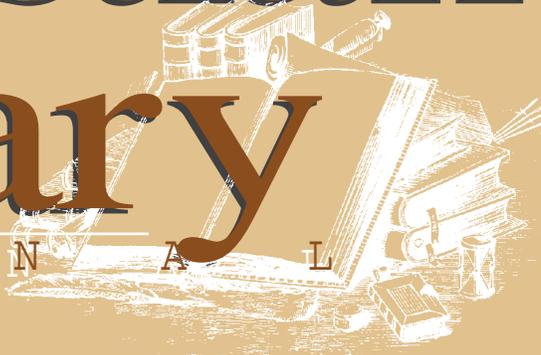


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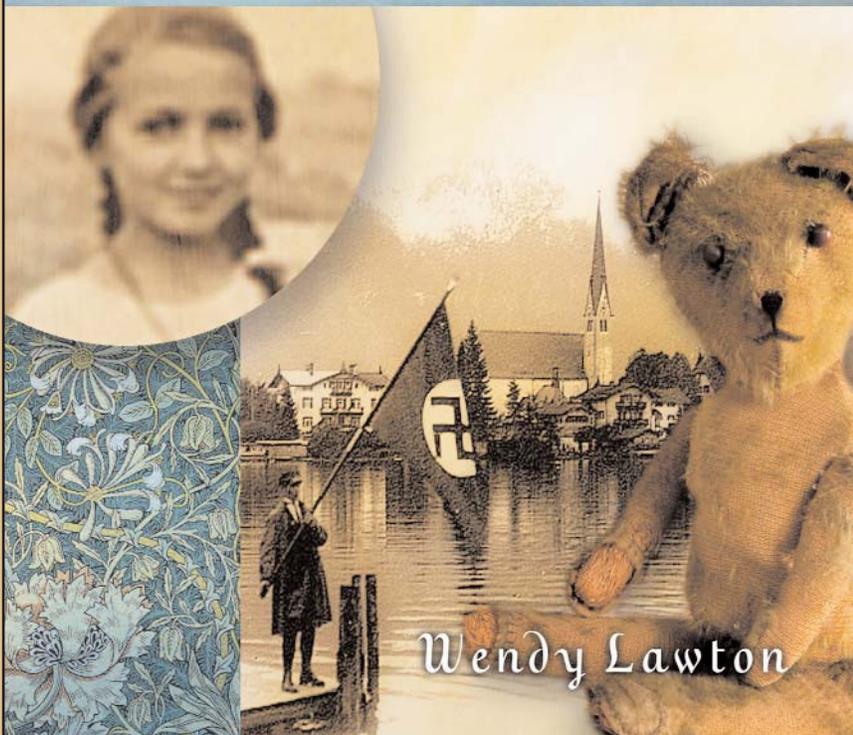


DAUGHTERS OF THE FAITH SERIES



Shadow of His Hand

A STORY BASED ON THE LIFE OF
HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR ANITA DITTMAN



Wendy Lawton

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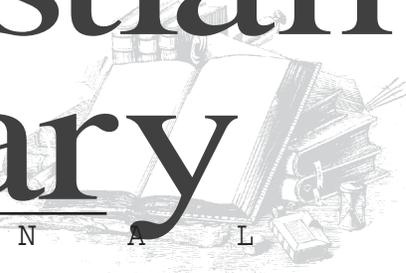
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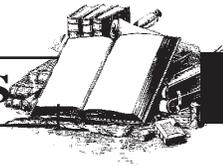


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The littlest Magi : a Christmas tale / by Chris Auer ; illustrated by Bruce Eagle? LCCN 2004000493. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2004.

HBB, 0310706637; \$15.99.

E. Jesus Christ--Nativity--Juvenile fiction; Jesus Christ--Nativity--Fiction; Magi--Fiction; Household employees--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 28 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 4.

Jacob, a young orphan and King Herod's lowliest servant, makes the best of his anonymity by exploring the palace's secret passages. One day Jacob spots a new star in the heavens and is shocked to overhear three strangers tell Herod that it is guiding them to the birthplace of a new king. Curious, Jacob sneaks away with the wise men to see the future ruler. Holding baby Jesus'

hand in the Bethlehem stable, Jacob is awestruck when Mary tells him will that her son will rule over a new kind of kingdom—a kingdom where everyone is loved and important. Upon his return, Jacob finds palace life tense. Herod is extremely angry, and Jacob senses that the king's soldiers mean to harm Jesus if they find him. Under cover of night, Jacob flees the palace, rushing to Bethlehem to help Joseph and Mary plan their escape.

The Littlest Magi is an enjoyable retelling of the Christmas story. Bruce Eagle's captivating artwork is its greatest strength. His vivid colors and striking vistas will transport young readers to the ancient Near East. Auer's text, though lengthy, is fast-paced and lends itself to reading aloud. Jacob's resourcefulness and sense of

adventure will engage young readers as they travel with him across desert sands to see the baby Jesus. Much of the book's drama centers upon Herod's awful plan to eliminate rival kings, and while Auer handles the situation in an age appropriate manner, it may frighten very sensitive children. *The Littlest Magi's* artistic successes combined with its important lessons about the need to listen for God's voice and the extent of His love make this title an excellent addition to most picture book collections.

Matthew P. Ross, MLIS. Head of Reference, Putnam County District Library, Ottawa, Ohio.

When Sophie gets angry--really, really angry / by Molly Bang. LCCN 97042209. New York : Blue Sky Press, 1999.

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

* Outstanding quality

5 Excellent quality

4 Very good quality

3 Good quality

Recommended with caution - note reservations within the review

Not recommended - note problems stated within the review

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

HBB, 0590189794; \$15.95.

E. Anger--Fiction; Newbery Honor book. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades PS-1. Rating : 3, with caution.

Sophie has a strategy when she gets really mad. Molly Bang tells of this plan in *When Sophie Gets Angry—Really, Really Angry*. The story line is straightforward. Sophie is playing with Gorilla. Sister grabs the toy. Mom backs up Sister's action, reinforcing that it IS her turn. Sophie throws a full-blown tantrum. "She kicks. She screams. She wants to smash the world to smithereens." Sophie leaves the house, slamming the door behind her. The child is calmed by sitting in her favorite tree. When she returns to the house, she is welcomed. The family spends quality time together, solving a jigsaw puzzle.

The endpapers are red. Bang uses concrete poetry to authenticate the force of the words. We see the red of Sophie's roar, the chasm of the volcanic explosion. The drawings, while done in a childlike fashion, are full of energy. The climax comes fairly early in the story, leaving time for the long descent into tranquility. When the text says that Sophie leaves the house, a coolness also enters the color palette of the illustrations. As the text tells of the restoration of equilibrium, the scenery goes to a wide-angle shot. The final picture? The girls enjoying the equal attention from the parents, Gorilla looking on from a neutral chair.

Caution: There are no words of preparation for transition to "Sister's turn," no recording of the mother's intervention in Sophie's fit of anger, no apology or reconciliation. The caring adult needs to weigh these omissions and see if the philosophy of this book fits their parenting plan.

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

Madeline's rescue / story and pictures by Ludwig Bemelmans. 2nd ed. LCCN 53008709. New York : PenguinPutnam/Viking, 1982.

HBB, 0140566511; \$7.99.

E. Dogs--Juvenile fiction; Dogs--Fiction; Paris (France)--Fiction; Caldecott Medal. 56 p. : ill. ; 31 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 5.

A Caldecott Medal winner, *Madeline's Rescue* is one of several books written about Madeline, a French girl living in a boarding school in Paris. Madeline has had renewed popularity in the last few years with a new interest in her books along with movies and other merchandise.

In this story about Madeline, "she would now be dead, except for a dog that kept its head." When our heroine falls and slips into the rivers of Paris, she is rescued by a quick thinking dog who drags her to safety. The girls in the boarding school all immediately love this little canine; she is named Genevieve and becomes the pet of the

entire school. Until...the day of the annual inspection and it's brought to light that no dogs are allowed. The board of trustees sends Genevieve out in the cold, but no one can sleep, including the headmistress, until she is safely in her bed. The story ends with "enough hound to go all around" when Genevieve's pups are discovered!

This is a thoroughly delightful story told in simple rhyme with mostly black and white sketch-like drawings, interspersed with some color. It is obvious why Madeline continues to be a favorite fifty years after her creation. *Madeline's Rescue* is a simple, sweet book that will enchant another young set of readers.

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

My special day at Third Street School / by Eve Bunting ; illustrated by Suzanne Bloom. LCCN 2003108157. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyd's Mills, 2004.

HBB, 1590780752; \$15.95.

E. Authors--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 4.

Have you ever had a bona fide artist visit your classroom? *My Special Day at Third Street School* by Eve Bunting tells the story of one such event. Amanda Drake, pink-streaked hair and all, accepts the invitation to visit Ms. De Tomas' class. Great preparation is made for the special day. The children read her books. They carefully prepare questions. They decorate the room. They make refreshments. The students discover that Amanda Drake is the perfect guest who isn't afraid to hold their pet snake. But what is the surprise that Ms. Drake gives them?

Eve Bunting captures the essence of a happy, busy classroom in *My Special Day at Third Street School*. She uses poetry to narrate the story from the viewpoint of a participant. In a surprising twist on traditional story-telling, the climax is saved for the final three words of the story.

The drawings of Suzanne Bloom could almost tell the incident without aide of the text. She combines gouache, colored pencil, and crayons. The pictures are double-spread, and detail every memory you have of an elementary classroom.

Bunting and Bloom have also teamed together to present Eve Bunting and Suzanne Bloom, *Girls : A to Z*. (Boyd's Mills, 2002).

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

City dog, country dog : adapted from an Aesop fable / story by Susan Stevens Crummel and Dorothy Donohue ; illustrated by Dorothy Donohue. LCCN 2003011631. New York : Marshall Cavendish, 2004.

HBB, 0761451560; \$16.95.

E. Dogs--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Artists--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 x 30 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 4.

City Dog and *Country Dog* both attend Mme. Fifi's Art School. Henry T. LaPooch, from the city, and Vincent Van Dog, from the country, want to be firm friends in spite of their great differences in style and living. Theirs is a transcending friendship, and they find a most intriguing and enjoyable way to be "best friends forever!"

Animal lover, teacher, and author Susan Crummel successfully combines Aesop's old fable with the paintings and friendship of Vincent Van Gogh and Henri de Toulouse Lautrec. As well as being an enjoyable story, this brief picture book manages to give readers a first glimpse of the training and technique of these two painters, their lifestyles, and the correspondence that flowed between them. Noted children's book illustrator, Dorothy Donohue, imbues the full page, brightly colored, cut paper, acrylic paint, and colored pencil illustrations with both the fun of today's childhood and the joie d' vivre of Van Gogh and Toulouse Lautrec. Scattered through this book are Donohue's renditions of several of these two artists' famous paintings. At the end are small replicas of the actual paintings from which these renditions come.

A big book, that opens flat for group reading, *City Dog, Country Dog* will be of interest to families, new readers, school groups, and art classes.

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

Trouble in the Barkers' class / written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola. (Barker twins.) LCCN 2003001280. New York : G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2003.

HBB, 0399241647; \$14.99.

E. Bullies--Fiction; Behavior--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Twins--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades PS-1. Rating : 5.

How does it feel to be the last one to join a class? How would you react if this was your second school in a year? *Trouble in the Barkers' Class* by Tomie dePaola is about these issues and several ways to resolve problems when you are the victim. The Barker twins, Morgie and Moffie, are puppies who try to befriend Carole Ann, another puppy. She is rude, pushy, and name-calling. When Carole Ann gets lost, Morgie has the opportunity to find out why she is so abrasive. And he has a second chance to offer this lonely "child" friendship.

One is welcomed into Ms. Shepherd's classroom. DePaola writes as if this were his childhood memory, the characters mentioned, his own classmates. The animal-characters are developed through their conversations. Early on

the reader learns that all are good at something. The students interact with each other, modeling ways to greet a new class member, and how to problem solve. Suggestions are given for how to build a friendship. The flow is natural, consequences following choices.

The illustrations border on cartoon. The drawings are uncluttered. Dressed in 2003 fashions, all the animals have human posture, and are able to express themselves in English. The results are a delightful story for young children.

Trouble in the Barkers' Class is from The Barker Twins series by Tomie dePaola.

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

May I bring a friend? / Beatrice Schenk De Regniers ; illustrated by Beni Montresor. LCCN 64019562. New York : Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 1964.

HBB, 0689206151; \$15.95.
E. Animals--Fiction; Stories in rhyme; Caldecott Medal. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 25 cm.
Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

"My dear, my dear, any friend of our friend is welcome here." With those words of royal good manners, the adventures of *May I Bring a Friend* are well underway. A giraffe with a rose necklace is the guest for Sunday tea. A bow on the tail completes the ensemble of the hippopotamus visiting the palace on Monday for stew. On through the week, the little boy brings his animal friends to call on the king and queen. And, with royal good manners, the noble couple accepts a reciprocal invitation for tea at the zoo.

A 1965 Caldecott Medal winner, *May I Bring a Friend?* is charming even forty years after its writing. Good manners and gracious truthfulness are infused into the dialog. The plot is simple, a testing of the boundaries set by adults. What may present a problem (and exactly where WILL the elephant sit?) is tackled with ingenuity and good humor (WE'LL sit on the elephant!)

The drawings by Beni Montresor are clearly done with a twinkle in the eye. The pictures are stylized, a mixture of line sketches and highly ornamented details. The illustrations alternate from black and white to solid color to full color double spreads. All are delightful.

A read-to-me must.

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

Memorial Day surprise / by Theresa Martin Golding ; illustrated by Alexandra Artigas. LCCN 2003108158. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyds Mills, 2004.

HBB, 1590780485; \$15.95.

E. Memorial Day--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) ; 22 cm.
Grades PS-3. Rating : 4.

Marco's Mama hurries him along to a surprise at the Memorial Day parade. Marco tries to guess the surprise, but none of his guesses are correct. The surprise is not his best friend Jenna who is already at the parade. It is not the tingly music of the marching band. It is not the fire truck, nor is it the candy being thrown from a float. It is Abuelo, Marco's grandfather, who is one of the veterans in the parade. Alexandra Artigas has added cartoon coloring book style drawings to illustrate the story.

A fun and even suspenseful story as Marco tries to figure out the surprise. Marco's love for his grandfather is hinted at throughout the book: he wonders why they aren't visiting Abuelo before going to the parade, he saves a butterscotch candy for Abuelo, and finally he hops into Abuelo's lap when he sees him in the parade, and proudly tells Jenna that Abuelo is in the parade because he is a hero. Not so much a Memorial Day story, but the love of a grandchild and grandfather and a parade. Memorial Day is quickly defined as "a time to remember some special people." Nor is the book a Hispanic book even though Abuelo and Marco are Spanish names. The cheerful illustrations are filled with action and parade fun and cover most of the double-page spreads. Team this title with a nonfiction easy reader about Memorial Day or with one of Schlesinger's videos about the holiday to add more information.

Marion M. Mueller, MS. Library Media Specialist, New Hope Christian School, Neenah, Wisconsin.

One fine day / Nonny Hogrogrian. LCCN 75119834. New York : Simon & Schuster/Macmillan, 1971.

HBB, 0027440001; \$16.95.
E. Foxes--Fiction; Caldecott Medal. [32] p. : col. ill. ; 21 x 27 cm.
Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

In *One Fine Day*, the 1972 Caldecott Medal winner, Nonny Hogrogrian retells the simple cumulative Armenian folktale. One fine day, fox slurps up an old woman's milk while she is busy collecting firewood. In anger, the old woman lops off the fox's tail. Fox pleads for the old woman to give back his tail, but she wants her milk first. To get her milk fox asks a cow, which asks for grass, which asks for water...until finally a kind hearted miller gives the fox grain to give to the hen, and back we go again until each character has what is wanted, and the old woman has her milk. She immediately sews the tail back, and the grateful fox goes back to the forest. The coordinating illustrations are painted in full color.

Cumulative tales, like this one, and "The Old Woman and Her Pig" or "This Is the House That Jack Built" are wonderful language construction blocks for the very young. The repetition and rhythm encourage children to "read along."

Folktales, especially for young children, are spare, begin and end quickly, and good eventually triumphs over evil. Additionally, this tale has a number of lessons, as do fables, which can and should be discussed. Like the text, the illustrations are spare and primitive in style, almost child-like. Hogrogrian uses a full paint palette of bright cheerful colors beginning with the woosy endpages. Brush strokes on textured paper provide depth. Small details are included in the clothing of the characters: embroidery, a babushka, and a fez. Interestingly, Hogrogrian, like a young child's artwork, has only a bright sun in the sky, and no colored sky or clouds. In the simple paintings she is able to give each character a bit of personality via facial expression and body language.

Marion M. Mueller, MS. Library Media Specialist, New Hope Christian School, Neenah, Wisconsin.

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When I am old with you / story by Angela Johnson ; pictures by David Soman. LCCN 89070928. New York : Scholastic/Orchard, 1990.

HBB, 0531058840; \$15.95.
E. Grandfathers--Fiction; Old age--Fiction; African Americans--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 26 cm.
Grades PS-3. Rating : *5.

A young African American boy speaks of all the things he and his granddaddy will do together when he is old, too. He and his granddaddy will sit in rocking chairs and talk, swat flies, pet an old dog, and go fishing together. They will play cards all afternoon "...till the lightning bugs shine in the trees..." They'll try on old clothes in the attic and look at old pictures in albums, eat what they want, and enjoy staying up and chatting with the adults around the fire in the evenings. The narrator and his granddaddy act out the things they will do together on each successive page.

When I Am Old With You by Angela Johnson, illustrations by David Soman, is a delightful story of a young boy lovingly absorbing the time he spends with his grandfather. Soman's bright watercolor illustrations add depth and a memorial like quality that strengthens for the reader the impact of the emerging bond between the characters. Johnson has written for children and young adults since the late 1980s. Her gift of presenting the African American family in a positive light that all cultures can relate to has earned her several awards, among them, her latest, both Coretta Scott King and Michael L. Printz awards in 2004 for *The First Part Last* (Simon & Schuster, 2003). Highly recommended for all libraries.

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

Groundhog at Evergreen Road / by Susan Korman ; illustrated by Higgins Bond. (Smithsonian's backyard.) LCCN 2002191155. Norwalk, Conn. : Soundprints, 2003.

HBB, 1592490220; \$15.95.

E. Woodchuck--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 31 cm.

Grades K-2. Rating : 5.

Young readers are sure to enjoy *Groundhog at Evergreen Road* by Susan Korman, a little story that could take place in anyone's backyard. Readers are taken on a journey through the underworld of the groundhog. They follow a groundhog through a day of perils with a hawk's pursuit, everyday garden nibblings, and the building of a burrow. On the surface, groundhogs appear to have a simple life and would be considered by some humans as pesky animal neighbors. We learn through the placement of the groundhog in a typical suburban environment, the sophistication of a potentially misunderstood fellow creature. Children are bound to develop a fondness for this marmot after reading this concise story. Last page of the book provides a groundhog fact summary, brief glossary of terms and an index to the points of interest in the book.

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo, MSN, MLS. Academic Librarian, Beaver Creek, Ohio.

They were strong and good / written and illustrated by Robert Lawson. LCCN 40027700. New York : PenguinPutnam/Viking, 1940.

HBB, 0670699497; \$16.99.

E. Family; Caldecott Medal. 68 p. : ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades K-2. Rating : 3.

They Were Strong and Good won the Caldecott Medal in 1941. Robert Lawson both wrote and illustrated the book to honor his parents and grandparents, and is based on information he heard as a little boy. He generalizes the story he says is the story of the parents and grandparents of most Americans. The heritage would have been common at the time the book was written. Lawson uses black and white etchings to illustrate every page of text.

As a teacher and librarian, I have regularly used this title when studying family heritage, brotherhood, biography, and prize-winning books, but I always discuss some of the features of the book which students reading the book on their own would not understand. For example, this is a history book and people were not necessarily treated the same way many years ago as they are today. However, history cannot be changed or white-washed. History does need to be talked about to help children understand why we are the way we are. Specifically, this issue needs to be addressed: the stereotypes of Native Americans and African Americans, in both text and illustrations. Names of the black

child and the dogs in this story would be considered derogatory today.

The illustrations are action filled and detailed and give a clear picture of the times they represent. Some of the male characters are fierce looking, especially the grandfather who was a preacher. Used with a group, the book could be a springboard and pattern for writing and illustrating family histories and for emphasizing the importance of everyday people. I doubt that this title, as is, would be selected today as a Caldecott book for the above reasons. A quality book with a similar theme, using contemporary parents and grandparents, would be welcomed.

Marion M. Mueller, MS. Library Media Specialist, New Hope Christian School, Neenah, Wisconsin.

Dinosaurumpus / by Tony Milton; illustrated by Guy Parker-Rees. LCCN 2003043316. New York : Scholastic/Orchard Books, 2003.

HBB, 0439395143; \$15.95.

E. Dinosaurs--Fiction; Dance--Fiction; Stories in rhyme. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades 2-4. Rating : 4.

Energy! That, in a word, describes the delightful *Dinosaurumpus!* written by Tony Mitton. The dinosaurs romp through the pages leisurely or with hyperactivity, depending on their propensity. They are introduced individually. Clever rhymes describe their unique characteristics. "Watch out for Deinonychus with her snip-snap grin as she perches on her tail and twists in a spin." The built-in invitation begs for the child to join in the *Dinosaurumpus*. Even the fiercest, the Tyrannosaurus, makes his appearance, not to dine, but to dance! The hullabaloo soon comes to a halt, the exhausted dinos cuddle together, and all that is heard is snoring.

One of the unique features of this charming book is the use of word placement. It is like concrete poetry, the story swirling and whirling across the page in rhythm to the lyrical rhymes. Mitton includes an infectious refrain that the listeners will easily learn. The child can read this story by himself, but it would probably be more fun when shared. Pre-read to correctly pronounce the names of the dinosaurs. You don't want to stumble and break the rhythm of this rap.

Cartoon drawings, Parker-Rees' thoughtful addition, diffuse any sense of anxiety that these over-sized creatures might bring. Pictures dominate the scene with imaginative placement of the text, enhanced by varying the font size.

Dinosaurumpus is science lesson painlessly offered, a music production begging to be explored.

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

Sam, Bangs, and moonshine / written and illustrated by Evaline Ness. LCCN 66007085. New York : Henry Holt, 1966.

HBB, 0805003142; \$17.00.

E. Imagination--Fiction; Caldecott Medal. [41] p. : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades 1-4. Rating : 3.

Winner of the 1967 Caldecott Medal, author and illustrator Evaline Ness has created a winning character in Samantha (called Sam by all who know her) who lives in a world of her imagination. Her mother was a mermaid, she has a fierce lion and baby kangaroo at home, and even her old wise cat Bangs could talk if he wanted to. Her father calls this moonshine and cautions her to talk what is real, not moonshine. But one day she sends her dear friend Thomas on a wild goose chase searching for her kangaroo far out in the harbor. When a sudden storm brings a near disaster, Sam learns her lesson for good and is able to draw the line between fantasy and reality.

Both the illustrations and the hard hitting moral date this book despite its sweet story and appealing main character. Yet it will be sought out by those who are looking for award winners.

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

Night walk / story by Jill Newsome ; illustrations by Claudio Munoz. LCCN 2002010266. New York : Clarion Books, 2002.

HBB, 0618324585; \$15.00.

E. Cats--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 22 x 26 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 4.

Going out after dark is not everyone's cup of tea. But, sometimes you go with a friend who enjoys an evening stroll. *Night Walk* by Jill Newsome tells about one such time. Flute the cat is a homebody. Her friend Daisy is a dog who likes to be out-and-about. The story gives a vivid contrast in their approaches to life. Daisy's description of the outside world piques Flute's curiosity. She accompanies Daisy on a nightly airing. Things go awry, and Flute has the opportunity to display her loyalty for her canine pal.

Newsome's storyline follows a direct line to the inevitable. The evidence mounts, page by page. The dog is adventurous, the cat is the problem-solver. The contrast between these two friends becomes the pivotal point in the story. Happy-go-lucky Daisy has no idea how to handle the aggressive behavior of a strange cat. With just a few sentences of dialogue, Newsome ties all the plot together in a satisfying conclusion.

Claudio Munoz captures the light-hearted mood of *Night Walk*. His illustrations are cartoon in character. Often the pictures echo the theme of the text; other times, the drawings take a broader view. *Night Walk* is a perfect bedtime read-to-me.

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

Cinderella, or, The little glass slipper / a free translation from the French of Charles Perrault ; with pictures by Marcia Brown. LCCN 54012897. New York : Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 1954.

HBB, 0684126761; \$17.95.

E or 398.2/1/0944. Fairy tales; Folklore—France; Caldecott Medal. [32] p. : col. ill. : 23 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 4.

Cinderella, translated from Charles Perrault, and illustrated by Marcia Brown, takes the reader for a spin through a familiar, yet amplified fairytale. Cinderella is the victim in a blended family; her new older step-sister calls her Cinder-seat. The royal dance, in this version, lasts two evenings. Of course, Cinderella, anonymously beautiful with the help of her fairy godmother, is the belle of the ball. She loses her shoe, keeps the other one secreted in her apron pocket. The herald slips the shoe on our heroine, she puts on the other, revealing that she indeed is the mysterious princess.

The themes of Cinderella are universal. The struggle between good and evil. The age-old puzzle of blended families. The strength of character that supercedes all odds. The reward for good deeds. The additional details in this version of the fairy tale perk up the storyline. It is easier for the reader to visualize. But it is the exquisite drawings by Brown that intrigue the reader. Brown uses a combination of pastels and black ink, emphasizing the fine points that make this story so well-loved. The transformation of Cinderella to the undisclosed princess is most dramatic. And these drawings dominate the majority of the book. The conversations between the fairy godmother and Cinderella are accompanied by Brown's inspired renderings. Because of the change in the story, the heroine is resplendent in not one, but two exquisite ball gowns. The pictures are sure to delight the imagination of any young reader.

Cinderella is the 1955 Caldecott Medal winner.

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

The rooster crows : a book of American rhymes and jingles / Maud and Miska Petersham. LCCN 46000446. New York : Simon & Schuster, 1945.

HBB, 0027731006; \$18.00.

E. Nursery rhymes, American; Children's poetry, American; Nursery rhymes; American poetry; Caldecott Medal. [64] p. : col. ill. : 27 x 21 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 5.

The Rooster Crows, written and illustrated by husband and wife team Maud and Miska Petersham, won the Caldecott Medal in 1946. Its collection of nursery rhymes, jingles, rope skipping and counting-out songs, games, and all

the words to Yankee Doodle qualify it for as an American Mother Goose book.

The illustrations, lithographic (offset) pencil with color separations on acetate, are not pretty (as one might expect from the subject matter), but they are arresting. The children in them are involved in various activities from different time periods of American history and are dressed in typically American costumes ranging from an old-fashioned bathing suit to ruffled pinafores to jean shorts, overalls, and T-shirts. This book would be a wonderful addition to any library, since it provides young readers with lots of fun and older readers with fond memories of childhood days long past.

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

At the firehouse / story and pictures by Anne Rockwell. LCCN 2002006375. New York : HarperCollins, 2003.

HBB, 0060298154; \$15.99.

E. Fire departments--Fiction; Fire engines--Fiction; Fire fighters--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. : 29 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 5.

