this a stronger story. Once the action and dialogue begins on page ten, the pace picks up, although in passive voice most of the time. Including the third girl, Grace, in the action would also strengthen the book.

Author Charlotte Lundy uses Ruth and Naomi to support her main topic: friendship. Keana's mother refers to Ruth and Naomi as best friends, although in the Scriptures, Ruth and Naomi's story is more about faithfulness and God's provision.

The watercolor illustrations by Miriam Sagasti are on the folksy side and somewhat stilted. Every page is a spread. The cover illustration and inside cover show all three girls playing together, but that is not indicated in the story.

Thank You, Ruth & Naomi is best suited for younger children, especially for reading aloud with an adult.

Because many young children have a hard time playing with more than one friend, they will benefit from the lesson of making new friends while keeping old ones.

Pam Halter. *Children's Author, Pennsville, New Jersey.*

The egg tree / story and pictures by Katherine Milhous. LCCN 91015854. New York : Simon & Schuster, 1992.

Rebound, 833586130, list price: \$14.15; CLJ price: \$10.60

Aladdin Books, 1992, c1950, PAP, 0689715684, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

E. Easter eggs--Fiction; Easter--Fiction; Pennsylvania Dutch--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 25 cm.

Grades K-2. Rating : 3.

"There's nothing like an Easter Egg Tree to bring Spring into the house." *The Egg Tree*, written and illustrated by Katherine Milhous is a charming story of Katy's first Easter Egg hunt, and how it led to spreading the cheer of Spring all over the world. Katy, brother Carl, and their cousins spend Easter week-end with their Grandmom. The children discuss the proper way to entice the Easter bunny. He finally comes, but the inexperienced Katy doesn't find any eggs. She slinks away to the attic, and there she finds a hatful of beautifully decorated eggs. That discovery leads to the making of the Easter Egg Tree.

The author helps the reader understand that there is more than one way to celebrate spring and Easter. The story finds its impetus through the dialogue between the generations. Traditions are both honored and created in Grandmom's kitchen. Fantasy and reality intermingle. The children replicate Grandmom's intricate folkart designs on their own eggs. People from all over the world come to view the amazing Easter Egg Tree.

Milhous features sunset orange and sage green in her illustrations. The characters are sketch-like with little dimension. Pennsylvania Dutch patterns decorate the top and bottom margins of the pages. Every drawing is stylized, carefully following a formula for integrity to the artist's scheme.

The Egg Tree was the Caldecott Medal winner in 1951.

Su Hagerty, MA. *Elementary Music Specialist, Issaquah, Washington.*

Sherman Crunchley / by Laura Numeroff and Nate Evans ; illustrated by Tim Bowers. LCCN 2002040814. New York : PenguinPutnam/Dutton Children's Books, 2003.

HBB, 0525471308, list price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$11.95

E. Individuality--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction; Police--Fiction; Hats--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades PS-K. Rating : 4.

Sherman Crunchley is a canine police officer. He comes from a long line of police officers but he doesn't really like being one. Soon his father, the police chief, is retiring and Sherman is in

line for his job. Does he want it? Of course not. But Sherman has another problem, too. He just doesn't know how to say no. So refusing the job may take a little creativity on his part. Using his hobby for making interesting and unusual hats, Sherman saves the day by coming up with a very creative way to say no to the job of being police chief.

Laura Numeroff and Nate Evans give us this silly and delightful story for preschoolers and early elementary students. It is enhanced by the bright and colorful illustrations of Tim Bowers. Young readers—and listeners—will be satisfied with the way in which Sherman finally makes his career choice.

Ceil Carey, LTA. *Young Adult Public Librarian, Plano, Illinois.*

Learning about Jesus / Lois Rock ; illustrated by Maureen Galvani. LCCN 2002117761. New York : Warner Faith, 2004.

HBB, 0446532983, list price: \$9.95; CLJ price: \$7.50

E. Jesus Christ. 1 v. (unpaged) ; col. ill.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 3.

In straightforward language, Lois Rock addresses twelve questions about Jesus. In somewhat chronological order, the questions begin with, "When did Jesus live?" and progress through his life, death, and resurrection to our current situation of loving others as Jesus loved us while waiting for his return. In realistic ink and watercolor, Maureen Galvani brings to life both biblical characters and a diverse representation of children learning about Jesus.

The questions asked in *Learning About Jesus* receive responses of three to seven paragraphs followed by a concise belief statement. For example, "We remember the birth of Jesus at Christmas" and "We believe that Jesus was human just like everyone, even though he is also God's son." Each answer is thorough and will satisfy young curiosity. However, the issues raised in the last two questions, "Where is Jesus now?" and "Do Jesus' followers feel lonely without him?" will invite more inquiry from youngsters being taught Christian principles. The response to the last question especially lacks the depth and promise that Jesus' followers await his return. Instead, the answer notes that Jesus told his followers "to share bread and wine together and to remember him. He told them to love and help one another, and it would be as if they were loving and helping him." He did ask these things, but he also promised that he would come again for believers. That promise is what keeps his followers from feeling "lonely" without him.

Although the length of answers is likely too long for emergent readers to read independently, young audiences will enjoy the questions and answers being read to them. Also, this title could be used as the basis for Bible study for younger groups.

Carol M. Jones, MLIS. *Children's Librarian, Mt. Vernon, Georgia.*

Learning about prayer / Lois Rock ; illustrated by Maureen Galvani. LCCN 2002117760. New York : Warner Faith, 2003.

HBB, 0446532975, list price: \$9.95; CLJ price: \$7.50

E. Prayer. 1 v. (unpaged) ; col. ill.

Grades K-2. Rating : 4.

Learning About Prayer is a delightful question-and-answer story written mainly for four-to-eight-year-old children. It asks twelve simple questions youngsters may have concerning prayer, such as how you should sit and if you need to pray in a certain place. Using simple, everyday language, this book is a wonderful guide for parents to use to explain prayer to their young children. Lois Rock has answered questions that have been asked by many children over the years, and Maureen Galvani's colorful pictures are sure to capture the attention of even the youngest reader. This is one of four books in a series—the other three books include the topics of God, the Bible, and Jesus. I would recommend including it in any children's library if it is at all possible to do so.

Sherri Myers, *Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.*

Growing seasons / Elsie Lee Splear ; paintings by Ken Stark. LCCN 99023586. New York : G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2000.

HBB, 0399234608, list price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75

E. Seasons--Fiction; Farm life--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 22 x 27 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 5.

Growing Seasons, written by Elsie Lee Splear, describes the daily life of a tenant family in Illinois in the early 1900's. Elsie and her sisters attend a parade, help cook for threshers, and take baths in a tub by the kitchen stove.

The author does an excellent job defining terms within the text. A threshing ring is a group of men who help each other harvest crops. At corn picking time, the bang board on the wagon keeps the corn from falling out. A measuring stick shows the girls how to plant each piece of potato in the right place.

Animal theme throughout. The sisters milk the cows, keep them clean, and "wrote their names in chalk on the wooden beam above where they stood to be milked." Butchering was a part of life, but "Mama and Papa promised that the animals would not suffer." Elsie and her sisters keep the cows away from wild onions, because "onions would change the taste of the milk..."

Clean clothes flap in the wind, a cow tail switches, and a stained glass church window shines brightly as the family arrives for a Christmas Eve service.

Ken Stark's fascinating illustrations are painted with casein. The website <http://www.growingseasons.com> notes that casein is an opaque milk-based paint with subdued colors when it is dry.

In *Growing Seasons*, young readers will see the benefit of cooperation and love. The Lee family inspires us all to work hard, play often, and always be kind.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Church Library Volunteer, Freelance Writer, Dexter, Kentucky.

Oh, brother! / written and illustrated by Ken Stark. LCCN 2001019606. New York : G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2003.

HBB, 0399237666, list price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$11.95

E. Stark, Ken--Fiction; Single mothers--Fiction; Artists--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ;

Grades K-6. Rating : 5.

Even with meager resources for 1952, a single mom offers her children a fulfilling life. *Oh, Brother!* is a fictionalized story of the life of the writer and illustrator, Ken Stark.

The Stark family lives in a three-room house in Illinois. Mother "...couldn't afford extra stuff like a phone, car, or TV." Yet Philip and Kenneth enjoy each day with their dog, cats, and friend Tootie. The children jump from the chicken-house roof, mow the lawn, and climb a corn cob pile. They build a "Cloud Cruiser." Although the contraption lacks an engine, it takes them to Timbuktu!

This book is excellent for both libraries and families. Single parents will be encouraged to read, "In memory of my mom, Winifred Stark, who taught Phil and me everything that matters. Her love softened the hard times and kept us happy, despite her divorce and ailing health." Everyone will see the influence of a caring parent, even in a child's career choice. The author notes, "Next to playing outside, drawing was our favorite thing." Both Ken and Phil Stark are professional artists. Ken writes that his mom "gave all our drawings different scores, yet somehow our totals came out the same."

Artistic details are true-to-life. The house has an outhouse, a rural mailbox, and a large brown stove. Near-poverty is carefully shown by tattered wallpaper, a green chair with holes in the upholstery, and the kitchen sink draining into a bucket. Further, "...winter wouldn't stay outside where it belonged. We could even see our breath..." Through those frugal times, the leanness of material possessions seems unimportant: the boys are loved, and life is an adventure.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Church Library Volunteer, Freelance Writer, Dexter, Kentucky.

Jesus loves you : a read-the-pictures book / written by Diane Stortz ; illustrated by Len Ebert. LCCN 2001049811. Cincinnati, Ohio : Standard, 2002.

HBB, 0784713642, list price: \$10.99; CLJ price: \$8.25

E. Jesus Christ--Poetry; Rebuses; American poetry; Christian life--Poetry; Love--Religious aspects--Christianity--Poetry; Prayer books and devotions. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades PS-K. Rating : 3.

Jesus Loves You, written by Diane Stortz, is a "read-the-pictures book" for ages three to five, where a parent can read a few words and the child will be able to fill in the missing words by looking at the pictures. The book includes children of different races as they picnic, camp, hike, rake leaves, wash up, and snuggle in bed. Every few pages, there is a refrain, "Whatever you're doing, (wherever you're going, etc.) this will be true: Always, forever, Jesus loves you." Scripture verses are interspersed with activities such as "point to..." "find the..." Counting and naming colors make this book entertaining and fun.

Len Ebert's attractive watercolor illustrations of smiling families are uncluttered, and show parents and children working and playing together happily. A wide range of children will enjoy this brightly colored picture book because they can read independently, or snuggle into mommy's lap while she recites the scripture verses or asks the child to point to the "yellow sun shining." The book closes with all of the children clustered around Jesus, leaving the final thought to reinforce the refrains of "Jesus loves you."

Florence G. Craig, Freelance Writer, Telford, Pennsylvania.

Chickadee winter / Dawn L. Watkins ; illustrated by Gabriela Dellosso. LCCN 99037151. Greenville, S.C. : Journey Books, 1999.

PAP, 1579242731, list price: \$6.49; CLJ price: \$4.85

E. Christmas--Fiction; Grandfathers--Fiction; Chickadees--Fiction; Christmas trees--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades PS-1. Rating : 4.

Young Jack has a hard time getting used to his new home. His grandparent's farm, buried in deep snow, has none of the familiarity of warm, sunny New Mexico. At first, all he likes about the farm is his sensitive grandfather who "was a winter man...always quiet, like the pines in the snow." But Jack's younger sister Nora finds delight in everything from the thrum of chickadees' wings and the birds' singing to the feathery-like, frosted window panes. His homesickness deepens when the empty mailbox brings no news from home. It is the chickadees that finally help Jack adjust to the new place and even laugh as the birds ride into the house on Grandfather, providing live ornaments on the Christmas tree. Many children can relate to the loneliness of a new environment and this story

gives hope that with time, happy adjustments are possible.

Chickadee Winter by Dawn Watkins is a read-aloud story for ages two to six and is filled with fun sounds like boots scruncha-grunching in the barn and in the snow, the repeats of "chic-a-dee-dee-dee," and birds' beaks clicking on the window panes. Gabriela Dellosso illustrates the country scenes in warm and welcoming rich colors. Readers can almost smell the straw in the barn and hear the birds singing in the blue spruce tree. *Chickadee Winter* is a lovely Christmas story through both the melody of the verses and the wintry scenes.

Florence G. Craig, Freelance Writer, Telford, Pennsylvania.

Golem / story and pictures by David Wisniewski. LCCN 95021777. New York : Clarion Books, 1996.

HBB, 0395726182, list price: \$17.00; CLJ price: \$12.75

E. Judah Loew ben Bezalel, ca. 1525-1609--Legends; Golem; Legends, Jewish; Jews--Czech Republic--Folklore; Folklore--Czech Republic. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

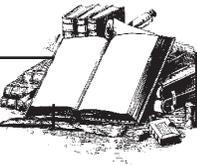
Grades K-2. Rating : 4, with caution.

David Wisniewski tells a 16th century legend, Golem, a dramatic story of Rabbi Loew who creates a clay giant to help bring justice to the oppressed Jews in Prague. Inspired by a dream, the rabbi shapes the golem, and after chanting spells from Cabala, the rabbi "unleashed the power of Life itself" to the one he named Joseph. Joseph's purpose is to defend the Jewish people and thwart vicious lies from being spread that incited hatred toward them. Joseph performs his task faithfully, but at the height of violence, the rabbi fears he has gone too far. The emperor agrees to protect the Jews from their enemies if the golem is destroyed. The rabbi consents. Joseph pleads for his life because he has found beauty in sunsets, sunrises, flowers, and other simple things, but the rabbi must keep his word and destroy him.

The story is reminiscent of both the Garden of Eden creation story and the deliverance of the Jewish nation under Moses' leadership. But in Golem, the rabbi's "creation power" is through chanting spells and using "the Divine Name." Though supernatural, it more resembles magic than a God-made miracle.

Wisniewski's cut-paper illustrations earned the Caldecott Medal for most distinguished illustrated book for children—they are both beautiful and frightening as the story moves from one scene to another. The book would be exciting read aloud, but is not for the faint-hearted.

Florence G. Craig, Freelance Writer, Telford, Pennsylvania.



Dear Mr. Henshaw / Beverly Cleary ; illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky. LCCN 83005372. New York : HarperCollins, 1983.

HBB, 068802405X, list price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$11.95

HarperTrophy, 2000, PAP, , list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Divorce--Fiction; Parent and child--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Letters--Fiction. 144 p. : 22 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 3.

Leigh Botts likes to write to his favorite author. What started in second grade as a thank-you to an author continues each year with more detail. The writing becomes a kind of diary for the boy, helping him to work through his sadness and anger over his parents' divorce.

By the time Leigh is in the sixth grade, his writing assignment includes sending an author several questions. Mr. Henshaw responds by providing answers, but also sending Leigh ten questions of his own to answer. Angry at first, because no one else's author made them answer questions, Leigh finally answers each of the questions. In doing so he finds a peace that he needs in his increasingly difficult world, as well as a talent for writing that will sustain him through life.

Beverly Cleary is well known for her light-hearted books, such as the Ramona series and *Ralph S. Mouse*. *Dear Mr. Henshaw* is different. It is one of the earliest Newbery Medal books to examine divorce from the child's perspective. The child support is often late, his father makes promises to come see Leigh or call him, and then fails him, and until the very end of the book, Leigh has no friends. His letters to Mr. Henshaw become his lifeline, allowing him to express his sorrow as well as dreams. This book expects maturity from the reader not required by Cleary's other books. As its format is a letter style, it would be difficult to use as a read-aloud for the class.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.

Henry Huggins / Beverly Cleary ; illustrated by Louis Darling. LCCN 50008615. New York : HarperCollins, 1950.

HBB, 0688213855, list price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$11.95

HarperTrophy, 1990, PAP, 0380709120, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Dogs--Fiction. 155 p.: illus. ; 21 cm.

Grades 2-4. Rating : 4.

Henry Huggins is a third-grader who never has anything special happen in his life. That is, until

one day when he goes to the corner drugstore to buy a chocolate ice cream cone and a scraggly dog begs for a bite. Henry calls his mother and asks to keep him, but how will Henry get him home? So begins Henry's first adventure: getting Ribsy (so-named because he is so thin) home on the city bus.

Henry keeps us entertained with his many silly adventures throughout the book, such as going worm-gathering, entering Ribsy in a pet show, raising guppies, and trying to recover his friend's lost football. When a boy shows up, claiming Ribsy is his, Henry must let Ribsy decide who his owner will be.

Henry Huggins is a timeless story that is as entertaining for children now as it was when originally published fifty years ago. This story teaches children about kindness, honesty, and the good and bad aspects of owning a pet. Beverly Cleary writes in an easy-to-read style, so most young children will have no problem understanding the story and will enjoy Henry's many humorous antics. The pictures are well-done and pertinent to what is being read at the time. I recommend this book as a delightful addition to any library.

Sherri Myers, Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

Amber Brown is green with envy / Paula Danziger ; illustrated by Tony Ross. LCCN 2003000127. New York : Putnam, 2003.

HBB, 0399231811, list price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$11.95

Scholastic, 2004, PAP, 0439071712, list price: \$3.99; CLJ price: \$2.99

Fic. Fathers and daughters--Fiction; Mothers and daughters--Fiction; Divorce--Fiction; Custody of children--Fiction; Moving household--Fiction; Family life--New Jersey--Fiction. 151 p. ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 2-5. Rating : 4.

Amber Brown is a nine-year-old fourth-grader whose parents have recently become divorced. She is green with envy as she looks at other kids' lives and sees how their families relate to each other. Amber is also green with envy because she is left behind when her mom and aunt go to Disneyland without her.

Amber must deal with her mom's intentions to remarry and her dad's decision to date again. Her mom plans to move further away from Amber's dad upon her remarriage, leaving Amber to help make the decision about which house to buy. Should she pick the nicer house that she really likes or the one closest to her dad? Amber must deal with many emotions as she is

pulled between both parents, each of whom have different ideas and plans for Amber's future.

Written in the first-person, this touching, yet funny, chapter book will keep its young readers interested throughout the story. Dealing with the effects of divorce on a young child in a way children can relate to, Paula Danziger has written a sensitive book that touches on a child's true feelings when faced with the loss of a stable family. The black-and-white drawings are expressive and tie in well with the narrative. I highly recommend *Amber Brown Is Green with Envy* for any children dealing with the effects and devastation of their parents' divorce, and other young children as well.

Sherri Myers, Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

More tales from Dust River Gulch / Tim Davis. LCCN 2002014353. Greenville, S.C. : BJUPress, 2002.

PAP, 1579248551, list price: \$7.49; CLJ price: \$5.60

Fic. Sheriffs--Fiction; Robbers and outlaws--Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life--West (U.S.)--Fiction; Animals--Fiction; West (U.S.)--Fiction. 108 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 5.

"Welcome to Dust River Gulch...Enjoy yerself! Stay a spell!"

The whole family will want to stay a spell with these rollicking tales of the animal citizens of one of the most uproarious western towns ever conceived. Via various hilarious events, these six fables present a group of critters who just might remind you of 'yerself,' from Sheriff J. D. Saddlesoap, the handsomest, straightest shooting stallion to ever wear a badge, to Cyrus Skunk, not a stinker, and Gruffle O'Buffalo, who is. Whether newcomers to Dust River Gulch or old friends hopefully waiting for this new volume, readers will welcome these entertaining stories.

Noted BJU children's author and illustrator, Tim Davis engagingly wraps Christian principles in wild, wonderful, wacky adventures. While not referring directly to Christianity, the characters and actions in these yarns portray Christian living. Davis' black and white, color book type illustrations amplify the storyline, inviting the addition of color. Although much of *More Tales From Dust River Gulch* is written in western lingo, Davis adheres to rules of grammar when possible. *More Tales...* is a multi-purpose book, appropriate for family and individual reading or church and school use, and will serve as a

reference filled with stories that illustrate many ideas. All libraries will find use for this book.

Donna J. Eggett. Freelance Writer, Radford, Virginia.

Wheel on the school / Meindert De Jong ; pictures by Maurice Sendak. LCCN 54008945. New York : HarperCollins, 1954.

HBB, 060215852, list price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75

HarperTrophy, 1972, PAP, 064400212, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Holland--Fiction; Storks--Fiction. 256 p. : illus. ; 21 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 5.

In a very small village on the coast of Holland, young Lina asks a simple question: "Why do the storks no longer come to our village of Shora?" As the children and teacher contemplate the possible answers, they arrive at a conclusion and a plan. The conclusion is that there are no wagon wheels for the storks to nest on, and the plan is to find a wheel.

Working against water, wind and time, the children face many obstacles. Yet each time a person who needs them as much as they need the assistance provides a path to the next step. Through Lina's wondering, the village is drawn together again, hearts are healed, and the storks return.

In *The Wheel on the School*, a 1955 Newbery Medal book, Meindert DeJong takes our children to a time and place that is unimaginable. His writing honors the child reader, telling the story in a conversational style very appealing to this age group. His heroine, Lina, is not at all daunted by being the only girl in the school of six students. Her wistfulness about the storks unwittingly starts a campaign that changes everyone involved. Each of her classmates, and many of the adults of the village, discover strengths and traits in themselves that have been awaiting a cause for which to work.

Courageous and tenacious, Lina is an excellent role model for the reader today. This book will stretch your students' imaginations and vocabularies and will be well worth the read. It is an excellent read-aloud book as well.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.

Thimble summer / written and illustrated by Elizabeth Enright. LCCN 38027586. Peabody, Mass. : Henry Holt, 1990, 1938.

HBB, 0805003061, list price: \$19.95; CLJ price: \$14.95

Yearling, 1987, PAP, 0440486815, list price: \$4.99; CLJ price: \$3.75

Fic. Magic--Fiction; Summer--Fiction. 124 p. : 23 cm.

Grades 3-7. Rating : 5.

Nine-year-old Garnet and her friend, Citronella, look for fun ways to spend the long, hot summer days. They play in their tree house, go to the library, and try to find ways to keep cool until the rains come to end the drought. When Garnet finds a silver thimble in a dried up riverbed, good things begin to happen. She is convinced that the thimble is magic, and is responsible for ending the drought, getting the government to loan her dad the money to build a new barn, bringing a half-starved, orphaned boy to be a part of her family, and for helping her pet pig win a blue ribbon at the fair.

Thimble Summer, by Elizabeth Enright, is the 1939 Newbery Medal winner. Enright has written fiction for both children and adults, and is known for her sensitive portrayals of people, places, and moods of the times. The mood expressed here is that of the hot, lazy summer days on an early 1930's farm. Atmosphere exudes a slower, simpler time in history, infused with cinematic descriptions of the surrounding landscape. Dialogue is easy to follow and believable for the time frame. Style of writing is similar to E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web* (Harper Trophy, 1974). Recommended for public library and school classics collections.

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

Ginger Pye / Eleanor Estes ; with illustrations by the author. 1st Harcourt Young classics ed. LCCN 26700. San Diego : Harcourt, 2000.

HBB, 152024999, list price: \$17.00; CLJ price: \$12.75

Odyssey, 2000, PAP, 0152025057, list price: \$6.00; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Dogs--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Newbery Medal. 306 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : 5

Ginger Pye is a timeless story about a brother and sister, Jerry and Rachel, and their dog, Ginger. But Ginger is no ordinary dog. In fact, he is so clever that one day he tracks Jerry to school and climbs the outside fire escape to get to the boy's classroom. Such a fine dog is bound to rouse envy in others. Sure enough, Ginger disappears on Thanksgiving Day, and the only suspect is a man in a yellow hat.

Eleanor Estes is known for the Moffatts and *The Hundred Dresses*, but *Ginger Pye* is her best 'boy' story. The idyllic town setting where everyone cares about everyone else is still relevant because it represents an innocence for which we all yearn. The relationship between Jerry and Rachel is unusual for siblings; they do not bicker and in fact, are best friends and cheerleaders for each other. The mother and father are supportive and encouraging, yet they allow the children to handle their own situation as much as possible.

Ginger is rescued in the end, but the boy who stole him, and who continues in a terrible

situation with his uncle, is not. Leaving a boy in a dreadful situation is an old-fashioned twist that might provoke some conversation amongst older students. This is a wonderful book to read aloud in class or as an assignment.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.

The hundred dresses / by Eleanor Estes, illustrated by Louis Slobodkin. LCCN 44008963. New York : Harcourt Children's Books, 2004, 1944.

HBB, 152051708, list price: \$16.00; CLJ price: \$11.95

Harcourt, 2004, PAP, 0152052607, list price: \$6.00; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Friendship--Fiction; Polish Americans--Fiction; Newbery Honor Book. 80 p. illus. (part col.) 22 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : *5.

Although this book was written in the forties (when it won Eleanor Estes a Newbery Honor award), its message is a timely one. Teasing hurts. Wanda Petronski, a young Polish girl, walks alone to school every day from the little frame house she shares with her father and her brother Jake. She sits by herself at the back of the classroom, and every day she stands alone on the playground, ignored by the other children. Then, one day, she tries to make friends by telling the girls she has one hundred pretty dresses at home, all lined up in her closet.

No one believes her. If she had all those dresses, wouldn't she wear them? Instead, she wears the same faded blue dress every day. The girls (even the ones who know it's wrong) begin a regime of daily teasing, which eventually drives Wanda and her family out of town. When the girls see the art contest entry she's left behind—one hundred drawings of beautiful dresses—they realize what they've done, and one makes an important decision: she will never again remain silent while someone is mocked, no matter what. Caldecott Medal winner Louis Slobodkin's timeless illustrations add color and interest to the pages without making it too obvious that this story was written a long time ago.

The Hundred Dresses hard for me to read and even harder to write about. I was also teased unmercifully as a child, and my response was nowhere near as Christ-like as Wanda's. She turned the other cheek. She lived the Golden Rule. Jesus loved to teach with stories, and there is an Indian proverb that says, "Tell me a fact and I'll learn. Tell me a truth and I'll believe. But tell me a story and it will live in my heart forever." I hope this story can teach the children who read it that teasing (even politely done) can hurt, and that standing by silently can be as bad as participating.

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

Caught in the rebel camp / Dave and Neta Jackson ; illustrations by Anne Gavitt. (Trailblazer books.) LCCN 2003013899. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003.