In Anne Rockwell's *At the Firehouse*, Jason (who loves fire engines) goes with his family to the local fire station's open house. The fire fighters (one of whom is a high-ranking female) tell them about how they keep their things in order, so as not to waste time finding them in an emergency. They demonstrate sliding down the fire pole and extending the ladder, show the visitors around the station, describe the clothing they wear and why it is made the way it is, and serve lemonade and cookies. They also let Jason and his sister take turns sitting in the driver's seat of the fire truck.

When Jason goes home, he wants to play with his toy fire engine, but can't find it. Apparently, this reminds him of what the fire fighters told him about a place for everything, for he then organizes his room. When he finishes, he builds a block fire station for his finally unearthed fire truck, and later dreams of fire engines and being a fire fighter.

The book is large-sized (almost 9 x 14) and the cheerful illustrations fill the pages in clear, bright colors. There is a two-page spread of the fire truck towards the middle of the book, with its various parts labeled and explained. Further on, there is another two-page spread of the truck as it deploys the extension ladder. All the characters in the book are Dalmatians that walk upright and are dressed in human clothing, which is a cute touch. This title would make a good addition to any collection used by small children who love fire engines and are interested in fire fighters, especially when such children go on field trips to their own local fire houses.

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

Little Whistle's Christmas / Cynthia Rylant ; illustrated by Tim Bowers. LCCN 2002012211. San Diego : Harcourt, 2003.

HBB, 0152045902; \$16.00.

E. Toys--Fiction; Guinea pigs--Fiction; Santa Claus--Fiction; Christmas--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. : 23 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : Recommended with caution.

Little Whistle is a hamster who lives in a toy store. At night the toys come to life and Little Whistle enjoys visiting with them. It is Christmas time. The toys wonder "Who is Santa?" They think that Santa made them, but are not sure. They write a letter to Santa asking if he made them. A box arrives with a note "from Santa who made you." The box contains a gift for each toy. There is no gift in the box for Little Whistle, but he takes joy from his friends' good fortune. When he returns to his cage he finds a beautiful blanket.

The oil painting illustrations by Tim Bowers are realistic except for the anthropomorphized Little Whistle who walks upright and wears a pea coat. The illustrations are colorful and will keep the attention of young children.

Little Whistle's Christmas by Cynthia Rylant is a pleasant holiday tale. Little Whistle is an endearing character who exhibits unselfishness. However, the similarity between Santa and God may cause confusion. Santa is portrayed as the creator who gives gifts to his creations. Little Whistle knows that he was not made by Santa, but thinks that he was made by his mother. Had God been credited as creator of Little Whistle, then the relationship between the toys and Santa could have provided a metaphor for the relationship of mankind and God. Considering the traditional tension between commercial and religious aspects of Christmas this kind of connection could be problematic.

Karla Castle, M.L. *Public Services Librarian, Warner Pacific College, Portland, Oregon.*

Grandfather's journey / written and illustrated by Allen Say. LCCN 93018836. Boston : Houghton Mifflin/Walter Lorraine Books, 1993.

HBB, 0395570352; \$16.95.

E. Grandfathers--Fiction; Voyages and travels--Fiction; Homesickness--Fiction; Japanese Americans--Fiction; Japan--Fiction; United States--Description and travel--Fiction; Caldecott Medal. 32 p. : col. ill. : 30 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 5.

Allen Say, the Japanese-American author/illustrator who wrote and illustrated *Grandfather's Journey*, was awarded the Caldecott Medal for it in 1994. In it, Say tells the story of his grandfather, who was born in Japan, but moved to the United States as a young man. He returned to find and marry his Japanese sweetheart and they then returned to the US, where they had a daughter. When she

was almost grown, he got so homesick for Japan that they all moved back again.

The daughter then married and had a son (Say himself), whose favorite activity was listening to his grandfather's stories about California. Although WW II prevented his grandfather's return to the US for a visit, Say came for a visit and ended up staying, marrying, and having a daughter of his own. Homesickness for Japan makes him return there from time to time, though, and in the end, he says, "The funny thing is, the moment I am in one country, I am homesick for the other. I think I know my grandfather now. I miss him very much."

The book itself is large, with soft, gentle watercolor illustrations of Say's family and the landscapes of his childhood and adulthood, as well as the gentle but inexorable aging of the people in the story. The words are as sparse and well-arranged as an oriental flower arrangement; read aloud, they flow like a waterfall.

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

Christmas at Mud Flat / James Stevenson. LCCN 99025064. New York : Harper/Greenwillow, 2000.

HBB, 0688173012; \$15.95.

E. Animals--Fiction; Christmas--Fiction. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 5.

James Stevenson's pen-and-ink drawings in *Christian at Mud Flat*, brightly colored with slapdash watercolors, always make me smile (and sometimes, even laugh out loud). The pictures of the animals are a treat for the eye, and the cheerful stories about their preparation for Christmas and their hunt for the perfect Santa are told just as charmingly as the stories in Stevenson's other Mud Flat books.

The chapters are very short—most are only three to four pages long—and the humor is whimsical, not wild, making this a perfect read-aloud for those antsy days before Christmas. The real reason for the season isn't mentioned, but this charming book is still worth a bit of space in a collection that can make room for it among Christmas story books that are more serious in tone.

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

The Polar Express / written and illustrated by Chris Van Allsburg. LCCN 85010907. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1985.

HBB, 0395389496; \$18.95.

E. Santa Claus--Fiction; Christmas--Fiction; North Pole--Fiction; Caldecott Medal. [32] p. : col. ill. ; 24 x 30 cm.

Grades 1-4. Rating : 5.

The Polar Express has become a Christmas children's classic in the almost twenty years since it was written. Author and illustrator Chris Van Allsburg creates a beautiful story of childhood fantasy along with illustrations that lend an air of mystery.

On a long ago Christmas Eve, a young boy listens for the bells of Santa Claus, bells his scoffing friend tells him he will never hear because there is no Santa! Late that night, instead of ringing, our friend hears the hissing steam and squeaking metal of a train in front of his house. Off he goes on an adventure to the North Pole and a gathering in the center of the city where Santa himself will give the first gift of Christmas. When chosen for this honor, the young boy asks for one silver bell from Santa's sleigh. The bell disappears for a short time on the way home but on Christmas morning is part of his share of gifts. Unfortunately, his parents cannot hear the ring and over the years, it becomes silent even to his sister and other friends but always it rings for the hero of our story because he truly believes.

A wonderful tale of Christmas, the wonder of children, and belief in the spirit of Santa Claus. *The Polar Express* is the 1986 Caldecott Medal winner.

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

The gigantic little hero : a story about perseverance / written and illustrated by Matt Whitlock. LCCN 2004300956. Colorado Springs : Faith Kids, 2001.

HBB, 078143517X; \$12.99.

E. Perseverance--Fiction; Ants--Fiction. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 3.

Each year the forest bugs hold a festival to celebrate harvest. And each one is expected to contribute his fair share. In *The Gigantic Little Hero : A Story of Perseverance* by Matt Whitlock, the story follows the struggles of "a little ant runt" who lacks confidence to even try to bring anything to the table. Community members offer to help the ant, and then they disappear, mid-task, to join a more interesting endeavor. Ant is left to complete the job, not knowing that he actually has finished it alone. At the feast, Ant finds that he did have the strength to accomplish what he set out to do.

Whitlock uses the familiar strategy of first one supporting character then another entering and exiting the stage of activity. The hero struggles on, working at the edge of his ability. This meets the definition of perseverance. But the fable takes on a dimension not hinted at in the text when one reads the Guide for the Parent. There we learn that the scriptural basis for the narrative is Philippians 4:13. This is new material, not woven into the story-line.

Whitlock's cartoon critters add the right touch of energy to this simply told tale. The imaginative details fill out the story.

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

Puffer's surprise / by Barbara Gaines Winkelman ; illustrated by Steven James Petruccio. (Smithsonian oceanic collection.) LCCN 2002042839. Norwalk, Conn. : Soundprints, 2003.

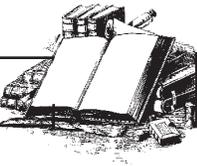
HBB, 1592490328; \$15.95.

E. Bullseye puffer--Juvenile literature; Animal defenses--Juvenile literature; Bullseye puffer; Animal defenses; Fishes. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 31 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

Puffer's Surprise, written by Barbara Gaines Winkelman, is an enjoyable read from the Smithsonian's Oceanic series. As Puffer swims and munches on spiny sea urchins, the food files his teeth. Besides the day by day searching for food, the puffer fish must find safety at night underneath the coral and in the day by changing shape. This defense mechanism is exciting as he expands in size extending out porcupine-like quills to ward off any predators. Illustrations of the underwater Galapagos Islands coral reefs are exquisite. The last page of the book provides a Puffer fact summary, brief glossary of terms, and an index to the points of interest in the book.

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo, MSN, MLS, Academic Librarian, Beavercreek, Ohio.



Persia's brightest star / [author, Anne Tyra Adams ; illustrator, Dennis Edwards]. (The promised land diaries ; 1.) LCCN 2004297408. Grand Rapids : Baker Books, 2003.

HBB, 0801045185; \$10.99.

Fic. Esther, Queen of Persia--Juvenile fiction; Esther, Queen of Persia--Fiction; Domestic--Juvenile fiction; Diaries--Juvenile fiction; Jews--History--1200-953 B.C.--Fiction; Household employees--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction; Iran--History--To 640--Juvenile fiction; Iran--History--To 640--Fiction. 189 p. : ill., map ; 20 cm.

The laughing princess of the desert : the diary of Sarah's traveling companion / [author, Anne Tyra Adams ; illustrator, Dennis Edwards]. (The promised land diaries ; 2.) LCCN 2004297399. Grand Rapids : Baker Books, 2003.

HBB, 0801045231; \$10.99.

Fic. Sarah (Biblical matriarch)--Juvenile fiction; Abraham (Biblical patriarch)--Juvenile fiction; Sarah (Biblical matriarch)--Fiction; Abraham (Biblical patriarch)--Fiction; Diaries--Juvenile fiction; Jews--History--To 1200 B.C.--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 192 p. : ill., map ; 20 cm.

Priceless jewel at the well : the diary of Rebekah's nursemaid / [Anne Tyra Adams]. (The promised land diaries ; 3.) LCCN 2003063626. Grand Rapids : Baker Books, 2004.

HBB, 0801045231; \$10.99.

Fic. Rebekah (Biblical matriarch)--Juvenile fiction; Rebekah (Biblical matriarch); Jews--History--To 1200 B.C.--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 181 p. ; 19 cm.

The peaceful warrior : the diary of Deborah's armor bearer, Israel 1200 B.C. / [Anne Tyra Adams]. (The promised land diaries ; 4.) LCCN 2003063778. Grand Rapids : Baker Books, 2004.

HBB, 0801045231; \$10.99.

Fic. Deborah (Biblical judge)--Juvenile fiction; Deborah (Biblical judge)--Fiction; Jews--History--1200-953 B.C.--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 171 p. ; 19 cm.

Grades 2-5. Rating : 4.

This new series, The Promised Land Diaries, offers young readers the opportunity to study a fascinating time in history through the eyes of a girl their own age. Set in Old Testament times, each volume has the diary writer interacting with the famous women of Bible times. They are similar to Trailblazer books in terms of the interaction with historical figures, but will appeal to a broader audience because their setting represents a common heritage for many peoples and religions.

Persia's Brightest Star is set in the Persian Empire, 470 BC, and purports to be the diary of Susi, an attendant to Queen Esther. Susi shares a secret with Esther—they are both Jewish.

When the King, under evil influence, signs an order for all Jews to be executed, Esther must risk her life to change the outcome. Susi's role is to support Esther in her courage and her devotion to serving God.

The Laughing Princess of the Desert is about Rhoda, Sarah's traveling companion. Rhoda lives in Canaan in the period 2091-2066 BC. She chronicles the pain of Sarai's and Abram's childlessness, the human fears of their people, and Abram's devotion to God. Her diary ends with the triumph of Isaac's birth.

The Peaceful Warrior is about Persis, Deborah's armor bearer. Living in Israel in 1200 BC, Persis has never been like other girls. Like the great Judge Deborah who rules Israel with the law, Persis is determined and brave. Israel faces a grave threat from the Canaanites, and in assisting Deborah, Persis learns to trust God for His provision of all things.

Alisah is the *Priceless Jewel at the Well*, in Canaan of 1986-1985 BC. Sent to be a nursemaid for Rebekah in order to help provide for her own family, Alisah records the conflicts between Jacob and Esau and their consequences. When she returns home for a visit she has gained a greater appreciation for how obedience to God blesses us all.

If the reader can suspend his disbelief regarding the fact that young girls of that time would have been able to read and write, much less have the resources to keep a diary, these are quite enjoyable reads. Rooted in the NIV Bible, they are biblically correct as to events as recorded, with some license taken allowing for conversations and for the diary writer to have interaction with history. Each of the books has a time-line and information contrasting fact and fiction. Authors Anne Tyra Adams and Dennis Edwards also provide biblical citations so that readers may look up the events for themselves, as recorded in God's Word.

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

Ballet stories / chosen by Harriet Castor ; illustrated by Sally Holmes. LCCN 96034093. Boston : Kingfisher, 1997.

PAP, 0753456745; \$6.95.

Fic. Ballet--Juvenile fiction; Children's stories, English; Children's stories, American; Ballet--Fiction; Short stories. 224 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 5.

Ballet Stories, chosen by Harriet Castor, is a collection of fiction and non-fiction stories that

would make an interesting addition to any library used by dance fans. Not only is the collection itself quite readable, but it's bound to lead to further reading, since more than half of the stories are excerpts from longer books, such as Cynthia Voigt's *Come a Stranger* ("Summer Camp" featuring an African-American girl; Atheneum, 1986), Noel Streatfield's *Ballet Shoes* ("Pauline Learns a Lesson;" J.M. Dent, 1936), and Lynn Seymour's autobiography, *Lynn* ("Pulling Up the Old Socks;" Granada, 1984). Short chapters make this a possible read-aloud source for classroom use, too.

Although many of the stories were written by British authors and include unfamiliar British terms, this doesn't take away from the reading, even when the meaning isn't really clear. Male readers may be intrigued by the stories that feature male dancers, such as "And Olly Did Too", by Jamila Gavin, and "A Proper Little Nooryeff", by Jean Ure. One caveat: the last-mentioned story contains several mild British swear words ("bloody", "flaming") and a couple of comments that vaguely refer to kissing or imply sexual activity.

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

Angel bites the bullet / Judy Delton ; illustrated by Jill Weber. LCCN 00027600. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2000.

HBB, 0618040854; \$15.00.

Fic. Worry--Fiction; Family life--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction. 144 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Angel's mother's baby / Judy Delton ; illustrated by Jill Weber. LCCN 2004266918. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1989.

HBB, 0395509262; \$16.00.

Fic. Babies--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Remarriage--Fiction; Family life--Fiction. 128 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : 5.

Worrywart Angel worries about everything in her life. In *Angel's Mother's Baby*, Angel worries about the effect a new baby will have on her "almost-perfect" family. With a mother, a little brother named Rags, and a new stepfather, Angel likes her life just the way it is. When Angel first learns of her mother's pregnancy, she doesn't care for the idea of a messy, crying baby in the house. But as preparations for the new baby are made, Angel actually begins to look forward to the baby's arrival.

In *Angel Bites the Bullet*, Angel is once again worrying about various circumstances in her life. When her mother's best friend Alyce burns her apartment building down, she moves into Angel's newly-remodeled room. How will Angel get rid of Alyce and her hairy sheepdog? Will a husband or a job for her do the trick? Secondly, when Angel spies her stepfather out with another woman, does this mean the end of her parents' marriage? Thirdly, will Angel lose her best friend Edna and new friend Fendell when they only pay attention to each other and ignore Angel? Angel once again learns that worrying about things is often unnecessary and that things usually have a way of working out.

Judy Delton has a great understanding of young children which she expresses through her writing. While adults don't always see certain things as being worrisome, young children tend to take changes in their lives much more seriously. Ms. Delton uses her knowledge of this in her series of books about Angel. Each episode has Angel worrying about various things she sees happening in her life that cause concern for her personal happiness and for that of her family. She and her best friend Edna set out trying to fix things themselves, which leads to hilarious adventures sure to have kids laughing out loud.

These two books would be a good purchase for any library, personal or public, especially if you already own some of the other books in the series.

Sherry Myers. Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

Attack! / written by Jeanne Gowen Dennis and Sheila Seifert ; illustration by David Hohn. (Strive to survive.) LCCN 2003004827. Colorado Springs : Faith Kidz, 2003.

PAP, 0781438942; \$4.99.

Fic. Singers--Fiction; Shepherds--Fiction; Jews--History--953-586 B.C.--Fiction; Plot-your-own-stories. 96 p. : 21 cm.

Escape! / written by Jeanne Gowen Dennis and Sheila Seifert ; illustration by David Hohn. (Strive to survive.) LCCN 2003004830. Colorado Springs : Faith Kidz, 2003.

PAP, 0781438950; \$4.99.

Fic. Christianity--History--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Jerusalem--History--Fiction; Plot-your-own-stories. 96 p. : 21 cm.

Deadly expedition / written by Jeanne Gowen Dennis and Sheila Seifert ; illustration by David Hohn. (Strive to survive.) LCCN 2003004828. Colorado Springs : Faith Kidz, 2003.

PAP, 0781438985; \$4.99.

Fic. Exodus, The--Fiction; Jews--History--To 1200 B.C.--Fiction; Plot-your-own-stories. 96 p. : 21 cm.

Trapped! / written by Jeanne Gowen Dennis and Sheila Seifert ; illustration by David Hohn. (Strive to survive.) LCCN 2003004829. Colorado Springs : Faith Kidz, 2003.

PAP, 0781438977; \$4.99.

Fic. Spies--Fiction; Rahab (Biblical figure)--Fiction; Jews--History--To 1200 B.C.--Fiction; Jericho--History--Siege, ca. 1400 B.C.--Fiction; Plot-your-own-stories. 95 p. : 21 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 3.

"Choose your own adventure" books are less popular than they once were, but they still hold appeal for some readers, and this series by Jeanne Gowen Dennis and Sheila Seifert has the added appeal of being based in Bible times. Each book begins with this statement—"Your goal is to choose well and survive. Your adventure begins now"—and ends with a page of information about the spiritual building block represented by that book's choice.

Attack! puts a young boy in the position of first having to choose between guarding his family sheep and retrieving a valued object stolen by a bully, and then having to decide what to do when a huge foreign army is spotted in the distance during the process. The building block represented is obedience.

Escape! puts a young Christian on the scene when Stephen is dragged off to be stoned. After also overhearing plans for a raid his friend's home, he must decide whether to go warn his family of danger or to help his friend's family. The building block in this book is courage.

Deadly Expedition puts the reader in the position of deciding whether or not the Hebrews ever enter the Promised Land, and it represents the building block of faith.

Trapped! makes the reader a member of Rahab's family, who has the power to determine whether or not this family will be saved from its enemies. The building block here is worship.

Each book offers a number of choices and can be read again and again, with different choices made each time. Some choices will end well. Others will end badly. It's up to the reader to figure out which are which. This series would make a fun addition to a library used by reluctant readers.

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

Gone-Away Lake / Elizabeth Enright ; illustrated by Beth and Joe Krush. LCCN 99055281. San Diego : Harcourt, 2000, 1957.

HBB, 0152022740; \$17.00.

Fic. Cousins--Fiction; Lakes--Fiction; Vacations--Fiction; Newbery Honor book. 256 p. : ill. : 20 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 5.

Elizabeth Enright, author of 1939 Newbery winner *Thimble Summer* (Holt, 1938), scored

once again with this enchanting tale of how the older generation can interact with the younger generation. Two cousins, Portia and Julian, are ready for a summer of discovery, and they find it at Gone-Away Lake. Once the exclusive summer playground of a number of well-to-do families, the lake began to die with the building of a dam nearby. By the time the two cousins stumble upon it, the lake has become a swamp, and the only inhabitants living in the crumbling summer mansions are an ancient but loveable brother and sister.

The characters of Minnehaha and Pindar, the eccentric brother and sister who live at Gone-Away Lake, are so richly developed and good-natured, that the reader wishes more than anything to step into the book and spend time with these wonderful characters. The lake itself is an important character, too, gradually revealing its delightful treasures and sometimes dangerous secrets to the children.

Every page of Enright's story is filled with wonderfully rich, descriptive language. There are references to things a modern student may not understand: button hook, for example, or Tar-baby, or a Franklin automobile, or taking Latin in school. As for objectionable references, there are only a couple; one to the "witchful look" of a house, and another when one of the main characters is described as looking witchlike as she describes poisonous plants found in the swamp.

In spite of these minor problems, readers will find themselves thoroughly enchanted by *Gone-Away Lake*, a 1959 Newbery Honor book. I would highly recommend it. *Return to Gone-Away* (Harcourt/Odyssey, 2000) is the sequel.

Melissa A. Merrifield, MLS. Librarian, Shiloh Christian School, Springdale, Arkansas.

The middle Moffat / Eleanor Estes ; illustrated by Louis Slobodkin. (The Moffats.) LCCN 37030. San Diego : Harcourt, 2001.

HBB, 0152025235; \$17.00.

Fic. Family life--Connecticut--Fiction; Moving, Household--Fiction; Connecticut--Fiction; Newbery Honor. 234 p. : ill. : 19 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

It is just too boring to be known simply as Jane Moffat, so Janey decides to become the "Middle Moffat." Between being best friends with Nancy, watching over the oldest resident in town (who is ninety-nine), and helping the girls' team to win the basketball championship, being in the middle takes a lot of effort.

Each chapter offers a short vignette of life in the early twentieth century, as seen through the eyes of a ten-year-old. *The Middle Moffat*, by Eleanor Estes, takes us to a simpler time and place. The sketches remind the reader of those in Miss Read books, and the stories themselves are reminiscent of Miss Read, only set in

Cranbury, Connecticut, rather than an English village.

Sweet, endearing, and very touching, *The Middle Moffat* has the distinction of being a Newbery Honor Book. Parents reading this to their youngsters will love the stories. Hopefully the children of today will find them as enchanting.

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

Truly Winnie / by Jennifer Richard Jacobson ; illustrated by Alissa Imre Geis. LCCN 2004296840. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2003.

HBB, 0618280081; \$15.00.

Fic. Friendship--Fiction; Camps--Fiction. 105 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 4.

Winifred Fletcher, Winnie for short, is a young motherless girl who is on her way to summer camp with her two best friends. Upon her arrival, she finds she is assigned to a different tent from Zoe and Vanessa. Winnie soon finds a new friend in Roxie, an adventurous girl who is afraid of nothing. Winnie feels torn between spending time with her exciting new friend and her two best buddies from home. Wanting to fit in at camp, and feeling somewhat unsure of herself, Winnie tells a fib that she snowballs into a big mess. Will Winnie have the courage to be honest and admit she lied?

Truly Winnie is a perfect chapter book to give eight to eleven-year-old girls on their way to summer camp to read during free time. Winnie is a delightful, real-to-life character many young girls will be able to relate to. She struggles with being her own self while at the same time trying to fit in, which is handled well by author Jennifer Richard Jacobson. Black and white line drawings are added to help the child visualize what is being read. This book would be a welcome surprise in each little girl's suitcase packed for summer camp.

Sherrí Myers. Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

Mandie and the hidden past / Lois Gladys Leppard. (A Mandie book ; 38.) LCCN 2004719315. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003.

PAR, 076422641X; \$4.99.

Fic. Secrets--Juvenile fiction; Adventure stories. 157 p. : 18 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 2.

Mandie and the Hidden Past is a tiresome book, lacking plot and with very little character development. Mandie is a late teen now, soon heading for college, yet with the stubborn attitude of a small child who wants her way and is determined to get it.

She is eager to inspect the crack in the wall of the tunnel below the house. Everyone is trying

to keep her away from it due to the danger that could be present. She is convinced there is an intriguing mystery associated with that crack and sets out to discover what that mystery might be. When the mystery is uncovered, it is mundane and anticlimactic.

This book, by Lois Gladys Leppard, is published by Bethany House, which implies that the book is of a 'Christian' nature, but throughout the entire 157 pages, the only hint of anything spiritual is one mention of a Bible verse quite close to the end of the book.

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

Punchinello and the most marvelous gift / Max Lucado ; illustrations by Sergio Martinez. (Tales of Wemmicksville ; 5.) LCCN 2003009252. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 2004.

HBB, 1581345461; \$15.99.

Fic. Competition (Psychology)--Fiction; Gifts--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

Holiday spirit fills the air in Wemmicksville as all the little wooden Wemmicks get ready for Maker-Day! As workers put up the town Maker-Day tree, shop owners decorate their windows in red and green. Punchinello wants to do something really big to show his love for the woodcarver Eli, the Wemmick-maker.

Hans, the baker, prepares a seven-layer cake; Violet, the florist, builds a bouquet taller than her entire shop. Punch's friend, Lucia, is on her way to rehearse her voice solo, accompanied by Dr. Marvel on his Marvellaphony-organoni—a huge contraption made out of many different musical instruments. On the big day, the music professor and Lucia ask Punch to help with controls on the Marvellaphony-organoni. He inadvertently bumps the wrong lever, with disastrous results. A few Wemmicks begin to play the individual instruments, so Punch suggests that they all sing his simple song to Eli. The woodcarver and his Wemmicks applaud as Eli thanks them for a "most marvelous gift."

Punchinello and the Most Marvelous Gift is the fifth in a series of Wemmicks books written by Max Lucado and illustrated by Sergio Martinez. A key element in the humor of this latest book is Dr. Marvel's many rhyming mispronunciations of Punchinello's name. This time Lucado demonstrates that cooperation is better than competition to outdo each other in special gifts to Eli. Self-acceptance comes because the Maker loves His people and having fellowship with them.

The full-color illustrations by Martinez retain the style and flavor of the earlier books. *Punchinello and the Most Marvelous Gift* is another enjoyable sequel to the best selling *You Are Special* [CLJ 3, (4/5):13, 1998], followed by *You Are Mine* [CLJ 7, (2/3):29, 2002], *If Only I*

Had a Green Nose [CLJ 8, (2):19, 2003] and *Best of All* [CLJ 8, (5):13, 2003]. Recommended for all home, church, school, and public libraries.

Donna W. Bowling, PhD. Library/Educational Consultant; Cataloger, Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics, Dallas, Texas.

Casting the gods adrift : a tale of ancient Egypt / Geraldine McCaughrean ; illustrated by Patricia D. Ludlow. LCCN 2003001252. Chicago : Carus/Cricket Books, 2002.

HBB, 0812626842; \$15.95.

Fic. Akhenaten, King of Egypt--Juvenile fiction; Nefertiti, Queen of Egypt, 14th cent. B.C.--Juvenile fiction; Akhenaten, King of Egypt--Fiction; Nefertiti, Queen of Egypt, 14th cent. B.C.--Fiction; Kings, queens, rulers, etc.--Fiction.; Fathers and sons--Fiction--Religion--Fiction; Egypt--Civilization--To 332 B.C.--Fiction. 103 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 3.

Tutmose is the eldest son of Harkhuf, who becomes the animal collector for Akhenaten, pharaoh of Egypt. Tutmose has artistic talents and is given the opportunity to learn sculpture. His younger brother, Ibrim, is blind, but has musical talent and becomes a favored musician of the royal family.

Akenaten is an unusual pharaoh. He has declared that there is only one god, Aten, the sun god; this is a clear contradiction of Egyptian culture, which has a panoply of gods. The systematic replacement of temples to the "old" gods with temples to Aten creates opposition to the pharaoh. Harkhuf himself decides to assassinate this apostate pharaoh. Tutmose, feeling loyalty to Aten, Akenaten, and the royal family, foils the assassination plot.

The illustrations are black and white drawings that clearly communicate action and emotion.

In *Casting the Gods Adrift*, Geraldine McCaughrean has provided us with a well written look into a unique time in Egyptian history. Christians usually view Egyptians as the oppressive slave masters of Exodus. This novel gives us a chance to view Egyptian culture in a different way. A glossary of Egyptian names and terms and a further reading list are included.

Karla Castle, M.L. Public Services Librarian, Warner Pacific College, Portland, Oregon.

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Missing May / by Cynthia Rylant. LCCN 91023303. New York : Scholastic/Orchard, 1992.

HBB, 0531059960; \$14.95.

Fic. Death--Fiction; Grief--Fiction; Aunts--Fiction; West Virginia--Fiction; Newbery Medal. 89 p. : 22 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

Grief seldom takes a straight path. And the way to honor the memory of the one well-loved isn't

always apparent. So discover Cletus Underwood, Summer, and Ob in Cynthia Rylant's Newbery Medal winner *Missing May*.

Aunt May and Uncle Ob, both in their sunset years, take six-year-old orphan Summer into their hearts and modest home. For six years, they live the idyllic life of people whose emotional needs are met in each other. And then, May dies. Cletus, Summer's classmate, joins Ob and the young girl in finding a way to go on living without May, who was always the stabilizer in the family. Could Miriam B. Young, Small Medium-at-Large hold the key?

The story is told in first person from the viewpoint of a twelve-year-old girl who has lost two mothers. The lifestyle of the poor retired country folk is lovingly depicted. Rylant paints the picture honestly, without a hint of criticism. You can feel the heartbeat of the characters. The dialect and vocabulary both tell that the people are not well-educated, but they don't lack in the ability to express their thoughts. The old junk car in the yard serves a purpose. Even the barren garden where daffodils will soon bloom becomes part of the dissolving of the anguish. The conclusion of *Missing May* comes with a satisfactory affirmation. May will always be with those she loved.

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

I wonder as I wander / written by Gwennyth Swain ; illustrated by Ron Himler. LCCN 2002151769. Grand Rapids : Wm. B. Eerdmans/Eerdmans' Books for Young Readers, 2003.

HBB, 0802852149; \$16.00.

Fic. Composers--Fiction.; Clergy--Fiction.; Folk songs--Appalachian Region--Texts.; Appalachian Region--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades K-5. Rating : *5.

I Wonder as I Wander by Gwennyth Swain is an extraordinary book. It is written in the style of an autobiography by Anna, the central character. You can almost hear her soft Southern drawl. Mama died in the spring when her "spring pretties" were in bloom. Papa misses her so much that they take to the road. Papa is a preacher, and it's the Depression, so there's always work to do. Papa speaks to hitch-hikers and people in the soup kitchen lines; he and Anna, whom he nicknames "Onery," talk about Jesus, His divinity, His humanity. The singing of "I Wonder as I Wander" dovetails perfectly into John Jacob Niles' account of first hearing this haunting song.

Not all fiction based on history meets the standard set by Gwennyth Swain. It is her attention to detail in crafting this story that wins the reader. She wanders back and forth between the grieving for a mother too soon taken and the equally harsh reality of the transient life. The characterizations of the father and daughter are

well-defined and plausible. Written from a Christian point-of-view, *I Wonder as I Wander* leaves the reader with the assurance of Hope.

The watercolor and pencil on paper illustrations of Ronald Hunter are as entrancing as the story. The depiction of life in the 1930's gives additional insight into clothing, transportation, community. Of particular interest is the double-spread layout of the soup kitchen.

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

Jumanji / written and illustrated by Chris Van Allsburg. LCCN 80029632. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1981.

HBB, 0395304482; \$18.95.

Fic. Play--Fiction; Games--Fictio; Caldecott Medal. [31] p. : ill. ; 26 x 29 cm.

Grades 1-5. Rating : 4, with reservations.

Chris Van Allsburg's artwork in *Jumanji* won the Caldecott Medal in 1982. Peter and Judy find a game called Jumanji in a local park. When their parents go out, the children decide to play the game. Jumanji is no ordinary game. Judy reads all the directions before beginning to play, one of which says "D. Very important: once a game of Jumanji is started it will not be over until one player reaches the golden city." As Judy and Peter work their way around the game board new dangers arrive: monkeys, a monsoon, a lost guide, and they realize why they must finish the game. When finished they return the game to the park, and later notice the two Budwing brothers, who never read directions, picking up the game box. The artwork is detailed black and white drawings.

Chris Van Allsburg is a master of the surreal in both his artwork and storyline. He frequently adds a twist to the storyline. Here he hints at another game adventure with the Budwing brothers, which materializes in *Zathura* (Houghton Mifflin, 2002) twenty years after *Jumanji*. Van Allsburg's detailed illustrations are a grainy black and gray which almost appear three dimensional, perhaps reflecting Van Allsburg's skill as a sculptor. He employs a variety of perspectives: from the ground, the ceiling, and from the back. The assortment of hazards is depicted slithering across a mantle, climbing under a bed, and sitting on a table. There is so much action in the drawings that color is almost subconsciously added to the pictures. The lion was tawny tan, the guide in forest ranger green, the monkeys reddish brown in my mind's eye. Children have connected with this title from the beginning. The film a few years ago, made the book even more popular. As an adult, I have always felt a bit uneasy about the book. That gameboard seemed too much like an ouija board for my comfort level. However, *Jumanji* is a compelling example of surreal art and story and worthy of being studied.

Marion M. Mueller, MS. Library Media Specialist, New Hope Christian School, Neenah, Wisconsin.

LEARNING NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE

THROUGH MYTHS AND LEGENDS

by Jane Mouttet

Legends and myths of the various Native American cultures started as part of the oral tradition of the tribes, passed down from generation to generation by storytellers. In recent years, authors have written these

stories down for the benefit of people's learning and enjoyment. One way for non-natives to learn about Native American cultures is to read these stories, which in many cases teach about the religion or culture of the tribe.

Anasazi legends : songs of the wind dancer / Lou Cuevas. LCCN 99087981. Happy Camp, Calif. : Naturegraph Publishers, 2000.

PAP, 0879612568, \$12.95.

398.2/089/972. Apache Indians--Folklore; Apache mythology; Legends--New Mexico. 206 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 4.

Author Lou Cuevas is Apache; he learned these stories from his Apache medicine man grandfather. Whether these are Anasazi legends or ancient Apache legends is hard to determine. The cover claims the stories are more than 500 years old, yet the stories repeatedly refer to the Ndee (Apache) people. In either case the stories are legends and are enjoyable to read. There are ten legends included in the book. Each legend begins with a black-line drawing.

Bones in the basket : native stories of the origin of people / C.J. Taylor. C979327660. Toronto : Tundra Books, 1998, 1994.

HBB, 0887763278, \$17.99.

398.2/09707/08997. Indians of North America--Folklore; Creation--Folklore; Legends--North America. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 2-4. Rating : 5.

C. J. Taylor, a Mohawk artist, retells Native American origin stories in *Bones in the Basket*. Tribes included are Zuni, Mandan, Cree, Chuckchee, Osage, Mohawk, and Modoc. The stories in this book would be good ones to compare to the Biblical creation story, as there are many similarities. The brightly colored

illustrations have a definite Native American feel to them. The book ends with brief information on each of the represented tribes.

Buffalo dreams / [written and illustrated by] Kim Doner. LCCN 99022577. Portland : Graphic Arts Center Publishing Company/WestWinds Press, 1999.

HBB, 1558684751, \$16.95.

Fic. Indians of North America--Juvenile fiction; Indians of North America--Fiction; Bison--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 22 x 28 cm.

Grades 2-4. Rating : 4.

Author-illustrator Kim Doner was inspired to write this story by the 1994 birth of a white buffalo calf and the pilgrimages of many Native Americans to the site. Sarah and her family make a visit to the white buffalo calf. Sarah has been working on embellishing the dreamcatcher she received at birth to keep the evil spirits from giving her bad dreams. After a nighttime encounter with the white buffalo calf and its mother, she decides to leave her dreamcatcher as her gift to the calf. The book ends with a retelling of the story "The Legend of White Buffalo Calf Woman" and directions for making a dreamcatcher. Realistic paintings illustrate the book.

Coyote & : Native American folk tales / retold by Joe Hayes ; illustrations by Lucy Jelinek-Thompson. LCCN 83190710. Santa Fe : Mariposa Publishing, 1983.

PAP, 933533013, \$11.95.

398.2/452974442. Indians of North America--Folklore; Coyote (Legendary character)--Legends; Indians of North America--Folklore; Coyote (Legendary character)--Legends. 77 p., [1] leaf of plates : ill. ; 15 x 21 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : 4.

Joe Hayes is a storyteller in the Southwest. He has written these Coyote tales so that they can be read aloud, much like the oral tradition in which they were created. Coyote, often referred to as a trickster, is either trying to fool others or being tricked himself. The drawings of Lucy Jelinek are done in brown ink. They illustrate portions of the text, but much of the story is left to the imagination of the reader.

The eye of the needle / retold and illustrated by Teri Sloat. LCCN 89049476. New York : Graphic Arts Center Publishing Company/Alaska Northwest Books, 1990.

PAP, 0882405357, \$8.95.

398.2/089971 or E. Yupik Eskimos--Folklore; Eskimos--Alaska--Folklore; Alaska--Folklore. [32] p. : col. ill. ; 23 x 28 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 4.

Teri Sloat has retold this Yupik tale she heard from Yupik elder Betty Huffmon. It tells the story of a boy who goes out for some food when the fish arrive after a long winter. The boy is so hungry he eats everything he catches, forgetting to take some back to his grandmother. When he returns home he is too large to fit through the door. Grandmother uses her magic needle to get the food out of him and feed the village with it.

The colored illustrations complement the text well.

The flute player : an Apache folktale / retold and illustrated by Michael Lacapa. LCCN 89063749. Flagstaff, Ariz. : Northland/Rising Moon, 1990.

PAP, 0873586271, \$7.95.

398.2/089972. Apache Indians--Folklore. [46] p. : col. ill. ; 23 x 28 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 4.

Mr. Lacapa does a wonderful job of retelling the Apache folktale of *The Flute Player*. Two young people from different communities meet at a dance. The young man is a flute player. When they return to their communities, he plays his flute and she sends a leaf down the river to let him know she liked the song. When he goes on a hunt, the girl misses his flute playing and thinks he no longer likes her. She becomes sick and dies. When he finds out she is dead he goes to her grave and plays his flute for her. If you listen on a windy day, you can hear him playing still. The vibrant color illustrations have a Native American feel to them—they are similar to those of Gerald McDermott.

The girl who swam with the fish : an Athabascan legend / retold by Michelle Renner ; illustrated by Christine Cox. LCCN 94013763. Anchorage : Graphic Arts Center Publishing Company/Alaska Northwest Books, 1995.

HBB, 0882405233, \$8.95.

398.2/089972. Athapascan Indians--Folklore; Legends--North America. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 4.

Author Michelle Renner retold this Athabascan story given to her by an Alaskan elder. A young girl waiting for the salmon to return to her village falls into the river and swims with the salmon. She gradually becomes a salmon and learns how the fish want to be treated by those who catch them. When she is big enough to return to the river she jumps out of the river and returns to her people again. She teaches them how the fish want to be treated. The wood cut illustrations of Christine Cox are beautiful.

Grandmother Spider brings the sun : a Cherokee story / by Geri Keams ; illustrated by James Bernardin. LCCN 95002978. Flagstaff, Ariz. : Northland/Rising Moon, 1995.

PAP, 9873586948, \$7.95.

398.2/089975. Cherokee Indians--Folklore; Tales--Southern States; Indians of North America--Folklore; Folklore--United States; Sun--Folklore. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 5.

Navajo Geri Keams has retold the Cherokee story "Grandmother Spider Brings the Sun." The pourquoi story tells how the people on the dark side of the world got the sun. In the story the reader learns why the possum has black rings around his eyes and a skinny tale, why buzzard is bald, and why the Cherokee people fire their pottery. The acrylic and water color illustrations of James Bernardin bring the text to life, making this an excellent read-a-loud.

On the trail made of dawn : Native American creation stories / retold by M.L. Webster. LCCN 2001029841. North Haven, Conn. : Shoestring Press/Linnet Books, 2001.

HBB, 0208024972, \$19.50.

398.2/089/97. Indian mythology--North America--Juvenile literature; Creation--Folklore; Indians of North America--Folklore; Folklore--North America. xv, 69 p. ; 23 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : 5.

Ms. Webster has collected Native American folklore throughout her life. In *On the Trail Made of Dawn* she shares some of that collection. Creation myths from Eskimo, Makah, Cree, Tlingit, Maidu, Navajo, Aztec, Hopi, Seneca, Cherokee, Osage, Shoshone, and Sioux are shared. Each myth is followed by information on the tribe. A list of sources is provided at the end for further research.

The people with five fingers : a native Californian creation tale / retold by John Bierhorst ; illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker. LCCN 99028795. New York : Marshall Cavendish, 2000.

HBB, 0761450580, \$15.95.

398.2/08997. Indians of North America--California--Folklore; Creation--Mythology; Tales--California; Creation--Folklore; Folklore--California. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades K-2. Rating : 4.

Author John Bierhorst, who has worked on many Native American stories, has retold a tale shared by several Californian tribes. The story explains how Coyote and the other animals created the world and the people who live in it. The watercolor illustrations of Robert Parker at times have a bit of an abstract feel to them. They illustrate the text well.

Pueblo Indian wisdom : Native American legends and mythology / by Teresa Pijoan. LCCN 00059516. Santa Fe : Sunstone Press, 2000.

PAP, 0865343195, \$12.95.

398.2/089/974. Pueblo Indians--Folklore; Legends--Southwest, New; Indians of North America--Southwest, New--Folklore; Folklore--Southwest, New. 117 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 9-12 and up. Rating : 4.

Ms. Pijoan, while she is not a Native American, grew up on the San Juan Pueblo and Nambe Reservation. She collected these stories during her growing up years. She expertly weaves the legends together with a story about visits with Grandfather and the widow who tell the stories. Some are supernatural in nature; others are realistic. In her storytelling, Ms. Pijoan shows an understanding of the Pueblo way of life. The stories are an enjoyable read.

Raven : a trickster tale from the Pacific Northwest / told and illustrated by Gerald McDermott. LCCN 91014563. San Diego : Harcourt, 1993.

HBB, 0152656618, \$16.00.

398.2/089970795. Indians of North America--Northwest, Pacific--Folklore; Caldecott Honor Book. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 29 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

Raven is a 1994 Caldecott Honor book. Its vibrant pictures are done in gouache, colored pencils, and pastel. The story is a retelling of a popular myth among the Native American tribes of the Pacific Northwest, telling how Raven wanted to help the people in his world who were without light. Raven wants to help them so he searches until he finds the light. He turns into a pine needle that is drunk by the daughter of the Sky Chief and becomes a boy. In this way he is able to get the light and take it to his people.

Thirteen moons on Turtle's back : a Native American year of moons / by Joseph Bruchac and Jonathan London ; illustrated by Thomas Locker. LCCN 91003961. New York : Penguin/Putnam, 1992.

HBB, 0399221417, \$16.99.

811/.54. Indians of North America--Folklore; Children's poetry, American; Seasons--Juvenile poetry; Indians of North America--Poetry; American poetry--Collections; Seasons--Poetry. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 4.

The turtle has thirteen scales on his back in the same way there are thirteen moons each year. Joseph Bruchac (an Abenaki) and Jonathan London have chosen stories from thirteen different Native American tribes about each of the moons. Each story fills about twenty percent of a two-page spread, with the rest of the spread being taken up with illustration. Thomas Locker's colored illustrations are beautiful.

The way to make perfect mountains : Native American legends of sacred mountains / as told by Byrd Baylor ; illustrations Leonard F. Chana. LCCN 96040531. El Paso, Tex. : Cinco Puntos Press, 1997.

PAP, 0938317261, \$9.95.

398.2/08997. Indians of North America--Folklore;
Indians of North America--Southwest, New--Folklore.
62 p. : ill. ; 26 cm.
Grades 7-9. Rating : 3.

Ms. Baylor has retold some of the mountain myths of the Southwest Indians in poetic, free-verse form. The myths are divided into five chapters: Beginnings; Changes; Protection; Power, Magic, Mystery and Dreams; and The Beings in the Mountains. Dot pictures of Tohono O'odham artist Leonard Chana illustrate the text.

Weather legends : Native American lore and the science of weather / Carole Garbuny Vogel. LCCN 51973. Brookfield, Conn. : Millbrook Press, 2001.

HBB, 076121900X, \$29.89.
398.2/089/97. Indians of North America--Folklore;
Weather--Folklore; Folklore--North America. 80 p. :
ill. (some col.) ; 21 x 26 cm.
Grades 3-5. Rating : 3.

Ms. Vogel was fascinated by the weather as a child. With the help of other books she collected these Native American weather legends from the Chippewa, Papago, Pima, Micmac, Slavey, Acoma, Penobscot, Pueblo, and Lakota Sioux. Each myth is followed by scientific information on the topic of the myth. The myth on the formation of the earth is followed by information on the evolution of the earth over 25 million years. The book is illustrated with photographs of different aspects of weather. The book ends with an index.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

—Compare myths from different tribes to see what similarities and differences there are.

—Do further research on the tribe represented by the myth.

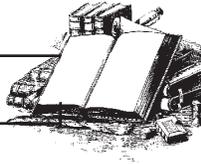
—Have students act out the myth.

—Compare the creation and flood myths to the stories found in the Bible.

—Play the game of Telephone with your class. (Whisper a short story to the first child, have that child whisper it to the next, until all children have heard the story. Have the final child tell the version of the story s/he heard. You then tell your story and compare the two versions.) From this launch into a discussion of how the original creation or flood story could have been changed over repeated tellings. Discuss how many of the creation myths could have had one beginning.

Weather Legends

—Use the legends in this book to supplement a science unit on the weather.



A Christmas journey : from creation to the Savior's birth / Susie Poole. Cincinnati, Ohio : Standard, 2003.

HBB, 0784714614; \$14.99.

232.92. Jesus Christ--Nativity; Christmas; Bible stories--N.T. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades PS-4. Rating : 4.

A Christmas Journey : From Creation to the Savior's Birth is written and illustrated by Susie Poole. The purpose is well stated on the jacket: "Cuddle up by the fireside, light the festive candles, and travel back in time... Experience the unfolding of God's amazing plan..."

Because God first created light, the author reminds us to "...remember the time, long ago, when God sent his Christmas light into the world." Each page highlights an event closer to the birth of Jesus. The crafty snake slithers down a tree trunk. Adam and Eve choose to disobey God and bring sin into the world. The story continues with Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, and wicked King Herod.

Positive features include Susie Poole's numerous and attractive illustrations. The glossary defines words such as creation, Jerusalem, miracle, Savior, and worship. This book does an excellent job of affirming Jesus as a special baby "put in Mary's tummy by God." Mary tells herself that Jesus is "God's gift to the world."

Some scripture interpretations pose problems. After Adam and Eve left the garden, God made them "clothes from animal skins to keep them warm." Further, Mary stayed with Elizabeth until "after John was born." Consider this book. Read it first, however. Be certain your theology meshes well with *A Christmas Journey*.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Church Librarian, Baxter, Kentucky.

Prayer for a child / by Rachel Field ; pictures by Elizabeth Orton Jones. LCCN 2004005259. New York : Simon & Schuster, 1944, 2004.

HBB, 0027351904; \$14.95.

242/.82. Bedtime prayers; Children--Prayer-books and devotions--English; Caldecott Medal. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

Prayer for a Child won the Caldecott Medal in 1945, and has recently been reissued in a diamond anniversary hardcover edition. Initially, Rachel Field wrote the book for her own daughter. The entire prayer appears on the first page, and then the following pages feature an individual line from the prayer. Elizabeth

Orton Jones rendered the illustrations to match each line. The prayer's content asks that childlike interests be blessed: milk and bread, bed, safe sleep, toys, shoes, chairs, lamplight, friends and family, other children, peace and health. Pages alternate full color with yellow, white, and black. On the opposing pages to the illustrations are single lines of text beginning with an illuminated letter entwined with an angel.

This is a title that belongs in each Christian home with young children, for the book introduces the concept of prayer and is a simple sample bedtime prayer for a young child. Elizabeth Orton Jones's illustrations match the text perfectly. The style of the illustrations is reminiscent of Berta Hummel's work. The settings for the illustrations appear to come directly from the film *It's a Wonderful Life* (Radio Pictures, 1946). They have an old world precious innocent look. On one page the labels on a canister set are non-English. The angels on each text page look like the little wooden German angels available in markets at Christmastime. Text and illustration move from a private book for Field's daughter to one of universal appeal with the line: "Bless other children, far and near..." The accompanying illustration shows sweet smiling children of many colors, races, and ethnic groups. Would this title win the Caldecott Medal today? Probably not, for our world is far too secular, far too multi-cultural, far too politically correct. Does the book still meet the criteria for a Caldecott book? Absolutely. The illustrations match the text; they enhance the book; they're well executed and original.

Marion M. Mueller, MS. Library Media Specialist, New Hope Christian School, Neenah, Wisconsin.

Celebrations make & do / by Gillian Chapman. (Make & do.) St. Louis, Mo. : Concordia, 2004.

PAP, 0758605854; \$7.99.

268. Bible crafts. 32 p. : ill. ; 12 cm.

Grades 1-6. Rating : 4.

Offered in *Celebrations Make & Do* is a wealth of ideas to use with children at home or in the classroom. Discover the background of the Christian festivals of Advent, Epiphany, Candlemas, Lent, Easter, Ascension Day, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Thanksgiving, and All Saints' Day from the Old and New Testaments. Activities explore how the festivals were celebrated in the past and how they are celebrated today.

Crafts ideas vary from the simple to the more challenging. Each one is designed to be made with inexpensive supplies using recycled materials where possible. Each project spread features a lively retelling of the Bible story, a list of materials needed, step-by-step instructions, and a photograph of how the finished article may look.

School and public libraries can make available for ready teacher and parent use. The illustrated format enables novice teachers and grandparents to get started quickly, and more experienced craft teachers an outline to proceed efficiently.

Leroy Hommerding, MSL/PhD. Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers.

William Booth : soup, soap, and salvation / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Christian heroes : then & now.) Lynnwood, Wash. : YWAM Publishing, 2002.

PAP, 1576582582; \$8.99.

287.9/6/0922 or B. Booth, William, 1829-1912 -- Juvenile literature; Salvation Army--England--Biography --Juvenile literature. 203 p. : maps ; 21 cm.

Rowland Bingham : into Africa's interior / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Christian heroes : then & now.) LCCN 2002154360. Lynnwood, Wash. : YWAM Publishing, 2003.

PAP, 1576582825; \$8.99.

266/.0092 or B. Bingham, Rowland V., 1872-1942 -- Juvenile literature; Sudan Interior Mission--Biography--Juvenile literature; Missionaries--Sudan (Region)--Biography--Juvenile literature; Missionaries--Canada--Biography--Juvenile literature. 183 p. : maps ; 21 cm.

Lottie Moon : giving her all to China / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Christian heroes : then & now.) Lynnwood, Wash. : YWAM Publishing, 2001.

PAP, 1576581888; \$8.99.

266/.61/092 or B. Moon, Lottie, 1840-1912 --Juvenile literature; Missionaries--China--Biography --Juvenile literature; Missionaries--United States--Biography -- Juvenile literature. 205 p. : maps ; 21 cm.

Lottie Moon : unit study curriculum guide / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Christian heroes : then & now.) Lynnwood, Wash. : YWAM Publishing, 2001.

PAP, 1576582094; \$8.99.

266/.61/092 or B. Moon, Lottie, 1840-1912; Missionaries--China--Biography; Missionaries--United States--Biography. 63 p. : ill., map ; 21 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

The Christian Heroes: Then & Now series by Janet & Geoff Benge is in the same format as their Heroes of History series. Alternating between dialogue and known facts, the Benges

pack as many facts as possible into a mostly-readable format for grades four through six. The stiffness in the text of these books could be mitigated by frequent illustrations, but there are none. These are slightly preferred over the History series simply because the Benges profile many Christian heroes that the mainstream publishers overlook. Each book closes with a half page bibliography pointing a student to other resources.

The Lottie Moon curriculum guide is well thought out and comprehensive. The section on Chapter Questions will enable a teacher to use the book more effectively with students. The ideas in Exploring Further are creative and could bring Lottie Moon's sacrifice and ministry to life for young students. An extensive bibliography and resource section provides a teacher everything needed to fully present a study on this most interesting of missionaries.

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

Harvesting hope : the story of Cesar Chavez / Kathleen Krull ; illustrated by Yuyi Morales. LCCN 2002005096. San Diego : Harcourt, 2003.

HBB, 0152014373; \$17.00.

331.88/13/092 or B. Chavez, Cesar, 1927--Juvenile literature; Chavez, Cesar, 1927--United Farm Workers--History--Juvenile literature; United Farm Workers; Mexican Americans--Biography--Juvenile literature; Labor leaders--United States--Biography--Juvenile literature; Labor leaders; Migrant labor. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 29 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : 5.

Harvesting Hope is the inspiring story of Cesar Chavez, one of America's civil rights leaders. It begins when Cesar is a young boy and each night seems like a fiesta to him. His family owns eighty acres of land and life is good. In 1937 when Cesar is ten, that life drastically changes and the Chavez family joins hundreds of thousands of people fleeing the valleys of California to find work.

As the years passed and the plight of farm workers worsened, Cesar Chavez began his lifelong fight for the improvement of working conditions of migrant and farm workers. This fight was a nonviolent one, influenced by his mother's teachings as well as that of his heroes, Saint Francis of Assisi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Mahatma Gandhi.

The part of his life told in *Harvesting Hope* concludes with the walk of farm laborers to Sacramento, California, the longest protest march ever in the United States, and the signing of the first contract of farm workers in American history.

Beautifully illustrated, *Harvesting Hope* is also available in the same format in Spanish and concludes with several pages of author's notes giving more detail on this part of Chavez' life as well as additional information. Written as a

biography for early elementary school readers, the book was given the Pura Belpre Honor Book award and should have a place on the shelves of all public and school libraries.

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

Police officers / Paulette Bourgeois ; Kim LaFave. (Kids Can read.) Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 1553377427; \$14.95.

363.2. Police. 32 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades K-2. Rating : 5.

Garbage collectors / Paulette Bourgeois ; Kim LaFave. (Kids Can read.) Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 1553375734; \$14.95.

628.4/42/023. Refuse collectors; Refuse and refuse disposal. 32 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades K-2. Rating : 4.

Natalie is hot on the trail of bike thieves. Starting with a noise at night, and ending with an arrest, this book shows children how they can help without hindering police officers. The children will love the twist when the police catch the nighttime noisemakers red handed.

Stay back! As the garbage collection team works its way through the neighborhood, this book explains how the trucks work, discusses recycling and hazardous waste, and where the garbage goes when it leaves the neighborhood. When the little old lady who is chasing the garbage truck finally catches up with it, everyone enjoys a little laugh.

Paulette Bourgeois has revised and updated her two earlier books on community helpers. *Police Officers* is particularly well done. The arrest and questioning clearly explain the basic rights of the accused. Natalie's actions always involve adult assistance. The book has six pages with facts about police officers and ends with three pages of advice on staying safe. *Garbage Collectors* is equally informative, but the safety warnings about the trucks are not as strong as they should be. Kim LaFave's illustrations are whimsical but not distracting. Good books for a section on community helpers.