PAP, 0764222368, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Douglass, Frederick, 1818-1895--Fiction; United States--Army--Massachusetts Infantry Regiment (1863-1865)--Fiction; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Participation, African Americans--Fiction; African Americans--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 151 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Caught in the Rebel Camp is about Frederick Douglass and the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, the first unit of black soldiers in the Union Army. Danny Sims is a young, crippled, African-American boy who doubts whether he is good for much. In the context of his work for Mr. Douglass, Danny begins to see his worth as a person, despite his handicap. When Frederick Douglass's sons join the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, Danny goes along as orderly for Col. Shaw and groom for his horse, Regent. Trying to recapture Regent one day, Danny gets separated from the unit and caught inside Fort Wagner just before the Confederate Army sets a trap for the 54th. Unable to get out to warn his unit, Danny watches his friends and comrades assault the fort with disastrous results. Danny manages to escape in the melee but struggles with guilt over the deaths. Friends and a Bible help him to understand that God is sovereign and has a plan for his life.

Trailblazer books have a unique quality of being able to make history come alive. Through them young readers can learn about the character and life of the heroes of the faith. This is an excellent book because it covers so much information about Frederick Douglass, abolition, the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, and a child caught in war. Yet, it does not abbreviate any of the subjects to the point of treating them lightly. Because of its subjects, this paperback will probably circulate a great deal, so consider buying several copies. Once again, Dave and Neta Jackson provide a great service to school libraries through their research and excellent writing.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.

The trumpeter of Krakow / Eric P. Kelly ; decorations by Janina Domanska ; foreword by Louis Seaman Bechtel. LCCN 66016712. New York : Simon & Schuster/Macmillan, 1968, 1928.

HBB, 002750140X, list price: \$17.95; CLJ price: \$13.50

Simon Pulse, 1992, PAP, 0689715714, list price: \$4.99; CLJ price: \$3.75

Fic. Middle Ages--Fiction; Poland--History--Casimir IV, 1447-1492--Fiction. x, 208 p. illus. 25 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : 4.

Joseph is a young boy whose family has fled the Ukraine and come to Krakow because Tartars have burned their home and fields. Unbeknownst to Joseph, his father is carrying

the Tamov Crystal, a symbol of hope for all of Poland that he hopes to deliver to the king. The king is not in residence, so Joseph's family has to make a life in Krakow under an assumed name while they wait. His father finds employment as the trumpeter of Krakow, playing the Heynal each evening, and Joseph soon joins him, playing as well. Their landlord, an alchemist, discovers the crystal.

When Tartar agents attack Joseph's family one night, the alchemist steals the crystal during the melee. The Tartars do not realize Joseph's family no longer has the crystal and continue to attack. In a fit of remorse the alchemist diverts an attack by setting a fire which soon engulfs the entire city of Krakow. The jewel is finally restored and delivered to the King, only to disappear into history again.

The Trumpeter of Krakow, the 1929 Newbery Medal winner, set in medieval Poland, is fascinating in its detail. Drawing richly on the secular and religious history of Eastern Europe and Poland, Eric Kelly paints a convincing picture of one family's sacrificial service to its country. Kelly's style of writing in this book is very old fashioned (1928) and may challenge some readers. The story contains a great deal about alchemy, magic, and necromancy, in the context of the times. Kelly blunts its effect by exposing the dangers of it as he tells the story and cautions the reader that the people of 1472 were superstitious, unlike modern readers. The story is tremendously exciting and used in conjunction with a unit on medieval Europe, this is a marvelous book to read in a class with older children.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.

From the mixed-up files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler / E.L. Konigsburg ; with a 35th anniversary afterword by the author. LCCN 2003267663. New York : Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 2002, 1967.

HBB, 068985322X, list price: \$16.95; CLJ price: \$12.75

Aladdin Books, 1998, PAP, 0689711816, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.)--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Self-reliance--Fiction; Runaways--Fiction; New York (N.Y.)--Fiction. 162 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 4.

Claudia, the oldest of four children, feels grossly unappreciated. Certain that no one will miss her, she resolves to run away for a while. Unfortunately, she is short on cash so she recruits her younger brother, Jamie, to join in the adventure because he is loaded and he is the sibling she gets along with best. The children go to live in the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. Resolving to better herself by doing so, Claudia insists, much to Jamie's dismay, that they have to learn something each day about the museum's artifacts. When they discover an angel statue attributed to Michelangelo, Claudia

finds her purpose in life—to discover its true origins. This leads them to Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, and ultimately, a reason to go home.

Written in the format of a narrative from Mrs. Frankweiler to her lawyer, this story grows and grows on the reader until the wonderment Claudia feels about the statue's secret fills the reader as well. Claudia is a typical child: self-centered, imaginative, and driven by a single purpose, until she meets the angel. Jamie is a card cheat, miser, and also self-centered. Yet, the two children endear themselves to the reader because they live out what most children imagine from time to time. The book mentions the parents' anguish over their missing children, but does not dwell on it. The character flaws enable the children to have their adventure, but do not make them unlikable. In short, E. L. Konigsburg provides the readers a chance to enjoy a vicarious adventure. Very well written, the Newbery Medal winner *From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, the 1968 Newbery Medal winner, is an excellent read-aloud for a class.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.

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Almost home : a story based on the life of the Mayflower's Mary Chilton / Wendy Lawton. (Daughters of the faith series.) LCCN 2002012763. Chicago : Moody Press, 2003.

PAP, 802436374, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Winslow, Mary Chilton, 1607?-1679--Childhood and youth--Fiction; Mayflower (Ship)--Fiction; Pilgrims (New Plymouth Colony)--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 143 p. ; 19 cm.

Grades 6-10. Rating : *5.

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Courage to run : a story based on the life of Harriet Tubman / Wendy Lawton. (Daughters of the faith series.) LCCN 2002511004. Chicago : Moody Press, 2002.

PAP, 802440983, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Tubman, Harriet, 1820?-1913--Fiction. 140 p. ; 19 cm.

Grades 6-10. Rating : *5.

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The hallelujah lass : a story based on the life of Salvation Army pioneer Eliza Shirley / Wendy Lawton. (Daughters of the faith series.) LCCN 2003019046. Chicago : Moody Press, 2004.

PAP, 802440738, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Shirley, Eliza, 1862-1932--Fiction; Salvation Army--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 149 p. : 19 cm.

Grades 6-10. Rating : *5.

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The tinker's daughter : a story based on the life of Mary Bunyan / Wendy Lawton. (Daughters of the faith series.) LCCN 2002070146. Chicago : Moody Press, 2002.

PAP, 802440991, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Bunyan, Mary, 1650-1663--Fiction; Bunyan, John, 1628-1688--Fiction; Blind--Fiction; People with disabilities--Fiction; Romanians--Fiction; Great Britain--History--Charles II, 1660-1685--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 131 p. ; 19 cm.

Grades 6-10. Rating : *5.

The Daughters of Faith Series by author Wendy Lawton looks at the lives of young girls in history who made a tremendous impact on their worlds and on history itself. Although each girl is historical in nature, Lawton mixes fact with fiction to weave wonderful adventures, emphasizing each girl's faith and the part it plays in her life.

Lawton examines Harriet Tubman in her early life, and what led her to journey numerous times to the South to lead slaves to freedom, in the book *Courage to Run*. In *Almost Home* Mary Chilton, a Separatist on the Mayflower, travels to a new world, losing both parents during the journey, yet resolute to make a new life for herself. Mary Bunyan, blind daughter of John Bunyan, comforts and cares for her imprisoned father and for the children left at home in *The Tinker's Daughter*. Finally, in *The Hallelujah Lass*, Lawton brings to life the story of Eliza Shirley, the teen girl who brought the Salvation Army to the cities of America.

Each book details the strength and courage of the young girls who, despite all odds, made a difference in the lives of others and impacted history. Lawton uses authentic vocabulary from the times, and includes a glossary of these words in the back of each book. The strong research and excellent character development make these books a must-have. The themes inspire and encourage other girls to look beyond their abilities and consider the callings God has for each one of them.

Eileen Zygarlicke, BS. *English Teacher, Community High School, Grand Forks, North Dakota.*

Strawberry girl / written and illustrated by Lois Lenski. LCCN 45007609. New York : HarperCollins, 1945.

HBB, 039730109X, list price: \$17.99; CLJ price: \$13.50

HarperTrophy, 1995, PAP, 064405850, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Farm life--Fiction; Florida--Fiction; Newbery Medal. 208 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 4.

Birdie Boyer is the new girl in town. Her parents have purchased the old Roddenberry place with intentions to farm the land. Their neighbors, the Slaters, have always used the Roddenberry land to let their animals run free.

When Birdie's father starts building fences and cultivating his farm, trouble is in the air. Mr. Slater does cowardly things to interfere with Birdie's father's farm. Behind Mr. Slater's meanness is laziness, drunkenness, and reluctance to work hard enough to improve his family's fortunes. Instead he accuses the Boyer family of being "uppity."

Despite this backdrop, Birdie's life is very happy. She helps plant and harvest and, to the extent they let her, plays with the Slater children. One of the crops her family plants, the strawberries, comes in so abundantly that Birdie sells them in town from a basket, earning her the name Strawberry Girl. A final confrontation between Mr. Slater and Birdie's father ends in righteousness being restored.

Lois Lenski had a gift for capturing the dialect of poor truck farmers in rural Florida of the pre-war years. Although Birdie's family is barely above the poverty level, they work hard and set family goals. That distinguishes them in the area and makes them targets of suspicion and jealousy.

Birdie is a happy-go-lucky child who delights in the world around her and is enraged by unjust things. Like many children who will read this, she is frustrated by unfairness, even if someone she doesn't like is subjected to it. There are many good lessons—hard work, thrift and sharing—in this book. It culminates with a good old-fashioned Revival with surprising results! Because the dialect is reproduced faithfully, this 1946 Newbery Medal winner may be a challenge to read aloud except for teachers with a great sense of adventure!

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. *Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.*

Pharaoh's daughter : a novel of ancient Egypt / Julius Lester. LCCN 2001024159. San Diego : Silver Whistle/Harcourt, 2000.

HBB, 152018263, list price: \$17.00; CLJ price: \$12.75

HarperTrophy, 2002, PAP, 064409694, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Egypt--Civilization--To 332 B.C.--Fiction; Jews--History--To 1200 B.C.--Fiction; Moses (Biblical leader)--Fiction; Bible--History of Biblical events--O.T.--Fiction; Parent and child--Fiction. ix, 182 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 5-6. Rating : Not recommended.

Based on Exodus 1:22-2:15, *Pharaoh's Daughter* by Julius Lester tells a story focused on Moses' older sister, Almah, who watched Moses' basket in the river and interacted with the Egyptian princess when she pulled him from the water. Both Almah and her mother assist the princess in raising Moses. Almah assimilates into Egyptian culture and becomes a priestess of Hathor and Eset, dancing naked at public ceremonies.

Part two of the book is told from Moses' perspective. Torn between two families and cultures, he is unsure of himself and his place.

After Moses kills a high ranking Egyptian, Almah smuggles Moses out of the city. Here the story ends, with Moses safely away.

This novel has a few shining moments, as it explores the difficulties of the mother/daughter relationship, as well as different perspectives of history. However, the overriding message is that the religion you choose is not important as long as it is the right one for you. Almah is portrayed as having found her place in Egyptian culture and religion because she experiences "holiness." At the same time, the Egyptian princess is converted to Hebrew monotheism through the influence of Moses' biological mother. Moses himself is a most unfortunate Hamlet figure, unable to choose where he belongs and which god to serve.

Included are an author's note, a glossary, and a bibliography of related titles. The author's note explains his influences and literary choices.

It is good to consider cultural difference and differing perspectives, but it is unfortunate that this novel does not remain true to its scriptural basis; too many liberties were taken.

Karla J. Castle

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The magician's nephew / C.S. Lewis ; illustrated by Pauline Baynes. (The Chronicles of Narnia ; 1.) LCCN 93014301. New York : HarperCollins, 1994 ; 1955.

HBB, 060234970, list price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75

HarperTrophy, 1994, PAP, 064405052, list price: \$7.99; CLJ price: \$5.99

Deluxe ed. 1998 ; 1955. HBB, 060530847, list price: \$19.99; CLJ price: \$14.95

Fic. Fantasy. 202 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : *5.

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The lion, the witch, and the wardrobe / C.S. Lewis ; illustrated by Pauline Baynes. (The Chronicles of Narnia ; 2.) LCCN 93008889. New York : HarperCollins, 1994 ; 1950.

HBB, 060234814, list price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75

HarperTrophy, 2002, PAP, 064436950, list price: \$7.99; CLJ price: \$5.99

Deluxe ed. 1997 ; 1950. LIB, 060530839, list price: \$19.99; CLJ price: \$14.95

Fic. Fantasy. 189 p. : ill. map ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : *5.

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The horse and his boy / C.S. Lewis ; illustrated by Pauline Baynes. (The Chronicles of Narnia ; 3.) LCCN 93014300. New York : HarperCollins, 1994 ; 1954.

HBB, 060234881, list price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75

HarperTrophy, 1994, PAP, 006440501X, list price: \$7.99; CLJ price: \$5.99

Fic. Fantasy. 224 p. : ill. map ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : *5.

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Prince Caspian / C.S. Lewis ; illustrated by Pauline Baynes. (The Chronicles of Narnia ; 4.) LCCN 93011514. New York : HarperCollins, 1994 ; 1952.

HBB, 060234830, list price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75

HarperTrophy, 1994, PAP, 064405001, list price: \$7.99; CLJ price: \$5.99

Fic. Fantasy. 223 p. : ill. map ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : *5.

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The voyage of the Dawn Treader / C.S. Lewis ; illustrated by Pauline Baynes. (The Chronicles of Narnia ; 5.) LCCN 93011515. New York : HarperCollins, 1994 ; 1952.

HBB, 060234865, list price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75

HarperTrophy, 1994, PAP, 064405028, list price: \$7.99; CLJ price: \$5.99

Fic. Fantasy. 248 p. : ill. map ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : *5.

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The silver chair / C.S. Lewis ; illustrated by Pauline Baynes. (The Chronicles of Narnia ; 6.) LCCN 93014299. New York : HarperCollins, 1994 ; 1953.

HBB, 060234954, list price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75

HarperTrophy, 1994, PAP, 064405044, list price: \$7.99; CLJ price: \$5.99

Fic. Fantasy. 243 p. : ill. map ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : *5.

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The last battle / C.S. Lewis ; illustrated by Pauline Baynes. (The Chronicles of Narnia ; 7.) LCCN 93014302. New York : HarperCollins, 1994 ; 1956.

HBB, 060234938, list price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75

HarperTrophy, 1994, PAP, 064405036, list price: \$7.99; CLJ price: \$5.99

Fic. Fantasy. 211 p. : ill. map ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : *5.

From the beginning of time, man has sought to understand the battle between good and evil, the constant fight carried on deep within the soul. Using myth, parable, legend, and allegory, man has tried to express his confusion and constant need for heroes to save the day and make sense of the mess. C. S. Lewis' classic fantasy series, the Chronicles of Narnia, is an allegory of the battle between good and evil written for children of all ages. Each story shows the cost of evil and

the price, promise, and fulfillment of eternal love and grace.

The Magician's Nephew is the Narnian creation story. Digory and Polly meet during a rainy summer in early twentieth century London. While playing smugglers' cave in the attic, the two children discover that there is a tunnel that runs the full length of the row houses in which they live. Upon attempting to investigate a 'haunted' house, they misjudge the distance and, instead, end up in Digory's crazy Uncle Andrew's laboratory. Their lives are forever changed by two tiny yellow and green rings that take them out of our world into a dying world with a terrible, yet beautiful enchantress who forces them to take her with them to witness the birth of a new world, Narnia, and a meeting with Aslan, Narnia's lion king.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe is a story about Peter, Susan, Lucy, and Edmund, siblings who have been sent to their Uncle Digory's home for the holidays to get away from the war in London. One day, while playing hide and seek, they discover the door through a wardrobe into another world, Narnia. They soon join the talking animals, the good spirits of the water and woods, and Aslan in a fight against the depraved White Witch and her hideous cohorts.

In *The Horse and His Boy* readers are introduced to two talking horses, who have been taken from Narnia; a young boy, named Shasta, who is stolen from a royal family at birth; and a spoiled, wealthy young girl who refuses to go through with an arranged marriage. Their paths cross as they are running away from their various fates, and they are called upon, by Aslan, to thwart a dastardly plot to destroy the free nations of Archenland and Narnia.

Prince Caspian is the story of a prince with the true heart of a king, who calls upon Aslan and the past Kings and Queens of Narnia, Peter, Susan, Lucy, and Edmund, to help him free the land of the evil Telmarines. When a witch, corrupt animals, and vicious spirits get involved, they are all surprised that five children, who looked so easy to defeat, not only have the determination of great soldiers, but are also supported by Aslan and the good animals and spirits of the land.

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader begins with Lucy and Edmund having to spend the summer at the home of their obnoxious cousin Eustace. Upon exploring the house, the three find themselves drawn into a mysterious painting of a Narnian ship rolling on rough ocean waves. A slightly older King Caspian is the captain of the ship and has been commissioned to find out what happened to seven of his father's friends who were sent on false missions by his malicious uncle. During the voyage, the group has many adventures, including the discovery of a pool of water that turns everything it touches into gold, an island of voices that drive men

mad, and a mysterious feast that never spoils or runs out.

The Silver Chair finds a much nicer Eustace (for his adventures in *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*) in a pickle as he tries to hide from the school bullies. He meets Jill, who is also in hiding. As the bullies close in, both children run through a doorway in the hedges, only to find themselves in Narnia. With the help of a talking owl, a froglike creature called a marshwiggie, and Aslan, Jill and Eustace must find and free Prince Rilian, King Caspian's son, from a wicked serpent enchantress. Along the way they are almost eaten by "friendly" giants, are caught by rock people and taken deep into the darkest part of the earth, and meet Father Time.

The Last Battle, winner of England's Carnegie Award, is the culmination of all of the Chronicles of Narnia, the tale of the end of the Narnian world. When a cunning ape talks a simple-minded donkey into pretending to be Aslan so that everyone will want to serve them, a chain of events is set into motion that eventually brings the real Aslan back to Narnia. All of the previous Kings and Queens of Narnia, except Susan, who has chosen to no longer believe, join Eustace and Jill in the final battle, and all reap their final reward.

C. S. Lewis has long been known as one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century. His work ranges from apologetics to literary criticism to science fiction to children's fantasy. During his lifetime he wrote more than thirty books, and held prestigious positions at both Oxford and Cambridge Universities. The enduring quality of Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia is found in the realistic dialogue, atmosphere, and mood which invite the reader to participate in adventures that continue to enrich lives long after the books are closed. Whether read silently to oneself or aloud to a group, these tales stand the test of the classics that cry out to be read, re-read, and shared with others. Highly recommended for all collections.

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

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Derwood Inc. : a Peabody adventure / by Jeri Massi ; [illustrated by Del Thompson]. (Peabody adventure series.) LCCN 87100843. Greenville, S.C. : Bob Jones University Press, 1986.

PAP, 890843236, list price: \$7.49; CLJ price: \$5.60

Fic. Mystery and detective stories; Brothers and sisters--Fiction. 272 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-7. Rating : *5.

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A dangerous game / by Jeri Massi ; [illustrated by Del Thompson]. (Peabody adventure series.) LCCN 87104607. Greenville, S.C. : Bob Jones University Press, 1986.

PAP, 890843473, list price: \$7.49; CLJ price: \$5.60

Fic. Mystery and detective stories; Christian life--Fiction. 121 p., [1] p. of plates : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-7. Rating : *5.

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Treasure in the Yukon / by Jeri Massi ; [illustrated by Guy Porfirio]. (Peabody adventure series.) LCCN 90164185. Greenville, S.C. : Bob Jones University Press, 1986.

PAP, 890843651, list price: \$7.49; CLJ price: \$5.60

Fic. Yukon Territory--Fiction. vii, 128 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-7. Rating : *5.

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Courage by darkness / by Jeri Massi ; [illustration by Dana Thompson]. (Peabody adventure series.) Greenville, S.C. : Bob Jones University Press, 1987.

PAP, 890844127, list price: \$7.49; CLJ price: \$5.60

Fic. Courage--Fiction; Adventure and adventurers--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 157 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-7. Rating : *5.

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Llamas on the loose / by Jeri Massi ; [illustration by Dana Thompson]. (Peabody adventure series.) LCCN 90163193. Greenville, S.C. : Bob Jones University Press, 1988.

PAP, 890844526, list price: \$7.49; CLJ price: \$5.60

Fic. Llamas--Fiction; Wisconsin--Fiction. 140 pg. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-7. Rating : *5.

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Abandoned / by Jeri Massi ; [illustration by Dana Thompson]. (Peabody adventure series.) LCCN 90135137. Greenville, S.C. : Bob Jones University Press, 1989.

PAP, 890844674, list price: \$7.49; CLJ price: \$5.60

Fic. Survival--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 136 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-7. Rating : *5.

The Peabody Adventure Series explores the lives of five young people in a church youth group in the fictional town of Peabody, Wisconsin. In *Derwood, Inc.*, Penny, the oldest of the Derwood clan, shares the misadventures of a blended family of eight. Whether it's surviving family weekends in an isolated winter cabin with the help of a fifty-ton, mile-long giant killer octopus, escaping bullies, spending the summer with notorious Aunt Irene, or being pulled into crime-solving mysteries by her

budding detective and prank-pulling brother Jack, life is never one thing: boring.

Scruggs Grady, a newly saved former bully, almost gets his dream of a home with a real mother, but then he's caught up in a dangerous game when a mysterious aunt in San Francisco gains custody of him. A note warns him to beware the juggler, but who can he trust?

Jack and Scruggs head for treasure in the Yukon with Jack's historian uncle, but cryptic messages and danger track their every step. Someone else wants the gold coins hidden by nineteenth-century outlaw Soapy Smith.

Jean Derwood, third oldest in the family and scared of everything, wants to change, and prays for an adventure. A trip to an Alabama farm with dogs, a horse, and a cave seems like her answer, but can she really gain courage by darkness?

In *Llamas on the Loose*, Penny, Jack, Jean, and Scruggs are recruited to help at a llama farm. A string of bad luck appears to be hitting the farm—or is someone out to get Doc Ericson?

On their way to visit their uncle, the three Derwoods, along with Scruggs and snobby Annette, are abandoned in the wilds of New England. With few supplies, and armed pursuers, the five must band together to survive and get back home.

A mix of adventure, humor, and spiritual lessons, this series uses high-suspense mysteries to teach powerful truths. The plots are active, varied, and engaging from start to finish. Sharp characterization permeates all the novels; author Jeri Massi introduces people with flair—"Anyway, that was Annette—a nice girl who had the power to drive everybody crazy"—and continues to show their growth and struggles throughout the series. Perfect for family read-alouds or curling up in a favorite chair, this series uses comedy to lighten the mood as tough issues are dealt with, such as God's will, anger, divorce, witnessing, and the power of prayer. Highly recommended for everyone old enough to understand it and young-at-heart enough to enjoy it.

Katie Hart, Writer, Librarian, Immanuel Baptist Church, New Brighton, Pennsylvania.

The hero and the crown / Robin McKinley. LCCN 84004074. New York : Greenwillow Books, 1985.

HBB, 0688025935, list price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75

Fic. Fantasy; Newbery Medal. 246 p. ; 24 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 5.

Aerin is a young girl of privilege, the daughter of a king. Yet her life is not easy and she has always felt like a stranger in her own royal surroundings. Unlike the other royal children, Aerin does not appear to have any magical

powers and worse, her late mother was from the North and is remembered as the witch woman. Aerin's father loves and adores her, but does not understand her unhappiness. Her only solace is her horse, Talant, and her friend, Tor.

As Aerin matures, events conspire to thrust her into her destiny, as she finds herself fighting a dragon to protect Damar, meeting a good mage who tells her the truth about her mother, and battling an evil mage with the Blue Sword Gonturan.

This story by Robin McKinley is an exciting adventure of courage and perseverance. Although she faces scorn and cruelty from others, only rarely does Aerin give in to anger and revenge. Selfless, she faces the dragon Maur, risking her own life and very nearly losing it. As she proceeds though, the saving of Damar becomes secondary to Aerin's discovery of her rightful place in her country's history.

The Hero and the Crown resonates with classic battles of good vs. evil, the rarity of true unselfish love, and the courage that grows through testing. Children in grades 5-7 who enjoy Tolkien and C.S. Lewis can be pointed to this book, as well as *The Blue Sword*, by the same author, with confidence.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.

Three stories you can read to your teddy bear / by Sara Swan Miller ; illustrated by True Kelley. LCCN 2003012428. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2004.

HBB, 0618303979, list price: \$15.00; CLJ price: \$11.25

Fic. Cats--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction; Adventure and adventurers--Fiction; Teddy bears--Fiction. 48 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 4.

Three Stories You Can Read to Your Teddy Bear was written after four previous books: *Three Stories You Can Read to Your Cat*, *Three Stories You Can Read to Your Dog*, *Three More Stories You Can Read to Your Cat*, and *Three More Stories You Can Read to Your Dog*. Each of these books received honors from the American Bookseller Pick of the Lists and A Parent's Choice Award, as well as the Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Gold Award.

The author, Sara Swan Miller, takes your child and his or her teddy bear friend through three separate comical adventures in one book. Realizing that life as a teddy bear is rather boring, Teddy Bear decides he'll take a walk. Teddy Bear's first adventure includes figuring out how to move his body and then actually taking his first steps. After many uncomfortable, silly mistakes and falls Teddy Bear manages to get downstairs, where he meets the family dog. When Teddy Bear's owner, known as his friend in the story, shows up, he thinks that the family dog has been playing with Teddy Bear. Getting the family dog and cat into

trouble is a bit of a problem throughout Teddy Bear's excitement-seeking adventures.

What's for Breakfast? and The Great Outdoors are Teddy Bear's other adventures. Each story is filled with comical antics as the clumsy little bear discovers for the first time how to get into cupboards, make messes, take a bath, and play outside with wild creatures. The illustrations are simple, fun, and colorful, appealing to your child's imagination.

Non-readers will enjoy having someone read to them and their teddy bears. They will also have fun practicing their story- retelling skills. Young readers will find this book fun and motivating to read to their teddies or younger siblings. Lacking in any life lessons or spiritual truths, the strengths of the book are in its readability and interest level.

Lynne M. Brandt, M.A. Freelance Writer, Alabaster, Alabama.

Miracles on Maple Hill / Virginia Sorensen ; illustrated by Beth and Joe Krush. LCCN 2003049939. Orlando, Fla. : Harcourt, 2003, 1956.

HBB, 152047190, list price: \$17.00; CLJ price: \$12.75

Odyssey, 2003, PAP, 0152047182, list price: \$5.95; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Moving, Household--Fiction; Family problems--Fiction; Country life--Pennsylvania--Fiction; Pennsylvania--History--20th century--Fiction. 232 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 5.

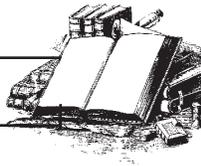
Marly's father has returned from being a prisoner in the war. Although Marly doesn't understand all the details, she knows her father's mental state is precarious. In an effort to help him recover, the family goes to Grandma's old house in the country—Maple Hill. A great believer in the miracles of Maple Hill, Marly whispers a plea before they go into the old house. Almost immediately, her father begins to show interest in life again.

As the spring progresses, Marly discovers more miracles of Maple Hill. When summer vacation arrives the entire family begins to experience the miracles of physical, mental, and spiritual health that are found in hard work and in appreciating God's creation surrounding them. The best miracle occurs when Marly's father finds the peace he needs and the family gets to stay there forever.

Virginia Sorensen had a gift for description in writing that makes the reader almost taste the maple sugar, hear the sour notes of Joe's horn playing, smell Harry's goats, and feel Mr. Chris's big bear hugs. The reader cannot help but identify with Marly as she desperately wishes for a miracle to help restore her family. Written in 1956, and the 1957 winner of the Newbery Medal, *Miracles on Maple Hill* is timeless. The simplicity of the earlier age resonates today as modern families try to

withstand the stress of life as well. This book will make us all yearn for a Maple Hill we can retreat to when the need arises.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.



200's—Religion

Animals of the Bible / David Darom ; photographs by Yoshi Eshbol. St. Louis, Mo. : Concordia/Palphot, 2004.

PAP, 9652801062, list price: \$9.99; CLJ price: \$7.50
220.8/591. Animals in the Bible. 47 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Birds in the land of the Bible / Uzi Paz ; photographs by Yoshi Eshbol. St. Louis, Mo. : Concordia/Palphot, 2004.

PAP, 9652800643, list price: \$9.99; CLJ price: \$7.50
598.295694. Birds--Israel. 47 p. : col. ill. ; 30 cm.
Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

Animals play an interesting part in the Bible. They are used to illustrate stories as well as to describe the setting for events or to illustrate human behavior. This book attempts to identify all biblical animals still extant with a photo and scripture. Most of the verses are from the Old Testament. There are also a few animals pictured because they are native to Israel although not mentioned in the Bible. David Darom's text gives the setting for many of the animals' presence in Israel today as well. If there is some confusion about the animal described in the Bible, he discloses that and makes a best guess of what animal the Lord meant. The photography, mostly by Yossi Eshbol, is beautifully clear. *Animals of the Bible* serves as a resource to help the Bible come alive for children of all ages.

Birds in the Land of the Bible is a birder's feast. Israel's climate and location allow it to serve as a home for about 500 species of birds as well as a temporary home for about 250 species of migratory birds. Uzi Paz uses precise language describing the habits of many of the Israeli birds in this book. The excellent photography by Yossi Eshbol provides full color glimpses of the riches of the land. It is very difficult to find a good bird book in English depicting Middle Eastern birds at all so this book is a resource for the region given that many species may be living in neighboring countries as well. It lends itself to supplementing science, geography, and Bible classes.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.

The parable of two builders : a retelling of the Bible story / by Melody Carlson ; illustrated by Steve Bjorkman. Grand Rapids : Zondervan/Zonderkidz, 2003.

HBB, 0310701457, list price: \$9.99; CLJ price: \$7.50
226/.8. Jesus Christ--Parables. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 24 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

Melody Carlson's *The Parable of Two Builders* features Nick and Joe, each building a house. Nick builds quickly on a sandy beach lot. Joe works carefully and prayerfully, and finally finishes his sturdy house on a rock. In a raging storm, Nick's house "...falls ker-splat!" Dejected Nick, wearing tropical-print pajamas, sits by his demolished house and his strewn plastic flamingo, beach ball, radio, and windsock. Joe sleeps soundly, as his house withstands the storm. The problem of Nick's immaturity and shortsightedness is nicely resolved as Joe helps Nick build a new house on a rock!

Rhymes make this book a great choice for adults to read aloud to preschoolers. The cadence will also fascinate early grade school children as they read. During the storm, "Joe's in his house—safe and sound. He knows it's built on solid ground." Steve Bjorkman's colorful, near-cartoon style art will appeal to both adults and children. Even the expressions of Nick's parrot and Joe's brown pup reinforce the events of the story.

This retelling of Jesus' parable in Luke 6:47-49 urges listeners and readers to "...build your life on the One who's true. He's true to you. And He will see you through." Clearly, this book can be the springboard for discussion about Jesus Christ.

Other Carlson and Bjorkman books include *The Ark That Noah Built*, *Farmer Brown's Field Trip*, *The Lost Lamb*, and *The Other Brother*. An earlier book, *A Tale of Two Houses*, is similar to *The Parable of Two Builders*.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Church Library Volunteer, Freelance Writer, Dexter, Kentucky.

Bible make & do : reproducible craft ideas for ages 6-12, book 3 / Gillian Chapman. Bk. 3-4. (Bible make & do.) St. Louis, Mo. : Concordia, 2003.

PAP, 0758605811, list price: \$7.99; CLJ price: \$5.99
268. Bible crafts. 2 v. : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Bible make & do : reproducible craft ideas for ages 6-12, book 4 / Gillian Chapman. Bk. 3-4. (Bible make & do.) St. Louis, Mo. : Concordia, 2003.

PAP, 075860582X, list price: \$7.99; CLJ price: \$5.99
268. Bible crafts. 2 v. : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades K-7. Rating : 5.

Books three and four of Gillian Chapman's Bible Make and Do series are for anyone who

loves boys and girls. Both adults and children will see potential in the colorful pictures, full-size patterns, and easy directions. Frugal souls will appreciate the focus on inexpensive material and recycled objects.

Both selections start with "How to use this book," followed by "Bible craft tips." Each book offers detailed instructions for ten Bible stories from both the Old and New Testament. Teaching ideas include salt dough, cardstock figures, a lion glove puppet, a collage with dried seeds, a banner, a game board pattern, and directions for a wind-roarer.

In book three, the "Jesus is born" shoe box nativity scene is lovely. Chenille stick camels and sheep join shepherds and wise men with bead heads and cardboard tube bodies. Make a tambourine and "imagine you are dancing at a wedding feast," as in John 2. Construct a three-dimensional picture of a lampstand (Exodus 25) from dried pasta, wooden beads, thin knitting needles, gold paint, and cardboard. Do you want to make Goliath? Find a large, rounded stone. Make paper mache' and follow the directions.

Book four follows the same format, with different Bible stories. "The Shepherd's Surprise" in Luke 2 includes a wonderful pattern for a lamb. "Stained glass" windows highlight Easter. A sliding picture shows "how Peter's chains were broken" in Acts 12. Further, you can "make this Egyptian chariot and horse to remind you of how God rescued His people." Directions for a treasure chest correlate with the "Hidden Treasure" in Matthew 13:44.

Homeschoolers, Sunday School teachers, and all Christian families will benefit from the Bible Make and Do series. Gillian Chapman also wrote *Celebrations Make and Do*, *Bible Make and Do Christmas*, and *Easter Make and Do*. For more information, see the Concordia Publishing House website at www.cph.org.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Church Library Volunteer, Freelance Writer, Dexter, Kentucky.

300's—Social Sciences

Vote! / Eileen Christelow. LCCN 2002152288. New York : Clarion Books, 2003.

HBB, 0618247548, list price: \$16.00; CLJ price: \$12.00

2004, PAP, 0618486062, list price: \$5.95; CLJ price: \$4.50

324.973. Voting; Elections; Politics, Practical. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 25 x 29 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

"Vote? What's that?" Eileen Christelow answers that question and many others children may have in this election year with her book, *Vote!* She uses a town's mayoral election as a model to discuss all the different processes in an election, from the decision of a candidate to run for office to election night itself. The information is presented in a cartoon format with the dog of one of the mayoral candidate and his side-kick generating the questions that the narrative answers. The history of voting in America is covered, as well as a simple explanation of political parties, the specifics of how and where one votes, and what happens if there is a recount.

Throughout the book Christelow makes effective use of the cartoon format, keeping readers entertained with the storyline of Sparky's owner's run for office, while pulling readers through the weightier information with intriguing dialogue and interesting characters. A glossary of voting terms and a timeline of voting rights are included as well as a list of websites with more information. This is an excellent resource on a topic few authors have covered.

Lillian Heytvelt, BA/BS. Library Director, Denny Ashby Memorial Library, Pomeroy, Washington.

Will Moses Mother Goose / Will Moses. LCCN 2003000731. New York : Philomel Books, 2003.

HBB, 0399237445, list price: \$17.99; CLJ price: \$13.50

398.8. Nursery rhymes; Children's poetry. 61 p. : col. ill. ; 24 x 30 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

Will Moses Mother Goose lives up to its own description, "a joyful collection of classic nursery rhymes and riddles to delight little people." The reader will recognize most of the rhymes, rejoice in a few new friends, and laugh at the riddles. The plan of the book is simple, two pages of rhymes with miniatures alternate with two page spreads of nursery rhyme country, utilizing the miniatures from the previous two pages. A brief biography of Mother Goose, an intriguing bibliography, and an Index of First Lines usefully closes this book.

Internationally famous folk artist Will Moses delights with his color filled, animated oil paintings on Fabriano paper. There are many Mother Goose books on the market, but only this one displays the winsome genius Moses inherited from his worthy ancestress, Grandma Moses. Reading the pictures provides even more enjoyment than reading the age-old, beloved rhymes. Recommended for all libraries.

Donna J. Eggett. Freelance Writer, Radford, Virginia.

500's—Natural Sciences & Mathematics

The kids book of the night sky / by Ann Love and Jane Drake ; illustrated by Heather Collins. C20039048152. Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 155337357X, list price: \$19.95; CLJ price: \$14.95

PAP, 1553371283, list price: \$12.95; CLJ price: \$9.75

520. Astronomy. 144 p. : ill. ; 25 cm.

Grades K and up. Rating : 5.

If you marvel at beautiful starlit nights, you'll enjoy *The Kids Book of the Night Sky*. Ann Love and Jane Drake offer fascinating information for both children and adults. You'll learn to make simple study tools. A child can build a planisphere to "...track stars through the seasons." Other projects include a pinhole eclipse viewer, a sighting tube, a star clock, a night sky dome, and constellation flashcards.

Features of the book make the night sky an important part of the reader's life. Are you hungry? Feast on Moon Cookies and Stardust Drink Mix. Do you like word games? Play Constellation Concentration or Stars Out. Seasonal star maps encourage year-round sky watching. One chart shows the date and the home constellation of meteor showers. Other topics include the Milky Way, comets, northern lights, the sun, and the moon.

The book contains many positive features. Illustrations include boys and girls of diverse ethnic backgrounds. Two children in wheelchairs represent people with special needs. Two-tone illustrations, by Heather Collins, highlight the text. Pictures are abundant and interesting. Color seems unnecessary.

The authors included stories about night sky myths. One of the Big Dipper stories begins, "According to legend, the all-powerful god Zeus fell in love with Callisto, a beautiful huntress. Zeus's wife, Hera, was so jealous that she changed Callisto into a bear..."

A one-time investment in *The Kids Book of the Night Sky* offers years of inexpensive and educational family times.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Church Library Volunteer, Freelance Writer, Dexter, Kentucky.

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Facts on File stars & planets atlas / Ian Ridpath. Updated ed. LCCN 2001040827. New York : Facts on File, 2001.

HBB, 0816048002, list price: \$18.95; CLJ price: \$14.25

520. Planets; Stars; Astronomy. 80 p. : col. ill. ; 30 cm.

Grades PS-6. Rating : *5.

What questions do you have about things celestial? They are probably addressed in *Stars and Planets Atlas*, updated edition by Ian Ridpath. "Our home in space is the planet Earth."(4) From this simple fact, the atlas is off and running. A perusal of the table of contents takes the reader from the solar system to galaxies and the universe, culminating with the invisible. Technology makes space exploration real, however fantastical, revealing what only seemed imaginary. The subject of "Big Bang" is mentioned as a possible theory of how the Universe began. (72-73)

Stars and Planets is foremost a non-fiction book addressing scientifically the information about our own planet, and through subsequent chapters, reaches to the furthest limits known about our universe. The format of the book, a visual explosion, compacts a plethora of facts and pictures into each spread. Typically, there are time-exposure photos, full-color drawings and diagrams, photographs of places worldwide, and commemorative stamps on the topic at hand. Each main article is accompanied by a related side-bar article. Although the vocabulary for an independent read is about grade four, the pictures and charts shared with an adult would interest a child as young as preschool. A table of contents, a wrap-up quiz (plus an answer key), credits, and an index give structure to the book.

Su Hagerly, MA. Elementary Music Specialist, Issaquah, Washington.

Wild colors / by Andrea Helman ; photographs by Gavriel Jecan. LCCN 2003052802. Seattle : Sasquatch Books, 2003.

HBB, 1570613915, list price: \$15.95; CLJ price: \$12.00

535.6. Color; Nature. 31 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 2-5. Rating : 4.

Wild Colors is an apt name for this wonderful picture book. With simple-to-read text by Andrea Helman and gorgeous photography by Gamiel Jecan, it vividly, brilliantly, and wildly portrays twenty-five animals and plants.

There are enough quick facts in the four to five brief sentences of text per page to give a nice overview of each animal or plant, including how it lives, how it gets its food, and how it survives. However, it is the color of the animals and plants that is emphasized.

The pages of the book are not white like most books, but boldly-colored oranges, browns, greens, purples, blues, and yellows. The vibrant photos show the animal/plant up close, emphasizing colors that range from the very wild (chartreuse for the western tiger swallow; turquoise for the stink bug) to the somewhat

wild (silver for the sockeye salmon, green for the cryptic katydid, lavender for the lavender plant).

It's the colors that will draw the reader in, yet the text offers much good information, making this book a nice choice for libraries and for home use. Elementary-aged children will find it useful and appealing, and older children will enjoy it, too, for the photos and the facts.

There's a very brief nod to evolutionary theory in the description of the crab spider being on earth for 300 million years. Information on the plants and animals is detailed enough to answer basic questions, the material is interestingly presented in a way that makes learning fun, and the dazzling photographs will have kids flipping through the book again and again.

Rosemarie DiCristo. *Children's Author, Bronx, New York.*

Ants / written by Deborah Hodge ; illustrated by Julian Mulock. (A Denver Museum of Nature & Science book.) LCCN 20039024849. Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 155337066X, list price: \$14.95; CLJ price: \$11.25

PAP, 1553376552, list price: \$5.95; CLJ price: \$4.50
595.79/6. Ants. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Bees / written by Deborah Hodge ; illustrated by Julian Mulock. (A Denver Museum of Nature & Science book.) LCCN 20029055687. Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 1553370651, list price: \$14.95; CLJ price: \$11.25

PAP, 1553376560, list price: \$5.95; CLJ price: \$4.50
595.79/9. Bees. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 28 cm.
Grades 1-3. Rating : 3.

Two new books from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science highlight the important role ants and bees have in our world. Both books make fairly good use of photographs of ants and bees in their natural environments. The drawings by Julian Mulock are very clear. Deborah Hodge's text is simple and direct. The pages are not over-busy. Still, there seems to be very little in these books to set them apart from other books on ants and bees that have come out in the last few years.

Ants discusses the strength, body structure, homes, and growth of ants. One page shows the three kinds of ants in a colony: male, worker, and queen. The male has wings in this illustration but there is no explanation of why he has them or whether only males have wings. The book has two experiments and two craft projects. In the "make an ant nest" craft the materials recommended convey the relative size of the different ant stages very well; however, people who do not like to use food items for craft projects will be disappointed in the model. The book states that ants have lived on the earth for more than 100 million years.

Bees covers the life cycle of bees, the manufacture of honey, the important role they play in pollination, and how they communicate their nectar finds. Although it says a bee can sting, it addresses neither the consequences for the bee or the person stung. This book has one recipe and three craft projects. One of the latter, making honeycomb prints, involves cutting a potato precisely, which might be extremely difficult for the target age group.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. *Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.*

Birds build nests / written by Yvonne Winer ; illustrated by Tony Oliver. LCCN 2001028998. Watertown, Mass. : Charlesbridge., 2002.

HBB, 1570915008, list price: \$16.95; CLJ price: \$12.75

PAP, 1570915016, list price: \$6.95; CLJ price: \$5.25
598.156. Birds--Nests. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 2-6. Rating : 5.

Birds Build Nests summarizes worldwide nest-making methods. The author and artist explain where, how, why, and when birds build nests. You'll meet the Laughing Kookaburra of Australia, the Red-winged Blackbird, Africa's Golden Weaver, and the Peregrine Falcon. Each bird is described on two pages. One page is a poem and a close-up of the nest. Yvonne Winer, who lives in Australia, writes of the Great Cormorant:

Birds build nests
On islands at sea.
Ocean rookeries for birds,
Wild and free.
That's where birds build their nests.

Tony Oliver's full-page, detailed illustrations show natural habitats. The Snowy Owl sits on tundra, with lichens in the foreground and a mountain with melting snow in the background. Baby birds are appealing. Tiny White Storks survey city rooftops from their nest, perched on a chimney. A young Peregrine Falcon views the world from "high in the mountains, above valleys so deep..."

The author lists over a dozen references and several Internet resources. A Nest Identification Guide notes scientific information. For instance, the Mallee Fowl's genus and species is *Leipoa ocellata*. Further, "This bird lives in the dry mallee scrubs of southern Australia. The male builds and tends the incubation mounds..."

Birds Build Nests is highly recommended for an overview of bird nest construction. Both children and adults will enjoy the attractive pictures, short poems, and reference information. Additional books in the series include *Butterflies Fly*, *Frogs Sing Songs*, and *Spiders Spin Webs*.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. *Church Library Volunteer, Freelance Writer, Dexter, Kentucky.*

Loons : diving birds of the north / Donna Love ; illustrated by Joyce Mihran Turley, "Loonphabet" letters by Donna Love. LCCN 2003012464. Missoula, Mont. : Mountain Press, 2003.

PAP, 878424822, list price: \$12.00; CLJ price: \$9.00

598.4/42. Loons; Birds. 63 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), maps (chiefly col.) ; 23 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : 4.

Loons : Diving Birds of the North provides an abundance of interesting information about loons, written in kid-friendly language. It's both a book kids will enjoy reading, and one that will present them with enough factual material to write a basic school report.

Gorgeous full-color paintings by Joyce Mihran Turley complement Donna Love's text; illustrations also include a diagram of the body parts of a loon. Facts on loon habitat, what they eat, how they raise their young, what their calls are like, and much more are interspersed with lighter facts: for instance, that Canada's one dollar coin is called the Loony. Words that may be new or unfamiliar are printed in bold-face and are defined in the same sentence. Suggested activities give the reader simple ways to find out for themselves how a loon swims, how it walks, sees, etc. (Some of these could translate into simple science project material).

The back of the book contains an index, a three-page bibliography of further sources, and a three-page illustrated guide to loon species, with their scientific name as well as pertinent facts specific to that bird.

It's stated outright that loons first appeared 65 million years ago. Several native legends are recounted, including one crediting loons with the creation of the world. It's also mentioned that some cultures think loons have magical powers. But statements like these are brief and make up only a small portion of the book. In all other respects *Loons* is a nice choice for library or home use.

Rosemarie DiCristo. *Children's Author, Bronx, New York.*

Grandma Elephant's in charge / Martin Jenkins ; illustrated by Ivan Bates. LCCN 2002073439. Cambridge, Mass. : Candlewick Press, 2003.

HBB, 0763620742, list price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$12.00

599.67. Elephants; Familial behavior in animals. 29 p. : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 4.

Grandma Elephant's in Charge gives young children an accessible picture book introduction to basic facts about elephants. Martin Jenkins is a conservation biologist who uses the character of a grandma elephant to engage readers in a

look at how these animals live in the wild. The narrative, presented in large text, pulls readers in with a conversational tone: "Most elephants live in families, and most families are big (just like elephants)." Further information in smaller font is tucked in around pictures that burst from the page. Illustrator Ivan Bates uses watercolor and colored pencils effectively to portray these massive creatures "playing push-me-pull-you" and charging straight at the reader on double-page spreads.

A note explains why elephants are no longer found everywhere in Africa: "they have been hunted and people have taken their land for farming." The index is especially friendly to young users, encouraging them to "look up the pages to find out about all these elephant things" and to search both sizes of text. This is a good picture book for the classroom as well as for story hour sharing with budding biologists.

Lillian Heytvelt, BA/BS. Library Director, Denny Ashby Memorial Library, Pomeroy, Washington.

600's—Technology (Applied Sciences)

Eureka! : great inventions and how they happened / Richard Platt. LCCN 2002034029. Boston : Houghton Mifflin/Kingfisher, 2003.

HBB, 0753455803, list price: \$18.95; CLJ price: \$14.25

609. Inventors--History; Inventions--History. 95 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 28 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Blending imaginative text with attractive illustration, *Eureka!* presents a parade of interesting inventions from Archimedes' proof of pure gold to Tim Berner Lee and Mark Andreessen's Mosaic and Internet. Divided by types of inventions and discoveries, the chapters include: life and health; transportation; lenses; electricity; and inventions slowly arrived at. Each invention scrutinized gives information about the inventor, reasons behind the invention, the "Eureka" moment, uses for the item, and how the product or idea was disseminated to the public. An ample table of contents, comprehensive index, inventor chronology, and glossary add value to this book.

In *Eureka!* Richard Platt, an award winning, prolific children's author with wide-ranging interests, provides a fascinating assortment of life enhancing inventions. Highlighted with relevant illustrations ranging from photos to paintings, each of the more than thirty inventions covers two pages. Inventions range from the pendulum to the stump-jump plow to Teflon. Countries of inventors range from Australia to Japan to the U.S. A strongly bound book with thick pages, *Eureka!* will allow heavy use. Equally, at home in many genres of study, suited to both individual and group use, fun to read, filled to overflowing with important

information, *Eureka!* is a multi-use book. It is recommended for all libraries, elementary schools, and families.

Donna J. Eggett. Freelance Writer, Radford, Virginia.

Answer the phone / by Lelia Mander. (Step back science series.) LCCN 2002011728. San Diego : Gale/Blackbirch, 2004.

LIB, 1567116825, list price: \$27.45; CLJ price: \$20.60

621.385. Telephone. 48 p. ill. (some col.) ; 29 cm.

Flick the switch / by Anna Prokos. (Step back science series.) LCCN 2002013161. San Diego : Gale/Blackbirch, 2003.

LIB, 1567116760, list price: \$27.45; CLJ price: \$20.60

621.3. Electric power. 48 p. ill. (some col.) ; 29 cm.

Turn on the faucet / by Lynn Brunelle. (Step back science series.) LCCN 2002011729. San Diego : Gale/Blackbirch, 2003.

LIB, 1567116817, list price: \$27.45; CLJ price: \$20.60

363.6. Water-supply. 48 p. ill. (some col.) ; 29 cm.

Turn on the TV / by Justine Ciovacco. (Step back science series.) LCCN 2002013162. San Diego : Gale/Blackbirch, 2003.

LIB, 1567116809, list price: \$27.45; CLJ price: \$20.60

621.388. Television. 48 p. ill. (some col.) ; 29 cm.

Surf the internet / by Justine Ciovacco. (Step back science series.) LCCN 2002011730. San Diego : Gale/Blackbirch, 2004.

LIB, 1567116795, list price: \$27.45; CLJ price: \$20.60

04.67. Internet. 48 p. ill. (some col.) ; 29 cm.

Start the car / by Jackie Ball. (Step back science series.) LCCN 2002153746. San Diego : Gale/Blackbirch, 2003.

LIB, 1567116787, list price: \$27.45; CLJ price: \$20.60

629.222. Automobiles; Petroleum. 48 p. ill. (some col.) ; 29 cm.

Bite into an apple / by Jackie Ball. (Step back science series.) LCCN 2002153743. San Diego : Gale/Blackbirch, 2004.

LIB, 1567116752, list price: \$27.45; CLJ price: \$20.60

634. Apples. 48 p. ill. (some col.) ; 29 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

Do you have students who always ask "why" or "then what?" This series, Step Back Science, is the perfect answer for our 21st century children. Starting with an action they recognize and working backwards step by step, the science behind the actions they take for granted comes to life. Each individual volume depicts in detail the process underlying modern convenience. The way each is revealed is interesting and thought provoking. Some of the books have an experiment that illustrates the scientific principle or mechanics underlying our modern "magic." Photographs are clear, and

descriptions are precise. The sidebars are interesting and relevant. A glossary, facts and figures about the subject technology, a time line, and excellent index complete these books.

We all know that when the phone rings, we answer. Most of us rarely consider the amazing technology making that event possible. We hear the terms "fiber optics" and "satellite transmission" without any real understanding of the part they play in allowing us to talk to people all over the world. Step by step, *Answer the Phone* takes us back through the transatlantic cable all the way to Alexander Graham Bell. An experiment on connecting telephones illustrates the principles involved in land-line phones. Lelia Mander has done a great job of explaining what seems sensible, but not intuitive.

Flick a Switch by Anna Prokos and *Turn On the Faucet* by Lynn Brunelle would have been really handy during Hurricane Isabel last year. Our area lost electricity for several days, but more importantly, the water pumping stations did as well, so we were without clean water for a period of time. Using these books we could have clearly explained why just turning on the light or the faucet was not going to solve our problem. The electricity book does not have an experiment—probably safer considering the subject matter.