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

Independence Day / Jill Foran. (American holidays.) LCCN 2003003954. New York : Weigl Publishers, 2004.

LIB, 1590361091; \$24.45.

394.2634. Holidays; Fourth of July; Fourth of July celebrations--Juvenile literature; Fourth of July--Juvenile literature. 24 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 26 cm.

Labor Day / Lynn Hamilton. (American holidays.) LCCN 2003003955. New York : Weigl Publishers, 2004.

LIB, 1590361296; \$24.45.

394.264. Holidays; Labor Day--Juvenile literature; Labor Day. 24 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 26 cm.

Columbus Day / Rennay Craats. (American holidays.) LCCN 2003003953. New York : Weigl Publishers, 2004.

LIB, 1590361067; \$24.45.

394.264. Columbus, Christopher--Juvenile literature; Columbus, Christopher; Columbus Day--Juvenile literature; Columbus Day; Holidays; America--Discovery and exploration--Spanish--Juvenile literature; America--Discovery and exploration--Spanish. 24 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 26 cm.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day / Jill Foran. (American holidays.) LCCN 2003003957. New York : Weigl Publishers, 2004.

LIB, 1590361075; \$24.45.

394.261. Holidays; King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968; Martin Luther King, Jr., Day--Juvenile literature; Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. 24 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 26 cm.

Memorial Day / Lynn Hamilton. (American holidays.) LCCN 2003003956. New York : Weigl Publishers, 2004.

LIB, 1590361059; \$24.45.

394.262. Memorial Day--Juvenile literature; Memorial Day; Holidays. 24 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 26 cm.

Presidents' Day / Lynn Hamilton. (American holidays.) LCCN 2003003959. New York : Weigl Publishers, 2004.

LIB, 1590361083; \$24.45.

394.261. Holidays; Washington, George, 1732-1799--Juvenile literature; Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Juvenile literature; Washington, George, 1732-1799; Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865; Presidents' Day--Juvenile literature; Presidents--United States--History--Juvenile literature; Presidents' Day. 24 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 26 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : 5.

The American Holidays series explores some of the important national holidays observed in the United States. The historical, social, cultural, and political background of each holiday is covered through large color photographs and maps. Layout of the 8x10 inch format is attractive with insert photos, colorful borders and backgrounds, and close attention to complementary colors.

The quality of the paper used complements brighter color illustrations. Two pages of crafts and recipes give ideas to bring the holiday alive. A glossary and index adds further ease of understanding.

Highly recommended for school and public library collections on a meager budget, and for those libraries where multiple copies are made available to encourage quick check-out. Parents reading with their children are sure to gather some facts about the holiday that they were unaware of as many aspects are covered in short space.

Leroy Hommerding, MSL/PhD. Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida.

Kwanzaa : seven days of African-American pride / Carol Gnojewski. (Finding out about holidays.) LCCN 2003006849. Berkeley Heights, N.J. : Enslow, 2004.

LIB, 0766022099; \$23.93.
394.261. Kwanzaa--Juvenile literature; Kwanzaa. 48
p. : col. ill., map ; 24 cm.
Grades 2-5. Rating : 4.

Do you know what the word "Kwanzaa" means or why it has a double "a" at the end of the word? How about the phrase "Habari Gani?" Carol Gnojewski gives the reader a colorful overview of the African-American celebration in *Kwanzaa : Seven Days of African-American Pride*. The holiday was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga because "the first step forward is a step backward to Africa and African roots." (15) Kwanzaa is celebrated December 26 to January 1. Each day is dedicated to life principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

Carol Gnojewski is a story-teller. She presents the facts clearly and sequentially for maximum understanding. This chapter-book encourages celebration of family values, no matter the nationality, but specifically for the former slaves and their offspring who want "an identity apart from white America." (13) The photos enhance the text of this nonfiction book.

The book *Kwanzaa* has many additions which include sidebars, contents, Kwanzaa Project, words to know, reading about, internet addresses, and index.

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

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Sleeping Beauty / retold by Adèle Geras ; illustrated by Christian Birmingham. LCCN 2003054858. New York : Scholastic/Orchard Books, 2004.

HBB, 043958180X; \$18.95.
398.2. Fairy tales; Folklore--Germany. 1 v. (unpaged)
: col. ill. ; 27 cm.
Grades K-2. Rating : *5.

In this version of the Sleeping Beauty, from the appealing cover art, the reader is promised an excellent book. Adele Geras retell the classic story with a few embellishments that make the story more captivating, a story of hope, fear, patience, and a happy ending that will be enjoyed by young and old alike. Unlike some texts written for the primary ages, this text has an oral history or story-telling quality that entrances the reader and the listener. This book is meant to be read aloud.

This is an old story retold with simple elegance and enhanced with artwork by Christian Birmingham that is gallery quality. Many young people will be drawn to the full page,

color images that directly tie in with the accompanying text. Like the text, the artwork is engaging without being superfluous.

The story aligns with the traditional version. The king and queen await a promised child. When she arrives, in the celebration they forget to invite one very important fairy. She casts a spell on the family and though they try to avoid any situation for the spell to be fulfilled the princess falls under the spell. Eventually, the good prince discovers the princess and the two families unite in their marriage. There are magic, fairies, and enchantments, so parents with strong feelings regarding exposing their children to such stories may want to select another version.

Bianca Elliott, MS Ed. *Freelance Writer & Editor, Linwood, Kansas.*

Saint George and the dragon : a golden legend / adapted by Margaret Hodges from Edmund Spenser's Faerie Queene ; illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman. LCCN 83019980. Boston : Little, Brown, 1984.

HBB, 0316367893; \$16.95.
398.2. George, Saint, d. 303 --Legends; George, Saint, d. 303; Folklore--England; Knights and knighthood--Folklore; Dragons--Folklore; Caldecott Medal. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 24 x 27 cm.
Grades 4-6. Rating : 5.

Trina Schart Hyman won the Caldecott Medal in 1985 for her detailed watercolor, accented with pen and ink, illustrations of Margaret Hodges retelling of one of the tales from Edmund Spenser's *Faerie Queene*. This tale is of George, the Red Cross Knight, and his fair lady Una. Princess Una's realm has been threatened by a terrifying dragon, and nobody has been able to quell it. Una looks for help, and finds the Red Cross Knight who battles the dragon three times before it is killed. After each battle, he is mystically revived. The knight has more service for the Faerie Queene before he and Una can settle down and bring peace to the kingdom.

Margaret Hodges has been active retelling and adapting much of old English folk literature, legend, and early writings, thus making them readable for contemporary children. Here she maintains the flavor of the *Faerie Queene* text by incorporating an occasional phrase from the original text. Trina Schart Hyman's rich illustrations complement and enhance the text. Double-page framed paintings on the title and dedication page set the scene for the fairy world of dancing sprites, angels, knights, beautiful princesses, and ferocious dragons. Opposite each page of text is a full page detailed picture precisely matching the text on the page. Fine intricate borders featuring flora and fauna of medieval England are arranged. In the dragonslayer scenes, portions of the dragon flow into the borders, giving a sense of its size. Study the features of each creature; they all have their

own personalities. This edition of *Saint George and the Dragon* is a beautiful example of book design; both text and illustration are of high quality. To appreciate the book, parent and child should read together; parent providing background information about the story, child pointing out all the details in the paintings. This is not a book for the young child, for there is violence and a bit of gore. If teachers and parents are attempting to develop a background of common literature to read and discuss, old English literature needs to be part of the common literature, but needs to be introduced at an appropriate time and appropriate age.

Marion M. Mueller, MS. *Library Media Specialist, New Hope Christian School, Neenah, Wisconsin.*

A story, a story : an African tale / retold and illustrated by Gail E. Haley. LCCN 69018961. New York : Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 1970.

HBB, 0689205112; \$17.00.
398.2/096. Folklore--Africa; Caldecott Medal. [36] p.
: col. ill. ; 26 x 27 cm.
Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

A Story, A Story won the Caldecott Medal for best American picture book in 1971. "Once, oh small children round my knee, there were no stories on earth to hear." So begins the Ananse the "spider man" story written and illustrated by Gail Haley about how stories came to earth. It is a myth or pourquoi story, i.e. an explanation story found in much ancient oral literature. It is also a quest story, for Nyame, the Sky god requests three characters (leopard with the terrible teeth, hornets who sting like fire, and the fairy-whom-no-man-sees) from Ananse before the stories are distributed to the world. Ananse stories were brought to the Americas often on slave ships and provided a connection with their African home. Mmoatia, the fairy-whom-no-man-sees could be Brer Rabbit's Tar Baby. The illustrations are woodcuts created in Ms Haley's own print shop stamped with brilliant paints.

A Story, A Story is a beautiful and unique picture book. The story uses many African words and phrases, which are onomatopoeic and often repeated for emphasis. The illustrations are primitive in nature, featuring designs from African culture. In fact, Ms. Haley states in *Telemidium, The Journal of Media Literacy*, Spring 2003, "It was one of the first U.S. picture books to emphasize African heritage." The bright neon colors, orange, hot pink, lime green, yellow, all help transport the viewer to equatorial Africa. For a Christian, many of these old folktales, which include a god, present a conundrum: to use or not to use. My contention is that they provide a wonderful avenue for discussing cultural differences and the need that all societies have had for the existence of a supreme being. They provide the parent or teacher talking points to give to children to witness their Christian faith. Additionally, this book is a standout piece of literature and art.

Marion M. Mueller, MS. Library Media Specialist, New Hope Christian School, Neenah, Wisconsin.

The fool of the world and the flying ship / retold by Arthur Ransome ; pictures by Uri Shulevitz. LCCN 68054105. New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1968.

HBB, 0374324425; \$17.00.

398.21. Folklore--Russia. [48] p. : col. ill. ; 24 x 27 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 4.

The 1969 Caldecott Medal was presented to Uri Shulevitz for his artwork in the Russian folktale *The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship*. Arthur Ransome's text first appeared in *Old Peter's Russian Tales* (Frederick A. Stokes, 1916). In brief, the Czar announces that he will give his daughter's hand to the person who can bring him a flying ship. Three brothers decide to seek her hand, including the simpleton youngest brother whom nobody thinks has a chance. Out of kindness the youngest brother offers food and drink to an ancient old man who gives him an assortment of directions and assistants to help him on his quest. Shulevitz uses watercolor and pen and ink details to complete the illustrations.

Russian folklore is rich with longer, more elaborate tales such as this title. The story is filled with snippets of folklore motifs: the number three, quests, a simpleton who isn't so simple, kindness, evil, special powers, magical objects, and a treacherous ruler. The elaborate detailed humorous illustrations show a variety of perspectives: inside the peasants' home and inside the palace, from the flying ship in the sky, and from the simpleton lying on the ground. Shulevitz introduces Russian flavor in the primitive style by including such details as strings of onions, babushkas, long beards, onion shaped spires on the palace, kossacks, curled shoes, steam baths, decorated tiles, and domed ceilings. The reader will certainly gain a flavor of medieval Russia from the illustrations. The book could be a springboard for discussion of another culture and its values, for folktales are representative of a culture. Because of the length of, and complicated nature of the tale, it is not appropriate for young children.

Marion M. Mueller, MS. Library Media Specialist, New Hope Christian School, Neenah, Wisconsin.

The Kingfisher children's illustrated dictionary and thesaurus / George Marshall. LCCN 2003040065. New York : Kingfisher, 2003.

HBB, 0753456532; \$12.95.

423. English language--Dictionaries, Juvenile; English language--Synonyms and antonyms--Juvenile literature; English language--Dictionaries; English language--Synonyms and antonyms. 320 p. : ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 2-6. Rating : 4.

The Kingfisher team of experts has compiled clear definitions and comprehensive lists of

synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms in this authoritative and user-friendly resource. The dictionary defines more than 4,000 words and the thesaurus more than 5,000 headwords and a range of related words and cross-references.

Quick charts in the back concentrate on the 50 USA states and their capitals, our presidents and their native states, and how our states got their names. One fourth of the entries in the dictionary are accompanied by an illustration or photo, and a few illustrations accompany some thesaurus terms. Each word is accompanied by an example where the word is used.

Recommended for school and public libraries for children to use with ease, and in homes and schools where personal copies of a dictionary/thesaurus are made available for young readers. This title includes simple pronunciation guides and spelling tips that offer help. Those who have *The DK Children's Illustrated Dictionary* (Dorling Kindersley, 1994) or the *Children's Illustrated Dictionary* (World Book, 1996) do not need to update, but if thesaurus and dictionary are needed this is an inexpensive option.

Leroy Hommerding, MSL/PhD. Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida.

The graphic alphabet / David Pelletier. LCCN 96004001. New York : Orchard Books, 1996.

HBB, 0531360016; \$17.95.

428.1. English language--Alphabet--Pictorial works; Caldecott Honor. 1 v. (unpaged) : chiefly col. ill. ; 25 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

David Pelletier's Caldecott Honor alphabet book, *The Graphic Alphabet*, is not your usual alphabet book. Pelletier's designs use clean lines and vivid colors to turn each individual letter into part of a scene representing the letter (or in some cases, into the named item itself.) Some are fairly easy to spot. "A is for avalanche" has snow tumbling down an crumbling A-shaped slope. The letter D, turned on its side, is red and has serifs that stick up like devil horns. The K is made of knotted string.

Others aren't so obvious. G, made of gears, and R, ripped into a black background, are barely recognizable. X is represented by an x-rayed hand with the fingers crossed. V (for "vampire") has two v-shaped fangs at the top of a black page.

The clever images make this book unsuitable for beginning readers, who may be unable to spot the letter shapes they are still learning about. However, the book is entertaining, and will intrigue readers old enough to understand what Pelletier is doing. Possible uses include sparking ideas for an art class or a graphic design project and serving as an excellent example of how an ABC book can be turned into something more. Even though the book may not

work well for children who are not already familiar with the alphabet, it has enough other uses to make it a good addition to an already-existing alphabet book collection.

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

Experiment with water / written by Bryan Murphy ; science consultant, Christine Sutton ; education consultant, Ruth Bessant. Two Can, 2004.

HBB, 1587282429; \$9.95.

532. Water--Experiments--Juvenile literature; Water--Experiments; Experiments. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Experiment with air / written by Bryan Murphy. Two Can, 2004.

HBB, 1587282445; \$9.95.

533/.6. Air--Experiments--Juvenile literature; Air--Experiments; Experiments. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades 2-4. Rating : 4.

Experiment with Water covers the water cycle, water pressure, and surface tension, as well as other topics. Author Bryan Murphy has included experiments for making a water wheel, using water to separate colors, and others that will expand the reader's knowledge of water.

Experiment with Air is an easy-to-understand book about air. Most chapters have trivia or experiments to demonstrate the chapter's idea. "What is air?" and "Wind Power" are two of the chapters. Other chapters include information on air temperature, light, and sounds. Instructions are included for making musical instruments and other experiments that will teach the reader more about air.

The books each have thirteen two-page chapters, a glossary, and an index. Words that might be unfamiliar are highlighted in the text and defined in the glossary. Most chapters have experiments or interesting trivia to help the reader understand the concept of that chapter. The experiments require at least adult supervision if not help from an adult, but are interesting ones for the reader to do. By doing the experiments, readers will learn more about the topic. The books are illustrated with color photographs and drawings. The books will be good science supplements for a school, home, or classroom library.

Jane Mouttet, BA. Missionary School Librarian, Window Rock, Arizona.

Marie Curie: a brilliant life / written by Elizabeth MacLeod. Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 155337570X; \$14.95.

540/.92 or B. Curie, Marie, 1867-1934--Juvenile literature; Chemists--Poland--Biography--Juvenile literature. 32 p. : ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 2-6. Rating : 4.

Very few people have ever heard of Marya Sklodowska. Denied access to higher education

in Poland as a female, Marya made her way to Paris to study in 1891 after years of saving. While in Paris, Marie (as she was now called) earned a masters degree in physics, a masters degree in math, and married. Searching for a research area for a doctorate in physics, she was drawn to uranium rays. Her husband joined her in researching radioactivity. In 1898 she announced the discovery first of polonium, and then of radium. In 1903 they won the Nobel Prize for physics with Henri Becquerel. In this, the brilliant husband-wife team of Pierre and Marie Curie finally received the recognition they deserved for the revolutionary work they were doing. After Pierre's death in 1906 Marie took up where he left off, becoming the first woman in 650 years to lecture at the Sorbonne. Many female "firsts" followed as Marie Curie blazed a trail in science for other women to follow.

Once again Elizabeth MacLeod has written a well-balanced biography of a famous scientist in which the subject is appealing and the science is clear. Each page of text is balanced by a page of photographs or other illustrations. MacLeod touches lightly on a scandal that surrounded Marie Curie in 1911, and chronicles her life's disappointments and triumphs. Full of photographs, sketches, and copies of Curie's own notes, the book concludes with a timeline and good index. A "Visit Marie" section tells where one can find out more information about this fascinating woman. The book lacks a bibliography and thus, documentation of the sources.

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

Flying on wings of beauty. (Moody science adventures for children.) Chicago : Moody Video, 1997.

VID, 1575672227; \$14.95.

595.78. Butterflies--Juvenile literature; Butterflies. 1 videocassette; col.; 30 min.

All ages. Rating : 5.

Three distinct segments are contained in *Flying on Wings of Beauty*, a Moody Science Adventure video. The title segment describes the life cycle of the monarch butterfly and the puzzle of its migration to a Mexican hillside during winter. "Machines of Beauty" describes how plants produce seeds as reproductive mechanisms. In "Somewhere Out There," solar systems, galaxies, and universes are revealed as astonishing mysteries made by God.

Each 10-minute feature is a marvel of photographic skill. Time lapse and close up photography show in detail how flowers bloom and seeds sprout, with petals unfolding within seconds and seeds bursting from pods. Children and adults both will ooh and aah. "Somewhere Out There" takes a different tack with remarkable space photos of stars and planets, along with basic information about the Hubble

Space Telescope. All together, these three video portions clearly and strikingly convey the startling, intricate things God has created. The video is useful for in-class education and homeschool use as well as pleasure viewing. Viewers from kindergartener through adult will be entranced and educated in both science and theology by these segments that can be enjoyed repeatedly.

Karen Schmidt, BA. Freelance Writer/Editor, Marysville, Washington.

Owls / written by Adrienne Mason ; illustrated by Nancy Gray Ogle. (Wildlife series.) Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 1553376234; \$10.95.

598.9/7. Owls. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades K-4. Rating : 5.

Silent hunters and beneficial birds, owls are one of God's most interesting creatures to study. In fourteen topics, Adrienne Mason teaches younger children the basic facts about owls—where they live, what they eat, how they survive, their babies, nests, and most importantly, how their bodies are specially designed to help them hear and see their prey. Because owls are ubiquitous, this is a good book to use in any part of the country to help show how God's designs are unique and especially adapted for each animal's place in creation. A short glossary and adequate index complement this excellent book. Beautiful watercolors by Nancy Gray Ogle clearly illustrate the strong text, giving this non-fiction book a read-aloud feeling—just to be able to share these lovely paintings.

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

Fantastic feats and failures / by the editors of YES Mag ; illustrated by Jane Kurisu. Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 1553376331; \$15.95.

624.1/7. Structural design--Juvenile literature; Structural failures--Juvenile literature; Structural analysis (Engineering)--Juvenile literature. 52 p. : ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

For aspiring engineers, or students just interested in man-made disasters, *Fantastic Feats and Failures* serves up a banquet of examples from the engineering, not sensational, viewpoint. Failures include the Challenger shuttle disaster, the Chernobyl nuclear reactor, the Hyatt Regency Tower, and the pesticide release in Bhopal, India. The book also documents successes such as the Sydney Opera House, the Brooklyn Bridge, and the Eurotunnel. Distilling each of the design issues in the failures to simple explanations, often with diagrams, the editors of *YES Magazine* have made one fact clear. A seemingly small design modification or change can significantly negatively impact the integrity of any structure.

Concluding with the World Trade Center towers' collapse, the book is timely and interesting. It is full of color photos and has several simple experiments that illustrate strength of different designs and materials. A short glossary and good index complete the volume.

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

Steam locomotives : whistling, chugging, smoking iron horses of the past / Karl Zimmermann. LCCN 2003111246. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyds Mills, 2004.

HBB, 1590781651; \$19.95.

625.26/1. Steam locomotives--History. 48 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 27 cm.

Grades 3-7. Rating : 5.

On a topic that will instantly draw readers, Zimmermann takes a different approach and relates history, data, and diagrams along with excellent photography. Although the text includes lots of historical data regarding the development of steam engines, the design of the engines, and plots of working engines, Zimmermann offers a decidedly personal slant as well. He relates that his father worked the trains and was the initiator for his passion for the engines. He has tracked engines around the world to collect photos of working steam engines, and provides information for where they can still be seen in use today.

In photos and diagrams from the past and today, Zimmermann illustrates intricately the engines' design, capacity, and differences. Most photographs are taken by the author himself from his jaunts around the world chasing steam engines. When the photographs are not his, they are so noted. This title has such exceptional photographs and information that its appeal is not limited to only its reading audience. (Younger readers will enjoy the photos even before they can read the text.)

Obviously, train fanatics of all ages will be thrilled, but this is likely to hold the interest of other readers who might not have been train fans, nonfiction readers, or history buffs before.

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

Exploring space with an astronaut / Patricia J. Murphy. (I like science!) LCCN 2003011116. Berkeley Heights, N.J. : Enslow, 2004.

LIB, 0766022684; \$21.26.

629.45. Astronautics--Juvenile literature; Astronautics; Outer space--Exploration; Astronauts; Occupations; Outer space--Exploration--Juvenile literature. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Searching for stormy weather with a scientist / Judith Williams. (I like science!) LCCN 2003012826. Berkeley Heights, N.J. : Enslow, 2004.

LIB, 0766022714; \$21.26.

551.55. Meteorology--Juvenile literature;
Meteorology; Occupations. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Visiting volcanoes with a scientist / Catherine McGlone. (I like science!) LCCN 2003011115. Berkeley Heights, N.J. : Enslow, 2004.

LIB, 0766022692; \$21.26.

551.21. Volcanoes--Juvenile literature; ;
Volcanologists; Occupations. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 4.

Enslow Publishing's I Like Science! is a series that asks and answers basic questions about space, weather, volcanoes, dinosaurs, and plants. Geared to children aged six to eight, each book presents important facts in a fun, easily accessible way that will compel its kid readers to read on. Children using these books will not only come away with good overview of each topic, they'll enjoy the reading and learning.

The books follow a similar format. For example, *Exploring Space with an Astronaut* by Patricia J. Murphy features Eileen Collins, the first woman space shuttle pilot, as it covers such questions as what an astronaut does, why they go into space, how they live (including that toilets need seat belts because "astronauts float everywhere"), and how they conduct experiments.

Judith Williams' *Searching for Stormy Weather with a Scientist* features weather scientist Harold Brooks and nicely explains what a weather forecast is, why severe weather sometimes causes tornadoes, what hurricanes and blizzards are, and the difference between a weather watch and a weather warning.

In *Visiting Volcanoes with a Scientist*, by Catherine McGlone, volcano scientist Cynthia Gardner is profiled. Topics covered: what a volcano is, why there are volcanoes, and how scientists can tell when a volcano will erupt.

Each book contains simple, age-appropriate experiments for kids to do on their own: how to observe the night sky, how to create a twister in a bottle, and how to make a volcano.

Bold formatting, including one color photo per page, blocky layout, large type, colored headers, and photo borders add visual appeal. There is a short glossary (with definition and pronunciation), a bibliography of books and websites, an index, and a table of contents. Each book is reviewed by a literary consultant and a science consultant. Each book also follows the National Science Education Standards for K-4 science.

These are fun books that should delight their audience. They certainly don't contain everything a child might want to know, but definitely contain enough information for the age level, and definitely enough to satisfy a child's curiosity while whetting his or her appetite for more. Recommended.

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

Horses! / by Gail Gibbons. LCCN 2003041683. New York : Holiday House, 2003.

HBB, 0823417034; \$16.95.

636.1. Horses--Juvenile literature; Horses. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill., 1 col. map ; 27 cm.

Grades 2-3. Rating : 3.

Horses! is a typical Gail Gibbons nonfiction picture book which features watercolor illustrations on each page augmented with labels and speech bubbles. She begins with a brief history and evolution of the horse, how the horse was domesticated, and how the horse is used for work, transportation, and recreation. Various breeds of horses are described, as are behaviors, gaits, care, and the life cycle. Special features include pages about a horse's feet and teeth. Ms. Gibbons frequently adds a last page of extra information; she does that again in *Horses!*

Gail Gibbons' recent books about animals are almost formulaic: history, breeds, size, and a page of extra special features. This title is no different. Although the illustrations are colorful and well labeled, the novice would not easily be able to differentiate one breed from another or one gait from another. Two early pages discuss the evolution of the horse. There is no index or table of contents for the young researcher. All in all, Ms. Gibbons tries to present too much information in the standard 32-page information picture book format. Only the Gail Gibbons fan or a horse lover will want to add this title to their collection.

Marion M. Mueller, MS. *Library Media Specialist, New Hope Christian School, Neenah, Wisconsin.*

Bake and make amazing cookies / written by Elizabeth MacLeod ; illustrated by June Bradford. (Kids can do it.) Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 1553376315; \$12.95.

641.8/654. Cookies--Juvenile literature. 40 p. : ill. ; 26 cm.

Simply sewing / written by Judy Ann Sadler ; illustrated by Jane Kurisu. (Kids can do it.) Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 1553376595; \$12.95.

646.2. Sewing--Juvenile literature. 48 p. : ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : 4.

The latest books in the Kids Can Do It series take a domestic turn. With excellent instructions and illustrations enhancing each recipe or project, these two books encourage creativity and independence. All projects and recipes offer metric as well as imperial measurements. For students who are looking for something different, these books are good recommendations.

Bake and Make Amazing Cookies by Elizabeth MacLeod has recipes for everyone.

Encompassing treats for holidays, special people, seasons, and just for fun, young (or older) cooks can whip up some very impressive results with not a whole lot of effort. There are suggestions for preserving and presenting the results and illustrations by June Bradford look good enough to eat!

Simply Sewing by Judy Ann Sadler offers some quirky, innovative sewing projects such as converting a T-shirt to a skirt or jeans to a skirt. Using clear language and instruction and excellent illustrations by Jane Kurisu, the projects are within reach for most beginners. The book makes good use of the new fleece materials and at least for the simpler projects, no sewing machine is required.

Kelley Westenhoff, JD. *Parent-Librarian, Dominion Christian School, Oakton, Virginia.*

I want to be a musician / Dan Liebman. LCCN 2004272564. Toronto : Firefly Books, 2003.

HBB, 1552977609; \$11.80.

780/.23. Music--Vocational guidance--Juvenile literature. [22] p. : chiefly col. ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades 2-5. Rating : 4.

I Want to Be a Musician is Dan Liebman's fourteenth book in his vocational choices series, "I Want to Be a ..." To be a musician means more than picking up a horn or executing a fancy dance step or two. There are different kinds of music, and there are different jobs the musicians do. Some play in small groups, others in an orchestra. Rock and roll or classical, it's music. The expression may be through a skilled flamenco dance or a beginning piano recital. The leader can be a concert master or a music educator or a composer working at a computer keyboard. All come under the title: Musician.