Turn on the TV and *Surf the Internet*, both by Justine Ciovacco, are eye-opening. For the librarian who secretly wonders just how that stuff does appear on the screen each time, these are good books to ponder. Without being too technical, they clearly explain the source of transmissions, the way the images appear, and what level of human involvement is required. The TV book even tells how a TV program is made in a studio and beamed out. The book about the internet is specific enough to be informative, but general enough to stay current given the rapid pace of advancement in this area of technology.

Gentlemen, start your engines! What would we do without our cars in America? How helpless do we find ourselves when the car is in the shop? What would we do without fuel? What kinds of fuels are available for now and the future? Lelia Mander answers these and many other questions in *Start the Car*. Learn the language and what it means in this volume. From hybrids to aerodynamics, this book covers the gamut of car related questions. When discussing petroleum, it advocates the old earth theory of earth's age. Nonetheless, this would be a useful resource for a class studying internal combustion engines.

From high tech to low tech, *Bite into an Apple* finishes the series. Lynn Brunelle takes a seemingly simple action and explains the science behind it. Going from your table to the orchards to the bees and grafting, this book explains how this particular fruit is harvested and supplied to the grocers. A sidebar mentions

Johnny Appleseed but omits his religious motivations for traveling the countryside. This is a great book for units on plants.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.

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The glorious flight : across the Channel with Louis Bleriot / Alice and Martin Provnsen. LCCN 86025473. New York : Puffin, 1987, 1983.

Prebound, 808591746, list price: \$15.30; CLJ price: \$11.5

PAP, 0140507299, list price: \$6.99; CLJ price: \$5.25

629.13/092/4. Bleriot, Louis, 1872-1936; Air pilots; Airplanes--Design and construction. 39 p. : col. ill. ; 21 x 25 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : *5.

Reprinted for the Centennial of Flight (1903-2003), *The Glorious Flight* recounts the humorous trials, tribulations, and triumphs of Louis Bleriot, the first man to fly across the English Channel. Everything in this story has a name, from the aeronautical genius Louis, and his wife, five children, and pets, to the eleven airplanes Louis invented before he found one that would indeed traverse the Channel in just thirty-seven minutes. The history covers events from Louis' accident with a horse cart, caused by the awesome sight of an airship, to his victorious, if bad, landing in England.

Noted husband and wife illustrator and author team, Alice and Martin Provnsen honed their talents at the Disney and the Walter Lang studios. Their witty, sepia toned, dashed-with-bright-color illustrations seem to move with the animation of cartoons. The humorous, simple, accurate narration brims over with the rampaging genius of accident prone Louis Bleriot and the wholehearted backing of his admiring family. This winning combination netted the 1984 Caldecott Medal for *The Glorious Flight*. A good discussion starter on the history of flight, this book will be enjoyed by listeners and readers of all ages. Recommended for all libraries.

Donna J. Eggett. Freelance Writer, Radford, Virginia.

700's—The Arts and Recreation

Stuff for your space / written by Ellen Warwick ; illustrated by Bernice Lum. (Kids can do it.) C20039042545 . Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 1553373987, list price: \$12.95; CLJ price: \$9.75

PAP, 1553373995, list price: \$6.95; CLJ price: \$5.25

745.593. Handicraft; Interior decoration. 40 p. : ill. (chiefly col.) ; 26 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

Stuff For Your Space is a book perfectly designed for pre-adolescent girls. Few nine to twelve year olds will pass up this book full of ideas on how to decorate their room to reflect their own taste. Rather than throwing out a lot

of glitzy ideas, though, author Ellen Warwick is thoughtful in her approach. After discussing themes for decorating she explains color schemes and coordination of colors. The list of supplies and the explanation for simple sewing tips are clear. All measurements are metric as well as U.S.

Bernice Lum's quirky line drawing illustrations enhance the text by depicting girls of this age precisely in all their innocence and charm. She also provides clear drawings of the steps involved in making the items. When my nine-year old's face lit up seeing this, I thought I might regret bringing it in the house. When she asked where one could purchase fake fur, I was sure of it. Still, when they personalize their own space with stuff they've made, they have a vested interest in keeping the room picked up, so the book stays.

This arts and crafts book will be another fun book in your collection. Suggest it to a creative child in conjunction with *Embroidery* from the same publisher and a life's artwork may commence.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.

Embroidery / written by Judy Ann Sadler ; illustrated by June Bradford. (Kids can do it.) C20039033775. Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 1553376161, list price: \$12.95; CLJ price: \$9.75

PAP, 155337617X, list price: \$6.95; CLJ price: \$5.25

746.44. Embroidery. 40 p. : ill. (chiefly col.) ; 26 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 5.

Learning to embroider at a young age can spark a lifetime of creative skills. If a child doesn't have an adult to teach them directly it is essential to have a well-illustrated, well-written book to follow. If the book has appealing projects the learning experience is more likely to stay in the child's mind. In her book, *Embroidery*, Judy Ann Sadler has fulfilled the criteria admirably. She begins with the basics of materials, stitches, and techniques with easy to follow words and crystal clear diagrams. Both free hand embroidery and cross-stitch are covered. There's even a new technique that your reviewer, a life-long embroiderer, found delightful and innovative. Used in companion with *Stuff for Your Space*, this book will transform a young person's room and confidence.

The projects themselves are paced so that if done successively, by the end the child will have learned all the basic stitches necessary to embroider anything. If done out of order, the projects each stand alone as well, because of the artwork by June Bradford and step-by-step clarity of direction. Targeted at girls, the projects include a pincushion, stitched greeting card, ornaments, a CD pouch, and a bracelet,

among others. The book concludes with charts for cross stitch borders, letters, and numbers.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.

The train they call the City of New Orleans / Steve Goodman ; illustrated by Michael McCurdy. LCCN 2001050179. New York : PenguinPutnam, 2003.

HBB, 0399238530, list price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75

782.42164. Children's songs--United States--Texts; Railroads--Songs; Songs. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 29 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : 4.

All aboard! Join "fifteen restless riders" as they journey through via rail and song on board *The Train Called the City of New Orleans* as it heads out of Chicago, Illinois, traveling to New Orleans, Louisiana. The first bright, eye-attracting page provides a map of the journey. Every bustling, magnetic picture spreads across two full pages as it brings to life the lyrics of Steve Goodman's award winning folk song "City of New Orleans."

The late Steve Goodman wrote "City of New Orleans" in 1970 while riding this famous train. The song subsequently won a Grammy and was designated a "Country Standard" by ASCAP. Winner of multiple awards, illustrator Michael McCurdy, a confirmed train devotee, uses scratchboard and watercolors to bring alive this journey through America's heartland. Filled with intriguing detail, colored according to the time of day, alive with people, the pictures invite touching, drawing the audience into the song. Only lyrics are included, no music. With strong pages and sturdy binding, *The Train They Call the City of New Orleans* will be useful for both individual reading and reading aloud, and for families, groups, and fans of Steve Goodman's songs.

Donna J. Eggett. Freelance Writer, Radford, Virginia.

900's—Geography, History, & Biography

The Reader's Digest children's atlas of the world / consulting editor, Colin Sale ; [maps, Digital Wisdom Publishing Ltd.]. 3rd ed. LCCN 99026619. Pleasantville, N.Y. : Reader's Digest Children's Books, 2003.

HBB, 0794402070, list price: \$24.99; CLJ price: \$18.75

912. Children's atlases; Atlases; Geography. 1 atlas (128 p.) : col. ill., col. maps ; 35 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Over 3000 full-color illustrations, graphs, and maps plus many hands-on projects are just some of the noteworthy features of this nicely produced children's atlas. The text is simply written and easy to understand yet informative. The copious illustrations (which include a multi-

ethnic cast of characters) will keep children enthralled.

The Reader's Digest Children's Atlas of the World opens with narrative sections on the history of mapmaking and how to read maps. It continues with two-page spreads on such topics as the planets; weather and climate; our natural resources; environmental concerns; and political hotspots. Fun facts (why an atlas is called an atlas; that 20,000 thunderstorms occur each day) are included.

The extremely detailed maps show both the continents in general and specific regions of the world (Central Eurasia; Southern Africa; the Middle East; etc.). Major cities and bodies of water are depicted, along with natural resources, pertinent wildlife, important buildings, and significant tourist sites. Capital cities and population statistics appear in sidebars.

The hands-on projects range from the science-project ready (understanding why it rains; making a "cave" with stalactites and stalagmites) to the merely fun (creating a sand art jar; making a boomerang). Back of the book matter includes information on the countries of the world (population, currency, languages, religion), a glossary, and an index/gazetteer.

There are some expected cautions. In the atlas, it's taken for granted that plate tectonics is true, and that the solar system was formed 5 billion years ago "from a large, swirling cloud of dust and gases." Also, one hands-on project suggests making a "Khamsa Hand" good luck charm. However, this information is mainly limited to the front matter and isn't overly emphasized. For instance, the section on The Human Family doesn't mention evolution, and The Living World has just one sentence on animals "altering" to suit their environment.

Rosemarie DiCristo. *Children's Author, Bronx, New York.*

The American flag / Debra Hess. (Symbols of America.) LCCN 2003004271. Tarrytown, N.Y. : Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761417095, list price for schools: \$17.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

929.9. Flags--United States--History. 38 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

The Star-Spangled Banner / Debra Hess. (Symbols of America.) LCCN 2003004464. Tarrytown, N.Y. : Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761417109, list price for schools: \$17.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

929.9. Key, Francis Scott, 1779-1843; Star-spangled banner (Song); Flags--United States--History--19th century; Baltimore, Battle of, Baltimore, Md., 1814; United States--History--War of 1812--Flags. 40 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 4.

These two Debra Hess books about the U.S. flag and anthem clearly describe the origin of both

American symbols. In *The American Flag*, Hess chronicles the flag's birth in 1776, detailing briefly how various presidents and events have effected changes in the flag's design. One spread commemorates the flag's presence in the rubble of the World Trade Center in September 2001. *The Star-Spangled Banner* recounts in interesting detail Francis Scott Key's experiences leading up to his writing the poem that became the anthem. Hess gives significant space to Key's biographical data. Full page photos and bulleted facts in wide blue stars add visual appeal both titles.

Factual information and strong, simple graphics fill both of Hess' books. Language is easily read by intermediate elementary students. The pull-out, bulleted details appeal to this fact-hungry age group. The large photos and art colorfully augment the texts' information. Each book contains a glossary—some of the words are specific to the topic, others are general vocabulary words—which are italicized in the text, as well as a succinct list of books and web sites containing additional information. Students will enjoy learning about these symbols of U.S. history through Hess' writing.

Karen Schmidt, BA. *Freelance Writer/Editor, Marysville, Washington.*

Great Britain / by Sharon Gordon. (Discovering cultures.) LCCN 2003006956. 2003

HBB, 0761417176, list price: \$17.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

941. Great Britain. 48 p. ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm.

Russia / Sarah De Capua. (Discovering cultures.) LCCN 2003006957.

HBB, 0761417168, list price: \$17.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

947. Russia (Federation). 48 p. ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm.

Greece / by Sharon Gordon. (Discovering cultures.) LCCN 2003008130.

HBB, 0761417184, list price: \$17.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

949.5. Greece. 48 p. ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm.

Israel / Jennifer Rozines Roy. (Discovering cultures.) LCCN 2003008127.

HBB, 0761417206, list price: \$17.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

956.94. Israel. 48 p. ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm.

South Africa / Patricia J. Murphy. (Discovering cultures.) LCCN 2003008129.

HBB, 0761417192, list price: \$17.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

968. South Africa. 48 p. ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm.

Colombia / Sarah De Capua. (Discovering cultures.) LCCN 2003008128.

HBB, 076141715X, list price: \$17.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

986.1. Colombia. 48 p. ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm.

Tarrytown, N.Y. : Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark, 2004.

Grades 1-4. Rating : 4.

The newest volumes in the Discovering Cultures series celebrate everything positive about the countries they profile. Each book profiles what is special about the country, the climate, the holidays, school life, national sports, and unique cultural features. The highlight of each book is a recipe for a native dish. There are also short biographies of famous native sons and daughters, a glossary, bibliography, and index. The recipes cause the younger children at our school to compete to check these books out each week.

The books are written for the targeted age range; thus none of the difficult subjects present in many of these countries are addressed. The focus is on the children of the country, the foods, and the rich cultural heritage each of the countries proudly claim. One of the nicest features is that the books acknowledge the presence and importance of Christianity in the country's history and present day life, while still recognizing other sizable religious groups' existence.

Two of the individual books have subjects worth noting. The book *Israel*, by Jennifer Rozines Roy, states that Israel has been at war with Arab neighbors since its modern creation. She brings up the subject to briefly mention its impact on the children. The book *South Africa* by Patricia J. Murphy devotes a page to an overview of the history of apartheid and its impact on the country. It is difficult to imagine how the books could be considered complete without mentioning these subjects because of the great current impact on children in these nations. The authors' treatments of these difficult topics are deft, politics-neutral, and very well done. None of the other books really touch on social or military problems in the countries represented.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. *Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.*

These are my people / Mildred T. Howard ; [illustrated by Del Thompson]. Greenville, S.C. : JourneyForth, 1984.

PAP, 890842426, list price: \$7.49; CLJ price: \$5.60

B (266). Aylward, Gladys; Missionaries--China--Biography. 146 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-7. Rating : 4.

Gladys Aylward was just an ordinary person with an extraordinary heart for the people of China. *These Are My People* traces her incredible life. Gladys wasn't student enough to pass the British Mission Boards, so she went to work as a parlormaid and paid her own way to China. Her unswerving commitment to this calling led her through war zones, provided her with a family of orphans numbering up to 200 at a time, and cemented a friendship with the local mandarin.

Mildred T. Howard necessarily writes in a compact style, distilling the essence of Aylward's poured out life into a mere 146 pages. The chapter book charts the multiple journeys of this unmarried woman who went wherever there was a need. The story covers a lifetime, so the account skips from mountain top to mountain top. The map of Asia with the inset of the area Aylward served in China gives boundaries for the reader's imagination. The straightforward narrative provides background information about the mission field during war time. The glossary in the back of the book clarifies the names of people, places, and things Chinese. Illustrator Del Thompson adds pencil sketches throughout the book, highlighting each chapter with a symbol emblematic of its contents.

Su Hagerty, MA. Elementary Music Specialist, Issaquah, Washington.

Sandberg's life is heightened by the watercolor-and-crosshatch drawings.

Su Hagerty, MA. Elementary Music Specialist, Issaquah, Washington.

Carl Sandburg : adventures of a poet / Penelope Niven ; with poems and prose by Carl Sandburg ; illustrated by Marc Nadel. LCCN 2002014592. Orlando, Fla. : Harcourt, 2003.

HBB, 152046860, list price: \$17.00; CLJ price: \$12.75

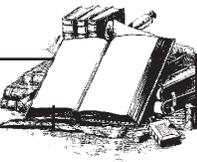
B (811). Sandburg, Carl, 1878-1967; Poets, American. [32] p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 5.

In *Carl Sandburg : Adventures of a Poet*, Penelope Niven paints a mural with words. The varied life of The Poet of the People starts in Galesburg, Illinois, and ends in Flat Rock, North Carolina. In between, Sandburg journeyed the United States from coast to coast, conversing with the average American, and chronicling the everyday lives in his writings. Journalist, poet, author of children's books, correspondent; anything written became fair game for this lover of words. Sandburg also collected songs from all over the country and published them in *The American Songbag*. Perhaps greatest of all was his rapport with his three daughters. *Rootabaga Stories* was written for them.

Penelope Niven divides the life of Sandburg into chapters. Each gives a different view of the life and times from the late 1800s to the 1960s. Each narrative is accompanied by a writing of Sandburg. For instance, the section on "Family Man" goes along with "Little Girl, Be Careful What You Say." In the back of the book is a chart that shows the events in the life of Sandburg and the corresponding occurrences in history. This gives a unique perspective on his seemingly restless career.

Most notable are the illustrations. They deserve two pages of explanation for themselves. Marc Nadel was given access to private papers and archives that add dimensional prospect to the story. The pictures sometimes possess a telescoping of time, but "we are every age inside that ever we were." The fascination of



The case of the Autumn Rose / Rick Acker. (The Davis detective mysteries ; 1.) LCCN 2002152252. Grand Rapids : Kregel, 2003.

PAP, 825420040, list price: \$7.99; CLJ price: \$5.99

Fic. Robbers and outlaws--Fiction; Pearls--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Vietnam--History--1975--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories. 186 p. ; 21 cm.

The lost treasure of Fernando Montoya / Rick Acker. (The Davis detective mysteries ; 2.) LCCN 2003012165. Grand Rapids : Kregel, 2003.

PAP, 825420059, list price: \$7.99; CLJ price: \$5.99

Fic. Business enterprises--Fiction; Robbers and outlaws--Fiction; Kidnapping--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; San Francisco (Calif.)--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories. 188 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 4.

The Case of the Autumn Rose features siblings Arthur and Kirstin Davis, partners in The Davis Detective Agency. The mysterious Madame Dragonfly offers them \$500 to solve the case of the elusive Autumn Rose but leaves them in doubt of what they are looking for. It turns out to be much more than the nearby horse farm named the Autumn Rose. The detectives find themselves in trouble, including kidnappings and boat chases, but the lessons they learn prove valuable.

The second case of the Davis Detective Agency is *The Lost Treasures of Fernando Montoya*. While visiting their Uncle Connie in San Francisco, Arthur and Kirstin learn of the lost treasure. Four hundred pounds of gold has been missing for 150 years, and they are hired to find it. They decide it will be a fun adventure; however it isn't long until they discover someone wants them off the case. Arthur is almost eaten by sharks and they both get buried in an old shipwreck, not to mention being kidnapped! Will Arthur and Kirstin find the lost treasure and survive the dangerous case?

The Davis Detective Mysteries by Rick Acker is an interesting series of mysteries for children. Sure to capture the reader's attention and sense of adventure. *The Case of the Autumn Rose* and *The Lost Treasures of Fernando Montoya* both reveal that true value in life is not found in material possessions, but in the assurance of a heavenly reward.

Boys and girls will both enjoy Rick Acker's mysteries. The unpredictable storylines keep the child's interest until the very end. These books will definitely not remain on the shelves waiting for a reader. They are a perfect addition to any children's library, and ones I recommend for purchase.

Sherrí Myers, Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

The slave dancer : a novel / Paula Fox ; with illustrations by Eros Keith. LCCN 73080642. New York : Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 2001, c1973.

HBB, 0689845057, list price: \$17.95; CLJ price: \$13.50

Yearling, 1990, PAP, 0440404029, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

Fic. Slave trade--Fiction; Newbery Medal. 176 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 7-12. Rating : 3.

Jessie Bollier, whose life is wretched at best, lives in New Orleans before the Civil War with his widowed mother and young sister. Kidnapped by slave traders headed for Africa, in the first few weeks at sea the boy has to adjust to the cruelty of the captain and first mate and the rigors of a 19th century ocean voyage. Anchoring off the coast of Africa, the captain surreptitiously purchases slaves and smuggles them aboard. As they sail back to the U.S., Jessie's purpose on the ship is revealed. The captives need exercise to stay healthy, so daily they are brought on deck in their chains to "dance." Jessie is the piper. The night before they harbor in Cuba, American vessels, trying to stop the slave trade, attack their ship. Rather than be caught with Africans on board, the Captain and crew start dumping them in the sea. Jessie is horrified. He helps a boy escape, and they wash up together on the coast of Mississippi. Sharing no language, they manage to communicate enough to build a friendship based on mutual survival. Rescued by an escaped slave who lives deep in the bayou, the African boy starts his journey to freedom, and Jessie starts his journey home to New Orleans.

Although Paula Fox's writing is powerful and direct, *Slave Dancer* is a difficult book to stomach. Thirteen-year old Jessie is a sympathetic character caught in a situation over which he has no power. Despite being part of the slaver's crew, Jessie is redeemed by his effort to save the African boy. The degradation of the Africans, the cruelty of life on the ship, the danger of running slave blockades all give this Newbery Medal winner an edge that makes it inappropriate for children younger than seventh grade.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD, Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.

Stranger in the chat room / Todd & Jedd Hafer. LCCN 2003013805. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003.

PAP, 0764228234, list price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

Fic. Online chat groups--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction. 218 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

Four teens from different parts of the country regularly meet in a private chat room to discuss their beliefs and doubts about God. Previously God himself paid a surprise visit to the chat room. But now someone else appears...only this man is cruel, even malevolent, and causes each teen to doubt his or her faith.

Advertised as a *Screwtape Letters* for today's teens, *Stranger in the Chat Room* is the sequel to Todd and Jedd Hafer's teen novel *In the Chat Room with God*. Both books take place entirely in various chat rooms, meaning the novels are all dialog, with no description at all. It's a challenge to pull off, but the Hafer brothers do it well. *Stranger in the Chat Room* is a raw, honest, sometimes painful acknowledgment of teenagers' questions about faith, the power of prayer, and more.

It's harsh stuff. Watcher55, the stranger, is utterly cruel in how he talks to the teens and his threats to hurt them are real. Also, mild swear words, jokes about hormones and hot guys, and even frank talk about "getting laid" pop up, in deference to the real-teen-speak of the book's confused, hurting characters.

This is a book best for older teens, although younger teens would benefit from reading it; its message about trusting God through pain is that valuable. (Adults may want to skim the book first to make sure their child is mature enough to handle it).

Two complaints: it's strongly implied that Watcher55 is either Satan or a demon, but the book ends with him apparently an ordinary human. Also, the resolution, while magnificent from a Christian point of view, is rather disappointing suspense-wise. The ending is literally *deus ex machina*, and rather abrupt.

Rosemarie DiCristo, Children's Author, Bronx, New York.

Between two worlds / LeAnne Hardy. LCCN 2003001779. Grand Rapids : Kregel, 2003.

PAP, 825427932, list price: \$6.99; CLJ price: \$5.25

Fic. Missionaries--Fiction; High schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 150 p. : 21 cm.

Grades 7-10. Rating : 4.

Cristina Larson and her family move from Brazil, where her parents are missionaries, to Rum River, Minnesota, for one year to replenish support for their mission field. Cristina's return

to her old stomping ground, rather than feeling comfortable and natural, causes her to miss the home and friends she has left back in Brazil. The extreme prejudice she experiences toward anyone who is different from the Caucasian, Blue Collar norm intensifies Cristina's loneliness. When she finds romance with another misfit and the two of them are called upon to help rescue and pray for the school bully, Cristina begins to develop roots in the community.

Between Two Worlds, a novel by LeAnne Hardy, is about the changes necessary in the lives of missionaries that can deeply affect their children, and how God can work that out. Without using strong religious connotations, Hardy presents a realistic story of a Christian teen that finds it hard to adjust to her parents' constant moving. Dialogue moves smoothly. Calling upon her diverse background as a missionary in Africa, South America, and Eastern Europe, Hardy sensitizes the reader to the need to build bridges, rather than walls, between peoples. Hardy reminds the reader that differences can be strengths. Recommended for all young adult collections.

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

Jewel cases : five classic mysteries of theft. (Fingerprint classics.) LCCN 2002003593. Greenville, S.C. : JourneyForth, 2002.

PAP, 1579248411, list price: \$7.49; CLJ price: \$5.60
 Fic. Mystery and detective stories; Short stories. 112 p. ; 22 cm.
 Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

Jewel Cases is a compilation of five short detective stories from the Victorian era. In "The Lenton Croft Mystery," jewelry disappears from guestrooms and used matches are the only clues left behind. While seven friends are aboard a yacht, The Aztec Opal vanishes. Sherlock Holmes experiences "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" when the stolen gem is found inside a goose. In "The Episode of the Diamond Links," a millionaire's wife determines to buy the finishing stones for her necklace from a young parson. And "The Mystery of the Five Hundred Diamonds" concerns an auction, a French detective, and a resourceful American.

Turn-of-the-century wording make some of these mysteries difficult to understand at first, but tight plotting allows each to fit in fewer than 30 pages. Characters are aptly drawn with a few words of description and recognizable mannerisms. The first two tales offer more reader inclusion figuring out the mysteries; in the third, Sherlock Holmes pulls the reader step by step with his acute observations, and the last two end with surprises. The various settings, from a country estate to Baker Street to France, are described only when necessary to the plot. To-the-point dialog exists in all the stories and is used to present most of the facts in the first three

stories. Mystery bluffs should enjoy this delightful collection of jewel thievery cases.

Katie Hart, Writer, Librarian, Immanuel Baptist Church, New Brighton, Pennsylvania.

Raiders from the sea / Lois Walfrid Johnson. (Viking quest ; 1.) LCCN 2003008657. Chicago : Moody, 2003.

PAP, 802431127, list price: \$7.99; CLJ price: \$5.99
 Fic. Vikings--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 100 p. ; 19 cm.

Mystery of the silver coins / Lois Walfrid Johnson. (Viking quest ; 2.) LCCN 2003012109. Chicago : Moody, 2003.

PAP, 802431135, list price: \$7.99; CLJ price: \$5.99
 Fic. Vikings--Fiction; Slaves--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Norway--History--To 1020--Fiction; Ireland--History--To 1172--Fiction. 193 p. ; 19 cm.
 Grades 5-8. Rating : 4.

In *Raiders from the Sea*, Briana O'Toole and her brother Devin live a normal life in 900's Ireland until the day she rescues a stranger. When the young man Mikkel disappears, her suspicions are aroused. Then Vikings raid the nearby monastery and surrounding homes for valuables and slaves, and Bree must act as a decoy to save her family.

In *Mystery of the Silver Coins*, Bree and another slave, Lil, escape from the Viking ship upon its arrival in Norway. Mikkel, young leader of the Vikings, believes she's stolen a pouch of silver coins and heads out after her, hoping to catch her before the other, less merciful, Vikings.

Much action pulses through these novels, yet it doesn't lead far, as each book is part of a longer story. Distinct characters grow and change throughout the series, learning valuable lessons about trusting God. Authentic emotions allow readers to connect with characters, and the secondary plotline adds depth and variety to the story. At times, the dialogue and use of scripture seem a bit contemporary, but it helps relate the story to modern readers. Descriptions of lush outdoor settings are woven into the plot and detailed sketches add to the mood. Preteen and young teen girls will enjoy these suspenseful, heartwarming tales.

Katie Hart, Writer, Librarian, Immanuel Baptist Church, New Brighton, Pennsylvania.

The voyages of Doctor Dolittle / told by Hugh Lofting ; illustrated by Michael Hague ; edited with a foreword by Patricia C. and Fredrick L. McKissack ; afterword by Peter Glassman. (Books of wonder.) LCCN 2001024358. New York : HarperCollins, 2001, 1923.

HBB, 0688140025, list price: \$24.99; CLJ price: \$18.75
 Yearling, 1988, PAP, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50
 Fic. Fantasy; Animals--Fiction; Newbery Medal. xii, 355 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Dr. Dolittle is an English doctor who prefers animals to people. Nine-year old Tommy Stubbins cannot think of anyone he would rather assist and learn from than the good doctor. When his parents agree, Tommy, the doctor, and a crew of animals set out on a sea voyage to find Spider Monkey Island. Along the way they stop on a Spanish island and end bullfighting, are shipwrecked, and find the long lost Long Arrow, greatest naturalist in the world.

Dr. Dolittle brings fire to the native people on Spider Monkey Island and becomes their chief. He enlists the help of whales to push the island back into the tropics where it belongs. When it is time to head home, only the Great Glass Sea Snail will do for a conveyance. The voyage simply whets Tommy's and the reader's appetites for more.

Dr. Dolittle has charmed and delighted animal lovers since 1922. However, the adventure and whimsy of *The Voyages of Dr. Dolittle* are much better than either of the two movies that have been made from Hugh Lofting's books. Although some of the attitudes the characters display towards the natives are considered patriarchal and condescending these days, they were written in the spirit of the times, and do not take away from the story. In fact, as the doctor's only motivation for helping the natives is true kindness, that timeless value trumps any dismay over colonialist attitudes.

The animals have a unique perspective in their views on humans, but they are never given a status higher than humans. With shipwrecks, tribal warfare, tropic islands and icebergs, this 1923 Newbery Medal winner is a ripping read-aloud for grades 3-6 and suitable for reading by the more proficient readers in those groups.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.

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Kyra's story / Dandi Daley Mackall. (Degrees of guilt ; 1.) LCCN 2003008782. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2003.

PAP, 842382844, list price: \$9.99; CLJ price: \$7.50
 Fic. Drug abuse--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Twins--Fiction; High schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Iowa--Fiction. xiii, 277 p. ; 21 cm.

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Miranda's story / Melody Carlson. (Degrees of guilt ; 2.) LCCN 2003010302. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2003.

PAP, 842382836, list price: \$9.99; CLJ price: \$7.50
 Fic. Friendship--Fiction; Death--Fiction; Ecstasy (Drug)--Fiction; High schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Iowa--Fiction. 270 p. ; 21 cm.

*

Tyrone's story / Sigmund Brouwer. (Degrees of guilt ; 3.) LCCN 2003010943. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2003.

PAP, 842382852, list price: \$9.99; CLJ price: \$7.50
 Fic. High schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Drug traffic--Fiction; Iowa--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction. 254 p. ; 21 cm.
 Grades 11-12. Rating : *5.

Sammy James is dead. Three high school seniors, his classmates, all played a part in the events leading up to his death, and each has their own tale of guilt.

Kyra's Story tells of Sammy's popular twin. When a new teacher arrives after Christmas break, Kyra finds her usual lead role in the school play threatened by his innovative methods and her heart throbbing over his looks. The stress leads her to her mother's medicine cabinet, and soon the pills become her lifeline.

Miranda's Story shows the events proceeding and following Sammy's death from the perspective of the girl he loved. Hollow with grief and guilt, Miranda wonders whether she should join Sammy. The police are investigating his death at her house, her aging grandmother doesn't even remember her name anymore, and her partying mother couldn't care less.

Tyrone's Story tells of an outsider trying to find his place. A scientific mind and a tough veneer have kept students at a distance during Tyrone's four years in Macon, Iowa. He jumps at the chance when the cool new teacher offers to pay him to pick up packages of "vitamins," but what Tyrone ignores will cost much more than he realizes.

These novels are real and intimate, written in first person and partly or entirely in present tense. The overlap of plot between books enhances reader interest—to get the entire story, you must hear all sides. The main characters become Christians in the books and drug use and drinking are prevalent throughout. Since the novels focus on the harm caused by drugs, they nearly ignore the issue of drinking. Keen characterization places the reader inside the heart of each teen, but some humor helps lighten the tone of otherwise heavy novels. Recommended for young people who can handle the mature themes.

Katie Hart, Writer, Librarian, Immanuel Baptist Church, New Brighton, Pennsylvania.

Finally sure / Stephanie Perry Moore. (Laurel Shadrach series ; 5.) LCCN 2003019832. Chicago : Moody, 2004.

PAP, 802440398, list price: \$6.99; CLJ price: \$5.25
 Fic. Colleges and universities--Fiction; Salvation--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 192 p. ; 22 cm.
 Grades 10-12. Rating : 3.

Fifth in the Laurel Shadrach series, *Finally Sure* by Stephanie Perry Moore finds Laurel Shadrach in her freshman year in college at the University of Georgia. Struggling to stay on the gymnastics team to retain her scholarship money, many diversions wind Laurel's way. Her pastor father acts weird around the family, her grandfather is dying, her friends are testing their faith and Laurel finds herself growing interested in a library acquaintance. Through it all, Laurel remains grounded in her faith in God and tries to be a godly example to those around her.

More things happen to Laurel in a few months than most experience in a lifetime. She fails to make the gymnastics team, but replaces her lost scholarship by becoming a cheerleader. Author Stephanie Perry Moore tries too hard to have Laurel encounter trials without elaborating on the trial itself. For example, Laurel and a friend drive to a neighboring city for a football game. At the after-game party filled with alcohol, someone goes into cardiac arrest. Laurel attempts CPR, but to no avail. Although mentioning remorse and sorrow, the book and characters quickly move to the next "crisis" of the hour. The book's characters lack depth and the novel moves too quickly through various tragedies without addressing the emotional impact these events have on the characters. Moore mentions the father's peculiar actions but does little to inform the reader why or develop that plot line. In an attempt to keep the book moving, the characters come across as superficial and the plot lines lack depth.

Finally Sure would frustrate most high school readers looking for more development in a novel.

Eileen Zygarlicke, BS. English Teacher, Community High School, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

77 zebra / Gloria Repp ; [illustrated by David Schuppert]. (Adventures of an arctic missionary ; 3.) LCCN 2002154222. Greenville, S.C. : Journey Books, 2003.

PAP, 1579249302, list price: \$7.49; CLJ price: \$5.60
 Fic. Missionaries--Fiction; Alaska--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 156 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.
 Grades 4-8. Rating : 3.

In her third book in the Adventures of an Arctic Missionary series, Gloria Repp continues the story of Steve and Liz Bailey, fictional missionaries to 1950s Alaska, as they return to the village of Koyalik with their new Cessna plane, 77 Zebra. Changes come as the missionaries deal with a gruff mail pilot, rough weather conditions, medical emergencies, and banned whiskey.

Loose plot defines this novel. Events occur, problems are solved, but the theme, location, and characters are the only unifying factors. This flaw and the age of the protagonists cause the book to read like a biography, not children's

fiction. Adequate though overly perfect characters and a strong theme prevent the book from being a total loss, but readers will most likely finish it reluctantly, if at all. Many details about the lives of Eskimos are included. Best read as part of the series, the novel can also stand alone. Young people interested in Alaska may want to give this series a chance.

Katie Hart, Writer, Librarian, Immanuel Baptist Church, New Brighton, Pennsylvania.

New girl in town / by Nancy Rue. (Nama Beach High ; 1.) LCCN 2003011382. El Cajon, Calif. : Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2004.

PAP, 0310243998, list price: \$6.99; CLJ price: \$5.25
 Fic. Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Self-esteem--Fiction; High schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Moving household--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 160 p. ; 21 cm.

False friends and true strangers / by Nancy Rue. (Nama Beach High ; 2.) LCCN 2003015865. El Cajon, Calif. : Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2004.

PAP, 031025180X, list price: \$6.99; CLJ price: \$5.25
 Fic. High schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 181 p. ; 21 cm.
 Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

New Girl in Town starts in the middle of Laura Duffy's junior year when her parents decide to move. Laura knows she'll never fit in at Panama Beach High but an unexpected encounter brings her into school counselor Mrs. Isaacsen's Group where she meets K.J., Joy Beth, Michelle, and Celeste, all completely different from Laura. With some advice and Celeste's friendship, Laura gains control of her life only to see it crumble again.

In *False Friends and True Strangers*, just-licensed Laura accidentally bumps into a car owned by a guy in a popular clique and has to get a job to pay for the damages. She feels obligated to take the first good job she finds, though her friends aren't consider "in" enough to work at the Gap. As she tries to fit her job and the school play into her busy schedule, she cannot imagine how far the clique will go to get their way.

Nancy Rue begins her books with immediate action and the can't-put-down feeling continues throughout. Each character is drawn through similes and mannerisms, providing a quirky but accurate picture in the reader's mind. The books teach important spiritual lessons through actions, emotions, and Scripture while keeping away from becoming preachy. Several profanities, nearly all euphemisms, are used in the novels for realism. Dialogue is excellent and true-to-life, though numerous typesetting errors sometimes make it hard to follow. The keen, dry humor fits the tone of the books. Girls high school age and beyond should enjoy these novels.

Katie Hart, Writer, Librarian, Immanuel Baptist Church, New Brighton, Pennsylvania.

Tangled threads : a Hmong girl's story / by Pegi Deitz Shea. LCCN 2003002362. New York : Clarion Books, 2003.

HBB, 0618247483, list price: \$15.00; CLJ price: \$11.25

Fic. Refugees--Fiction; Hmong (Asian people)--Fiction; Hmong Americans--Fiction; Grandmothers--Fiction; Embroidery, Hmong--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Providence (R.I.)--Fiction. 236 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 6-8. Rating : 5.

Tangled Threads, the story of a Hmong girl from a refugee camp in Thailand, reveals the plight of many young people as they come to America, misunderstood by both their Lao families and by the Americans around them.

When thirteen-year-old Mai and her grandmother are allowed to join their family in Rhode Island, Mai can't wait to try all the things her cousins have told her about—coke and pizza, riding in a fancy car, all the food you could want to eat. But adjusting to a new life isn't easy. Her cousins, See and Pa Cua, have become Heather and Lisa, strangers who tease her about being a refugee. At every turn, there is something new to learn. While in Thailand, Mai always relied on Grandma for advice and guidance. Now Grandma, unwilling to adjust to her new life in America, needs Mai's help.

When Mai discovers Grandma could have brought them to the U.S. five years earlier, this fact looms over her every thought. Why didn't Grandma bring them sooner? And how can Mai find the words to confront her grandmother about this? Mai's cousins, too, are both in relationships that look dangerous and her American family is being torn apart. How can these threads be untangled? And how will she weave them into her own story?

Pegi Deitz Shea's characterization of Mai is exceptional and the reader feels drawn into this young woman's dilemma as she matures and changes and is able to come to her own conclusions about the many events going on around her. *Tangled Threads : A Hmong Girl's Story* will be enjoyed by young people in middle school, particularly girls. Considering the scarcity of fiction books on this subject should also be a reason for purchasing this for any school or public library.

Ceil Carey, LTA. Young Adult Public Librarian, Plano, Illinois.

The land / Mildred D. Taylor. LCCN 00039329. New York : PenguinPutnam/Phyllis Fogelman, 2001.

HBB, 0803719507, list price: \$17.99; CLJ price: \$13.50

Puffin, 2003, PAP, 0142501468, list price: \$6.99; CLJ price: \$5.25

Fic. Racially mixed people--Fiction; African Americans--Fiction; Prejudices--Fiction; Race relations--Fiction; Southern States--Fiction. 375 p. ; 24 cm.

Grades 5-10. Rating : 5.

In post-Civil War Georgia, young Paul-Edward lives in two worlds. He loves both his mother, a former slave, and his prosperous white father. *The Land*, by Mildred Taylor, describes Paul's struggle to understand his feelings. Paul loves his father's land, but senses his secondary position. He dreams, "One day I'll have land of my own."

A white half-brother betrays Paul so he and an African American friend, Mitchell, run away. The boys hide under train seats, and behind the skirts of friendly white ladies. Eventually, Paul and Mitchell stake their hopes on 40 faraway acres but a white man cheats the young men out of their land. Mitchell, whose wife is expecting a baby, is killed. Just before the birth, Paul marries Caroline, Mitchell's former wife. Mitchell's friends move his grave, so he wouldn't be "where he ain't wanted." Eventually, Paul and Caroline lead a happy life on their own property.

Some events and conversations could seem melodramatic. Each happening, however, is believable in Reconstruction context. Language is characteristic of the time. A man remarks, "Let's see jus' what ya got there, nigger white boy." A girl declares, "I'll mess with you long as you be messin' with my man." Another typical phrase is, "Uh-huh, she done told us 'bout that."

The Land won the Coretta Scott King award and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. This volume is a prequel to Taylor's Newbery Medal Winner, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. Both books can help children understand history, appreciate freedom for all people, and value hard work.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Church Library Volunteer, Freelance Writer, Dexter, Kentucky.

The curse of the raven mocker / Marly Youmans. LCCN 2002026433. New York : Farrar, 2003.

HBB, 0374316678, list price: \$18.00; CLJ price: \$13.50

Fic. Indians of North America--Southern States--Folklore--Fiction; Wizards--Fiction; Supernatural--Fiction; Cherokee mythology--Fiction; Great Smoky Mountains (N.C. and Tenn.)--Fiction. 279 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 6-8. Rating : Not recommended.

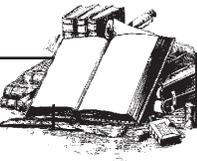
Adanta, a young girl living in the Blue Ridge Mountains near the enchanted land of Adantis (from which she got her name), has lost her father, Ba, and her mother, Charlotte. Both have mysteriously disappeared. Adanta knows only that the Lean One, as she calls him, has something to do with the disappearances. Adanta knows nothing about the enchanted land that lies near her; her parents kept this knowledge from her except in the form of veiled stories. But she cannot stay in her little blue cottage. What will happen to her parents? What

will happen to her? So Adanta sets out to find her family deep in the land of Adantis.

Joining her is a boy named Tass who has grown up in Adantis, who knows the lay of the land, and befriends Adanta. They do not know where to go, but through chance meetings and some help from Adanta's mysterious grandmother—whom she had never met previously—they find their way to battle the sorcery that has bound her mother and threatens to kill her father.

The Curse of the Raven Mockers utilizes ancient Cherokee imagery, and yet is set at some point in the twentieth century. Marly Youmans weaves in special Indian names and terms that evoke a supernatural feel to her tale. However, the story winds awkwardly from point to point and ends only in disappointment.

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



200's—Religion

The true story of Noah's ark / Tom Dooley ; illustrated by Bill Looney. LCCN 2002116467. Green Forest, Ark. : Master Books, 2003.

HBB, 0890513880, list price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$12.00

222/.11093. Noah's ark; Noah (Biblical figure); Bible stories--O.T. 72 p. : col. ill. ; 22 x 26 cm.

Grades 6-10. Rating : 5.

The True Story of Noah's Ark is an exciting retelling of the biblical story found in Genesis chapters 6-9 about the flood that covered the earth. Told in amazing detail and through the use of beautiful color illustrations by Bill Looney, the Noah's Ark story will come alive as never before. A chart is included outlining the total number of days spent on the ark and a comparison drawing is shown allowing the reader a glimpse of the enormity of the ark as compared to a football field. This wonderful book by Tom Dooley brought up points I had never really thought much about before, like how very difficult it must have been for Noah and his family to stand firm in their beliefs when all the others were mocking them. The amount of faith and trust in God they must have had is an example for all of us to ponder and strive toward.

I cannot heap enough praise on this captivating and eye-opening book. Any doubts the reader may have of the validity of the story of the great flood will be dissipated by the time the reader reaches the end of this book. Experience the flood as Noah and his family must have experienced it by purchasing this amazing book for your library today. Highly recommended for older children and adults as some of the words used are rather challenging for smaller children. *The True Story of Noah's Ark* is a must-read for every Christian.

Sherri Myers, Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

For such a time as this : your identity, purpose, and passion / Lisa Ryan. LCCN 2001002175. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2001.

PAP, 1556737853, list price: \$10.99; CLJ price: \$8.25
Study guide, 2003, PAP, 1590521749, list price: \$5.99;
CLJ price: \$4.50

222/.906. Bible. Criticism, interpretation, etc.--O.T.--
Esther; Esther, Queen of Persia. 203 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12). Rating : 4.

Beginning with the Bible story of Queen Esther, Ryan takes female readers into a discovery of their destiny. Ryan, who is a co-host to The 700 Club, writes in an easy to read and understand manner. Each thematic chapter considers what Queen Esther did and what should be the contemporary equivalent in their lives. Unabashedly written for younger women, this book is accurate and appropriate for readers.

Call outs, recommended readings, and helpful videos just tap inside this book. Ryan takes issues head on and with no compromising. For example, in the chapter dealing with purity, Ryan provides advice from virgins to prepare women for their world. Each chapter ends with focus points. Each "rise up" takes the chapter's theme and asks pointed application questions. The "see it, say it, walk it out" section offers three or so verses to memorize and draws examples specific to the theme. The last focus point in each chapter is "Just do it!"

There are more questions and suggestions for action. In the same chapter referenced above action point two has the reader "Write out your own profession of purity or use the one from True Love Waits (<http://www.lifeway.com/tlw/>). Make it your prayer of purity every day."

Bianca Elliott, MS Ed. Freelance Writer & Editor, Linwood, Kansas.

300's—Social Sciences

Mission—Africa : a field guide / [compiled by Kate Etue and Recah Theodosiou]. LCCN 2003003709. Nashville : Transit, 2003.

PAP, 849944260, list price: \$11.99; CLJ price: \$8.99

362.1/969792/0096. AIDS (disease); Diseases. vi,
159 p. : ill. ; 22 cm. Study guide available.

Grades 7-12. Rating : 4.

This is a resource that presents the reality of the AIDS crisis and other challenges in Africa from popular musical artists like the Newsboys, Jars of Clay, and GRITS. The text is divided into two main parts. The first half of the guide builds a case for reaching out to Africa from the logical and personal perspectives. The "What Can I Do to Help" section provides a step-by-step preparation plan for leading a mission trip to Africa or contributing to this cause from home. A sample prayer, public relation awareness advice, fundraising, and recommendations for sending support are supplied. It concludes with embarking information useful for a mission trip

to Africa. Photographs of popular artists are included with each essay or interview. Illustrated lists of organizations, websites and recommended donations for interventions in Africa are made available on the concluding pages.

Current issues are explored beyond the facts and warnings in this handbook. The informative format embraces testimonies and opinions that call all Christians, but especially teens. It commends us to "Consider the parallel of AIDS and leprosy. Compare how people responded in biblical times to leprosy with how the modern world views AIDS." This is a spiritual calling as it asks the question: how did Jesus take action on behalf of those suffering from leprosy? The content is well composed with concrete advice for everything from writing press releases for the recruitment of help from the general public to hosting an African AIDS Awareness Sunday at a home church. This edited work, of frightening communicable disease statistics, essays like "Death Stalks a Continent," and practical community mobilization advice, is a valuable tool for any mission minded worker. And this book will definitely open the eyes of any reader's heart.

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo, MSN, MLS. Academic Librarian, Beavercreek, Ohio.

600's—Technology (Applied Sciences)

An American plague : the true and terrifying story of the yellow fever epidemic of 1793 / Jim Murphy. LCCN 2002151355. New York : Clarion Books, 2003.

HBB, 0395776082, list price: \$17.00; CLJ price: \$12.75

614.5. Yellow fever--Pennsylvania--History--18th century; Pennsylvania--History--1775-1865. 165 p. :
ill., maps ; 25 cm.

Grades 11-Adult. Rating : 5.

Beginning in early August, 1793, in the sweltering hubbub of Philadelphia, a mysterious illness resulted in the death of a nameless sailor; the first casualty of yellow fever the city had known. From that incident, Jim Murphy builds, in *An American Plague*, a dramatic factual chronology and history of the personal, social and medical developments fashioned by the disease that wasn't truly understood until almost 100 years later. The courageous and determined efforts of several people are highlighted, including Dr. Benjamin Rush who doggedly

sought a cure, members of the Free African Society who, erroneously thought to be immune to yellow fever, nursed numerous victims, and Rev. J. Henry Helmuth, who visited the sick and wrote an account of the plague. Murphy also documents the national and international history of the time period.

Fascinating human drama mixes with history and medicine in *An American Plague*, (recognized as a Newbery Honor Book, National Book Award finalist and winner of the Robert F. Sibert Medal). Murphy skillfully details in highly readable story form how the illness affected Philadelphia, the young United States, a myriad of victims, and the medical community. Readers are drawn quickly into the chronicle as well as the history of the times. Reproductions of illustrations, newspaper accounts, and portraits expertly highlight the text. The final chapter carries the medical history into the current era, while the source listing is not only exhaustive but also interesting reading in itself. Older teen and adult readers and high school researchers will appreciate Murphy's hard work and colorful writing.

Karen Schmidt, BA. Freelance Writer/Editor, Marysville, Washington.

900's—Geography, History, & Biography

The Kingfisher student atlas / Philip Wilkinson ; editors Margaret Hynes, Russell Maclean. LCCN 2003055002. Boston : Houghton Mifflin/Kingfisher, 2003.

HBB, 0753455897, list price: \$24.95; CLJ price: \$18.75

912. Atlases. 1 atlas (128 p.) : col. ill., col. maps ; 30 cm. + 1 folded map of North America + 1 CD-ROM (4 3/4 in.).

Grades 7-Adult. Rating : 5.

Replete with contemporary maps, *The Kingfisher Student Atlas* provides a book atlas and a forty map CD compatible with both Mac and PC. Introductory chapters present maps and narrative concerning the solar system, geology, climate, ecology, population, and the physical and political world. The bulk of this atlas is divided by continents, each area containing locator, regional, and country maps. Pertinent information and relevant flags introduce the clearly delineated relief maps. The Table of Contents with Key to Maps, short glossary, comprehensive index (containing over 10,000 place names), and a large, removable map of North America further enhance the atlas.

A strongly bound book with thick pages, *The Kingfisher Student Atlas* should stand up to much use in both home and school. Maintaining a high technical standard, Anderson Geographics' are bright, easily read, computer-generated maps that catch the eye and mind. Color coded pages provide easy access to the continental areas, encouraging individual as

well as group use. The maps make up the bulk of this atlas. The accompanying text supplies physical, historical, and cultural background for every map. The printable CD maps will enhance home and school studies, hobbies, and computer leisure time. Though a juvenile title, this atlas provides information valuable to all ages. All libraries, schools, home schoolers, and families will find it a valuable adjunct to their studies.

Donna J. Eggett. Freelance Writer, Radford, Virginia.

Freedom roads : searching for the Underground Railroad / Joyce Hansen and Gary McGowan ; [illustrations by James Ransome]. 1st ed. LCCN 2002013711. Chicago : Cricket Books, 2003.

HBB, 0812626737, list price: \$18.95; CLJ price: \$14.25

973.7/115. Underground railroad; Fugitive slaves; Antislavery movements; African Americans--History--Sources. xi, 164 p. : ill., maps ; 24 cm.

Grades 7-12. Rating : 3.

While writing *Freedom Roads*, authors Hansen and McGowan faced a problem common to those who write about the Underground Railroad: it was not a nationally recognized or organized group with a well-documented history. Instead, it was a series of groups of anti-slavery sympathizers, abolitionists, slaves, and freemen who, from a sense of caution and a desire for secrecy, seldom wrote about it.

Therefore, UR stories tend to include assumptions extrapolated from the few known facts, along with information dug out of various primary documents such as ship logs, church records, newspapers, WPA slavery narratives, and writing by well-known ex-slaves. Since this book falls into that category, too (an interesting mixture of theories, guesses, facts, and primary source material), it should only be used by readers sophisticated enough to spot where facts end and guesses, however well-intentioned or reasoned out, begin.

Back-of-the-book material includes useful source notes and additional resources, as well as an index which is not as thorough as it should be. For example, Harriet Tubman is only indexed on eight pages, although mentioned on several others, including one with her photo and biographical information. Frederick Douglass, mentioned extensively and also represented by a photo, biographical information, and a fragment of a letter he wrote, is not indexed at all, leading me to wonder what else has been left out or overlooked.

However, as long as readers remember to separate the facts from the theories, they will find the contents fairly interesting. I especially enjoyed the presentation of primary documents and the discussion of archeological and detective methods used to bring facts to light, as

well as the reminder that slaves and their fight for freedom weren't just confined to the United States, but affected and were present in other countries, too, such as Spain, Canada, and Great Britain.

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

Saudi Arabia / by Hunt Janin and Margaret Besheer. (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 2003006931. New York : Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark, 2003.

HBB, 0761416668, list price: \$25.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

953.8. Saudi Arabia. 144 p. : ill. (some col.), col. maps ; 24 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 5.

Iran / by Vijeya Rajendra and Gisela Kaplan. (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 2003008257. New York : Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 076141665X, list price: \$25.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

955. Iran. 144 p. : ill. (some col.), col. maps ; 24 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 5.

Iraq / Dana Meachen Rau. (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 2003019100. Tarrytown, N.Y. : Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761417265, list price: \$25.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

956.7. Iraq. 48 p. ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 5.

Israel / Jill DuBois, Mair Rosh. (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 2003010083. New York : Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761416692, list price: \$25.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

956.94. Israel. 144 p. : ill. (some col.), col. maps ; 24 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 5.

Libya / by Peter Malcolm, Elizabeth Losleben. (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 2003020887. New York : Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark, 2003.