The vocabulary is simple in *I Want to Be a Musician*. Liebman centers on the content, his text pointing out the diversity of the occupation. The words are printed in a box on each page, taking up a minimum of space. The stars of this show are pictured in photographs. Rehearsals. Stage performances. Concerts. Classrooms. Camp. The information in *I Want to be a Musician* opens the door of possibilities in this career area.

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

Aida / as told by Leontyne Price ; illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. LCCN 89036481. San Diego : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1990.

HBB, 015200405X; \$20.00.

782.1/026/9. Verdi, Giuseppe, 1813-1901. Aida--Juvenile literature; Verdi, Giuseppe, 1813-1901. Aida; Operas--Stories, plots, etc.; Coretta Scott King Award. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 5.

Aida is a powerful, tragic tale set in ancient Egypt. Its heroine, Aida, is a beautiful Ethiopian princess, taken prisoner by the Egyptians, who are at war with her country. Although she longs to return to her homeland, she finds herself falling in love with Radames, a noble captain of the Egyptian army. Unbeknownst to her the Egyptian princess, Amneris, is also enamored of the captain. In the end the lovers are betrayed, and Radames is sentenced to be buried alive, but Aida finds a way to be with him forever.

This tale, based on Verdi's famous opera of the same name, clearly deals with some weighty themes, including romantic love, jealousy, war, and suicide, and is therefore not appropriate for very young children. However, both the text and illustrations focus on the human story at the center of all this; as a result, Leontyne Price's sympathetic retelling is readily accessible to older children as well as adults.

Although Price's operatic career spanned four decades, Aida was one of her most famous roles, and the one with which she most closely identified personally. As engaging as her retelling is, it cannot help but be hobbled by one serious deficiency. That is, *Aida* on paper is an opera without music.

Award-winning husband and wife team Leo and Diane Dillon handsomely make up for this lack with their sumptuous, richly-hued illustrations. Full-page images depict pivotal scenes in the story, while a sort of Egyptian frieze border above the text on each facing page relays events leading up to those key scenes.

This lavish picture book could be used to introduce units on music appreciation, art, or drama, or it could simply be enjoyed as a compelling story.

There are several references to Egyptian deities and priests.

Sylvia Stopforth, MLS. University Librarian, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada.

Grandparent poems / compiled by John Micklos, Jr. ; illustrations by Layne Johnson. LCCN 2001094549. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyd's Mills/Wordsong, 2004.

HBB, 1563979004; \$15.95.

811/.540803520432. Children's poetry. 32 p. ; col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 4.

Grandparent Poems is a delightful collection of tributes to the loving contributions of grandparents in a child's world. This anthology is compiled by John Micklos, Jr., with 22 selections from contemporary authors, like Sau Yee Kan and Francisco X. Alarcón, as well as five poems by the book's editor. Each poem depicts families from different backgrounds involved in taking walks, reading together, or tasting a special treat from the kitchen.

The charmingly illustrated poems by Layne Johnson are designed to get children caught up in the wonders of a loving grandparent relationship. The reader experiences each poet's memory from the weathered hands of a grandfather to a grandma's favored gingerbread recipe. Themes about this special bond with grandparents are evoked by the metaphoric descriptions of activities and attributes in cross generational relationships. Beautifully colored, realistic illustrations enhance the shared memories of each poet's grandparent. The last pages of the book provide an index of each featured poem's first lines and a short review of the poet's appearance in other publications. The book is a great assemblage for the private library and perhaps as a complement to a family class curriculum. Other poetry books previously published by this author: *Daddy Poems* (Boyd's Mills, 2000) and *Mommy Poems* (Boyd's Mills, 2001).

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo, MSN, MLS. Academic Librarian, Beavercreek, Ohio.

Dr. Seuss / Jill Foran. (My favorite writer.) LCCN 2002005586. Mankato, Minn. : Weigl Publishers, 2003.

LIB, 1590360281; \$26.00.

813/.52 or B. Seuss, Dr.--Juvenile literature; Seuss, Dr.; Authors, American--20th century--Biography--Juvenile literature; Illustrators--United States--Biography--Juvenile literature; Children's literature--Authorship--Juvenile literature; Authors, American; Illustrators; Authorship. 32 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), col. map ; 27 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 4.

Foran writes with an ease that illustrates as well as gives young readers the chance to gather a lot of material in a short space. The layout lends itself to individual easy reading with creative blocks and lines, some highlight words in bold print, and text woven with photos and illustrations.

The narrative and photos cover Seuss' early childhood, growing up, learning how to write, getting published, and senior years. The focus throughout is on the joy of writing and illustrating. Practical ideas are shared via creative writing tips and how to write a biography review. A glossary introduces young readers to the main terms in the field of writing.

This timeless addition deserves a place in public library collections for it conveys an inviting look at the life and activities of Dr. Seuss, as well as helping the young discuss their ideas about books and writing. School librarians can profile a significant children's author while offering stimulus for inspiration of writing.

Leroy Hommerding, MSL/PhD. Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida.

Canada / by Patricia J. Murphy. (Discovering cultures.) LCCN 2003019098. New York : Benchmark, 2003.

HBB, 0761417257; \$25.64.

971. Canada--Juvenile literature; Canada. 48 p. : col. ill., map ; 24 cm.

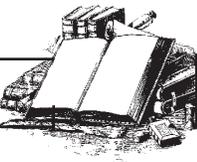
Grades 2-5. Rating : 4.

Early elementary school readers will enjoy exploring the world and its cultures through this delightful transcultural literature. Discovering Cultures Series takes the young explorer on an expedition to see the landscape, geography, and celebrations of each country. Students are provided with a gateway to other cultures and traditions in the comfort of their learning environment. In each of the books the student learns about different lands, languages, foods, schools, and sources of recreation. Each page is illustrated with photographs, maps, diagrams. The text is clear-cut and readers will enjoy their journey.

Engaging stories starting with where Canada is located with pictures of everything from the seashores to the forests and tundra. "What Makes Canada Canadian?" explores the people, their cities and cultures like the Inuit people of northern Canada. "Living in Canada," investigates industry, jobs, lifestyles and food. A short segment covers "School Days" with the words and music for the national anthem. Sports and recreation are stressed in the "Just for Fun" section while "Let's Celebrate" highlights the major holidays and festivals. The short glossary and a short lesson in French precede the Fast Facts about the currency, motto's and the Flag. Find Out More provides references to books, websites and videos for further information about Canada.

This is a well done early reader that helps children in the much needed understanding of the multi-cultural world in which we reside.

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo, MSN, MLS. Academic Librarian, Beavercreek, Ohio.



Beyond the summerland / L.B. Graham. (The binding of the blade ; 1.) LCCN 2003067184. Phillipsburg, N.J. : P & R Pub., 2004.

PAP, 0875527205; \$16.99.

Fic. Fantasy. 593 p. : map ; 23 cm.

Grades 9-10. Rating : 3.

Joraieim is part of the Novaana, a group of young men and women chosen to lead their country and to protect it from the evil attacks of Malek and his black wolves and the fierce but voiceless Malekim. As tradition dictates, these young men and women travel from all over the country to meet in the Summerland. There they will learn the history of the Kirthanin, train in the methods of battle, and forge friendships that will grow into strong political alliances as they return home to lead their kingdoms.

Joraieim, who is slowly discovering that the Allfather has gifted him to be a prophet, makes strong friendships in the Summerland, and falls in love with Wylla. But their relationship is put on hold when Black Wolves attack their group, and it is revealed that Malek has been fomenting evil on the Forbidden Isle. Led by the ancient prophet Valzaan, the Novaana sail to the island to discover what Malek is up to. In an unexpected battle, the women are captured by the Malekim and carried across the sea back to Kirthanin. The men are stranded without a ship to follow in, but are rescued by a great, golden dragon, who flies them across the sea. The men spend a month tracking the women and their kidnappers before engaging in a successful battle and rescue.

Beyond the Summerland is a rather lengthy tome, and is first in The Binding of the Blade fantasy series by L.B. Graham. While Graham has created an intriguing and detailed history for the world of Kirthanin, the book lacks energy. There is none of the intense mystery, or wonder, or sorrow, or fear that one should expect in a book of this genre. One never really feels any sense of danger or evil from the vile Malekim or the black wolves, nor is the success of the outcome of the battles ever in question. Lacking the necessary climactic points, the gently paced plot does not pick up until half-way through the book; even then the group's discoveries on the Forbidden Island are rather anticlimactic, and the death of one of their best friends in battle is curiously devoid of sincere emotion. The sheer length of the book may prove daunting to some, although it does convey strong biblical principles throughout. The story will likely appeal to teen, rather than adult, fantasy-lovers.

Sherrri Beeler, M.A. Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon.

Goal-line stand / by Todd Hafer. (The spirit of the game ; 1.) LCCN 2004012893. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2004.

PAP, 0310706696; \$4.99.

Fic. Friendship--Fiction; Football--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 133 p. ; 18 cm.

Full-court press / by Todd Hafer. (The spirit of the game ; 2.) LCCN 2004000186. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2004.

PAP, 310706688; \$4.99.

Fic. Christian life--Fiction; Grief--Fiction; Basketball--Fiction. 138 p. ; 18 cm.

Second wind / by Todd Hafer. (The spirit of the game ; 3.) LCCN 2004012664. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2004.

PAP, 031070670X; \$4.99.

Fic. Track and field--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 136 p. ; 18 cm.

Stealing home / by Todd Hafer. (The spirit of the game ; 4.) LCCN 2004304056. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2004.

PAP, 0310706718; \$4.99.

Fic. Baseball--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 126 p. ; 18 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : 5.

In his Spirit of the Game series, Todd Hafer has crafted a likeable hero in Cody Martin. Capturing the eighth grade lingo and gruff affection between Cody and his friends allows Hafer to show Cody witnessing to his friends through his actions rather than preaching. Cody is not always the best athlete on the team, but is one who hangs in there and keeps trying. His relationship with his father evolves as both of them grieve his mother's death from cancer. In a realistic manner Hafer walks the boy and his dad through that first painful year.

In *Goal-Line Stand*, Cody buries most of his own grief in football, but struggles with the distance between him and his father. His youth pastor provides a good sounding board, his friend Pork Chop keeps him humble, and the physical exhaustion of playing football keeps Cody from acting out his anger in an unhealthy manner.

Full-Court Press has Cody taking on basketball. His friend Robyn, a strong Christian, confronts him on the issue of whether his tolerance of the ugly treatment of a schoolmate implies he approves of that treatment. The situation pushes Cody to mature in his Christian walk, while in basketball his perseverance has its own reward.

By the time track season arrives *Second Wind* shows Cody's dad being angry at God for allowing his wife to die. Shortly after he rejects his son's attempt to minister to him, he springs a new girlfriend on Cody. Cody's struggle with his deepest anger drives him to the only arms that are always open.

Stealing Home embraces baseball. Life is all about trouble for Cody. His coach has no conscience, he's having problems with Pork Chop, and he is ambivalent about his dad's girlfriend Beth. When God brings Cody a challenge in a new teammate whose mom is dying, Cody has an opportunity to minister from the depth of his own pain and loss.

Realistic and hard-hitting, this is an excellent read for boys who are crazy about sports.

Kelley Westenhoff, J.D. Parent-Librarian, Dominion Christian School, Oakton, Virginia.

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Out of the dust / Karen Hesse. LCCN 96040344. New York : Scholastic Press, 1997.

HBB, 0590360809; \$16.95.

Fic. Poetry--Fiction; Depressions--1929--Fiction; Farm life--Oklahoma--Fiction; Dust storms--Fiction; Dust Bowl Era, 1931-1939--Fiction; Oklahoma--Fiction; Newbery Medal; Scott O'Dell Award. 227 p. ; 20 cm.

Grades 6-9. Rating : *5.

Billie Jo tells the story of how she and her family survived the Dust Bowl days in 1930s Oklahoma. When a pail of kerosene left next to the stove is mistaken for water, a whole chain of events that will forever change the lives of Billie Jo and her family begins. Crop failures, the death of her mother and newborn brother, and the estrangement between Billie Jo and her father accurately and vividly display the struggle for human survival, during this desolate time in history. As the rain slowly begins to heal the land, Billie Jo and her father slowly learn to forgive and move forward toward life.

Hesse skillfully portrays the fight to survive, if necessary, to escape, and then comes full circle into acceptance of life without guarantees of comfort, that is, at times, as thick as mud in the mouth, as dry as stale biscuits with no water to drink. Yet, just as there is a time to hurt, there is also a time to heal. Literary quality is apparent in mood, sensitivity to character development, and sense of time and place. Historical fiction is told completely in poetic journal style entries that provide a quick read with plenty of white space to encourage even reluctant readers to

venture in. Although focus is on thoughts and feelings of Billie Jo, there is enough dialogue to keep story moving. Clean, non-violent, authentic flavor; a staple in any collection. Won the Newbery Medal (1998). Highly recommended for all collections.

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

Dante's daughter / Kimberley Heuston. LCCN 2003005483. Asheville, N.C. : Front Street, 2003.

HBB, 1886910979; \$16.95.

Fic. Alighieri family--Juvenile fiction; Dante Alighieri, 1265-1321--Family--Juvenile fiction; Dante Alighieri, 1265-1321--Family--Fiction; Alighieri family--Fiction; Family life--Italy--Fiction; Sex role--Fiction; Italy--History--1268-1492--Fiction. 304 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 7-12. Rating : 4.

History records little about Antonia Alighieri, only daughter of the medieval period's greatest poet, Dante. Kimberley Heuston weaves the available facts into this vivid portrait of 14th century European life. Dante enjoys a special relationship with Antonia, but his political failures, impractical mindset, and the poor choice to immortalize another woman in his poetry have greatly strained his marriage to his wife Gemma. When a rival faction wrests control of Florence and exiles Dante, Gemma sends her children away for their own safety. Just as Antonia adjusts to life with her uncle Duccio's family in Siena, Dante arrives and announces that she is to accompany him on a journey to Paris. In France, father and daughter grow in their relationship, but Antonia loses yet another surrogate family when disease strikes the women with whom she is living. Though tragedy continues to haunt Antonia, she is eventually blessed with her own family and the opportunity to see her parents reconciled.

Dante's Daughter is a well-written, fast-moving book that will appeal to teens interested in the middle ages. Heuston portrays Christianity positively, and the medieval Catholic worldview informs nearly every thought and action in the novel. Antonia, Dante, and Gemma are all well-developed, sympathetic characters who reflect the virtues and flaws of the times in which they live. *Dante's Daughter* may not be suitable for all readers. The novel contains several extremely violent episodes, the occasional vulgarity, and a fumbling sexual advance that Antonia deftly fends off. Mature readers will find a story that explores painful questions of faith and forgiveness, and ultimately answers them with trust in the providence and goodness of God.

Matthew P. Ross, MLIS. *Head of Reference, Putnam County District Library, Ottawa, Ohio.*

Up a road slowly / Irene Hunt. New York : PenguinPutnam/Berkley, 2003.

PAP, 425188175; \$4.99.

Fic. Aunts--Fiction; Family life--Fiction. 192 p. ; 20 cm.

Grades 7-10. Rating : 4.

"The doctor says that Julie is near hysteria..." Julie Trelling's mother dies when she is only seven. Apparently her grieving father feels unable to raise three distraught children. So Julie and her brother Chris move in with their Aunt Cordelia, an unmarried school teacher, while Julie's older sister, Laura, stays at home and helps her father. Julie often feels unloved, and she cherishes dreams of belonging. She also carries a dream that she hesitates to share. This coming of age historical fiction book tells her story.

Through the use of dialogue and narrative comments, Irene Hunt beautifully reveals the nature of each character in this well-paced book. Julie makes some poor choices throughout the book, and through these choices she learns the importance of integrity. The name "Lord" is used carelessly two times by a rebellious boyfriend. What a privilege to travel up the road with Julie as she learns to value true beauty, a loving family, and close friends.

Kristina A. Wolcott, BS. *Piano Teacher, Freelance Writer, Oroville, California.*

Exiled : memoirs of a camel / by Kathleen Karr. LCCN 2003016931. New York : Marshall Cavendish, 2004.

HBB, 0761451641; \$15.95.

Fic. United States. Army. Camel Corps--History--Juvenile fiction; United States. Army. Camel Corps--History--Fiction; Camels--Southwestern States--History--Fiction; Mojave Desert (Calif.)--Fiction. 240 p. ; 19 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : 5.

An historical novel, *Exiled* is Ali the camel's own memoir. A deeply religious Muslim camel, who learned his most important lessons from his wild mother in the deserts of Egypt, Ali does not behave well when captured. Eventually he receives the supreme penalty, sold to Christians. In 1856, in a not-so-successful attempt to use camels in the U.S. Calvary, Ali, his fellow beasts, and an Arab human friend arrive in Texas. His adventures are almost unbelievable, if not for the fact that Karr carefully researched the history behind this novel. Military training, horse soldiers trying to handle camels, camel fights, romance, gold fever, and other escapades riot through these pages.

Recipient of the 2000 Golden Kite Award for Best Fiction, Kathleen Karr writes in an interest catching, believably camel narrated, well-structured style. Her love for her subject flows into her writing. Camel natural history, wrestling camels, Arab training, U.S. blunders, American history in the last half of the eighteenth century, some Muslim beliefs, as well as other engrossing tidbits are packed into the 238 pages of this fast-paced novel. Full of facts better than fiction, featuring an irascible, endearing hero, *Exiled* will win hearts wherever

read. An interesting précis of Karr's research concludes this novel.

Written for grades 5-8, *Exiled* also makes a good read-aloud book for younger listeners. Older readers, interested in the minutiae of American history will also enjoy *Exiled*. Recommended for general reading, English and history classes, and all libraries and schools.

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

Black Friday / by Tim LaHaye and Robert DeMoss. (Soul survivor series; 4.) LCCN 2002015554. Nashville : W Publishing, 2003.

PAP, 0849943221; \$12.99.

Fic. Mystery and detective stories; Christian fiction. 176 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 10-12. Rating : 4.

The dynamic writing team of Tim LaHaye and Bob DeMoss has produced a fourth suspense filled novel in the Soul Survivor series. *Black Friday* finds Jodi Adams interning at a local newspaper when she receives an anonymous tip from a homeless man named Gus about the illegal practices of a local abortion clinic called the Total Choice Medi-Center.

As the story progresses, we learn that Jodi's friend Stan is simultaneously having a very personal encounter with abortion as an ex-girlfriend is in the hospital recovering from an experience at the Total-Choice Medi-Center. However, the clinic denies that she was ever a patient. So Jodi and Stan go undercover to investigate the situation. Stan gets a job at the clinic and Jodi pretends to be pregnant so that she can get inside the system and check out how they treat their patients.

Black Friday takes an unapologetically pro-life stance on the issue of abortion. It offers a hard-hitting look at the issue. Because of this, there are graphic depictions of the abortion procedure and the disposal of fetuses. There is also an instance where a doctor is said to have suffocated a set of fully viable twins. I would not recommend this book to the faint of heart or to younger teens that are not ready for this mature content. However, older teens will enjoy the suspense. It will also give them a lot to think about when it comes to premarital sex and its possible consequences.

Tinna D. Mills, *Young Adult Services Specialist, Chippewa River District Library, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.*

Cinda / by Janet Lambert. (Cinda Hollister series.) Fresno, Calif. : Image Cascade, 1954, 2003.

PAP, 1930009917; \$9.95.

Fic. Romance fiction. 190 p. ; 20 cm.

Fly away, Cinda / by Janet Lambert. (Cinda Hollister series.) Fresno, Calif. : Image Cascade, 1956, 2003.

PAP, 1930009925; \$9.95.

Fic. Romance fiction. 187 p. ; 20 cm.

Grades 6-10. Rating : 4.

Image Cascade is reprinting classic girls' fiction from authors like Lenora Mattingly Weber, Rosamund duJardin, and Janet Lambert. Among their latest reprints: Lambert's Cinda Hollister series is five books about a middle class New Jersey family.

Cinda, who's fourteen in Book #1, is the nominal heroine, but the series deals with the lives of all five Hollister children: Cinda, a bubbly girl who blurts out whatever she's thinking; Warren (nicknamed War-Horse), the capable, serious, oldest child; Lindsey (or Jinx), the laid-back middle brother; and youngsters Blair and Elizabeth (who are nicknamed Bobo and Buff).

The books, typical of Lambert's fiction, are well written and appealing, containing real, likeable characters whose hopes and dreams (and problems and insecurities) will ring true to all generations.

Cinda introduces the characters and a guest in their home: distant cousin Paula, a poor little rich girl. Paula, who's father is dead, was spoiled by the mother, aunt, and grandmother who raised her. Now her mother is remarrying and Paula refuses to accept that, until the Hollisters show her how a "real" family lives.

Fly Away Cinda takes place two years later. Cinda is experiencing her first romance. Warren and Lindsey are fighting over Paula's affections. Paula herself is still trying to overcome her selfishness.

It all works perfectly. Cinda is a wonderful character: lively, spunky, instantly likeable. Lindsey (who's said to live down to his nickname of Jinx) is vulnerable, kind, and appealing. Even Paula has a heart.

The Hollister parents are loving parents, actively involved in their children's lives, yet knowing when to back off and let them mature. They go to church, celebrate Christmas (its religious and secular meaning), and say grace (although Lindsey sometimes "hustles through it").

Some cautions: Mr. Hollister frequently exclaims "By all the gods." Characters say 'darn,' 'gosh,' or 'gee whiz.' Once God's name is taken in vain. Cinda regularly wishes on the colored panes in a leaded glass window.

Overall, these are strongly-written stories filled with family values. Girls should delight in knowing Cinda and her family... and will want to read the entire series.

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

Spring fever / by Janet Lambert. (A Patty and Ginger book.) Fresno, Calif. : Image Cascade, 1960, 2003.

PAP, 1930009879; \$9.95.

Fic. Romance fiction. 178 p. ; 20 cm.

Extra special / by Janet Lambert. (A Patty and Ginger book.) Fresno, Calif. : Image Cascade, 1963, 2003.

PAP, 1930009895; \$9.95.

Fic. Romance fiction. 158 p. ; 20 cm.

Grades 6-10. Rating : 3.

Ginger, a sweet, obedient girl, is best friends with Patty... who's selfish, vain, and rebellious. Ginger's parents want Ginger to stop letting Patty take advantage of her. But Ginger is a loyal friend, and Patty isn't really so bad. She's just spoiled.

That's the plot thread of *Spring Fever* and *Extra Special*, books three and five in Janet Lambert's six-book Patty and Ginger series. Recently reprinted by Image Cascade Publishing, these classic girls' novels show readers a realistic (and squeaky clean) look at 1960s middle class life.

The books are called the Patty and Ginger Stories, but Ginger's the real heroine. The narrative is mostly from her point of view; Patty is much less involved, sometimes seeming little more than a distant member of Ginger's crowd.

This is somewhat unfortunate because Ginger is an extremely "good" girl—mild-mannered, timid, and dutiful to the point of subservience. In fact Ginger is so meek, she may cause modern girls to prefer Patty... despite Patty's questionable character.

Patty is troubled, rebellious, and prone to lying or throwing fits of temper. She's self-centered, thoughtless, vain, and 'fast'—or she would be, if boys liked her. (They don't). All this is balanced out by Lambert's ability to make Patty real and sympathetic, although at no time does Lambert excuse Patty or minimize her faults.

Characters speak slangily, making frequent use of darn, gosh-darn, etc. However, church is regularly attended (although Ginger's father sometimes plays golf instead).

Innocent romance comes through Ginger's infatuation with Spark Plug (real name, Elston), the boy next door, as well as rich, handsome Tim. The interactions between Ginger and her many friends ring true and would be appealing to modern girls but the books are very 1960s, with malt shops, proms, and a strong dose of bland suburban conformity.

At times the books lack focus. Every character, even the parents, takes an active role in the stories. More problematic: the parents' scenes are preachy, filled with somewhat sanctimonious sermons on what 'obedient' teens would do.

This is not one of Lambert's finest efforts, but it's still a charming read.

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

Bittersweet / Drew Lamm. LCCN 2003012503. New York : Clarion Books, 2003.

HBB, 061816443X; \$15.00.

Fic. Grandmothers--Fiction; Grief--Fiction; Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Artists--Fiction. 214 p. ; 24 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : Not recommended.

Bittersweet by Drew Lamm is the story of a high school girl named Taylor who is devastated when a stroke leaves her grandmother incapacitated. Taylor's mother died in a car accident when she was an infant and her grandmother filled that void in her life. Prior to the stroke, they had a very close and healthy relationship. The novel focuses heavily on Taylor's relationships with those around her as she learns how to reach out and form important bonds with other individuals in her life. Her relationship with her father is particularly special. In the beginning they are shy and distant from one another, but they do take the initiative to grow in their relationship and begin to form a more solid father/daughter bond.

The importance of loving family bonds is a noteworthy theme. However, this possibly delightful story is marred by a lack of depth and insight, most especially in a spiritual sense. It contains many scenes that come close to sharing truth with teens, but just miss the mark. For example, there is swearing in several places and Taylor randomly smokes a joint in the middle of the novel. She learns that a friend has previously had an abortion and states that "She either has her baby or she has it killed. She's wrecked either way." But, after that she adds that "I don't blame anyone who'd choose not to have a baby." There is swearing, a scene where Taylor looks down on the role of mothers, and one where she sketches a guy she knows nude. Taylor does get herself out of a bad situation where a guy tries to force himself on her and stands up to another guy who asks her to go "in the closet" with him. In the end, she gets over her discontent about what has happened to her grandmother when she just decides it is time to let go. Her life is devoid of any deeper hope than that, which I find very sad. In light of that fact and of all the aforementioned content issues, I cannot recommend this book for church or parochial school libraries.

Tinna D. Mills, *Young Adult Services Specialist, Chippewa River District Library, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.*

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Changing faces / by Wendy Lawton. (Real TV--real transformations series ; take 1.) LCCN 2004002826. Chicago : Moody Press, 2004.

PAP, 0802454135; \$10.99.

Fic. Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Shelters for the homeless--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 219 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 8-12. Rating : *5.

Author Wendy Lawton introduces readers to a new teen series with the book *Changing Faces*. High school senior Olivia O'Donnell strives to achieve her goal of becoming valedictorian of her class. However, she learns she isn't the only student vying for the honor—she is tied with two others. Knowing she must incorporate volunteer hours into her already crowded schedule, Olivia seeks out her youth pastor's wife Diane, a PR person for a homeless shelter. Olivia, not excited about working with the homeless, agrees to assist Diane with her PR work on an upcoming fundraiser, the biggest income generator for the shelter of the year. Not only is Olivia struggling to maintain a tough academic and volunteer schedule, but she also strives to include her best friend Jane. Despite best intentions, her friendship takes a back seat as Olivia must assume more and more of the fundraising banquet responsibilities when Diane is diagnosed with breast cancer. To top it all off, a reality TV show, *Changing Faces* agrees to Diane's months-old request to perform a makeover on her, hoping to generate more awareness of the plight of the shelter. Because of her cancer treatments, Diane is unable to follow through; instead she recommends Olivia for the makeover. In the midst of all the craziness, Olivia learns valuable lessons about friendships, relationships, and judging others. She also realizes the importance of including God in all facets of her life.

Lawton creates credible characters with realistic dialogue and relevant teen problems. Instead of foisting a spiritual message upon the reader, Lawton gently guides readers along Olivia's journey, allowing them to learn along with Olivia. The characters are dynamic and well-rounded, adding insight into the real-life issues many teens face.

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

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Shadow of his hand : a story based on the life of holocaust survivor Anita Dittman / by Wendy Lawton. (Daughters of the Faith series ; 6.) LCCN 2004000279. Chicago : Moody Press, 2004.

PAP, 0802440746; \$6.99.

Fic. Dittman, Anita--Juvenile fiction; Dittman, Anita--Fiction; Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Juvenile fiction; Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Fiction; Jewish Christians--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Jews--Germany--History--1933-1945--Fiction; Germany--History--1933-1945--Fiction. 148 p. ; 20 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : *5.

Sixth in the Daughters of the Faith series, *Shadow of His Hand* recounts the life of Anita Dittman as she and her family struggle to

survive while living in Nazi Germany. When Hitler comes to power, Anita's life changes forever. Abandoned by her father, Anita, her mother, and sister Hilde struggle to find food to eat and to keep a sense of normalcy in their lives. When all hope seems lost, their mother hears of Pastor Hornig, a Christian who is helping Jews leave Germany. She contacts him and he agrees to begin working towards acquiring the needed paperwork for the Dittmans to leave Germany. Impacted by his kindness and love, Anita and her mother grow to learn more about the God he serves and eventually come to love him as their own. As time moves on, the paperwork is stalled while the pressure on Jews increases. The Dittmans are forced to move to a ghetto area. Finally a visa arrives for Hilde alone. She leaves for England and shortly thereafter Anita's mother is taken to a work camp in Czechoslovakia, leaving Anita to fend for herself. Yet despite the troubles, Anita sees the hand of God in her life. She survives the Holocaust and finally is reunited with her mother.

Author Wendy Lawton does a superb job breathing life into the true account of Anita Dittman. The quick pace, realistic dialogue, and character development makes this a book most young people will read without wanting to stop. All of Lawton's books are well written, but this may be her finest in the series. As in the case with her previous works, Lawton includes a glossary to help children learn unfamiliar words.

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

Mystery letters / by Beverly Lewis. Rev., updated ed. (Holly's heart; 12.) LCCN 2003001452. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003.

PAP, 0764226193; \$5.99.

Fic. High schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Letter writing--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 153 p. ; 18 cm.

Grades 7-12. Rating : 4.

Devoted *Holly's Heart* fans will not be disappointed with the latest developments in Holly Meredith's life and her extended family—her stepfather who is also her Uncle Jack and her brounsins: cousins-turned-stepbrothers.

In *Mystery Letters*, Holly returns from visiting her father in California, excited about her new friend Sean, an upperclassman. Holly is thrilled when he writes to her but irritated when her younger sister opens and reads the letters before Holly gets home from school.

Being assistant editor, writing on her novel in her spare time, and writing for the school newspaper, *The Summit*, keeps Holly busy. But when her advisor asks her to undertake a student advice column she readily agrees. Then one day the advice column receives an unsigned

letter addressed to Holly, asking her to tell all: who she is, what she likes to do, and why.

The letter puzzles Holly. She wonders who wrote the letter and why they want to know more about her. Do they envy her friendship with Sean, thinking her too proud to befriend freshman boys? Perhaps the girls are jealous, thinking she gets too much attention from her writing? Surprise, thankfulness, and appreciation follow when the responsible person admits to sending the letters.

Beverly Lewis, an appealing author in both adult and children's books, started writing stories before she started high school. She lives near Amish country in Philadelphia and has added an Amish cookbook to her accomplishments. She refers to her kid consultants when writing books like *Holly's Heart*. This book should not be read by tweens whose mothers want them to avoid dating stories.

Maxine Cambra, Sunday School Teacher; Freelance Writer, Anderson, California.

Lifeblood / by Werner Lind ; illustrated by Lisa Victoria. : Silver Lake Publishing, 2004.

PAP, 1931095698; \$12.95.

Fic. Vampires--Fiction. 148 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 9-12 (Adult). Rating : 4.

Ana Vasilifata is a young woman searching for a loving husband. But in medieval Transylvania she encounters an evil that horribly transforms her life. Yet she retains the essential goodness and humanness of her nature, hating what she has become, and yearning for a return to true human life. Evil has imprisoned her in an undead body, but it has not made her evil; Ana inspires sympathy and compassion.

Her earthly life ends at the hands of a terrified mob; but when she awakens three hundred years later, it is to a strange country and a world vastly different, where she must still hide from daylight and avoid raising the fears of suspicious townfolk. She is befriended by Joshua, a kind-hearted carpenter, who is attracted to this mysterious foreigner. Joshua gradually comes to learn the truth about Ana, while she wrestles with her feelings and tries—unsuccessfully—to conceal her identity.

Lifeblood, a work of supernatural fiction, is written with an undeniably Christian worldview. There is none of the goriness, grotesquerie, or eroticism that characterizes secular vampire fiction. Rather, it is a touching love story, handled sensitively by first-time novelist Werner Lind.

Lifeblood possesses all the requisite trappings—bats, superstitious country folk, a coffin in a dark basement, a vampire hunter—but these are peripherals. The real story is a very human one. The original and highly effective ending is a

powerful metaphor for Christ's love for sinful humanity. For Lind, vampirism represents primarily a spiritual condition—sin—not a physical one. The underlying truth of *Lifeblood* applies to us all.

For the most part, Lind has told his story well. *Lifeblood* flows easily and logically, with periods of action and suspense alternating with moments of tenderness. Lind handles Ana's awakening to the modern world with skill, humor, and perception. Violence is depicted with restraint. There are some unfortunate medical inaccuracies toward the end of the novel, but these do not spoil what is a very enjoyable book suitable for both young adult and adult readership.

Andrew M. Seddon, Author and Physician, Billings, Montana.

Run, boy, run : a novel / by Uri Orlev ; translated from the Hebrew by Hillel Halkin. LCCN 2003001550. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2003.

HBB, 0618164650; \$15.00.

Fic. Fridman, Yoram--Juvenile fiction; Fridman, Yoram--Fiction; Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Poland--Warsaw--Juvenile fiction; Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Poland--Warsaw--Fiction; Survival--Fiction; Poland--History--20th century--Fiction. 186 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : 5, with caution.

An historical novel set in Poland during WWII, *Run, Boy, Run* tells the story of the Jewish boy, Srulik Frydman. At the age of eight, Srulik finds himself orphaned and running for his life. Changing his name to Janek to hide his nationality, joining briefly with adults and children who sometimes exploit, sometimes help him, this scared, wandering child faces years of running, coping with terrible problems alone, dwindling memories, hopelessness, and final rescue. An important epilogue gives a précis of the actual war experiences of Yoram, the model for Srulik.

Hans Christian Anderson Award winner, child survivor of the Holocaust, acclaimed author Uri Orlev narrates this tale with honesty and uncompromising detail. Told from the perspective of a child, *Run, Boy, Run* is a Mildred L. Batchelder Honor Book. It is a simply told, horrifying, important story. Srulik had to mature without adult direction. Several scenes in this book will affect the reader deeply, creating need for an adult mentor. Hatred for Jews is scathingly portrayed. Treated by a Jew hating doctor, Srulik loses an arm. Good people are beaten and killed. Being a Jew, Srulik tries to hide his circumcision. However, with no more detail than the scenes demand, both male and female playmates discover his circumcision. Srulik learns to give great loyalty to those few people he trusts: in one scene he seeks to keep the girl's father from discovering an engaged couple having premarital sex. After years of pretense, Srulik loses his Jewish memories, and fears the Jews who want to help him. This book

draws important contrasts between true and fake followers of Christ. In today's uncertain, frightening world such history as delineated in *Run, Boy, Run* will lead to important discussion, thought, voicing of barely understood fears, and action. Remembering this books need of adult mentoring, it is recommended for all libraries and schools.

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

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Scout : the secret of the swamp / by Piet Prins. LCCN 97019929. Pella, Ia. : Inheritance Publications, 1996.

PAP, 0921100507; \$8.90.

Fic. German shepherd dog--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Netherlands--History--German occupation, 1940-1945--Juvenile fiction; Netherlands--History--German occupation, 1940-1945--Fiction. 176 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades 6-8. Rating : *5.

Tom and his father purchase a German Shepherd puppy and, due to his curiosity, name him Scout. When robbers break into Tom's house and abscond with many of the family's valuables, he and Scout track the robbers down, and, in spite of nearly getting killed, are greatly instrumental in their capture and incarceration. Later, Hitler and his Nazi Army invade the Netherlands. Tom and Scout work together to rescue an English soldier who has parachuted from a crashing bomber, reveal a traitor who lives among the peaceful villagers, and help the Canadian army aircorps oust the Nazis from the Netherlands.

Scout: The Secret of the Swamp by Piet Prins is a charming serial style story about a boy and his dog who heroically help to rid their small part of the world of its enemies. The reader is entranced by Scout's intelligence, loyalty, and exploits and is reminded of the classic Lassie television adventures of the 1950's and 60's. Tom is a brave and inspiring young man, who instills, through his actions, wonderful morals, hope in humankind, and faith in God. Prins is the pen name for Pieter Jongeling, a Dutch teacher, newspaper correspondent, statesman, and prolific writer of inspirational children's serials. Includes Inheritance Publications' Third Millennium Catalog, complete with title index. Inheritance Publications is a Canadian company that publishes clean fiction and non-fiction, including Bibles, reference materials, and sheet music, for all ages. Highly recommended for all quality Christian children's historical fiction collections.

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

All's fair in love, war and high school / Janette Rallison. LCCN 2003042299. New York : Walker Books, 2003.

HBB, 0802788742; \$16.95.

Fic. High schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Self-perception--Fiction; Elections--Fiction. 183 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

All's Fair in Love, War, and High School pokes gentle fun at myth surrounding cheerleaders as being popular, pretty, and trouble-free. Pretty and popular cheerleader Samantha Taylor faces her own set of woes when she scores miserably on her SATs, minimizing her chances of gaining acceptance at any good colleges. To make her life more miserable, her boyfriend breaks up with her right before the prom. Mix in a bet with an ex-boyfriend to refrain from insults or caustic comments for the next two weeks, and the plot is ripe for entertainment. In an attempt to highlight leadership skills rather than academics on her college admission form, Samantha runs for student body president. While campaigning and adhering to the insult-free lifestyle, Samantha learns valuable lessons about herself, others, and what's important in life.

Author Janette Rallison offers up writing filled with wry wit. Laugh-out-loud humor highlights this book, written in first person, which offers likeable characters and real-life high school crises. Despite the humor, an important lesson is gleaned from the words as well. As a dynamic character, Samantha charms readers while causing them to pause and evaluate their own lives as she does the same with hers.

Teen girls will enjoy this well-written book, laughing and learning from it.

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

Slumming / Kristen D. Randle. LCCN 2002032812. New York : Harper Tempest, 2003.

HBB, 0060010223; \$15.99.

Fic. Self-perception--Fiction; Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Family problems--Fiction; Best friends--Fiction; Mormons--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; High schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 232 p. ; 19 cm.

Grades 8-12. Rating : 5.

In the novel *Slumming* Kristen Randle explores what might happen if three contemporary Mormon teens set out to change the world one person at a time. Alicia, Nikki and Sam make a bet where they each choose one "obviously untapped" person to befriend. Their plan is to see who can cause the most "positive change" in just two weeks. Alicia secretly chooses a "bad boy," Nikki goes for a "nerd," while Sam chooses a silent and emotionally disturbed girl.

Alicia, Nikki, and Sam all come from homes where values are held sacred. Even so, they have challenges. In fact, Alicia's mother recently denounced the teachings of her "father's church" and abandoned their family. Sam also faces difficulty when Tia shares a life story that includes sexual abuse and abandonment. Randle presents many hard hitting issues, such as divorce, sexual abuse,

purity, juvenile delinquency, and parental abandonment. However, she is tactful. For example, she uses terms like “whatever” or refers to “a very rude phrase” rather than being profane. Sam stands up to the temptation to have premarital sex and feels good about the decision to stick to his values. Nikki learns about RNA in a science project and becomes awed by the intricacies of creation, while Alicia learns that hanging around with a rough crowd might not be safe even though the people caught up in it may have good hearts.

I highly recommend this book because the portrayal of the tough issues is not graphic. These three teens cling to their faith and pray for wisdom. Plus, they all learn that reaching out to someone in need can cause positive changes in them as well.

Tinna D. Mills, Young Adult Services Specialist, Chippewa River District Library, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

Horse crazy Lily / Nancy Rue. (Lily series ; 11.) LCCN 2003000551. Grand Rapids : Zondervan/Zonderkidz, 2003.

PAP, 0310702631; \$5.99.

Fic. Adoption--Fiction; Family problems--Fiction; Horses--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 127 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Twelve-year-old Lily Robbins discovers she is a natural with horses and commits herself wholeheartedly to this new passion. However, the timing couldn't be worse as her family struggles to adjust to the demanding needs of their newly-adopted daughter, Tessa, who disrupts their lives and Lily's plans. Just when Lily feels ready to give up on her new sister, a terrible accident occurs, testing her faith in God to new limits. And through two unlikely friends, Lily learns the importance of never giving up on anyone.

Consistent with other books in this series, *Horse Crazy Lily* by Nancy Rue shines at slice-of-life plot development, authentic characters, and skillful dialogue. Rue keeps the storyline moving along a realistic course while maintaining sensitive perceptivity of the unique and difficult challenges a family faces when adopting an emotionally scarred child. In many ways, Rue uses Lily's experience with a runaway horse to mirror her relationship with Tessa, her new sister. Both are hard to handle, and both push Lily into a new arena of personal and spiritual growth.

Although this book's strength is depicting life realistically through believable characters, it misses the hurdle a few times with instances of spiritual triteness and one all-too-convenient character transformation. Nonetheless, it is still an appealing story with a meaningful lesson that's sure to engage readers of this age group.

Rondi Feyereisen, BS. Freelance Writer, Former Teacher, Hudson, Wisconsin.

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Lily's church camp adventure / Nancy Rue. (Lily series ; 12.) LCCN 2003000550. Grand Rapids : Zondervan/Zonderkidz, 2003.

PAP, 031070264X; \$5.99.

Fic. Church camps--Fiction; Camps--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Sailing--Fiction; Maine--Fiction. 122 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : *5.

Lily has everything to be excited about this summer. She and her four closest friends from middle school, The Girlz, are heading off for two weeks of absolute fun at Bible camp. Upon arrival, however, her world crumbles when she discovers The Girlz will be split up, and she is assigned to a cabin full of strangers. As Lily deals with the many unexpected challenges of Camp Galilee—from sailing to poison ivy to Maggie, her cabin mate with non-stop questions—she travels some uncharted territory in relationship with God, with others, and with herself.

In this twelfth book of the Lily series, author Nancy Rue takes the nearly universal experience of summer camp, mixes in realistic, well-defined characters, authentic dialogue, and a plausible yet well-paced plot to come up with a winning recipe for the middle-school girls crowd. Rue's solid understanding of this age group—their struggles and what motivates them—leads to an effective story line with plenty of reader appeal. In Lily, Rue weaves a believable character who grows in believable ways when she faces unexpected trials at camp.

In *Lily's Church Camp Adventure*, readers receive not only impressive instruction in sailing, but also valuable insight into God's plan for unlikely friendships and accepting whomever he places on your sailing vessel in life.

Rondi Feyereisen, BS. Freelance Writer, Former Teacher, Hudson, Wisconsin

Maniac Magee / by Jerry Spinelli. LCCN 89027144. Boston : Little, Brown, 1990.

HBB, 0316807222; \$15.95.

Fic. Legends--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Athletes--Fiction; Newbery Medal. 184 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : 4.

Runaway Jeffrey Magee's ability to evade school, excel at street games, and untie any knot that comes his way fascinates the people of Two Mills. The fact that he very calmly sits on crazy Mr. Finsterwald's front porch convinces the children of Two Mills that Magee is a maniac. Magee runs from place to place, never staying long wherever he lands. Despite his apparent bravado and wanderlust, Maniac desires the stability of a loving family that he was denied when his parents died.

Jerry Spinelli effectively uses humor and hyperbole to drive the plot of *Maniac Magee*. His use of imagery, “they say Maniac Magee was born in a dump” and metaphor “They say his stomach was a cereal box and his heart a sofa spring” create a light mood. The witty dialogue is fresh, although some readers may question the use of “trash talk” used by some characters, including the use of one word which borders on profanity. The humorous treatment of Magee's antics brilliantly contrasts the serious themes of this contemporary fiction book. The lessons Magee learns, love others like you want to be loved and never give up hope, can serve as a guide to us all.

Kristina A. Wolcott, BS. Piano Teacher, Freelance Writer, Oroville, California.

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The escape : the adventures of three Huguenot children fleeing persecution / by A. Van der Jagt. (Huguenot inheritance series ; 1.) LCCN 93038792. Pella, Ia. : Inheritance Publications, 1993.

PAP, 0921100043; \$9.95.

Fic. Huguenots--France--Juvenile fiction; Huguenots--France--Fiction. 178 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 8-12. Rating : *5.

Seventeenth century France is a bloody and dangerous place to be a Huguenot. The leaders of the Roman Catholic Church have convinced themselves and many of the royals that France must be rid of the Huguenots, who would split the political balance and weaken the country. John and his family live in a small village in southern France. As Huguenots, protected by the Edict of Nantes, they have enjoyed the freedom to quietly practice their religion, until now. Suddenly, the town Priest orders the arrest of John's father, who will spend the rest of his days rowing in ships' galleys, takes his sister away to be locked up in a monastery, and leaves John and his mother to grieve over their losses. When John's mother dies and the pressure increases for him to become a Roman Catholic, John knows he must somehow run away, find his sister, and head for Holland and religious freedom.

The Escape: The Adventures of Three Huguenot Children Fleeing Persecution by A. Van der Jagt is based on historical accounts of the bravery of Huguenot orphans seeking religious freedom. Rather than choosing to give in to the intense daily pressures to deny their faith, these young heroes faced ridicule, starvation, imprisonment, and even death for their cause. Van der Jagt sensitively sketches out the characters and life on the streets for these orphans, reminding the reader of the value and importance of God's calling on our lives. From peaceful village to crowded tavern, and kind-hearted peasants to power-hungry priests and matriarchs, Van der Jagt shows rare depth in understanding the human condition. Highly recommended for all

Christian historical and inspirational fiction collections.

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

Jana's journal / Jeanette Windle. LCCN 2001050858. Grand Rapids : Kregel Publications, 2002.

PAP, 082544117X; \$12.99.

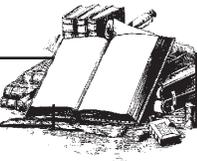
Fic. Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Self-esteem--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Gangs--Fiction; High schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; San Diego (Calif.)--Fiction. 236 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

Jana's senior year promises to be like the rest of her high school experience—ignored by the popular crowd, hanging out with her best friends Sally and Annette, being stuck with thankless behind-the-scenes jobs, and enduring her outwardly perfect and inwardly dysfunctional family. An unrealized promotion and lectures cause her life to tilt further downward. A counselor insists what Jana needs is self-confidence and the ability to say no, and soon Jana has a new look, fewer responsibilities, and a whirring social life with the in crowd. Everything is perfect, but she can't understand why she feels so hollow inside.

The diary starts slowly with an in-depth look at Jana's friends and family before the main conflicts begin. Jana's life progresses in phases with only a few unifying plot threads, expected for a character-driven teen journal. The book's character growth and lessons mimic *The Princess Diaries* while the author clings to CBA standards so closely that the realism is nearly compromised. Unique but somewhat pigeonholed characters keep the reader interested but not intrigued until the unexpected twist near the end of the book. Little setting description is given due to the introspective tone, but the sensory details noted are keen. The minimal dialogue sparkles with occasional wit, but humor is laced throughout Jana's narrative. Strong spiritual lessons become realistic through the flawed but lovable characters.

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



Cut me some slack, Lord : reflections for teen males / Mary Ann Kerl. LCCN 2004104344. Austin, Tex. : LangMarc Pub., 2004.

PAP, 1880292521; \$9.95.

242/.63. Teenagers--Prayer-books and devotions--English; Teenagers--Religious life. 104 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 7-12. Rating : 4.

Containing over forty devotions, *Cut Me Some Slack, Lord* looks at subjects of real interest to teenage males. The format is simple: a youth relevant, interesting summation of the subject; pertinent scripture; suggestions for reflection; and practical suggestions for Christian action. Where needed, e.g. homosexuality and suicide, practical suggestions include hot-line phone numbers. Other subjects considered are cowardliness, friendships, drugs, careers, self-esteem, love and money, sex, abortion, terrorism, parents, stress, faith, and prayer. Both photo and written illustrations focus on contemporary young men.

An educator interested in mass communications, author Mary Ann Kerl garners her subject matter from interaction with her teen students. Her conversational writing style draws the reader into the subject, encouraging thoughtful, personal prayer and action. Although brief, the devotions encourage further study of the ideas presented. As well as individual teen males, Christian camps and youth groups will also find this book useful for group devotions and discussions.

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

Stuff a girl's gotta know : little hints for big things in a girl's life / Andrea Stephens. LCCN 2002015561. Ann Arbor, Mich. : Servant/Vine Books, 2003.

PAP, 1569552975; \$10.99.

248.8. Teenage girls--Religious life. 184 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 7-9. Rating : 4.

Andrea Stephens, beauty editor at *Brio* magazine and a former model, has written *Stuff A Girl's Gotta Know*, a guide to get girls "clued in" to topics that matter in their lives. Girl Stuff, Growing Up Stuff, Girlfriend Stuff, God Stuff, Guy Stuff, and Grades 'n Stuff are covered in a breezy, conversational style. Other topics covered: what constitutes a healthy diet, how to set goals, how to interview for a job, how to dress chastely, how to develop pure relationships with guys, and how to plan for college.

The book touches on mature concepts (there's a detailed discussion of menstruation, for example, and a section on how girls are sometimes disappointed with their breast size). Words like 'nipple' and 'mammary glands' creep in, as does an occasional 'gosh.' Stephens frankly handles questions girls may have on sex ed issues, but she also writes gently, always taking a Christian perspective. Self esteem is stressed; girls are cautioned not to compare themselves to one another; that a Master Designer has handcrafted each of us is mentioned several times. Also, Bible verses are used to prove points or merely to encourage.

Experts in various areas (medicine, the media, etc.) share thoughts and tips, although these 'guest writers' lean a bit heavily towards *Brio* personnel. Quizzes and fill-in-the-blanks questions-and-answers add an interactive touch.

Stuff doesn't cover any truly new ground, and it assumes its readers are already Christian (meaning it can possibly confuse or alienate a non-Christian reader), but it's a nicely planned, smoothly written book that should be useful for junior and senior high girls.

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

Revolve : the complete New Testament / Nashville : Thomas Nelson/Transit Books, 2003.

PAP, 0718003586; \$14.99.

252.52. Teenagers--Religious life. 389 p. : ol. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : Not recommended.

Refuel : the complete New Testament / Nashville : Thomas Nelson/Transit Books, 2004.

PAP, 0718006763; \$16.99.

252.52. Teenagers--Religious life. 384 p. : ol. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : Not recommended.

Few major media outlets seem to have missed the *Revolve New Testament*, published by Thomas Nelson's imprint Transit Books. *The New York Times* placed it among "a new generation of Bibles by religious publishers," and says that Thomas Nelson is "marketing the Scripture in much the same way as *Seventeen* sells itself to the average adolescent."

Thomas Nelson does not deny the charge, but rather admits that using the teenage magazine idiom to push the Bible is the whole point of *Revolve* (and *Refuel*, the guys' version). "We

asked teens, and they told us what they wanted," said a spokeswoman for the publisher.

Consumer reviewers on Amazon did not miss *Revolve*, either. The one element they singled out most often as objectionable to them was *Revolve's* urging girls not to ask guys out but to allow males to do the initiating. Several readers even accused the niche Bible of being "fundamentalist" propaganda.

This is indicative of the overall conservative theological bent of the volume, though conservative theology and hip advice often make for odd juxtapositions. For example, the physical modesty *Revolve* recommends in its side-bars is not always reflected by the hundreds of photos populating the text. Another example: the introduction to Revelation does not doubt John's authorship, but says the book is the result of "a bizarre vision." "If there were a movie on this revelation," the introduction continues, "it would be like Stephen King meets Stephen Spielberg: the best horror movie with special effects galore." *Revolve* also lets "Guys Speak Out" in numerous word bubbles, and the young men-on-the-street offer advice such as, "Never say never. Because there are plenty of examples of success from people who have never thought anything is out of their reach."

Refuel shows a similar effort to speak to teenage boys in their language, offering up theology next to a top ten list of the "Worst Smells on God's Green Earth."

Research by prominent sociologist Christian Smith, director of the National Study on Youth and Religion at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, led Thomas Nelson to create *Revolve* and *Refuel*. Smith comments, "Maybe new packaging will make kids read the Bible. In the short run you may get people's attention and interest. But in the long run, it may redefine religion into something it's not."

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

Her stories : African American folktales, fairy tales, and true tales / told by Virginia Hamilton ; illustrated by Leo & Diane Dillon. LCCN 94033055. New York : Scholastic/The Blue Sky Press, 1995.

HBB, 0590473700; \$22.95.

398.2/082. African American women--Folklore. xiii, 112 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 5-9. Rating : 4.

Virginia Hamilton selects nineteen tales about African American females to retell in this anthology. Some are animal stories, some fairy tales, some supernatural, some legends, and a few are true tales, but in each a strong intriguing female is a primary character. Ms. Hamilton offers informative commentary about the origin and type of story at the end of each tale. An extended bibliography of "Useful Sources" is appended. An introduction and afterward provide valuable insight into Ms. Hamilton's thinking about the stories and the importance of the strong female in the lives of African Americans. Leo and Diane Dillon create one full-color illustration per story making this an illustrated book, not a picture storybook.

Her Stories is a beautifully designed book, and worthy of much praise for both text and illustration, but it is also one of those hard to sell books. By design it is oversize in dimension and thickness; the glossy pages make it heavy. Just the physical aspects of the book make it imposing and intimidating, and too difficult for many elementary age children who are reading folktales and fairy tales. The juxtaposition of topics (supernatural and true, legend and animal) also results in confusion over the potential audience. As a librarian, I would encourage a teacher to read selections from the book aloud as part of a Black history unit. The masterful prose is too beautiful and too varied to miss, and the selection of tales too significant to skip. The illustrations are luxurious and detailed reminiscent of the Dillons work in *Ashanti to Zulu* (Dial, 1976) and *Pish, Posh, Said Hieronymus Bosch* (Harcourt Brace, 1991). But experience has told me this is a title missed during library browsing. Christian schools may want to carefully examine the chapter, "Her Supernatural," which contains tales of transformation, boo hag a witch, a conjure woman who deals in magic spells and voodoo, and guardian spirits. *Her Stories* is a fine, fine book for an elusive audience.

Marion M. Mueller, MS. Library Media Specialist, New Hope Christian School, Neenah, Wisconsin.

West Nile Virus / by Melissa Abramovitz. (Diseases and disorders.) LCCN 2003005441. San Diego : Gale/Lucent, 2004.

LIB, 1590183436; \$27.45.

616.9/25. West Nile fever--Juvenile literature; West Nile virus--Juvenile literature; West Nile fever; West Nile virus; Diseases. 96 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Smallpox / by Barbara Saffer. (Diseases and disorders.) LCCN 2002154020. San Diego : Gale/Lucent, 2003.

LIB, 1590183010; \$27.45.

616.9/12. Smallpox--Juvenile literature; Smallpox; Diseases. 112 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Cerebral palsy / by Barbara Sheen. (Diseases and disorders.) LCCN 2002153659. San Diego : Gale/Lucent, 2003.

LIB, 1590180380; \$27.45.