HBB, 0761417028, list price: \$25.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

961.2. Libya. 144 p. : ill. (some col.), col. maps ; 24 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 3.

Egypt / by Robert Pateman, Salwa El-Hamamsy. (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 2003009859. New York : Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761416706, list price: \$25.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

962. Egypt. 144 p. : ill. (some col.), col. maps ; 24 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 5.

Nigeria / by Patricia Levy. (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 2003020886. New York : Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761417036, list price: \$25.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

966.9. Nigeria. 144 p. : ill. (some col.), col. maps ; 24 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 5.

Kenya / by Robert Pateman. (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 2003020921. New York : Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark, 2003.

HBB, 076141701X, list price: \$25.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

967.62. Kenya. 144 p. : ill. (some col.), col. maps ; 24 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 5.

South Africa / by Ike Rosmarin and Dee Rissik. (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 2003020923. New York : Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark, 2003.

HBB, 0761417044, list price: \$25.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

968. South Africa. 144 p. : ill. (some col.), col. maps ; 24 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 5.

Zimbabwe / by Sean Sheehan. (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 2003020883. New York : Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761417060, list price: \$25.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

968.91. Zimbabwe. 144 p. : ill. (some col.), col. maps ; 24 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 5.

The most recent updates of the Cultures of the World series from Benchmark Books promises to provide your students with hours of relevant, interesting information. Written for grades five and up, each volume offers a complete description of a country. Topics covered include geography, history, government, economy, environment, ethnic groups, lifestyle, religion, language, the arts, leisure, festivals, and food. The appendices include maps, economic information, time lines, a glossary, places to go for further information, bibliography, and index. Two recipes in each book are inviting with clear instructions and beautiful photographs. In fact, one of the strong points about these books is the photography. All of the books adequately cover religious life and how it plays a part in the country at the personal as well as the societal level.

A second strength is that the books describe political and societal issues objectively. For example, the books about Saudi Arabia and Iran portray the role of women in those countries with cultural explanation, but without censure. The books about Israel and Iraq detail the current military and terrorist difficulties, but without taking a political position. The books about the African countries include information about the cause and impact of AIDS as well as assertions about the origin of man as popular science asserts it.

All of the countries represented in the books reviewed have experienced enormous changes since the last time these books were published in 1996, so the series is timely. With the exception of the book on Libya, they are extremely up to date. (Recent events in Libya indicate a

cautious optimism about Libya's status in the world community). Students provoked by headlines and current events to search for more information will find a wealth of knowledge in these well-written, finely presented books. Any school library would be fortunate to acquire these volumes.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. Freelance Writer, Reston, Virginia.

The diary of Elizabeth Bacon Custer : on the plains with General Custer / edited by Nancy Plain ; illustrations and map by Laszlo Kubinyi. (In my own words.) New York : Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761416471, list price: \$18.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

B or 973.8. Custer, Elizabeth Bacon, 1842-1933--Diaries; Custer, Elizabeth Bacon, 1842-1933; Custer, George Armstrong, 1839-1876; United States--Army--Military life--History--19th century; United States--Army--Cavalry, 7th; Indians of North America--Wars--1866-1895; Army spouses; West (U.S.)--Biography. 95 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 24 cm.

The letters of Elinore Stewart Pruitt, woman homesteader / Elinore Pruitt Stewart ; edited by Ruth Ashby ; illustrations by Laszlo Kubinyi. (In my own words.) LCCN 2003000973. New York : Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761416455, list price: \$18.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

B or 978.7. Stewart, Elinore Pruitt, 1878--Correspondence; Frontier and pioneer life--Wyoming--Juvenile literature; Pioneers--Wyoming--Correspondence--Juvenile literature; Women pioneers--Wyoming--Correspondence--Juvenile literature; Wyoming--Biography--Juvenile literature. 79 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm.

The diary of Sam Watkins, a Confederate soldier / Samuel R. Watkins ; edited by Ruth Ashby ; illustration and map by Laszlo Kubinyi. (In my own words.) LCCN 2003001478. New York : Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761416463, list price: \$18.95; order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.com>

B or 973.7. Watkins, Samuel (Samuel Rush); Confederate States of America--Army--Tennessee Infantry Regiment, 1st--Company H; Soldiers; Soldiers--Tennessee--Biography--Juvenile literature; Tennessee--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives, Confederate--Juvenile literature. 95 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 24 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : 4.

The In My Own Words series is made up of collections of primary documents (diaries, letters, memoirs) edited for student use. The books contain side bar information to supplement the text, a glossary, an index, and a list of additional resources. Each book has several full page color illustrations that complement the text. The series would be useful for research but also is enjoyable for pleasure reading.

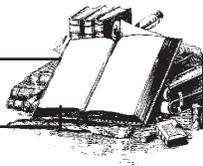
The Diary of Elizabeth Bacon Custer is taken from the diary of the wife of General Custer, and skillfully edited by Nancy Plain. Mrs. Custer's

diary is a woman's view of the last three years of General Custer's life on the Great Plains from 1873 to 1876. Mrs. Custer stayed in the fort during some campaigns, so her unique viewpoint in telling of General Custer's work is a second hand account of his activities.

When Elinore Pruitt Stewart moved west to homestead, she sent letters to a friend who arranged for them to be published in the *Atlantic Monthly* and later collected into a book. Mrs. Stewart was a wonderful storyteller; her letters are enjoyable to read. Ruth Ashby edited the original book to make it easier for young people to read. *The Letters of Elinore Pruitt Stewart, Woman Homesteader* will give additional insight to those studying the homesteading period of our country.

Twenty years after the Civil War, Sam Watkins wrote his memoirs of service in the Confederate Army. *The Diary of Sam Watkins, a Confederate Soldier* gives insight into the Confederate side of the War. Not all soldiers were slave owners nor did they want to be there after their original enlistment period. The editing by Ruth Ashby makes the book easy for a middle schooler to read and enjoy.

Jane Mouttet, BA. Missionary School Librarian, Window Rock, Arizona.



Light of my heart / Ginny Aiken. (Silver Hills trilogy ; 1.) LCCN 2003018409. Grand Rapids : Revell, 2004.

PAP, 800758749, list price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

Fic. Women physicians--Fiction; Newspaper publishing--Fiction; Colorado--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction.; Christian fiction; Western stories. 302 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Life is hard for a woman doctor in the late 1800's, but Letty has worked too hard and faced too much rejection and disapproval from both society and family to give up now. When she discovers an opening in Hartville, Colorado, Letty knows she has finally found her calling.

Eric, a widower, feels responsible for the death of his wife and son, during childbirth. He advertises for a woman doctor, Letty applies, and the sparks begin to fly. The town matchmakers immediately encourage their attraction, but first they must overcome Eric's past and Letty's stubbornness.

Light of My Heart by Ginny Aiken is the first installment in the Silver Hills Trilogy, an historical romance series. Aiken's award winning entry into the Heartland romance contest shows her ability to thoroughly research a timeframe, without losing the charm of the story. Main characters are approachable and three-dimensional, allowing the reader's imagination easy entrance into the ensuing drama, with romantic interludes. Atmosphere and dialogue are well crafted and believable. Plot development starts out slowly, with a stilted pace, but eventually blossoms into a touching tale of heroism, romance, and soul searching. Christian morals and values are conveyed without preachiness. Recommended for all public libraries.

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

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Breach of promise / James Scott Bell. LCCN 2003022154. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2004.

PAP, 0310243874, list price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

Fic. Fathers and daughters--Fiction; Custody of children--Fiction; Divorce--Fiction; Actors--Fiction; Christian fiction. 345 p. ; 22 cm.

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

Fledgling actor Mark Gillen's dreams come true when actress Paula Montgomery agrees to marry him and have their baby. Five years later, the nightmare begins. Paula gets her big break with star director Antonio Troncatti, and soon

afterwards announces she's leaving Mark—and taking Madeleine with her. Desperate to get his daughter back, Mark files for custody, but soon courtroom struggles spread into his personal life. The hippie father who abandoned Mark's mother appears, his acting career is sabotaged, and his anger only grows. When the custody battle gets ugly, Mark's newfound faith is his only hope—or greatest problem.

Bell hooks the reader right away and doesn't let go. Deft first-person narration creates the illusion that the reader is living the story alongside the main character, and each supporting character is vividly drawn. Emotions are clearly shown through action and dialogue, allowing the reader to understand the why behind the characters' feelings. Bell's experience as a lawyer and actor add credibility to the well-formed settings. The spiritual theme comes through strongly without being overly pious, making this an ideal book to offer those interested in Christianity. Difficult issues are dealt with carefully, remaining clean while still carrying an emotional punch. The mood is dark, even depressing, but hope eventually shines through. Adults of all ages will appreciate this book, especially fathers.

Katie Hart, Writer, Librarian, Immanuel Baptist Church, New Brighton, Pennsylvania.

A higher justice / by James Scott Bell. (The trials of Kit Shannon ; 2.) LCCN 2003013796. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003.

PAP, 0764226460, list price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

Fic. Woman lawyers--Fiction; Shannon, Kit (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Los Angeles (Calif.)--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction; Legal stories. 303 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

The second book in the Kit Shannon Series, *A Higher Justice*, set in the early 1900s, explores the corruption of the rich at the expense of the poor. Lawyer Kit Shannon finds herself representing a man accused of attempted murder. Her client, an alcoholic unable to accurately remember the events, faces a long jail term if found guilty. In her quest for the truth, Kit uncovers unethical schemes that threaten the safety of people for the sake of money. As she represents a young widow whose son was run down by a trolley car, Kit soon finds the two cases intertwining. Relentless in her pursuit, Kit almost sacrifices her own life to bring about justice.

Author James Scott Bell offers an authentic account of life in the early 1900s. Feisty Kit

Shannon blazes a trail for other women to follow, heading boldly into territory deemed "men only" a few years before. Bell does a sufficient job of weaving together the two story lines. His characterization is thorough as is the depth of his plot. He presents believable, sympathetic characters that the reader can relate to and root for as well. Although an adult book, mature high school students may find it interesting if they are history buffs.

Eileen Zygarclicke, BS, English Teacher, Community High School, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

The second mile / Ron and Janet Benrey. LCCN 2003271243. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2002.

PAP, 805425586, list price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

Fic. Business women--Fiction; Mystery fiction; Christian fiction. 303 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Pippa, a successful corporate headhunter, is starting a business of her own. She receives a contract from a major plastic's firm, finds Barry, the perfect fit for the job, and brings the two together for a match that seems almost too good to be true. Unfortunately, soon after being hired, Barry commits suicide and leaves an email blaming Pippa for his demise. Now Pippa is dodging the media, becomes the pariah of the entire business world, and faces feelings of self-doubt. When Pippa stumbles onto evidence that Barry's suicide might have been a murder, she is run off the road and nearly killed. With the help and support of her friends, Pippa re-evaluates both business and spiritual priorities.

The Second Mile by Ron and Janet Benrey challenges the reader to consider the admonition in Matthew 5:41 relating the need for us, as Christians, to go beyond what is merely expected of us in dealing with others. In the meandering style of Agatha Christie, complete with a plethora of red herrings, the Benreys introduce several characters, all which have skeletons in their closets. They slowly draw the reader in and challenge her/him to solve the crime before the story ends. *Little White Lies* (Broadman & Holman, 2001), the Benreys' first installment in the Pippa Hunnechurch Mystery collection, proves that a mystery with a spiritual message doubles the reading enjoyment. Highly recommended for all mystery collections.

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

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Leading lady / by Lawana Blackwell. (Tales of London ; 3.) LCCN 2003023499. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2004.

PAP, 0764222600, list price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

Fic. Actresses--Fiction; Women--England--London--Fiction; Theater--Fiction; Revenge--Fiction; London (England)--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 432 p. 22 cm.

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

Bethia Rayborn has everything: a caring family, a fulfilling job as wardrobe mistress in her cousin's theater, and a wonderful beau who plans to propose as soon as he can afford the right ring. Then an unwanted suitor keeps making advances, no matter how many times she says no. Finally irked beyond what she can bear, she writes a cruel letter that has unforeseen consequences, and the blame is placed squarely on Bethia. But she has no idea how deep someone's hatred runs until her life begins to be sabotaged.

Blending intricate Victorian details with believable characters, Blackwell presents a tale of intrigue and integrity. The plot is suspenseful but unhurried, providing a rich and satisfying story. Characters and their emotions are well-portrayed and the dialog sparkles within the semi-formal constraints. The carefully researched setting gives an accurate picture of turn-of-the-century London, and many tidbits about the running of a theater are included. Since a plot summary of the first book in the series and hints about the second book occur within the text, the series should be read in order. Readers of historical fiction should enjoy this gem.

Katie Hart, *Writer, Librarian, Immanuel Baptist Church, New Brighton, Pennsylvania.*

Paperback writer / Stephen Bly. LCCN 2004296575. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2003.

PAP, 805426183, list price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

Fic. Novelists--Fiction. viii, 342 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

Paul James Watson is a mediocre writer of paperback detective novels, whose home life is nearly non-existent. He has a shy, quiet personality and puts up with nearly anything to avoid confrontation. Toby McKenna, Paul's protagonist for over a decade, is the exact opposite. Paul begins to wish he had more of Toby's suave charm and finds himself dialoguing with his character, as if they were best friends. When Paul tries to help a lady in distress and her son, he becomes embroiled in an adventure that slips in and out of reality, playing cat and mouse with the mind.

Paperback Writer by Stephen Bly is the story of a writer going through mid-life crisis and flirting with trading in reality for a bit of excitement. The storyline is set up like a comic book,

without the pictures. Print is large, and writing style makes for a quick and easy read. P. J. Watson frankly questions his relationships with God, his family, and his writing. The reader is allowed a peek into the mind of a genuine person maybe. At least, he seems human enough. The jumping around gives Watson a bit of a schizophrenic tilt. Stephen Bly, pastor and conference speaker, is known for both fiction and nonfiction renderings, but specializes in Christian westerns. Recommended for both writers and readers of light fiction.

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

Who's Grace? / James R. Coggins. (A John Smyth mystery.) LCCN 2003016325. Chicago : Moody, 2004.

PAP, 802417647, list price: \$10.99; CLJ price: \$8.25

Fic. Winnipeg International Airport--Fiction; Journalism, Religious--Fiction; Winnipeg (Man.)--Fiction; Christian fiction; Mystery fiction. 207 p. 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

John Smyth, editor of *Grace* magazine, is returning home from a conference, and witnesses a murder from the window of a descending airplane. When he reports this bizarre citing to the police, he is at first disbelieved. Later, a farmer finds a dead woman in his field, clutching a necklace with the name Grace on the pendant, and Smyth is the first to be suspected of foul play. Based on the premise that "it takes a village" to convict a murderer, a plethora of characters is introduced, who in some way are connected to the mysterious disappearance of a Winnipeg woman, thought to be named Grace.

Who's Grace? : A John Smyth Mystery by James R. Coggins is the first installment in the John Smyth Mystery series. Coggins, a Canadian editor, is known for several award-winning articles concerning sociological and historical events affecting the evangelical Christian community. The charm in this tale lies in the fact that morals are high, violence is at a minimum, and there is a definite real-life quality woven throughout. Dialogue is consistently representative of the area of origin. Plot is precise and detailed. Atmosphere is small town, with a European flair. Pace is slow moving, with an abundance of characters, none of which the reader is encouraged to get intimate with. Recommended for fans of light mystery.

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

The mending string / Cliff Coon. LCCN 2003024136. Chicago : Moody, 2004.

PAP, 802440843, list price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

Fic. Teenage girls--Fiction; Children of clergy--Fiction; Fathers and daughters--Fiction; Conflict of generations--Fiction; Secrecy--Fiction; Clergy--Fiction; Christian fiction. 302 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 3.

Ellen Loverage, the youngest daughter of strict Reverend Clayton Loverage, was always somewhat of a "problem child." Now that her mother is dead and her older siblings are out of the house, she and her father are always at odds in this contemporary fiction. Seeking solitude, she finds only secrets; and seeking friendship, she finds herself in trouble. Her father's church is in crisis, and Maria Villanueva, with her youngest son Osvaldo, cannot find peace as long as Osvaldo's two criminal brothers are in town.

While the plot might seem slow if applied to other books, the pacing is appropriate for the story, keeping the reader suspended for some time before the resolution, mimicking the state of mind of the main characters. The majority of the characters have believable motives and personalities. Only one seems somewhat farfetched, and, in light of human failings, is possible. The dialogue is, in places, stilted, emphasizing the rigidity of the Loverage household. An affair is mentioned from a Christian point of view, and characters find forgiveness for their pasts and direction for their future. This touching story does not avoid discussing human failings; rather, it faces them head-on and biblically.

Kathryn Stillman, *Christian Writers' Guild Apprentice, Horn Lake, Mississippi.*

Stones of my accusers / Tracy Groot. LCCN 2003018201. Chicago : Moody, 2004.

PAP, 802431062, list price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

Fic. Jesus Christ--Crucifixion--Fiction; Bible. N.T.--Gospels--History of Biblical events--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 432p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

"No stones" is the message former zealot Joab must take to Rivkah, the prostitute mother of Joab's dead friend Nathanael. Rivkah cannot forgive herself for her past, and Jorah, Jesus' sister, cannot forgive Rivkah for what she did to Nathanael. Orion Galerinius, a Roman official, is plagued by the merciless laws of the Roman Empire that he is forced to uphold. In this historical fiction set not long after Jesus' crucifixion, a conflict over a tree, symbolic to Rivkah of hope for her son's future, will teach them all of God's mercy.

The plot draws readers into the book instantly and holds them in suspense until the end. The writer expertly discloses incidents that happened before the book begins, developing that past of the story and the present at once. Three-dimensional characters make ancient history seem very near as their dialogue mixes modern expressions with names, places, and events familiar from history. The characters' reactions to their various situations are true to life, and the writer's witty sense of humor enlivens the story. A keen perception of the world around us is evident in the descriptions of actions and setting. Profound truths vital to the Christian faith are

clearly expressed: God is merciful, and God is love.

Kathryn Stillman, Christian Writers' Guild Apprentice, Horn Lake, Mississippi.

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Steal away / by Linda Hall. (The Teri Blake-Addison mystery series ; 1.) LCCN 2002156093. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2003.

PAP, 1590520726, list price: \$11.99; CLJ price: \$8.99

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

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Chat room / by Linda Hall. (The Teri Blake-Addison mystery series ; 2.) LCCN 2003012652. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2003.

PAP, 1590522001, list price: \$11.99; CLJ price: \$8.99

Fic. Women private investigators--Fiction; Missing persons--Fiction; Loneliness--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Maine--Fiction; Texas--Fiction; Christian fiction; Mystery fiction. 314 p. ; 21 cm.

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

Author Linda Hall introduces readers to a new mystery series featuring PI Teri Blake-Addison from Maine. With the troubling disappearance of her own mother when Teri was 14, she becomes a police officer and later a private investigator, making it her work to find missing people. The series opens with Teri as a newlywed to an English professor, widowed four years prior. The age difference, and coping with being married to a widower with adult children are adjustments Teri must make, as are her struggles as she tries to understand her growing faith. In *Steal Away*, Teri investigates the apparent drowning of the wife of the head of a prominent worldwide ministry. As she noses around, Teri finds herself uncovering secrets she wishes could stay buried in the past.

Chat Room offers Teri another chance at finding a missing person. When Glynis Piggot's best friend mysteriously disappears, Glynis suspects foul play and asks Teri to mount a search to find her friend. What Teri finds is a web of intrigue and deception that she never expected, with its tangles reaching from the shores of Maine to Minneapolis to Texas.

Linda Hall does a superb job of hooking the reader from the first page. In her adept but elusive style, Hall creates a haunting sense of wonder around her most mysterious characters. The plots in both books move along, mixing Teri's personal struggles with her investigations. Hall doesn't shy away from church politics and the rejection Teri feels from her current church. Love, mercy and forgiveness are prominent themes in both books.

These are the first two in a series of books, with more Blake-Addison adventures hopefully to come. Although written for the adult audience, the books are appropriate for the mystery-loving teen reader as well. They are well crafted, containing strong characterization and intricate plots that weave well together.

Eileen Zygarrlicke, BS. English Teacher, Community High School, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Catching Katie / Robin Lee Hatcher. (HeartQuest.) LCCN 2003013281. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2004.

PAP, 842360999, list price: \$10.99; CLJ price: \$8.25

Fic. Suffragists--Fiction; Idaho--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. 353 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12). Rating : 5.

Robin Lee Hatcher's *Catching Katie* is a lively and thought-provoking historical novel detailing the struggle to obtain women's suffrage in the early 1900's. Katie is an energetic, forthright, visionary young woman who, after receiving her college education and touring the western states working with the women's suffrage movement, returns to her hometown in Homestead, Idaho, to continue her work there. She meets with resistance, but gains some supporters who help her in the campaign to encourage women voters to oust the democratic governor who refuses to support the right for women to vote in all states.

One of Katie's greatest supporters is her childhood friend, Ben Rafferty. It becomes clear that Ben loves her and, worse yet, that Katie has fallen in love with him. Believing herself called by God to be single, and thus remain free to do his work for the women's suffrage movement, Katie finds herself torn in two very different directions. Should she follow her head and what she believes to be her calling, or follow her heart? An unexpected turn of events forces Katie to marry Ben very suddenly, and although she is happy to be loved by him, she continues to pursue her goal of running for Congress, with Ben as her campaign manager. However, when she finds herself pregnant and unwilling to give up her quest for Congress, she risks losing Ben entirely.

Although set in the early 1900's, *Catching Katie* speaks to issues relevant to women everywhere today. How does a woman go about balancing a family and a career? Should she even try? How does a woman maintain her sense of identity while becoming "one flesh" in the marriage relationship? Should a woman marry at all? How can one best serve God in her role as a woman? These questions and more are addressed in an interesting and forthright manner, set against an exciting historical backdrop. Quotes from the likes of Susan B. Anthony are sprinkled throughout the novel to shed light on these issues. A story of the idealism, strength, and courage of women who fought to give us rights which readers today take

for granted, *Catching Katie's* surprise ending will delight and satisfy readers.

Sherri Beeler, MA. Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon.

Halos / by Kristen Heitzmann. LCCN 2003021868. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2004.

PAP, 0764228269, list price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

Fic. Young women--Fiction; Quests (Expeditions)--Fiction; Automobile theft--Fiction; Victims of crimes--Fiction; Christian fiction. 319 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12). Rating : 4.

Halos of light have always meant something good is just around the corner for Alessi Moore. Alone with no family, and ready to start a new life at twenty-one, she just knows something special is going to happen when she pulls into the town of Charity for gas, and sees a halo. Instead, her car, and everything she owns, is stolen within ten minutes of her arrival. The guys at the gas station take her in for the night, and when it appears her car will not be located anytime soon, she is reluctantly given a job by one of their roommates, Steve, who owns a book store. Every day Alessi hunts for her car, convinced someone in town has taken it. Steve and many other townspeople doubt the truth of her story and believe she is taking advantage of everyone with an elaborate con job. But soon menacing events begin happening to Alessi that prove her story is true, and they eventually threaten her very life. On life support at the hospital, with minimal brain function left, Alessi's life changes the little town of Charity as they remember how she reached out to them with genuine friendship and warmth, even though they had not exactly welcomed her with open arms. Reawakened to true faith, Charity prays for, and receives, an incredible miracle.

Halos, by Kristen Heitzmann, is different from her other novels, in that it unfolds sweetly, gently for the first half, without any great angst or struggle. But readers lulled by this peaceful opening will be surprised by the unveiling of increasingly sinister events, and a six year old, secret pact made by the townspeople of Charity. Readers will find Alessi's openness, optimism, and naivety both refreshing and engaging—a nice counterpoint to Steve's suspicion and pessimism, which she gradually draws him out of. Alessi is sustained by the Lord through her simple trust in him, as she practices faith, hope, and love.

Sherri Beeler, MA. Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon.

The canopy / by Angela Hunt. LCCN 2003004904. Nashville : W Publishing, 2003.

PAP, 849943450, list price: \$14.99; CLJ price: \$11.25

Fic. Diseases--Fiction; Amazon River Region--Fiction; Canopy cover, Tree--Fiction; Christian fiction. 400 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12). Rating : 4.

Neurologist Alexandra Pace researches microorganisms in the canopy of leaves high above the Peruvian rainforest floor. No one on her team knows that the disease she's seeking to combat killed her mother, ravages her own body, and most likely infects her daughter, Caitlyn. When British missionary physician Michael Kenway brings a tale of a native healed of a disease remarkably similar to Alexandra's, the team, along with Caitlyn and Michael, heads into the unknown jungle in search of the cure. Alexandra isn't sure she trusts the doctor's story, but her time is running out.

The surprising plot unfolds slowly with lush description, yet active scenes pull the story along to an anticipated end. Numerous multi-layered yet distinct characters breathe life into the story, while the strong theme gives an allegorical bent. Sense of place is especially keen, with rich jungle surroundings and primitive villages. Frequent dialog is riddled with a sense of humor, often with a British flair. Much information about prion diseases, including mad cow disease, is presented in a self-explaining and memorable way, and the author's note clarifies the factual and fictional. A refreshing read despite gruesome elements, with a thought-provoking conclusion.

Katie Hart, Writer, Librarian, Immanuel Baptist Church, New Brighton, Pennsylvania.

Soon : the beginning of the end, a novel / Jerry Jenkins. (The underground zealot series; 1.) LCCN 2003016337. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2003.

HBB, 0842384065, list price: \$24.99; CLJ price: \$18.75

PAP, 842384073, list price: \$13.99; CLJ price: \$10.50

Fic. Christian fiction; Tribulation (Christian eschatology)--Fiction; Second coming--Fiction. xviii, 347 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 4.

Thirty-six years after the end of World War III, Christianity, although outlawed in the name of world peace, is still alive. Paul Stepola is determined to kill it. A series of events begins to change his mind, and he finds himself drawn into a world that he has stubbornly fought to destroy. Even as he struggles against faith, the evidence for the reality of God becomes increasingly undeniable. This futuristic fiction leading up to the end times will please the writer's fans and create new ones.

The riveting plot, intriguing futuristic gadgets, and believable characters all make the book an enjoyable read. Plenty of action creates excitement in a story of faith, and the pacing is effective throughout. Dialogue flows naturally, giving the reader the sense that this future is not far away. Humanity is presented as it is, with all of its flaws and misconceptions about religion. The main character's switch from anti-Christian to Christian is handled well and plausibly.

While there is no difference between cults and Christianity in the eyes of the government, the writer clearly differentiates between them, leaving no room for confusion. This is a thoroughly satisfying book on all counts.

Kathryn Stillman, Christian Writers' Guild Apprentice, Horn Lake, Mississippi.

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In a heartbeat / Sally John. (In a heartbeat ; 1.) LCCN 2003016841. Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House, 2004.

PAP, 0736911693, list price: \$10.99; CLJ price: \$8.25

Fic. Women teachers--Fiction; Fire fighters--Fiction; Married people--Fiction; Childlessness--Fiction; Chicago (Ill.)--Fiction; Christian fiction. 376 p. : 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : *5.

The first in the series, *In a Heartbeat* journeys the painful road of infertility with Rachel and Vic Koski. The two have a happy marriage, marred only by their inability to conceive. Rachel, hurt by Vic's reluctance to seek medical help, finds herself becoming distant from her husband, the love of her life. As a firefighter, Vic remains conscious of the hazards of his job which causes his reluctance for children. However, he relents and the two discover no medical reason for their inability to conceive. As a school teacher, Rachel confronts her disappointment daily in a classroom full of children. Finding the issue growing to huge heights in her heart, Rachel decides to take time away from Vic to help her sister adjust to a third child. Vic, desperate to maintain his strong marriage, grows frustrated by Rachel's distant attitude toward him.

Rachel's journey may begin in California with her sister, but ends as she realizes how little a part God has played in her life and in her heart. Anxious to repent to her husband, Rachel calls Vic, who is overjoyed at her newfound relationship with God. Vic decides to meet with Rachel in California to share news of his own. However, before he can make the trip, disaster strikes and Rachel finds herself widowed.

With writing skills reminiscent of Francine rivers, Sally John weaves a heartrending story which engulfs the reader from the first page. With adept writing, John guides readers into the lives of Rachel and Vic, letting them feel the love and passion of the two main characters not only toward each other but toward life itself. Not only are the main characters strong and well-developed, John takes care to give the same attention to the supporting cast of characters as well. The author does a convincing job of showing the foibles and strengths of Rachel and Vic—the way they view themselves—while at the same time showing the tremendous impact they have on the lives of others. It causes the reader to pause and examine her own life, wondering if she has the same influence on friends and acquaintances that Vic and Rachel

have. However, John never resorts to preaching the message of love, forgiveness, and grace. Rather she entices the reader through the journey, allowing the readers to experience the same emotions as the characters in the book. Sally John writes a poignant tale, sure to elicit laughter and tears from the reader. High school girls will greatly enjoy the romance, heroism, and twists of this book.

Eileen Zygarcic, BS, English Teacher, Community High School, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Glorious appearing : the end of days / Tim LaHaye, Jerry B. Jenkins. (Left behind series ; 12.) LCCN 2003027369. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2004.

HBB, 0842332359, list price: \$24.99; CLJ price: \$18.75

PAP, 842332375, list price: \$14.99; CLJ price: \$11.25

Fic. Steele, Rayford (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Tribulation (Christian eschatology)--Fiction; Rapture (Christian eschatology)--Fiction; End of the world--Fiction; Second coming--Fiction; Christian fiction. xxiii, 399 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

As the believers faithfully watch the sky, pray and wait for Jesus' prophesied return, the Global Community military forces gather for the ultimate attack on God's people. Thunderstorms, hailstones, meteorites, and misfired weapons only slightly discourage the enemy from its diabolical goal of annihilating Christians and Jews. G.C. forces advance and the Lord appears, slashing the armies apart with the Word of God, while, at the same time, encouraging and healing the believers left on earth. The Antichrist and his False Prophet begin to look increasingly like bumbling idiots, as they vacillate between confident rebellion and running for their lives from Christ's returning glory.

Glorious Appearing : The End of Days by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins is the final installment to the Left Behind series, a science fiction thriller series focusing on the Holy Bible's book of Revelation. The authors have jam-packed this Tribulation culmination with scripture and prophetic fulfillment. Dr. Tim LaHaye, author of more than seventy books, pastor, conference speaker, and internationally known Bible prophecy scholar, is the researcher behind the collection. Jerry B. Jenkins, former VP of publishing for the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, author of over fifteen New York Times bestsellers, eleven of which are installments to the Left Behind series, and head of the Christian Writer's Guild, is the tale spinner. Mood and atmosphere are appropriately electrical. Slower pace than previous installments represents the focus on the return of Christ and his control of the timing. Recommended for public, Christian academic and personal Bible fiction collections.

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

City of dreams / Stephen R. Lawhead and Ross Lawhead. LCCN 2003013868. Colorado Springs : NavPress, 2003.

PAP, 1576834999, list price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

Fic. Government investigators--Fiction; Terrorism--Prevention--Fiction; Second advent--Fiction; Conspiracies--Fiction; Christian fiction; Suspense fiction. 381 p. : 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 3.

Special Agent Alex Hunter works for ICON, the International Confederation of Nations, highest covert government agency in the world. Assigned to infiltrate one of the most dangerous of the known terrorist organizations, Alex is highly experienced at fitting into the underworld, and being ready for anything. Or is he? In a world gone mad, everyone is either looking for someone to guide him or her, or to be the power who guides the multitudes. Surrounded by bad guys, Hunter is in his element, until one man begins to show signs of possible authenticity as a hero. Now Hunter must decide whether or not he can truly believe in even the idea of a Savior.

First installment in the !Hero trilogy, *City of Dreams* by Stephen R. Lawhead and Ross Lawhead is written as if Jesus were to appear in today's society, rather than two thousand years ago. In a style similar to the Mickey Spilane mysteries, the Lawheads present Alex Hunter as a cynical, "just-the-facts," personality, who is more comfortable working the streets than politics and personal relationships. Stephen R. Lawhead, known for his Celtic and fantasy literature, has collaborated with Ross Lawhead, co-author and graphics designer of the !Hero graphic novel and comics (NavPress, 2004). Recommended for end-times suspense fans.

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

Adrenaline / John B. Olson. LCCN 2003013911. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003.

PAP, 0764228196, list price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

Fic. Muscular dystrophy--Treatment--Fiction; Muscular dystrophy--Patients--Fiction; Graduate students--Fiction; Biochemists--Fiction; Christian fiction; Science fiction; Medical novels. 348 p. : 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

A cure for muscular dystrophy? James Parker, a biochemistry grad and sufferer of muscular dystrophy, has spent his life around researching a cure for MD. After years of research, it all pays off when Adrenaline 49 is discovered to have taken a mouse infected with MD and caused it to walk again. The only problem is that there appear to be uncontrollable side effects which can't be overlooked. James teams up with an equally elusive grad student, Darcy, to replicate his procedure. When they publish their findings, the campus is torn upside down by murderous attacks, labs being trashed, etc. Skipping procedure for human trials, James turns the Adrenaline 49 on himself on hopes of

finding a cure for his sister who is also taken with the disease. Does it work, or turn him into an uncontrollable monster?

Mr. Olson's push into the world of biochemistry is a welcome respite in the world of romance and mystery novels. He uses a subtle Christian background/theme to remind us that no matter what the setting or circumstance, God always has his hand in it.

Rick Estep

Love's proof / Catherine Palmer. (HeartQuest.) LCCN 2002154100. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2003.

PAP, 842370323, list price: \$10.99; CLJ price: \$8.25

Fic. Newton, Isaac, Sir, 1642-1727--Manuscripts--Fiction; Newton, Isaac, Sir, 1642-1727--Family--Fiction; Fathers and daughters--Fiction; Trials (Sedition)--Fiction; Belief and doubt--Fiction; Women scientists--Fiction; God--Proof--Fiction; England--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. xxi, 295 p. : 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

With her father in jail under charges of sedition, her uncle becoming violently insane, and her aunt confessing to an adulterous affair with Jane's father, Jane Fellowes has her hands full. She is a bright, curious, if somewhat outspoken and willful young woman, who desperately longs for a faith in God that can be proved rationally and logically. Her ancestor, Sir Isaac Newton, left behind a box of his writings and scientific discoveries, including a document entitled "Mathematical Evidence for the Existence of an Omnipotent God," which greatly intrigues Jane. Strangely, however, anyone who opens the box is either struck by lightning, or immediately overcome by noxious fumes.

Jane determines to have the box analyzed by an esteemed scientist, but before it can be examined, the box is stolen. Jane and scientist Thomas Norcross are led on a wild goose-chase into the lowest dregs of London society in an attempt to recover the box. There, in the most unlikely of places—a Museum of Curiosities—Jane comes to a true, saving knowledge of Christ, realizing that faith, not reason, is the answer to her questions about God.

After getting off to a bit of a slow start, Catherine Palmer's novel *Love's Proof* gives readers a lively, interesting story about Sir Isaac Newton's scientific discoveries, and London city life in the early 1800's. *Love's Proof* includes many characters and events taken from actual historical records, including the Fellowes family; Charles Babbage, known as the "father of computers;" and King George. Although labeled a Heart Quest book, there is only a slight bit of romance in the story, with the main focus being on the debate about a purely rational belief in God, versus the issue of faith.

Sherri Beeler, MA. Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon.

Sunrise song / Catherine Palmer. (HeartQuest.) LCCN 2002013791. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2003.

PAP, 084237230X, list price: \$10.99; CLJ price: \$8.25

Fic. Americans--Kenya--Fiction; Women zoologists--Fiction; Wildlife refugees--Fiction; African elephant--Fiction; Businessmen--Fiction; Kenya--Fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. 330 p. : 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

Dr. Fiona Thornton is studying elephants in Kenya's Rift Valley and is on a mission to save as many as possible from poachers and starvation. When powerful business tycoon Rogan McCullough flies into her campsite and attempts to convince her that raising money by bringing in tourists is a good idea, Fiona sends him away with a resounding "no." However, her attempts to forget the handsome Rogan fail completely, and she longs to see him again. Not one to give up easily, and with dreams of the beautiful redhead interrupting his sleep, Rogan decides to try a new approach, and returns to the campsite in Kenya. As Fiona and Rogan spend more time together, they each begin to realize that God has plans for the two of them beyond just helping the elephants. Will they be able to fully trust God to help in the difficult decisions they must make, and can they work together for a positive outcome?

Catherine Palmer's *Sunrise Song* is an eye-opening adventure into the plight of endangered elephants. While working together to save the elephants, Fiona and Rogan must learn to trust in God's all-knowing wisdom. Each must make adjustments in their attitudes about life in order to achieve the full potential God has given them. As Fiona and Rogan finally open their hearts to God and each other, they discover God is truly in control. I also enjoyed the character of Mama Hannah and her wise biblical sayings. I recommend this book to anyone interested in a romantic read with a strong emphasis on the plight of elephants.

Sherri Myers, Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

Land of my heart / by Tracie Peterson. (Heirs of Montana ; 1.) LCCN 2003022919. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2004.

PAP, 0764227696, list price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

Fic. Women pioneers--Fiction; Ranch life--Fiction; Montana--Fiction; Christian fiction; Western stories. 392 p. : 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 4.

Sixteen-year-old Dianne Chadwick's father is accidentally killed in a shootout between Union Soldiers and renegade Confederates. In an attempt to keep the family together, Dianne encourages them to move from Missouri to Montana, where they can live with Mother's brother, Uncle Bram. They join a wagon train in St. Louis, learn survival skills on the trail, and face great tragedy and family loss. Mother, a southern sympathizer, hates non-whites and Union soldiers. She makes life increasingly

difficult for Dianne as she openly expresses her opinions, between large doses of self-prescribed laudanum. When they finally meet up with Uncle Bram he provides only minimal help. Mother, drugged on laudanum, wanders out into blizzard and is frozen to death. With each tragedy, Dianne increasingly blames both herself and God.

Land of My Heart by Tracie Peterson is the first installment in the Heirs of Montana series. Mood fluctuates between hope for a new life and the growing hopelessness of reality in the rough, unsympathetic West. Although Peterson introduces a plethora of important characters, she shows her expertise as a writer in the sensitivity with which she sketches out each personality. Dialogue flows and is easy to follow. Plot is evenly paced. Peterson is the author of a variety of popular Christian fiction series including the Bells of Lowell, Desert Roses, and Yukon Quest, as well as co-author of series with both Judith Pella and James Scott Bell. Recommended for public libraries and quality historical fiction collections.

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

These tangled threads / by Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller. (Bells of Lowell; 3.) LCCN 2003013906. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003.

PAP, 0764226908, list price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

Fic. Women--Massachusetts--Fiction; Women textile workers--Fiction; Textile industry--Fiction; Fugitive slaves--Fiction; Lowell (Mass.)--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 381 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

Bella gets married, in spite of her father's efforts to thwart the union, and is off to England with her husband to meet her newly acquired family. Matthew, John, and Taylor work to fend off old enemies who have joined forces with new ones to reek havoc on the lives of the inhabitants of Lowell. As Daughtie and Liam grow in love for one another, Daughtie quietly fights for justice and equality for Irish immigrants, mill girls, and slaves alike. She is surprised at the resistance from friends and neighbors, who have formerly shown only compassion for those in need.

These Tangled Threads by Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller is the third installment in the Bells of Lowell series about fighting the injustices of poor wages and living conditions of the mill workers and others in the early 1800's town. The atmosphere of mixed emotional responses, ranging from hands-off to complete dedication, is a realistic representation of the human reaction to all conflict, both physical and spiritual. The authors have created personable characters and spun an engaging tale with easy to follow dialogue. Tracie Peterson is an award-winning author and co-author of several successful series. Judith Miller is also an award-winning author whose works have placed in the

top ten slots of the CBA bestseller lists. Recommended for public libraries and quality historical fiction collections.

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

Playing by heart / by Deborah Raney. LCCN 2004270079. Ulrichsville, Ohio : Barbour, 2003.

HBB, 1586604910, list price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

Fic. Hotelkeepers--Fiction; Women authors--Fiction; Love stories; Christian fiction. 139 p. ; 19 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 3.

For readers finding it difficult to squeeze pleasure reading into a busy schedule, an hour is all you need to enjoy *Playing by Heart*, a light novella by Deborah Raney. Maddie Houser, a writer under a looming deadline, desperately needs a place to work in peace while her house is being torn up and remodeled. An elderly friend of hers makes arrangements for Maddie to use a lovely old inn owned by Arthur Tyler, who is a college English professor. Because she uses the house during the day while he is gone, the two never meet each other face to face, but Maddie is so grateful to have such lovely surroundings to work in that she leaves him a thank you note, and thus begins a lengthy correspondence between the two. Through a series of humorous misunderstandings and mistaken assumptions, each presumes the other is quite elderly, which has interesting results when they finally do meet. *Playing by Heart* is the perfect little book to tuck in your carry-on bag for your next flight or bus trip; this charming story will make the hour pass swiftly, and its gentle humor will leave you at your destination feeling relaxed and light in heart.

Sherry Beeler, MA, *Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon.*

Tying the knot / Susan May Warren. (HeartQuest.) LCCN 2003009960. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2003.

PAP, 084238118X, list price: \$10.99; CLJ price: \$8.25

Fic. Emergency medical personnel--Fiction; Minneapolis (Minn.)--Fiction; Christian fiction; Medical novels; Love stories. 317 p. : port. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

EMT Anne Lundstrom is shot by a crazed drug addict, and after a year of rehabilitation, Anne leaves the inner city emotionally wounded, bitter, and distrustful of a God who would pile such a traumatic event into her already difficult life. She seeks peace at her aunt's home in Deep Haven, but finishing her nursing internship proves to be anything but peaceful when she finds herself assigned to assist at a camp for troubled, inner city kids—the very thing she was fleeing from. The camp director, Noah Standing Bear has his own demons to deal with; despite their growing love for one another, Noah and Anne's relationship is tenuous, wracked with misunderstandings, fear, and rebellion against

the still small voice of God. Ironically, the Lord uses yet another traumatic event in Anne's life to show them both that God is worthy of their trust, and that he can use their past traumas to heal and comfort one another.

The fact that Susan May Warren writes out of her own personal experiences and spiritual struggles is readily evident in *Tying the Knot*, sequel to *Happily Ever After*. Her energetic writing introduces characters who struggle with real fears and spiritual doubts, walking the reader through a powerful story of hope and spiritual renewal. Warren reassures us that while life is hard, and we will not escape troubles in this world, God is big enough to carry us through—though he will not necessarily take us out of any tragedy we may face. His faithfulness allows us to have peace in him, even if there is no joy in the situation itself.

Warren also powerfully reminds us that God has sent us to minister to the lost, the broken, and the despicable of the world; those with the hardest of hearts are most in need of God's redeeming, life-transforming love. Noah Standing Bear, snatched from the basest level of existence, to become a divine child of God, is a testimony of how the old self dies and a new creation is born in Christ. Readers will enjoy this substantive romance, where love is secondary to the transforming work of God in the characters' lives.

Sherry Beeler, MA, *Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon.*

Secrets on the wind / by Stephanie Grace Whitson. LCCN 2003014244. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003.

PAP, 0764227858, list price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

Fic. Fort Robinson (Neb.)--Fiction; Women pioneers--Fiction; Nebraska--Fiction; Soldiers--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 319 p. : 1 ill. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12). Rating : 4.

In 1878 Nebraska, two soldiers investigate an Indian raid on a lonely cabin, find a half-crazed woman locked in its cellar, and bring her back to Camp Robinson. Laina Gray has been through unimaginable circumstances. One of Laina's rescuers, Sergeant Nathan Boone, still deeply grieves the loss of his wife two years earlier. A new recruit trying to make up for his mistakes knows about Laina's past and learns her new secret. Godly camp laundress Granny Max offers comfort to them and many others, but only those willing to let go of their pasts can find true healing.

The life stories of the characters unfold slowly, creating a natural suspense gentle enough for readers to put down the book for a couple of days, but the unique characters will draw them back to it. Characters are drawn realistically, with problems and failings they struggle to overcome. Some of the problems include the life of a girl forced to become a prostitute, but no

details are given and the issue is only mentioned when it has bearing on the story line. The only other problem scene concerns a man and a woman in a barn, but the father catches them before it goes too far. Meaningful, serious dialog fits the mood of the novel, with a touch of humor and slight Southern accents to lighten it. Women should enjoy this tender story.

Katie Hart, Writer, Librarian, Immanuel Baptist Church, New Brighton, Pennsylvania.

Deleted! : a Sam and Vera Sloan mystery / Robert L. Wise. LCCN 2002152269. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 2003.

PAP, 0785266976, list price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

Fic. Sloan, Sam (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Sloan, Vera (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Computer theft--Fiction; Christian fiction; Mystery fiction. xiii, 303 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

Detective Sam Sloan and his seventeen-year-old daughter, Cara, team up to track down the connection between a credit card ring, cyberthief of DVD's, and a sinister murderer. The ever-patient Vera holds down the home-fort with hot meals, prayers for her family, and words of godly wisdom liberally sprinkled throughout. Cara races through chat rooms, online technical mazes, and past firewalls to locate vital information. Knives, flying bullets, and even exploding bombs cannot stop Sam and his Jordanian partner, as they travel the globe, barely escaping death, in their quest to apprehend the bad guys.

Deleted! by Robert L. Wise, is the third installment in the Sam and Vera Sloan Mystery detective series. Wise, author and co-author of more than two dozen books, including the best-selling Millennium series (Thomas Nelson, 1998), is an Evangelical Episcopalian bishop. His concern for the spiritual life of his readers, although not overbearing, clearly registers throughout his tale. Main characters are charming and three-dimensional, protagonists the reader can get close to. Dialogue tends, at times, to drag, but plot is solid and focused. Pace starts out slow, picks up, but allows for plenty of reader breathers between suspenseful episodes. Recommended for fans of light suspense and well-defined characters.

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

Wired / Robert L. Wise. (The tribulation survival series; 1.) LCCN 2003015779. New York : Warner Books/Warner Faith, 2004.

PAP, 0446691631, list price: \$13.95; CLJ price: \$10.50

Fic. Rapture (Christian eschatology)--Fiction; Electronic surveillance--Fiction; End of the world--Fiction; Christian fiction. 305 p. : 21 cm.;

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

Six months after millions of people have disappeared in the Rapture, the world is left in total confusion and lawlessness. Political powers struggle to lead a one world order; nanotechnology is being devised to police the general public; and people are afraid that to even speak about death may curse them and their loved ones. Graham Peck, assistant to the mayor of Chicago, and his family have been in the secure upper-middle-class of society and have not had to face the true realities of human suffering. When a vagrant kills Graham's mother while trying to rob the family, life is turned on its ear for the Pecks. Their search for God's answers in a godless world allows the reader yet another look at the many possible interpretations of the Tribulation.

Wired by Robert L. Wise is a science fiction book about secrets and the dangers of being a follower of popular culture. Wise takes the reader through the tunnels of fearful searching for Christ, the emptiness of a world without the Holy Spirit, and reaches into the evil minds that would destroy humanity for their own selfish purposes. Pastor and writer of both fiction and nonfiction since the late 1970s, Wise brings his own unique brand of suspense to the predictions of Earth's chaotic end. Dialogue is a bit stiff, and there are a few inconsistencies in character and group names. Violence is kept to a graphic minimum. No heavy doctrinal agenda apparent. Recommended for Tribulation collections in all libraries.

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

The Riviera of Hades : Black Sea assignment / Michael Woodthorpe. LCCN 2003054327. Grand Rapids : Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2003.

HBB, 0802821189, list price: \$25.00; CLJ price: \$18.75

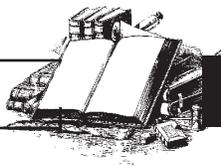
Fic. Americans--Russia (Federation)--Fiction; Hospital patients--Fiction; Missing persons--Fiction; Diplomats--Fiction; Moscow (Russia)--Fiction; Psychological fiction. ix, 198 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 4.

An American diplomat disappears in Moscow in 1960, only to return home to narrate to his daughter and his wife about his past. The *Riviera of Hades* is both historical fiction and suspense. The plot has all the characteristics of a spy-novel, enough twists and turns to please demanding readers. Told from the first person throughout most of the book, the story and its characters become more personal with each page. The date of the setting changes within the book, but it is clearly marked and should not confuse the reader. The mood of the narrative ranges from the melancholy felt by the family of the missing diplomat to the mysterious air inside the diplomat's narrative. While there is a lack of extensive dialogue, it seems to fit with the story. The writer explores with great success the emotions that would run through someone's

mind when faced with impossible choices. Readers will be plunged into the Cold War era and shown the complexities of war. Some mild vulgar language in the middle of the book detracts slightly from the story.

Kathryn Stillman, Christian Writers' Guild Apprentice, Horn Lake, Mississippi.



An encyclopedia of African American Christian heritage / Marvin A. McMickle ; forewords by Cain Hope Felder and J. Alfred Smith, Sr. LCCN 2001050411. Valley Forge, Pa. : Judson Press, 2002.

HBB, 0817014020, list price: \$30.00; CLJ price: \$22.50

200/.89/96073. African Americans--Religion--Encyclopedias. 302 p.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Author Marvin A. McMickle is known to readers for his previous books on preaching, politics, and healthy family relationships. He has documented an overlooked aspect of the history of the early American church. This reference tool reviews the experiences, history, and contributions of African Americans in the early American church. Ten categories of Christian leadership consist of teachers, preachers, scholars, singers, etc. Approximately 200 entries explore the theological developments most specifically as related to the progress of the black church, but also with applications for the established white church. These entries range from several paragraphs to several pages in length. A "Timeline of African American Religious History" adds a visual tool for teaching this history. A bibliography, index, and photo credits are included.

Readable biographies with black and white photographs are furnished for most of the leaders mentioned. Prolific writer of many religious issues, McMickle has cited Christians that range from the flamboyant cult contributors like Charles "Daddy" Grace to the traditional "cream of the crop" church servants such as Barbara Clementine Harris (first female bishop in the Episcopal Church). Modern leaders are also highlighted such as Katie Cannon and Vashti McKenzie, a feature that distinguishes this from other historical reference books on African-American Christianity. The last section on "Movements, Terms, and Events" departs from the biography format to explore, in encyclopedic fashion, the concepts and influences on black worship. Each entry throughout this work is well referenced with the authoritative sources in support of the premises provided. Well referenced and indexed. This book is recommended for academic collections and church libraries concerned with the cultural diversity of worshipping God.

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo, MSN, MLS. Academic Librarian, Beavercreek, Ohio.

50 Bible activities for creative minds / Jenifer Hosch. St. Louis, Mo. : Concordia, 2003.

PAP, 0758601298, list price: \$9.99; CLJ price: \$7.50

220. Bible--Handicrafts. 64 p. : ill. ; 28 cm.

Adult (for use with children). Rating : 4.

If you're a teacher or a parent who needs reproducible patterns for activities for children, stop searching. Jenifer Hosch offers *50 Bible Activities for Creative Minds*. She writes, "Each activity is designed to be a starting point, not a worksheet but a working sheet...help students find the connection between Bible characters, events, topics and their everyday lives..."

In this book, readers will find a bookmark, crossword puzzle, word search, Bible ABC's, candy bingo, and a mobile. Students may make a family tree, write an epitaph, or design a time line. Useful patterns include paper dolls, a scroll, puppet show figures, a puzzle, and a fold-up church. A board game is easily adaptable to any lesson. The "Time Traveler" urges a student to, "Imagine that you invented a machine... You travel to the time of the Bible story... Write about what you see."

Various types of poetry are accompanied by directions for writing a biblical sample. Students can write haiku, cinquain, and limericks based on Bible stories.

50 Bible Activities for Creative Minds stresses a broad picture. The author met her goal of a book that "can be used with a variety of Bible stories." She urges readers to look through the book and "make these ideas your own."

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Church Library Volunteer, Freelance Writer, Dexter, Kentucky.

Dismantling evolution / Ralph O. Muncaster. LCCN 2002011818. Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House, 2003.