616.8/36. Cerebral palsy--Juvenile literature; Cerebral palsy; Diseases. 96 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : 4.

A science/history series, the volumes of Diseases and Disorders generally follow this outline: a description of the disease or disorder, its past and contemporary history, prevention and treatment, and other pertinent data. All books conclude with copious notes supporting each chapter, a relevant glossary, lists for further information, an extensive bibliography, and a useful index.

In *West Nile Virus*, medical author Melissa Abramovitz takes a deep look at this contemporary problem. The sections concerning this virus's past and contemporary history and future possibilities provide engrossing reading.

In *Smallpox*, biologist and science writer Barbara Saffer looks not only at the past of this disease but also at the horror of possible biological warfare use.

And in *Cerebral Palsy*, uniquely, this volume considers the subject from standpoint of the sufferer. Experienced writer and educator Barbara Sheen investigates both standard and alternative treatments.

With capable authors using well-researched data, the books comprising Diseases and Disorders catch reader interest with the intrinsic elements of mystery, horror, victory, and encouragement. Historical and contemporary medical and human-interest photos add pertinent information and a personal dimension. Both reference and individual study books, these volumes will be valuable to libraries, students, and teachers in all types of educational situations.

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

George Washington : true patriot / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Heroes of history.) LCCN 2001006258. Lynnwood, Wash. : YWAM Publishing, 2003.

PAP, 1883002818; \$8.99.

973.4/1/092 or B. Washington, George, 1732-1799 -- Juvenile literature; Washington, George, 1732-1799; Presidents--United States--Biography--Juvenile literature; Generals--United States--Biography--Juvenile literature; Presidents. 224 p. : map ; 21 cm.

George Washington : unit study curriculum guide / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Heroes of history.) Lynnwood, Wash. : YWAM Publishing, 2003.

PAP, 1883002869; \$8.99.

973.4/1/092 or B. Washington, George, 1732-1799 -- Juvenile literature; Washington, George, 1732-1799; Presidents--United States--Biography--Juvenile literature; Generals--United States--Biography--Juvenile literature; Presidents. 63 p. : map ; 21 cm.

George Washington Carver : from slave to scientist / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Heroes of history.) Lynnwood, Wash. : YWAM Publishing, 2003.

PAP, 1883002788; \$8.99.

630/.92 or B. Carver, George Washington, 1864?-1943 -- Juvenile literature; Carver, George Washington, 1864?-1943; African American agriculturists--Biography--Juvenile literature; Agriculturists--United States--Biography--Juvenile literature; African Americans--Biography; Agriculturists. 191 p. : map ; 21 cm.

George Washington Carver : unit study, curriculum guide / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Heroes of history.) Lynnwood, Wash. : YWAM Publishing, 2003.

PAP, 1883002834; \$8.99.

630/.92 or B. Carver, George Washington, 1864?-1943 -- Juvenile literature; Carver, George Washington, 1864?-1943; African American agriculturists--Biography--Juvenile literature; Agriculturists--United States--Biography--Juvenile literature; African Americans--Biography; Agriculturists. 61 p. : map ; 21 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : 5.

Heroes of History describe the lives and achievements of several dozen personalities who've influenced the modern world, including missionaries and Christian statesmen. Many titles have corresponding unit study guides for classroom or homeschool use.

In *George Washington : True Patriot*, the Benges begin his story at age six, covering the pre-Revolutionary War era and ending with Washington's death. His family, military and political involvements are well chronicled. Readers will enjoy the drama of George Washington's life as a boy in America, viewing the country, people and problems from his eyes. His experiences are actively described, and the history of the nascent nation well documented. Readers will gain a wide perspective of the country's beginnings while relishing a good read.

George W. Carver, about another individual instrumental in the cultural development of the US, provides a look into the trials and obstacles faced by minorities who built the nation. Carver's significant discoveries, accomplishments, and laudable character qualities are neatly laid out. Readers will be inspired by his example while learning more U.S. history.

These additions to the Heroes of History series provide beneficial surveys of the lives of two important figures. Upper elementary and middle school readers will gain useful historical context while understanding what made these men noteworthy. The study guides add value to a broad range of grade levels for home study.

Karen Schmidt, BA. Freelance Writer/Editor, Marysville, Washington.

All American Quilts / written by Biz Storms ; illustrated by June Bradford. (Kids Can do it.) Toronto : KidsCan, 2003.

HBB, 1553375386; \$12.95.

746.46. Quilting--Juvenile literature. 40 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : 4.

All-American Quilts by Biz Storms gives step-by-step instructions for creating patriotic banners, pillows, lap quilts, samplers, a fabric checkerboard, and a wall hanging. Red, white, and blue designs range from an American eagle, friendship star, log cabin, and an advanced sampler, to a checkerboard and a hearts-and-stars array. Materials, quilting terms, and stitches are all described. The variety of projects is suitable for the child or adult novice with no sewing or quilting experience and youth with some quilting expertise.

Users of *All-American Quilts* will find useful instruction and satisfying results from these pages. Large colored illustrations accompany each step of each project, providing visual help for the most inexperienced crafter. Plenty of white space gives an open feel to each two-page spread. Projects include a color photo of the finished quilt, detailed supply lists and helpful tips. Children age eight and up with average manual dexterity and determination will be able to learn how to piece and sew quilts. Two pages of reproducible templates finish the book. *All-American Quilts* can be used with American history studies or as stand-alone projects for crafty kids and even teens and adults.

Karen Schmidt, BA. Freelance Writer/Editor, Marysville, Washington.

100 best-loved poems / edited by Philip Smith. LCCN 95019647. New York : Dover Publications, 1995.

PAP, 0486285537; \$1.50.

821.008. American poetry; English poetry. x, 101 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 7-12 (Adult). Rating : 4.

Philip Smith's collection of poetry, *100 Best-Loved Poems*, contains poems from a variety of poets and time periods, from the late Middle Ages to the 20th century, including John Milton's "On His Blindness," William Blake's "The Tyger," Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken," and e.e. cummings' "anyone lived in a pretty how town." Each poet's work also includes brief introductory notes, and there is an index of titles and first lines in the back. Some of the poems are morally questionable, such as Marlowe's "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love" and Marval's "To His Coy Mistress," which school librarians may wish to take into account. Overall, though, the collection is a good introduction to the world of poetry and it may lead interested readers to search out more material by some of the poets represented.

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

American flags : designs for a young nation / by Nancy Druckman ; with commentaries by Jeffrey Kenneth Kohn. LCCN 2002152403. New York : Abrams, 2003.

HBB, 0810945061; \$16.95.

929.9/2 /0973. Flags--United States--History. 79 p. : col. ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades 10-Adult. Rating : 4.

Druckman, director of American folk art sales at Sotheby's, and a regarded authority on American folk art, and Kohn, American flag historian and scholar, give life to the seventy flags pictured and explained in *American Flags*. Until 1912, the design of the American flag was in the hands of women, pioneers, and patriots, and their creations illustrate the power of this symbol.

The range of historical designs of the Stars & Stripes and accompanying commentary give historical perspective, an inside look at American culture, and how the flag as a symbol was reworked for new states entering the Union, as promotion for political candidates, or use in military campaigns.

This unique timeless addition deserves a place in public library collections for enthusiasts of American history and vernacular art. School librarians seeking to include titles that will provide historical perspective and inspiration would do well to consider this fresh book.

Leroy Hommerding, MSL/PhD. Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida.

Behind barbed wire : the story of Japanese-American internment during WW II / by Lila Perl. (Great journeys.) LCCN 2001043337. New York : Benchmark, 2003.

HBB, 0761413219; \$22.95.

973/.004956. World War, 1939-1945--United States; World War, 1939-1945--Japanese Americans; World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps--United States; Japanese Americans--Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945; World War, 1939-1945--Prisoners and prison, American. 112 p. : ill. ; 26 cm.

The long walk : the story of Navajo captivity / by Raymond Bial. (Great journeys.) LCCN 2001043969. New York : Benchmark, 2003.

HBB, 0761413227; \$22.95.

979.1004. Barbonsito, 1821-1871; Carson, Kit, 1809-1868; Navajo Long Walk, 1863-1867; Indians of North America--Southwest, New; Navajo Indians; Bosque Redondo Indian Reservation (N.M.). 94 p. : ill., map ; 26 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : 4.

The Irish potato famine : the story of Irish-American immigration / by Edward F. Dolan. (Great journeys.) LCCN 2001006237. New York : Benchmark, 2003.

HBB, 0761413243; \$22.95.

941.5081. Ireland--History--Famine, 1845-1852. 109 p. : ill. ; 26 cm.

To the golden mountain : the story of the Chinese who built the Transcontinental Railroad / by Lila Perl. (Great journeys.) LCCN 2001006241. New York : Benchmark, 2003.

HBB, 0761413243; \$22.95.

331.7. Chinese Americans--Social conditions--19th century; China--Emigration and immigration--Government policy--History--19th century; Alien labor, Chinese--History--19th century; Railroad construction workers--History--19th century; United States--Emigration and immigration--Government policy--History--19th century. 112 p. : ill. ; 25 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : 4.

An ongoing history/social studies series, The Great Journeys introduces students to peoples who have chosen or been forced to undertake life-changing treks. With some divergences in format, all the books contain a foreword, the history from the relevant period to now, pertinent black and white pictures and photos, a bibliography and list for further reading, and a subject and illustration index.

In the 1860's eight thousand plus Navajos were starved into marching three hundred miles to Bosque Redondo, a desolate place without adequate food or shelter. Considering all sides, *The Long Walk* states stark fact, embellished by quotes from the actual participants. The closing chapter presents the contemporary history of these amazing people.

Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese in 1941, American Japanese were gathered into internment camps. *Behind Barbed Wire* uses first hand narratives to tell the story of the detention of these brave, useful American residents who had committed no treasonous acts.

After the disastrous Irish famine in 1845, more than a million Irish chose to immigrate to the United States, the Land of Promise. *The Irish Potato Famine* tells the story of this escape from starvation and sickness, and the courage of these downtrodden people. The final chapter lists famous Irish-Americans.

The Chinese began immigrating to the United States in the 1850s. Having come from starvation and trouble, they proved themselves industrious and innovative. *To the Golden Mountain* tells the story of their problems, triumphs, and their huge contribution to the building of the Transcontinental Railroad.

Richly illustrated, supplying basic, curiosity rousing information, the books in the Great Journeys series engage students' attention, add to their information wealth, and encourage

further reading. The four books reviewed are thought provoking, raising contemporary questions. Recommended for all libraries and schools.

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

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

HBB, 0836823648; \$30.00.
972.92. Jamaica--Juvenile literature; Jamaica. 96 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), 2 maps (1 col.) ; 26 cm.

Jordan / [written by Patricia Skinner]. (Countries of the world.) LCCN 2002044642. Milwaukee : Gareth Stevens, 2003.

HBB, 0836823656; \$30.00.
956.95. Jordan--Juvenile literature; Jordan. 96 p. : ill. (some col.), maps (some col.) ; 26 cm.

Liberia / [written by Paul Rozario]. (Countries of the world.) LCCN 2003045560. Milwaukee : Gareth Stevens, 2003.

HBB, 0836823664; \$30.00.
966.62. Liberia--Juvenile literature; Liberia. 96 p. : ill. (some col.), col. maps ; 26 cm.

Romania / Tiberiu Oprea. (Countries of the world.) LCCN 2003050408. Milwaukee : Gareth Stevens, 2003.

HBB, 0836823672; \$30.00.
949.8. Romania--Juvenile literature; Romania. 96 p. : col. ill., maps (some col.) ; 26 cm.

Taiwan / [written by] Michaela Ryan ; edited by Melvin Neo. (Countries of the world.) LCCN 2003042394. Milwaukee : Gareth Stevens, 2003.

HBB, 0836823680; \$30.00.
951.24/9. Taiwan--Juvenile literature; Taiwan. 96 p. : col. ill., maps (some col.) ; 26 cm.

Venezuela / [written by William Wardrope]. (Countries of the world.) LCCN 2003042737. Milwaukee : Gareth Stevens, 2003.

HBB, 0836823699; \$30.00.
987. Venezuela--Juvenile literature; Venezuela. 96 p. : col. ill., maps (some col.) ; 26 cm.
Grades 4-8. Rating : 3.

The Gareth Stevens series Countries of the World has shorter entries covering various aspects with a textbook factual summary. The overview covers geography, government and economy, people and lifestyle, language and literature, arts, leisure and festivals, and food in one third of the book. A second third explores unique aspects pertaining to the country's places, people, and programs, with length varying from country to country. A strength is found in the last third discussing the country's relations with the United States. Photos are bright in color but settings often seem to give the feel of generic application but not necessarily of local appeal.

Recommended for public libraries needing a volume on the particular country, and in those school and public libraries where students probe the relationship between the country and the United States.

Leroy Hommerding, MSL/PhD. Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida.

The White House : an illustrated history / by Catherine O'Neill Grace. LCCN 2002030603. New York : Scholastic, 2003.

HBB, 0439429714; \$19.95.
975.3. White House (Washington, D.C.); Presidents; Washington (D.C.)--Buildings, structures, etc. 144 p. : col. ill. ; 28 cm.
Grades 5-12. Rating : 5.

The White House: An Illustrated History is an excellent look at the White House, the presidents and first families who've lived there, and even the ordinary people who've worked there. Catherine O'Neill Grace's text is simple to read yet engaging, and the book is brimming with color and black and white photos, making it ideal for readers of any age.

Despite its coffee-table-book look, *The White House* is packed with information. Topics covered (and covered well) include the history of the House, its traditions and celebrations, and famous people who have visited. Detailed descriptions of most of the rooms and interviews with such employees as the pet handler, the pastry chef, and the first lady's press secretary add to the appeal. An eleven page "gallery of Presidential portraits" includes each President and brief descriptions of his special contributions to the House.

The book, published in cooperation with the White House Historical Association, has an introduction by Laura Bush, a select bibliography, and information on how to write to the President. Fun facts tell how Abigail Adams hung laundry in the East Room, how Benjamin Harrison installed electricity but was afraid to touch the switches, and that Chelsea Clinton hung posters in her bedroom "like any teenager."

Of some concern: five lovely double pages that open to centerfold-like views of such things as a panorama of Washington, D.C. may tear easily if the book sees normal library use. Also, the text doesn't always clearly differentiate between the first and second President Bush, and once states that "Queen Elizabeth I" married England's King George VI.

The book's copious coverage of its topics makes it a worthwhile purchase. Both kids and adults will come away with much new information as well as a fine appreciation of the White House's role in American history.

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

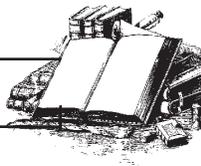
The great fire / Jim Murphy. LCCN 94009963. New York : Scholastic, 1995.

HBB, 0590472674; \$18.95.
977.3/11041. Great Fire, Chicago, Ill., 1871--Juvenile literature; Fires--Illinois--Chicago--History--19th century; Chicago (Ill.)--History--To 1875--Juvenile literature; Chicago (Ill.)--History--To 1875; Newbery Honor book. 144 p. : ill., maps ; 28 cm.
Grades 5-9. Rating : 5.

Author Jim Murphy follows the Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and lasted three days until rain finally helped extinguish the conflagration. Much of the fire is seen through the eyes of a reporter for the *Chicago Evening Post*; the editor of the *Chicago Tribune*; a man who was visiting relatives; and a twelve-year-old whose family recently moved to the city. Other eyewitness accounts including that of Catherine and Patrick O'Leary, in whose barn the fire began, are introduced. The author explores the many reasons for the fire: the hot dry weather, wooden construction of buildings and sidewalks, disorganization of the firefighter response, and the winds. Nearly 100,000 people were left homeless and 17,500 buildings were destroyed. In the final chapter Murphy debunks some of the myths that have grown up around the story, including the one having the O'Leary cow kicking the lantern, which he says is no more than gossip. Newspaper lithographs, maps, and photos reproduced in sepia are scattered liberally throughout the book.

Mr. Murphy used numerous authentic sources to document this 1996 Newbery Honor book: books written by survivors, newspapers, magazines, and letters to friends and relatives. The topic itself is engaging, but it is Mr. Murphy's energized writing style that keeps the reader turning the pages. Despite the disaster topic, the undying spirit of the people of Chicago is evident. Even the chapter titles are lively: "Everything Went Wrong!" or "A Surging Ocean of Flame" for example. This nonfiction book reads like a novel and is worthy of its Newbery honor. Another Murphy title, which is just as lively and informative, is *Blizzard* (Scholastic, 2000).

Marion M. Mueller, MS. Library Media Specialist, New Hope Christian School, Neenah, Wisconsin.



Asylum / Nan Corbitt Allen. LCCN 2003016324. Chicago : Moody, 2004.

PAP, 0802411177; \$11.99.

Fic. Abused children--Fiction; Runaway children--Fiction; Homeless children--Fiction; Church buildings--Fiction; Christian fiction. .278 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 8-12). Rating : 3.

In Nan Corbitt Allen's contemporary novel *Asylum*, ten-year-old Ian's alcoholic parents die in a fire, leaving him to his kindly great-aunt Jo. When the police investigation into their deaths takes a sinister turn, Ian runs away and, with no other place to go, sneaks into a church. His great-aunt Jo is meanwhile initiating her own frantic search to find the boy before a menacing threat does.

While this book is not an edge-of-your-seat thriller, the author delivers a character-oriented story. The plot seems occasionally implausible, but engaging characters balance out this weakness. The epilogue is the most satisfying of the three places in which the book seems to end. Glimpses into a ten-year-old's thinking are sometimes unrealistic, but more often, successfully believable. Most of the book is seen through a child's eyes, creating an unusual sense of wonder. The majority of the dialogue flows naturally. This novel focuses on some of the more obvious points of Christianity, but again, a childlike clarity of perception suffuses the story with a glow. Sprinkled throughout is the bittersweet humor of Ian's perceptions. Readers will enjoy this story's vivid picture of church life and its demonstration of faith, hope, and love.

Kathryn Stillman. *Christian Writers' Guild Apprentice, Horn Lake, Mississippi.*

A delirious summer : a novel / Ray Blackston. LCCN 2004001244. Grand Rapids : Baker Books/Fleming H. Revell, 2004.

PAP, 0800759583; \$12.99.

Fic. Church attendance--Fiction; Mate selection--Fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. 333 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Neil Rucker teaches Spanish in Ecuador to missionaries in training. When his furlough comes around, Neil has been seven months, one week, and two days without a date. At the recommendation of one of his students, Jay Jarvis, Neil eagerly heads to South Carolina's church and beach scene. Neil finds it harder to connect with girls than he thought when he shows up at Sunday School with five other bachelors and no women. It appears that all the

ladies are church-hopping from denomination to denomination to scope out the pool of available bachelors, then reporting their findings online to other "Ladies of the Quest."

Neil meets Alexis, whom he decides is as dangerous as a tornado, and just as energetic and unpredictable—but he likes her, even if she is secretary for Ladies of the Quest. Neil has always felt somewhat inadequate—like a wannabe missionary. When news comes that the Ecuadorian jungle village Jay ministers in was half destroyed by fire, Neil finds himself propelled to the position of team leader for a rag-tag, strong-willed group of people—including Alexis—sent to rebuild the village.

Once again author Ray Blackston delights readers with his fresh prose, intriguing metaphors, and realistic characters in *A Delirious Summer*, the follow-up novel to his well-received *Flabbergasted* (Revell, 2003). Blackston employs a strong first person narrative presenting a distinctly male point of view on the dating scene, which is a refreshing change from the usual fare in today's Christian romance novels. Amidst the quirky and honest humor, Blackston threads substantive insights about relationships, dating, and self control; obedience to God even when it means going outside your comfort zone; and trusting God even when you're not sure if He hears your prayers.

One caution: Neil talks to God out loud on rooftops; his prayers at the opening of the novel are refreshingly honest, but disturbingly flippant. However, the tone of his prayers gradually change throughout the book as he matures spiritually, turning from self-centeredness to submission and praise.

Sherri Beeler, M.A. *Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon.*

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White / Ted Dekker. (The circle ; 3.) LCCN 2004010579. Nashville : WestBow Press, 2004.

HBB, 0849917921; \$19.99.

Fic. Suspense fiction; Fantasy fiction. xv, 370 p. ; 24 cm.

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

White, by Ted Dekker, brings his stunning Circle trilogy to a satisfying close, as Thomas's "dream" world becomes even more intricately connected with his "real" world. With time running out to find an antivirus for the deadly Raison virus that has infected the entire world,

Thomas must also find a way to survive being captured and killed in his dream world, after inexplicably falling in love with Chelise, a vile Scab princess. Not until he is willing to lay down his life for Chelise does he grasp the fullness of Elyon's love for his created ones, who have become diseased and blinded by their sinful choices.

As in *Black and Red* (both WestBow, 2004), the first two books in this trilogy, Dekker brings to life in an amazing way the incredible love of God for his people, and his desire to woo for himself those who are blind to his love, salvation, and transforming power. What is metaphor in one world is reality in the other, and the images of blood, water, and the Word of God are powerfully illustrated in *White*. The intricacies of blurring reality and fantasy make for a fascinating storyline, and, unlike some sci-fi/fantasy books that have logic flaws in their endings, Dekker seem to answer every question a reader might have, while at the same time presenting substantive spiritual issues that will resonate with today's readers.

Sherri Beeler, M.A. *Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon.*

Legacy Lane / Robin Lee Hatcher. (Hart's Crossing ; 1.) LCCN 2003024356. Grand Rapids : Baker Books/Revell, 2004.

HBB, 0800718542; \$14.99.

Fic. Friendship--Fiction; Neighborhood--Fiction; Christian fiction. 142 p. ; 20 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

When Angie Hunter left the small town of Hart's Crossing, Idaho, to attend college, she couldn't escape quickly enough. Her mother, Francine, had become a Christian and spent most of her time trying to "save" Angie. After years in a demanding journalism career, Angie is now returning home to help Francine after knee surgery. Angie doesn't know how things will play out, but she has just quit her job and needs to determine what to do next.

Francine is thrilled to have a second chance with Angie. She knows that she hit Angie too hard with her faith before, and now must let God do the leading. Is there hope for reconciliation between mother and daughter and between a young woman and God?

Robin Lee Hatcher's first installment in the Hart's Crossing series is a sweet tale of the love of a family wrapped in the arms of a small town. *Legacy Lane's* colorful characters are all ripe for sequels, three of which are already scheduled. Angie will ring true with many readers. Her

busy schedule has placed her family relationships on the back burner, and she wonders if she's been happy in her time away. Francine has learned from her mistakes and has a heartfelt wish for harmony with her daughter.

Legacy Lane is short, and the ending leaves quite a bit hanging. Hopefully, questions will be answered in the subsequent novel, but it would have been nice to have these storylines concluded before moving onto the next book. Hart's Crossing is a quaint place, and Ms. Hatcher's descriptions make the reader feel as if they are one of the townsfolk. These people care deeply for one another, something that is missing from many cities these days. The faith message is strong and well integrated into the plot. Recommended for women who enjoy cozy small-town settings and family stories.

Melissa Parcel, BS. Book Reviewer, Kelso, Washington.

Eden Hall / Veronica Heley. LCCN 2003023565. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2004.

PAP, 0310249633; \$12.99.

Fic. Stepmothers--Fiction; Cancer--Patients--Fiction; Fathers and daughters--Fiction; Administration of estates--Fiction; England--Fiction; Suspense fiction; Christian fiction. 336 p. : map ; 20 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12). Rating : 5.

Araminta Cardale, having lived with relatives for twenty years following the scandal surrounding her mother's death, receives a call summoning her to her ailing father's estate. When she arrives, she's told it was a mistake, but Minty flatly refuses to return to the loveless drudgery at her relatives' house. She gets a job in the village outside the estate and soon realizes something is wrong as Eden Hall languishes under the care of her stepmother, stepbrother, and half sister. Patrick Sands keeps popping up, the son of the other name in the scandal, and Minty wonders who she can trust.

In this modern Cinderella story (complete with a ball and a clock striking midnight), the reader senses the confusion of the main character near the beginning of the novel, as everything is not what it seems. One by one, plot twists and mysteries are gradually made known, though many new ones are thrown in to keep suspense churning. England is shown through the eyes of a quaint small village, complete with colorful characters. The dialog is excellent, and both it and the narrative are filled with delightfully English turns of phrase and spellings. Coarse speculations are made about Minty's parents, and her stepbrother makes rude advances toward her. Drinking wine occurs in the novel, though the main character draws the line at half a glass. Most powerful is the story's message of forgiveness.

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

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Thorn in my heart / Liz Curtis Higgs. LCCN 2002151804. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2003.

PAP, 157856512X; \$13.99.

Fic. Triangles (Interpersonal relations)--Fiction; Inheritance and succession--Fiction; Brothers--Fiction; Sisters--Fiction; Scotland--History--18th century--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 484 p. : map ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : *5.

Fair is the rose / Liz Curtis Higgs. LCCN 2003025341. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2004.

PAP, 1578561272; \$13.99.

Fic. Triangles (Interpersonal relations)--Fiction; Inheritance and succession--Fiction; Brothers--Fiction; Sisters--Fiction; Historical fiction; Love stories; Christian fiction. 464 p. : map ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : *5.

In the Scottish Lowlands, Jamie, a younger twin, schemes to gain his father's blessing and his brother Evan's inheritance. When Evan finds out, Jamie is forced to flee to his Uncle Lachlan, where his mother suggests he choose a bride from between his cousins—gentle Leana and bonny Rose. Twenty-year-old Leana falls in love with Jamie and considers him an answer to prayer, while Rose, at fifteen, feels unready for marriage and plays matchmaker. But Jamie prefers Rose from the first, forming an uneasy triangle complicated by Lachlan's greed.

Fair is the Rose begins with Jamie growing to love the woman exchanged for his intended, and experiencing parenthood. Leana's joy grows as she cares for her baby Ian, and her love for Jamie is slowly returned. An unwise companion at Rose's finishing school leads to serious consequences, but a discrepancy in the Kirk records can forever change the lives of Jamie, Leana, and Rose.

The 18th-century setting breathes life into the Biblical story of Jacob, Leah, and Rachel. While many details are changed or skillfully adapted, the anguish and heartache of the characters gives new insight to a familiar story. Enough changes are made to the plot to keep it gripping, but the characters hold the reader's attention. Scottish words and expressions are used throughout, and while the prose usually reveals the meaning, a glossary is included. Marital intimacy plays an important part in the story as Jamie is an unwilling husband twice, but few details are given. These books are deep tales filled with insight and a light touch of humor.

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

The awakening : a novel of discovery / Angela Hunt. LCCN 2004005040. Nashville : Broadman and Holman/Westbow Press, 2004.

PAP, 0849944813; \$14.99.

Fic. Dreams--Fiction; Loss (Psychology)--Fiction; Mothers--Death--Fiction; Single women--Fiction; Manhattan (New York, N.Y.)--Fiction; Psychological fiction; Christian fiction. 311 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

Aurora's mother, the societal matriarch Mary Elizabeth Wentworth Norquest, has recently passed away, leaving Aurora at odds as to what to do with her life. Aurora had given up any life outside their fashionable New York apartment to tend to her mother, and does so with great devotion, even when her mother's latter years of dementia make life exceedingly difficult to bear. But now Aurora is free—an almost terrifying thought. The only other person she can turn to is her "Aunt" Clara, her mother's best friend. Clara begins to look after Aurora as her mother once did; however, Aurora isn't sure she wants to be managed anymore. When she meets a new neighbor, Philip Cannon, she begins to realize there is a life beyond the walls of her apartment, and there is a stunning transformation from one deceived to one enlightened.