PAP, 0736904646, list price: \$11.99; CLJ price: \$8.99

231.7. Evolution (Biology); Creationism. 254 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

Dismantling Evolution uses an enormous amount of scientific data to prove intelligent design behind life as we know it. In-depth discussions of the complexities of life, effective analogies, and plenteous illustrations make the book appropriate for any student who has completed at least a beginning biology course. Anyone interested in further proof of intelligent design will benefit from the detailed facts. Comparisons make scientific numbers, such as

ten to the twenty-eighth (the number of atoms in the human body) more understandable: in other words, ten to the twenty-eighth is a greater number than that of the stars in the universe! An extensive bibliography completes the book.

The author explains his topic well for readers interested in science. Overall, *Dismantling Evolution* puts into the reader's hands a vast amount of data supporting creation.

Kathryn Stillman, Christian Writers' Guild Apprentice, Horn Lake, Mississippi.

Drama team handbook / Alison Siewert and others. LCCN 2003010876. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2003.

PAP, 830823646, list price: \$15.00; CLJ price: \$11.25

246. Drama in public worship; Drama in Christian education. 233 p. : ill. ; 26 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12). Rating : 4.

Written in a series of essays of interest to drama teams, the first two thirds of *Drama Team Handbook* covers a variety of subjects, such as how to put together a drama team, how to write your own dramas, tips for actors and directors, and much more. That portion of the book is divided into four parts: Drama and its uses, Writing scripts, Acting, and Directing. Each essay is only a few pages in length and gives many personal examples describing the subject matter. The handbook is written from a Christian perspective of drama within the church and always from the viewpoint of giving God the glory for the dramatics.

There are also six appendices and the book concludes with biographical information on each of the twelve authors. The appendices range in subject matter from Bible studies for drama teams to the spiritual life of drama teams, ending with quite a long entry of short scripts, each in its entirety.

This book could be used very effectively by a drama team leader in the church or members of a drama team. Because it covers so many different topics, not all will be applicable to everyone, but each reader should find something of interest.

Ceil Carey, LTA. Young Adult Public Librarian, Plano, Illinois.

Reaching the world in our own backyard : a guide to building relationships with people of other faiths and cultures / Rajendra K. Pillai. LCCN 2003001154. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2003.

PAP, 1578566010, list price: \$14.99; CLJ price: \$11.25

248. Intercultural communication--Religious aspects--Christianity; Intercultural communication--United States; Evangelistic work--United States; Witness bearing (Christianity). xxi, 243 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Adult. (Grades 11-12). Rating : 5.

The Great Commission calls us to reach all nations. Pillai reveals how we can do that without ever leaving our hometown. Citing statistics such as the number of foreign-born residents increasing 50% between 1990 and 2000, he encourages believers to reach out to internationals, building a groundwork of friendship before presenting the gospel. The majority of the book is an encyclopedia of customs, greetings, and cultural insights into more than 50 different countries. The last section briefly outlines the beliefs of several world religions, backed by the book's extensive bibliography.

Originally from India, Pillai understands connecting with internationals from both sides of the issue. Within a few pages, he expertly shows how differences can lead to stereotypes, prejudices, and ethnocentrism (believing one's race is superior to all others). Graphs are simple and used to show various ways people respond to internationals and to compare Christianity to major world religions. Information is fairly current, and source dates are given in the footnotes. The only drawback is the book's repetitive phrasing in the country reference section, which makes it difficult to read and hard to remember. A remedy is to only read about the countries whose people are predominant in your area and keep it handy for others you may meet. *Reaching the World in Our Own Backyard* is especially appropriate for college-bound high school students, who can easily put this book's suggestions into use when interacting with foreign exchange students.

Katie Hart, Writer, Librarian, Immanuel Baptist Church, New Brighton, Pennsylvania.

The power of prayer : plugging into the power source / presented by Jill Briscoe. (Just between us.) LCCN 2003006901. Colorado Springs : Cook Communications/Life Journey, 2003.

PAP, 0781439531, list price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.50

248.3. Prayer--Christianity; Christian women--Religious life. v, 64 p. ; 18 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Jill Briscoe, renowned author and speaker, compiles writings of various people on the topic of prayer. Referencing 1 Peter 5:7, she encourages readers to consider letting God handle their burdens. To illustrate how this can be done, Briscoe uses the experiences of various writers which demonstrate how they do this in everyday life and in difficult circumstances. Whether read as a whole or as individual stories, all readers enjoy a personal word of encouragement concerning prayer.

There are no simplistic situations in this book on prayer nor does it shy away from difficult issues. Nancy Nordenson addresses how to pray when you deliver a stillborn child. The issue of husbands who won't pray with their wives and how it impacts spiritual intimacy is considered by Dr. Louis McBurney. Pamela Binkly teaches how to pray for spiritual needs, using the apostle Paul as her guide. Bette Morgan helps wives pray daily for their husbands using specific Scriptures to pray for each day of the week. Shelly Esser enriches the understanding of prayer from a leader's perspective. Lydia E. Harris writes one woman's testimony to answered prayer. Elizabeth Greene helps readers to see the conversational component in prayer with God. Social worker Ingrid Lawrenz's essay "The Female Cardinal Syndrome" candidly discusses the bitterness and resentment held by women with successful husbands. Briscoe then concludes the book with how to maximize prayer meetings.

Bianca Elliott, MS Ed. Freelance Writer & Editor, Linwood, Kansas.

Habits of a child's heart : raising your kids with the spiritual disciplines / Valerie E. Hess and Marti Watson Garlett. LCCN 2003020500. Colorado Springs : NavPress, 2004.

PAP, 1576834271, list price: \$11.99; CLJ price: \$8.99

248.8. Spiritual formation; Christian children--Religious life; Christian education--Home training. 208 p. : 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

With the intent of inspiring parents to train their children to practice the spiritual disciplines, Hess and Garlett have created a manual not only for parenting, but also for the spiritual development of the parents themselves. The authors cover 12 disciplines from the commonly known meditation, fasting, and simplicity to less frequently considered disciplines of submission, confession, and guidance. For each subject, the authors explain what the discipline is about, how to practice it in a day-by-day sense, and how to teach it to one's children. The teaching aspect is segmented into age-appropriate ideas. Quotes from classic literature, early church voices, and contemporary writers punctuate the text. Concluding the book is a suggested master calendar for putting the ideas into practice.

Habits of a Child's Heart is inspiring, practical, realistic, and chock full of splendid ideas. Adults who have previous knowledge of the subject will find useful information; those new to the spiritual disciplines will be introduced in a non-threatening, encouraging manner. The dual approach of instructing both parent and child is a bonus for readers. Age group level teaching suggestions are relevant and well constructed. Besides providing plentiful ideas for training one's children in the inner life, Hess and Garlett provide a workable framework for whole family spiritual development. Parents of

children of all ages will benefit. Children's ministry workers can also gain helpful tools from this book.

Karen Schmidt, BA. Freelance Writer/Editor, Marysville, Washington.

Raising children to adore God : instilling a lifelong passion for worship / Patrick Kavanaugh. LCCN 2003009314. Grand Rapids : Fleming H. Revell/Chosen Books, 2003.

PAP, 800793307, list price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

248.8. Worship (Religious education). 175 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

A Christian parenting guidebook, *Raising Children to Adore God* facilitates parents seeking to help their children to develop sincere, personal faith in Jesus Christ. This book opens with encouragement for parents to grow in their own worship and adoration, and to model this before their children. The focus then shifts to children, knowing them as individuals, understanding their learning and growth needs, centering their environment on Jesus Christ. Practical tools such as family devotions, church youth ministries, and the inculcating of God directed home/life principles are investigated, and illumined with deep insights. The closing summation, *The Different Stages of Children's Worship*, adds further assistance.

Christian Performing Artists' Fellowship Director, Minister of Music, and author of *Worship : A Way of Life*, Dr. Patrick Kennedy wrote *Raising Children to Adore God* in answer to his reader's request for such a book. Straight from the heart, straight to the point, using understandable wording, basing everything in scripture, Kennedy lucidly explains the steps towards your child's growth as a devotee of Jesus Christ. Drawing upon his own experience as both parent and leader, Kennedy provides realistic advice and practical actions for achieving this goal, as well as for parents' own spiritual growth and wisdom. Although addressed to parents, *Raising Children...* is also applicable to youth teachers and mentors. Parents, church, and Christian school libraries will find this book valuable.

Donna J. Eggett. Freelance Writer, Radford, Virginia.

The 10 commandments of parenting / by Ed Young. LCCN 2003022654. Chicago : Moody, 2004.

HBB, 080243147X, list price: \$18.99; CLJ price: \$14.25

248.8/45. Parenting--Religious aspects--Christianity. 214 p. 24 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Is parenthood easy? No. Is parenthood rewarding? Yes. Therefore, parents will appreciate help from a successful Christian parent who is the senior pastor of Houston's

31,000-member Second Baptist Church. Ed Young wrote *The 10 Commandments of Parenting*, a sequel to his *The 10 Commandments of Marriage*.

The 10 commandments of parenting are: Thou shalt (1.) build a functional family, (2.) love thy children, (3.) model godliness, (4.) teach thy children, (5.) spend time with thy children, (6.) discipline thy children, (7.) encourage thy children, (8.) provide stability and security for thy children, (9.) have the sex talk with thy children, and (10.) not be a passive parent.

Ed Young's parenthood stories are refreshing and candid. He leans heavily on the Bible, but he also quotes sources as diverse as James Dobson, George W. Bush, Jerry Clower, and Saint Augustine of Hippo. Examples of negative influences include Adolph Hitler's cruel father and parenting skills on "The Osbournes."

Charts clarify important points. "Discipline versus Punishment" shows the value of positive discipline and proper punishment. Diana Baumrind's rules for appropriate spanking are useful. Each chapter ends with a few thought-provoking "Questions for Parents." The bibliography is helpful.

The chapter on commandment ten is worth the book's cost. The author promotes participative biblical parenting, rather than passive parenting. Read about the "Triple A Secret." Give your children affirmation, appreciation, and affection. Ed Young writes: "Participative parents practice parenting by grace. They know it took the Cross to win grace for humanity..."

Oh, yes...just in case you wondered...the three adult sons of Ed and Jo Beth Young fervently serve Christ.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Church Library Volunteer, Freelance Writer, Dexter, Kentucky.

Cross and crescent : responding to the challenge of Islam / Colin Chapman. LCCN 2003016152. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2003.

PAP, 830832041, list price: \$16.00; CLJ price: \$12.00

261.2. Islam--Relations--Christianity; Christianity and other religions--Islam; Islam--Essence, genius, nature. 354 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12). Rating : 4.

The Cross and the Crescent is not written for the casual reader. A well written and organized book, it is intended for the Christian who is serious about his or her relationship to Muslims and how to win them to Christ. Made up mostly of very short chapters, the book is divided into five parts: relating to our Muslim neighbors; understanding Islam; entering into discussion and dialogue; facing fundamental issues; and sharing our faith. Each section also provides resources for further study.

The author cites many other works relating to this subject, including much historical data, Scripture, the Q_{ran}, etc. Chapman does not pretend to be definitive on the subject (i.e. read this and win all your Muslim acquaintances), but rather gives many starting points and ideas of how to respond without alienating the very people we are hoping to win to Christ.

This book is for the serious student of Muslim/Christian relationships and would be excellent for a study with others of like mind. Although it is an important work to include in a collection, particularly where the community would include Muslims, it will most likely not be an item checked out routinely.

Ceil Carey, LTA. Young Adult Public Librarian, Plano, Illinois.

Daughters of hope : stories of witness & courage in the face of persecution / Kay Marshall Strom and Michele Rickett. LCCN 2003010875. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2003.

PAP, 830823662, list price: \$12.00; CLJ price: \$9.00

305.4. Christian women--Developing countries--Biography; Persecution--Developing countries--History; Christian biography--Developing countries. 200 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

This book will touch the lives of its readers. It is a collection of stories of women of today in various areas of the world where Christians continue to face persecution. In these areas, women are often the most threatened. Kay Strom and Michele Rickett tell the moving narrations of women in Pakistan, in Sudan, in China, in Muslim countries, and the list goes on and on. These are not isolated incidents but are occurring everyday to women who have committed their lives to Christ, who have put their very lives in jeopardy by that commitment.

Daughters of Hope is divided geographically into five parts: South Asia, East Asia, North Africa, the Middle East, and the most dangerous places on earth. Each of these parts is divided into countries, with the authors giving an intro to that country including statistics on population, literacy, government, and religion. At the end of the section, Prayer Points and Action Points are suggested for the reader. The book is highly organized but not so organized that you lose sight of the real goal of the book and the passion of the authors: to inform the Western world of the plight of Christian women in our time, being kidnapped, tortured, raped, sent to labor camps, sold into slavery, mutilated, and killed, all for their love of Jesus. *Daughters of Hope* should be read by each of us and its message imprinted on our hearts.

Ceil Carey, LTA. Young Adult Public Librarian, Plano, Illinois.

Living well on one income, in a two-income world / Cynthia Yates. LCCN 2003001889. Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House, 2003.

PAP, 0736912045, list price: \$10.99; CLJ price: \$8.25

332.024. Finance, Personal--Religious aspects--Christianity. 232 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Cynthia Yates spreads her message of a being conscientious consumer with ten principles of prudent living. Eleven chapters give savvy strategies, helpful hints, and stories that illustrate practical approaches to conserving. Scripture and quotes from sage experts are dispersed throughout these prudent philosophies. Three brief appendices present budgeting nuggets, food purchasing ideas, and clues for the conservation of resources. Chapter titles indicate what her sensible theories incorporate: "Discover Your Creative Genius," "Live Within Your Means," and "Use Things Up!" In her text she provides definitions, checklists, assessment questions, and suggestions for getting organized. Assessment questions cover topics like "What is your waste quotient?" Then Yates takes every man, woman, and child on a frugal adventure with examples of and instructions for penny-wise successful living.

As a popular Christian author making appearances with seminars, radio, and TV, Cynthia Yates has produced another book on creative money management. This guide is definitely written with a woman's perspective in mind, but of course the family is considered and encouraged to become involved. Yates challenges readers to find innovative ways to make an actual difference in spending-saving ratio. The motto from this book is "Quit worrying, splurge a little, and save a lot!" She has a humorous way of handling everything from the daily tasks of expanding your culinary talents to being a good steward and tithing. "Cats have nine lives, spices do not..." referring to the one year shelf life of seasonings. Adventures and personal testimonies are designed to teach the reader how to "outfox merchandisers." The overall goal is to supply common sense ideas that will help readers develop an attitude of thankfulness honoring God. This is an easy read and well designed for individual reading or a small group woman's fellowship.

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo, MSN, MLS. Academic Librarian, Beavercreek, Ohio.

Picture this! : using picture books for character education in the classroom / Claire Gattrell Stephens. Englewood, Colo. : Libraries Unlimited, 2004.

PAP, 1591580014, list price: \$35.00; order direct: <http://lu.com/>

372.0114. Moral education (Elementary); Picture books for children--Educational aspects. 180 p. ; 28 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

This guide is intended to assist teachers in utilizing stories to help children respond to moral issues in a way that is tied to their ability to reason. Sixteen quality stories provide students with an opportunity to confront problems and choices. Lessons include stories centered on citizenship and patriotism, courage, friendship, honesty, perseverance and patience, respect for self and others, responsibility and commitment, self-control, and sharing.

Each story includes a suggested reading level and interest level, an overview of the story, character connections, notes about the author and illustrator, objectives after the reading the book, classroom exercises, comprehension and values questions, character exercises, and ideas as to how to integrate into other areas of the curriculum from art, language arts, physical education, and math to social studies, science, and music.

Of help to teachers in public schools where character education is part of the core curriculum, and of particular help to homeschoolers and Christian school educators seeking a way of challenging children to think and evaluate the world around them. A short 'resources for teachers' and 'resources for students' provides print and web links to other resources on the same lesson.

Recommended as a timely resource for utilizing literature to deepen moral reasoning. This is an important resource to include on public library resource shelves for media specialists and children's librarians, as the stories provide access to different cultures, experiences, and attitudes.

Leroy Hommerding, MSL/PhD. Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida.

The epidemic : the rot of American culture, absentee and permissive parenting, and the resultant plague of joyless, selfish children / Robert Shaw with Stephanie Wood. LCCN 2003057834. New York : Harper/ReganBooks, 2003.

HBB, 060011831, list price: \$24.95; CLJ price: \$18.75

PAP, 006001184X, list price: \$14.95; CLJ price: \$11.25

618.92. Conduct disorders in children--United States; Behavior disorders in children--United States; Children with social disabilities--United States; Social skills in children--United States; Parents of children with disabilities--United States; Parenting--United States; Child rearing--United States. xiv, 257 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

The Epidemic should be a must read for every parent. Dr. Shaw addresses what is truly an epidemic in today's society—out-of-control kids and young adults. Whether their children are infants (or not yet born) or in the teenage years, every parent will find help for stopping the epidemic within their family. The author

lists the basics of what children need: "a secure bonding experience, structure and order in their day-to-day lives, and the supervision and moral training that lead to the ability to resist negative societal influences." Dr. Shaw gives specific suggestions for parents at each stage of the child-rearing years. Numerous anecdotes, provided by real families, show the reader situations that back up the author's observations.

While the book is not written from a Christian perspective, there is much in it that Christian educators can use to help parents parent their out-of-control children. Many of the situations described by Dr. Shaw are ones I see on a weekly if not daily basis in our area. Dr. Shaw provides a list of additional resources to help parents help their out-of-control children. Adults who care about the out-of-control children in their sphere of influence will find help and guidance in *The Epidemic*.

Jane Mouttet, BA. Missionary School Librarian, Window Rock, Arizona.

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Encyclopedia of the Lewis and Clark Expedition / Elin Woodger, Brandon Toropov ; foreword by Ned Blackhawk. LCCN 2003006120. New York : Facts on File, 2004.

HBB, 0816047812, list price: \$58.50; order direct: <http://www.factsonfile.com/>

917.804/2/03. West (U.S.)--Description and travel--Encyclopedias; Lewis and Clark Expedition--Encyclopedias; West (U.S.)--Discovery and exploration--Encyclopedias. 438 p. ; 29 cm.

Adult (Grades 7-12). Rating : *5.

A handbook providing a common basis for uniting other Lewis and Clark books, *Encyclopedia of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* overflows with information, immediately pertinent to enrichment. From the first page the information flows from an alphabetized List of Entries, a relevant preface, an Introduction tying Lewis and Clark into their contemporary history, and a Chronology, replete with maps of pre-expedition years, to a day-by-day log of the expedition, to post-expedition years. What follows is the A to Z Entries, including lists for further reading. The numerous black and white illustrations and photos, many of them old historical images, add bountifully to the text. Two appendices (Indian tribes and maps), an extensive bibliography, a listing of subjects, and a comprehensive index close this volume.

Known for their work in other encyclopedic writing, author-editor and American history buff Elin Woodger and politically oriented author Brandon Toropov have expertly produced this interesting *Encyclopedia of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*. Professor of American Indian Studies and a Te-Moak Shoshone, Ned Blackhawk provides a noteworthy, historically oriented foreword. This engrossing volume is useful for both individuals and students from

older elementary through adult. It also makes a useful reference for travelers on the Lewis and Clark route. Recommended for all libraries and schools.

Donna J. Eggett. Freelance Writer, Radford, Virginia.

American women and flight since 1940 / Deborah G. Douglas, with the assistance of Amy E. Foster, Alan D. Meyer, and Lucy B. Young. LCCN 2003007976. Lexington, Ky. : Univ. of Kentucky Press, 2003.

PAP, 813190738, list price: \$29.95; CLJ price: \$22.50

B or 629.13. Air pilots--United States--Biography; Women air pilots--United States--Biography. 359 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Author Deborah Douglas, Curator of Science and Technology at M.I.T.'s museum and specialist in aviation history, presents an outstanding work detailing all aspects of the history of women in aviation. *American Women and Flight Since 1940* presents information and stories about pilots, mechanics, and flight attendants; military and civilian women in aviation and space; information on schools where flight programs are available; races and honors.

The work has appendices with many statistics, chapter notes, an extensive bibliography and an excellent index. It tells the history of the international women pilots' organization, The Ninety-Nines, as well as women's involvement in the Civil Air Patrol and other groups. The book contains many photos of women pilots and, in addition to relating Amelia Earhart's story, tells about such people as Jacqueline Cochran, former director of the Women's Airforce Service Pilots; Bessie Coleman, first black person to earn a pilot's license; Cornelia Fort, a flight instructor who witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor from the air on December 7, 1941; Eileen Collins, first woman to command a space shuttle in 1992; Cindy Wilson, helicopter pilot who ferried rescue workers to and from the September 11, 2001 disaster area of the World Trade Center; and women military pilots who flew planes in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. She relates the difficulty women have had through the years of being accepted in the field of aviation, once considered a man's domain, in the days when there was no hope for such things as equal opportunity or equal pay.

Any young woman interested in flight will be stimulated and encouraged by the storytelling history of *American Women in Flight Since 1940*.

R. Jeanette Hardage. Freelance Writer, North Charleston, South Carolina.

Honor thy father and thy mother: understanding the spiritual needs of abuse victims / Diane Stelling. Austin, Tex. : LangMarc, 2003.

PAP, 1880292904, list price: \$13.95; CLJ price: \$10.50

B. Stelling, Diane; Physical abuse victims--Biography. 140 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Both an autobiography and a counseling manual, *Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother* uses children's poet Diane Stelling's experiences as part of a physically and verbally abusive family to help victims of abuse and their mentors. In each chapter, Stelling tells her story, and then draws valuable spiritual insights and important conclusions for coping. Themes considered include: abuse and its lifelong effects; forgiveness, repentance, and reconciliation; the Bible perspective; the journey toward healing. Candidly, Stelling tells both sides of her experiences, for example: her disappointment in the Bible succeeded by the healing available only through the Word of God; and, people who used her contrasted with people who unconditionally loved her. This book ends with two summarizing chapters: The Aftermath, her life now lived in God's love; and, an Epilogue, giving insights into her present, good relationship with her father.

Award winning children's author and poet, teacher, and lecturer, Diane Stelling combines poetic lyricism with frank, empathetic honesty. The autobiographical sections of *Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother* will be recognizable to those involved with abuse. The straight forward, easily read narrative aims at and provides steps to emotional health. Used extensively throughout this book, scripture provides the basis of all conclusions. Dramatically, Pam Shapiro's black and white illustrations start each chapter with a piece of a jigsaw, eventually growing into a cross containing a sufferer's face. Recommended to teachers, parents, and older high school students as both an inspirational resource and an adjunct to similar counseling books.

Donna J. Eggett. Freelance Writer, Radford, Virginia.

One woman against the Reich : the true story of a mother's struggle to keep her family faithful to God in a world gone mad / Helmut W. Ziefle. LCCN 2002152257. Grand Rapids : Kregel, 2003.

PAP, 825441595, list price: \$10.99; CLJ price: \$8.25

B or 943. Ziefle, Maria; Ziefle family; Anti-Nazi movement--Germany--Heilbronn; Christian biography--Germany--Heilbronn; Sontheim (Heilbronn, Germany)--Biography; Heilbronn, Germany--Biography. 189 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Adult (Grades 7-12). Rating : 4.

Georg and Maria Ziefle and their family live in war-torn Germany. They watch as their beloved country deteriorates under Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime. In the midst of bombings, air raids, and

increasing rejection from neighbors and friends, Maria continues to pray for and instill Christian principles in her family. She unexpectedly becomes pregnant and gives birth to a young son, Helmut. As a very young boy, he watches the affects of World War II on his family and homeland. War drags on until the Nazi's call first Maria's oldest son, then her second son into service for their country.

One Woman Against the Reich by Helmut Ziefle describes the pressures and torments of the Christian in Germany during the WWII era. Neither romanticized, nor dialogued in flowery language, the simplicity of written facts is refreshing. Rather than placing the focus squarely on Hitler and the Nazis, Ziefle shows the hard decisions and realities of Christians who were persecuted, thrown into jail, put in asylums, cruelly experimented upon, and even forced into battle.

Many names are left blank, which is distracting to the reader. Black and white photos, liberally interspersed throughout the text, add to the authenticity of real people living through unreal and very dangerous times. Recommended as a supplement to the more broadly factual accounts of WWII Germany.

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

Custer : a photographic biography / Bill and Jan Moeller. LCCN 2003017387. Missoula, Mont. : Mountain Press, 2003.

PAP, 878424830, list price: \$24.00; CLJ price: \$18.00

B (973). Custer, George Armstrong, 1839-1876; Custer, George Armstrong, 1839-1876--Pictorial works; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Pictorial works; United States--Army--Biography; Generals--United States--Biography; Generals--United States--Pictorial works; Indians of North America--War--1866-1895--Pictorial works. 256 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Adult (Grades 5-12). Rating : 4.

Bill and Jan Moeller have written *Custer: A Photographic Biography* to counter what they consider historical inaccuracies about George Armstrong Custer. They succeed in presenting an objective account of Custer's early life, his Civil War years, and his Indian campaigns.

As readers might guess from the title, the book pairs dozens of photos of important Custer sites with short bursts of text. The text is easy to read and its brevity is a plus for elementary school readers, yet the amount of information given and the writing style make it as appealing for older readers (junior high and high school) as well as adults. Civil War battles, at least Custer's part in them, are made simple, something not always true of books on war.

The photos are gorgeous. However, since most are present-day color shots of Civil War battlefields (now mostly grass, trees, or forests), they work best when portraying the Little Big Horn sites; in those photos, the expansiveness of

the battlefields, and where everything took place, becomes quite clear.

There are some things readers will want to keep in mind. First, the book states that some whites and Indians were tortured during the Indian Wars, but gives no details for support. Second, the battle descriptions themselves are relatively bloodless, although the repetition of Civil War battle after battle may bore younger readers, and the sheer magnitude and regularity of the killing (especially in the Little Big Horn passages) may disturb them. D

runkeness is mentioned as being a problem among Custer's men, but again, no details are given.

An epilog lists, point by point, the research the authors did to clear Custer of various charges held against him. There's also a bibliography with five pages of sources for further research. All in all, a fine book.

Rosemarie DiCristo. Children's Author, Bronx, New York.

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