Angela Hunt is a master storyteller, which is evident in this modern day parable of sorts of the Lost Son. Aurora has believed the skillful lies told by her mother for so long that it almost is her undoing. With the friendship and guidance of Philip, Aurora begins to see that her journey to find her father is also a search for God. Skillfully woven with the riveting character development that is Hunt's trademark, readers are cautioned to not start the novel late in the evening, as they will stay up reading until the last satisfying word is read. Fans will not be disappointed and those new to Hunt will surely search out her other offerings.

Pam Webb, B.A. High School English Teacher, Sandpoint, Idaho.

Emma's gift : a novel / Leisha Kelly. (sequel to Julia's hope.) LCCN 2003002289. Grand Rapids : Baker Books/Fleming H. Revell, 2003.

PAP, 0800758579; \$12.99.

Fic. Depressions--Fiction; Neighborhood--Fiction; Christian fiction. 314 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 4.

With just a few days left before Christmas, older, sickly Emma and younger Julia are called to a neighboring farm to help doctor a mother, Wilametta. The two arrive, doing their best to save her, but their efforts fail and Wilametta dies. Her husband, George, runs outside into a blizzard at the news, mad with grief. Emma herself takes a turn for the worse and soon both have passed away. Faced with overwhelming emotions, Julia angrily questions God's plan in taking away the mother of ten, and Emma who was like a mother to Julia. George, in despair, refuses to acknowledge Julia except to say he doesn't want his children to return home. Julia's husband Samuel arrives and finds out about the death of the two women. He attempts to talk to George but is cut short by George's surliness and despair. Samuel and Julia return home to

their own two children and George's ten, unsure of how long they can feed and house everyone. Over the course of the next few days, Julia's faith is tested to the snapping point. However, in her deepest grief, she finally comes to terms with the death of Emma and Wilametta. Through prodding and confrontation by Samuel, George finally shakes himself out of his grief-induced fog and begins to consider his children once again.

Emma's Gift, by Leisha Kelly, portrays the hardships farming families had during the Depression. She captures the voice, pain, and questioning heart of people subjected to unimaginable tests; however, the pacing bogs down at times, forcing the reader to wade through similar situations with similar events. The realistic portrayal of Christians under fire is a definite plus to this book. If someone you know enjoys historical fiction, this is a book worth reading.

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

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All my tomorrows / Al and JoAnna Lacy. (The orphan trains trilogy ; 2.) LCCN 2003001336. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2003.

PAP, 1590521307; \$11.99.

Fic. Homeless children--Fiction; Orphan trains--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; New York (N.Y.)--Fiction; Christian fiction; Western stories. 349 p. ; 21 cm.

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Whispers in the wind / Al and JoAnna Lacy. (The orphan trains trilogy ; 3.) LCCN 2003011822. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2003.

PAP, 1590521692; \$11.99.

Fic. Homeless children--Fiction; Orphan trains--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Christian fiction; Western stories. 345 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : *5.

The setting is the mid-1800's; New York City is experiencing a great challenge. The city is overrun with homeless and orphaned children and the economy is such that not many can be of help to them. However, with the will and means to assist in giving the children a better lifestyle, a man by the name of Charles Loring Brace founds The Children's Aid Society. His society is established as a means of sending the children westward, aboard trains to locate foster and adoptive families. The Orphan Train Series examines the challenges that Mr. Loring Brace and the children experience, while offering the promise of a brighter day to come from each moment of darkness. Both *All My Tomorrows* and *Whispers in the Wind*, by Al and JoAnna Lacy, tell the story of a few of those children.

In *All My Tomorrows*, Teddy Hansen is a ten-year old who has learned to live with his Mother upon his father's choice to leave the family

behind. When his Mother passes away from pneumonia, Teddy is forced to live alone on the cold, dark streets of New York City. Unsuccessful in attempts to join a commune of orphans, Teddy is rescued by a police officer who takes him to the Children's Aid Society.

Twin sisters, Deena and Donna Mitchell, are saddened when their parents force them to the streets, after learning that their Mother can no longer care for them. Like Teddy, the sisters struggle in their search for survival. However, the twins are rescued and taken to the orphanage. Soon afterward, Teddy, the twins and several other children are aboard a train headed West, but they are still uncertain as to what their futures will hold.

In *Whispers in the Wind*, fourteen year old Dane Weston is visiting a friend's home for the evening while his family is in town to purchase a special book for his upcoming birthday. Shortly after arriving home to an empty apartment, Dane learns that his family has been murdered by a street gang, and that he will be forced to live on the streets. Dane, whose ambition is to become a doctor, realizes that he must provide for himself. When a local doctor helps him to find work, Dane meets a young girl named Tharyn and her family. However, when her life takes an unexpected turn, both Dane and Tharyn find themselves supporting each other, while striving for survival in the alleyways with the many colonies of orphans. For Dane and Tharyn, many misfortunes await, and only strength, intertwined with newly discovered faith, will prove enough to help the two to overcome their adversities.

Al and Joanna Lacy share with the reader an amazing, yet saddened time in our nation's history. Using soft-spoken words and intertwining them with Scripture, the authors are successful in portraying a positive outlook while keeping the story both interesting and factual. The authors do not attempt to shield the hardships that their characters encounter, and I enjoyed the fact that they added a few surprise twists to the work. I feel that both *All My Tomorrows* and *Whispers in the Wind* are well-written and encouraging novels that provide a message of inspiration and hope to which each reader can relate.

Timna D. Mills, Young Adult Services Specialist, Chippewa River District Library, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

Sunday clothes : a novel / Thom Lemmons. LCCN 2004558253. Nashville : Broadman and Holman, 2004.

PAP, 0805427635; \$14.99.

Fic. Young women--Fiction; Spouses--Fiction; Mormons--Fiction; Southern States--Fiction; Christian fiction. 404 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

Sunday Clothes is a book with a slow start, but if readers stick with it, its unique language style

and family dilemmas will hold the reader until the end. The story revolves around three family members and the people they meet along the way. Set in the period of the late 1800's through 1920, this book gives a glimpse into a time when the automobile was new and less than a comfortable ride.

The author, Thom Lemmons, shows how the seemingly most outspoken, Bible quoting parishioner can be in fact, the least upstanding family man. A saga which shows how each poor choice made can lead to further regretful choices that not only affect the decision maker's life, but those closest to him or her as well.

This book is real life, softly written, tackling infidelity, desertion, death, single parenthood, and more. If you are looking for a sugar sweet happy ending or one holding redemption, you won't find it in this book. You will instead find a book that leads the reader to an ending in which the characters keep putting one foot in front of the other and living their lives, while at times making life better for others.

S. Katherine Lopez, Freelance Writer, Beavercreek, Ohio.

Billy Budd / by Herman Melville. New York : Pocket Books, 1999.

PAP, 0671028332, list price \$5.99.

Fic. Executions and executioners--Fiction; Ship captains--Fiction; Impressment--Fiction; Sailors--Fiction; Sea stories. 160 p. ; 18 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating: 4.

Billy Budd is a simple sailor who has been impressed to serve upon the HMS Indomitable. He takes this turn of his life without much complaint, for he is the kind of man who bears no grudges, and gets along well with everyone. However, for some unknown reason, Claggart, the ship's master-of-arms, harbors an irrational malice towards Budd, though outwardly Claggart appears friendly to Billy. As the story develops it becomes more clear Claggart has his heart set against Billy though the affable young sailor has done the man no wrong. The climax of the story comes when Billy defends himself against Claggart's unfounded accusations, thus inadvertently setting judgment against himself.

The classic tale of good versus evil, and how justice ultimately prevails presides in Herman Melville's posthumously published *Billy Budd*. Published in 1924, the story still holds up to contemporary light as the theme of how the good and innocent are sorely persecuted by those of evil intent. One of Melville's last books to be published, and not fully edited with the author's eye, it nevertheless shines with Melville's ability to build to an exciting climax, having developed memorable characters along the way. While the vocabulary and prose style tends to be on the weighty side it is still a story more than worthwhile to spend a fine hour or two with. Honors students or upper end high school students should add this classic to their

repertoire, and adults should revisit this book, or at least make its acquaintance if Melville's more ponderous works, like *Moby Dick* (Harper, 1851), seem too overwhelming.

Pam Webb, B.A. *High School English Teacher, Sandpoint, Idaho.*

The face of God / Bill Myers. LCCN 2002004150. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2002.

PAP. 0310227550; \$12.99.

Fic. Clergy--Fiction; Americans--Arab countries--Fiction; Terrorism--Prevention--Fiction; Arab countries--Fiction; Christian fiction; Suspense fiction. 356 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12). Rating : 3.

When Pastor Daniel Lawson's wife is killed after sharing a bizarre prophetic dream, Lawson becomes engrossed in a quest for Old Testament stones once worn by Israel's high priests. Middle Eastern terrorists are also hunting for the stones. Each stone's discovery draws Lawson, his cynical son, a single female Jewish archaeologist, and their female Egyptian guide deeper into riptide of destruction and death.

In *The Face of God*, Bill Myers makes fine use of his skill for plotting and pacing, carrying the storyline well past the boundary of the believable. For the most part, characters are predictable and a bit stereotypical. Lawson's experiences with the Old Testament stones are the stuff of fantasies. The happy ending seems discordant with the rest of the tale. However, Myers' themes of regaining a hunger for God and seeking his face despite intense opposition, and the contrast of good and evil are clearly illustrated, giving pause for personal pondering. Readers who thirst for escalating drama in their fiction will probably devour *The Face of God*.

Karen Schmidt, BA. *Freelance Writer/Editor, Marysville, Washington.*

If I gained the world : a novel / by Linda Nichols. LCCN 2003013910. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003.

HBB. 0764228021; \$17.99.

Fic. Married people--Fiction; Marital conflict--Fiction; Christian fiction. 413 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Lenore had an ideal life with Daniel and their son Scott, and she only needed one thing to perfect it. She asked Daniel to marry her, and with his silence her entire world crumbled. Taking Scott, she moves to Seattle and creates a new life for herself with the help of new friends. Back in Hollywood, Daniel gets his break and becomes costar on a popular TV show. But as his acting career skyrockets, his life feels increasingly empty. When Daniel shows up at her door fifteen years later, Lenore's not even sure God can help her forgive him.

This slow-moving book delves deeply into character relationships, but the intriguing prologue, pulled from the middle of the book,

keeps the low-key suspense steady. Each of the characters is distinctly drawn with eccentric mannerisms and deep emotions. More emphasis is placed on the emotional atmosphere than physical surroundings, though a few well-placed phrases establish the tangible setting for each scene. Dialogue is absorbed into the flow of the novel, complementing but not intruding. Profound perception is laced throughout the book, and the few bits of humor don't do much to lighten the serious tone of this novel. Recommended.

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

A season of grace / Bette Nordberg. LCCN 2003022503. Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House, 2004.

PAP. 0736913416; \$10.99.

Fic. Gay men--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; AIDS disease--Patients--Fiction; Christian fiction. 335 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

Colleen Payton has a twin brother whom she hasn't heard from in over five years. They had always been very close as children, but Stephen discovered his homosexuality as an adult, which Colleen has had a hard time accepting. When Stephen unexpectedly shows up on Colleen's doorstep to attend their mother's birthday party, events go badly and Stephen storms out of the house and Colleen's life once again. After being upset for weeks and unwilling to lose her brother a second time, Colleen tracks Stephen to Seattle, Washington, where she finds him gravely ill. Colleen soon finds herself inviting Stephen to live with her and her family, not realizing the effect AIDS will have on their lives.

Bette Nordberg has written a moving and unforgettable novel of compassion and love entitled *A Season of Grace*. While dealing with the sensitive subjects of homosexuality and AIDS, Ms. Nordberg has given us cause to pause and consider how truly devastating this disease can be and usually is. Colleen must learn to let go and let God, instead of trying to save her brother herself. Colleen shows the strength of an incredibly courageous woman, doing what she knows is right at times when others disagree with her every decision. This novel is told from a Christian's perspective and will leave many of its readers in tears, but praising God for His goodness. I highly recommend this for high school age teens and adults.

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

Prophet / Frank E. Peretti. LCCN 92004850. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 1992.

PAP. 1581345267; \$12.99.

Fic. Television stations--Fiction; Integrity--Fiction; Prophets--Fiction; Christian fiction. 416 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 5.

Respected anchorman John Barrett has one embarrassment—his father, a religious kook who seems to have a vendetta against incumbent Governor Slater. But when the senior Barrett dies, John is thrust into a battle for truth in a world where fact is mixed with bias and chopped into two minute segments between commercial breaks. John's estranged son Carl is searching for truth as well, and the two follow a trail that leads to a family in pain, two victims of botched abortions, and a cover-up deep within the governor's mansion. Now John's father's death doesn't look like an accident anymore.

A fast-paced murder mystery with a media twist provides the framework for this novel's strong theme of truth. Newsroom procedure and commercials are written masterfully in clipped descriptions that imitate TV's bombardment of sight and sound, enhancing Peretti's already cinematic writing style. Because of this, readers rarely get inside characters' heads, but the plot packs an emotional punch of its own. Dialogue is tight and distinct for each character, and while the novel doesn't contain Peretti's trademark spiritual warfare, the prophetic premise exhibits both visions and predictions. The results of the incorrectly done abortions are presented frankly but not gruesomely. Recommended for adults and teens, especially those interested in TV media.

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

A tapestry of hope / Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller. (Lights of Lowell ; 1.) LCCN 2004001022. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2004.

PAP. 0764228943; \$12.99.

Fic. Married women--Fiction; Textile industry--Fiction; Indentured servants--Fiction; Irish-American women--Fiction; Lowell (Mass.)--History--Fiction; Christian fiction; Historical fiction. 351 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

Jasmine, a naïve and spoiled Southern belle from a Mississippi cotton plantation, has had slaves to take care of her every need her whole life. Her father marries her off, as part of a business deal, to his ambitious and unruly new partner from the North, Bradley Houston. Jasmine witnesses Bradley's cruelties and begins to understand the sacrifices that must be made to maintain wealth and position. When she becomes pregnant with his child, she cherishes the hope that the new baby will soften Bradley's heart. Instead, in order to survive her marriage, Jasmine finds she must develop an intimate relationship with the Lord and learn hard lessons in forgiveness.

A Tapestry of Hope by Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller is the first installment of the historical fiction series *Lights of Lowell*. Set in mid 1800's Mississippi and Massachusetts, this series continues the popular saga begun in the *Bells of Lowell* series.

Peterson and Miller are experts at developing characters and guiding the reader into the time and place of the story. Plot covers several levels of bondage and encourages the reader to seek Jesus as the answer to all bondage. Dialogue is entertaining and smoothly moves the tale along. Mood and atmosphere appropriately display the maladies of daily life. Although abuse is not graphic and is sensitively written, the book does cover both physical and sexual abuse. Recommended for high school students through adults.

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

Anthem / by Ayn Rand. LCCN 95009854. New York : Penguin/Dutton, 1995, 1938.

HBB, 0525940154, list price \$23.95.

Fic. Men--Psychology--Fiction; Individuality--Fiction; Psychological fiction; Science fiction; Love stories. 253 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating: Not recommended.

This expanded 50th anniversary edition of *Anthem* by Ayn Rand includes a new scholarly introduction, a readers's guide to the writings and philosophy of Ayn Rand. For dyed-in-the-wool Rand fans, a facsimile of the original English edition, with Ayn Rand's editorial changes for the American edition written on each page in her own hand. This makes the actual pagination of *Anthem* itself, merely 104 pages.

This is a classic tale of the loss of individualism. It is set in a dark future time in which individuals have no name, only a number for recognition, no independence whatsoever, and no values. It is the time of the great "We," when the word "I" is not even known to the common man. Yet one man stands out. One man dares to seek and find knowledge, dares to love, and for standing out of the crowd, he is marked for death. He has committed the unpardonable sin.

Anthem is the diary of that man—Equality 7-2521—and his progression from acceptance, to questioning, to acting on his desires and wants. It is typical of Ayn Rand's writing and foreshadows her future books, *Atlas Shrugged* (Random, 1957) and *The Fountainhead* (Blakiston, 1943), where Ego (the mind and its attributes considered an individual possession) is to be desired above all and individualism at all costs. Man's self, according to Rand, is the faculty of reason and all his distinctive qualities derived from this faculty. Her style of writing is easily understood and always carries with it her philosophy of objectivism. This philosophy is explained further at the close of the book and continues today in the views of the Libertarian Party.

Rand, when asked to present the essence of objectivism, said that she held to four different aspects of belief: that reality exists as an absolute; reason is the only means that man has

of perceiving reality, and his only source of knowledge; guide to his actions; and actually his basic means of survival. Very importantly, she stated that Man is an end to himself and must exist for his own sake. The pursuit of his own self-interest and his own happiness is the highest moral purpose in life. And lastly, she believes politically in capitalism.

Compare these tenets to Christianity. We believe man has reason and can perceive reality with that reason, but has other ways of perceiving true reality, particularly in the spiritual realm. Reason is most certainly not the only source of knowledge, but rather God's Word, His Holy Spirit and the good counsel of other believers. Man is not an end to himself, and must exist to please and serve God. Whereas Ayn Rand holds that man should neither sacrifice himself to others nor sacrifice others to himself, as Christians we hold that sacrifice is a great part of our belief system, first and foremost the sacrifice of Christ for us, then naturally the sacrifices we make in the Christian life.

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

Deadly aim / Patricia H. Rushford. (Angel Delaney mystery ; 1.) LCCN 2003017192. Grand Rapids : Baker Books/Fleming H. Revell, 2004.

PAP, 0800758471; \$12.99.

Fic. Police shootings--Fiction; Policewomen--Fiction; Christian fiction; Mystery fiction. 317 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 5.

Deadly Aim, by author Patricia H. Rushford, is set in a small town in the Pacific Northwest. Police officer Angel Delaney shoots a twelve-year-old boy during a robbery. Outrage over this killing has the media labeling Delaney a racist child killer. Fighting for her career, Delaney investigates the shooting herself, convinced she only shot the boy in the shoulder. As she delves deeper into the death, her trail takes her into more danger. Her apartment gets trashed, a car she was driving is bombed, and Delaney herself is threatened. She stumbles over another body and soon uncovers the true identity of the person responsible for some of the violence against her. However, the real killer of the young boy is elusive. Finally, Delaney tracks down clues and uncovers the killer, a person she least suspected. Relieved to be cleared of any wrongdoing, Delaney is free to follow her heart into a romance with the investigating detective who worked her case.

Rushford writes a compelling mystery similar in style to secular author Mary Dahiem. She weaves intensity and tension throughout the story, making it an effortless page-turner. Strong character development and plot twists highlights this tale which will be a sure winner for any mystery buff.

Eileen Zygarricke, BS, English Teacher, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Tiger Lillie : a novel / Lisa Samson. LCCN 2004009583. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2004.

PAP, 1578565987; \$12.99.

Fic. Weddings--Planning--Fiction; Married women--Fiction; Abused wives--Fiction; Sisters--Fiction; Christian fiction. 309 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

The playful cover and title of Lisa Samson's novel *Tiger Lillie* belies the much darker nature of the storyline. Lillie Bauer, who runs Extremely Odd, a business that caters to clients who want "extreme" weddings, struggles to overcome her grief surrounding the disappearance and presumed death of her childhood sweetheart, Teddy. Her dating life is dismal, as no one seems to measure up to Teddy's qualities. Compounding Lillie's struggles is her sister, Tacy, who has married a man who becomes increasingly manipulative and controlling as he follows the twisted theology of a small, elitist church. Ironically, as Lillie watches her sister become more and more of an automaton in her marriage, Lillie finds love in the most surprising of ways with a man whom she knows is not just "second best" after Teddy. Ultimately, Lillie and her family resort to taking drastic action when Tacy and her very ill little daughter become prisoners in their own house. It is the love of her fiancé, family, and Extremely Odd business friends who buoy Lillie up during this difficult time of life.

Tiger Lillie is written with refreshing, first person honesty, switching back and forth from Lillie's point of view, to Tacy's perspective; their stories fully converge towards the end of the novel. Because of the mature themes discussed in this book, and the nature in which they are presented, I would hesitate to recommend this book for high school students. I appreciated Samson's inclusion of a gay character in the novel, who is Lillie's best friend. Although gay issues are not really the focus of the book, the manner in which Lillie treats Christoff is so completely natural and unaffected, it is a bold reminder of how we as Christians should treat others with true respect—especially considering Christoff's commitment to remain sexually pure before the Lord, despite his struggles with homosexuality.

As a reader, I was disappointed with the fact that although Lillie and her family's Christian faith appears to be a key element in this story, Lillie's faith seems of small significance in the trials she faces. Lillie's own strength, derived from her Hungarian heritage of "strong women" seems to take far more precedence over calling on the Lord for strength, wisdom, and comfort.

Sherri Beeler, M.A. Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon.

The gathering storm : a novel / Frank Simon. Nashville : Broadman and Holman, 2003.

PAP, 0805425772; \$12.99.

Fic. Terrorism--Fiction; Militias--Fiction. 337 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 2.

Militia groups in Michigan and Montana set the stage for this suspense novel by author Frank Simon. Barbara Post, an ATF agent who specializes in weapons and munitions, is reassigned from Texas to Michigan. Working with a colleague, Sam, to learn more about the various militia groups, the two meet with Coast Guard personnel assisting in airborne transportation for the ATF. Barbara meets Lieutenant Craig Phillips and the two connect quickly. Sam and Barbara want to focus their attention on the Grand Haven area but run into obstacles with their boss. He doesn't believe anyone in the town is suspicious enough to warrant that type of investigation. However, a militia does exist in Grand Haven; its members are planning to hijack a munitions semi transport coming to Michigan in order to gain arms and ammunition to further their cause. With the president coming to Michigan within weeks to announce a crackdown on militias, the ATF is on the alert for potential danger.

Simon does an adequate job of plotting this novel. However, his characters lack development as does the subplot. The romance between Barbara Post and Craig Phillips almost becomes the main plot as the two progress quickly in their relationship, expressing their heartfelt love for one another only two weeks after meeting. The improbable relationship almost gets more attention than the main plot, that of the militias. Most high school students will see this as more of a romance than a thriller and may not be interested. There are also unresolved issues within the book as well. Barbara is in conflict with her new boss, but the reader has no idea why. A possible reason is alluded to, but it is never confirmed, making for a weak subplot. Also, conveniently, Barb's coworker and Craig are both Christians. Teens may see this as a bit contrived.

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

A town called Ruby Prairie / Annette Smith. (Coming home to Ruby Prairie ; 1.) LCCN 2003028277. Chicago : Moody, 2004.

PAP, 0802435572; \$12.99.

Fic. Girls--Fiction; Widows--Fiction; Problem youth--Fiction; Foster home care--Fiction; Christian fiction. 276 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

Newly widowed, Charlotte moves to small town Ruby Prairie to open a home for girls whose parents are unable to care for them due to illness or other circumstances. Fiercely independent, she is taken aback, but pleased, by the warm

welcome she receives from the town and the Lighted Way church. "God helps those who help themselves" is Charlotte's motto, but she soon discovers that a house full of six needy girls from ages nine to sixteen requires more time, energy, and organization than she alone can give.

When the unthinkable happens, and one of her girls runs away, Murphy's Law seems to be Charlotte's state of existence. Simultaneously her van quits running, the heater goes out in the middle of a cold snap when one of her girls has the stomach flu, and runaway Beth is located, but has a broken ankle requiring surgery and a hospital stay. Through the generous outpouring of love and help from the folks in Ruby Prairie, Charlotte learns that it is no sin to ask for help, and that the body of Christ is uniquely designed to serve its members in time of need.

A Town Called Ruby Prairie, by Annette Smith, is a "small-town America, sweet as apple pie novel"—a gentle read, with a good moral, but lacking in depth. Think Mitford, but without the reality of the emotions and tension during times of crisis. The characters are endearing, and some of the dialogue is absolutely hilarious, just because it's so true-to-life in family and church situations; however, the story lacks the emotional punch that the reader would expect at points of climax. We never feel worried about how things will turn out, and the story moves along at the same static level of intensity throughout. Despite this, the book is an enjoyable read—one that will warm your heart and put a smile on your face.

Sherri Beeler, M.A. Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon.

Let's begin again / Debra White Smith. (Seven sisters series; 7.) LCCN 2002152623. Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House, 2003.

PAP, 0736906630; \$10.99.

Fic. Pregnant women--Fiction.; Married women--Fiction.; Florida--Fiction.; Christian fiction.; Domestic fiction. 315 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

Caught in the middle of a life or death situation, firefighter Tony Roberts is struggling to save his life and his marriage while keeping lies of his past a secret. From her perfectly decorated house to her organized television set of *Extraordinary Homes*, Victoria Roberts, Tony's wife is the envy of her seven college friends. When Victoria has a heartbreaking miscarriage, Tony and Victoria each struggle with their personal loss, their love for each other, and their commitment to God.

The final book in this seven-book series is great as a stand-alone. However, the author intertwines the characters of the seven college friends in all of the Seven Sisters novels, so that you will want to read this series from start to

finish. With all seven books you get a great mix of suspense, intrigue, and romance that will keep you turning the pages.

Lori Murphy. Library Aide, Lansing, Kansas.

The way of women : a novel / Lauraine Snelling. LCCN 2004002175. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2004.

PAP, 1578567874; \$13.99.

Fic. Female friendship--Fiction; Women--Washington (State)--Fiction; Washington (State)--Fiction; Saint Helens, Mount, Region (Wash.)--Fiction; Saint Helens, Mount (Wash.)--Eruption, 1980--Fiction; Christian fiction. 374 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12). Rating : 4.

In May of 1980, Mt. St. Helens blew her top with tumultuous results for the people and surrounding community. Three incredibly different women come together in the aftermath, lending support and encouragement when all seems dark.

Famous photographer Jenn Stockton has ventured far from her Northwest upbringing and Christian roots. She returns to the mountain in an attempt to find the peace she so desperately wants to regain. Mellie Sedor's daughter Lissa suffers from leukemia and needs treatment. Her husband has disappeared in the eruption, and she must overcome obstacles to keep herself together for the sake of her daughter. Katheryn Sommers' depressed husband went camping up on the mountain despite the restrictions, because it was the one place he felt uplifted. Now he and their son are missing, and Katheryn finds solace in helping others.

The Way of Women by Lauraine Snelling is a fictionalized account of a true story. The main characters are all drawn to Mt. St. Helens for different reasons, but they forge a friendship based on common ground. Of the three, Jenn's story is the most detailed and her faith journey is quite honestly portrayed. The settings are beautifully and realistically described, the mountain is truly a character in itself. As for accuracy, there are a few misspelled locations that may distract readers who are familiar with the area. Otherwise, the account is evocative and heart wrenching and will touch readers in many ways.

Ms. Snelling's research shows as she takes readers through each day leading up to the eruption and then through the aftermath. The plot is unique, and should appeal to a wide variety of people. The author deals well with point-of-view changes, clearly stating at the beginning of each chapter whose voice is being heard. We are reminded over and over throughout this powerful story just how much God is in control, and how He comforts us in our losses.

Melissa Parcel, BS. Book reviewer, Kelso, Washington.

Of mice and men / John Steinbeck ; with an introduction by Susan Shillinglaw. LCCN 93011712. New York : Penguin, 1994.

PAP, 0140186425; \$8.00.

Fic. People with mental disabilities--Fiction; Male friendship--Fiction; Ranch life--Fiction; Cowboys--Fiction; Salinas River Valley (Calif.)--Fiction. xviii, 105 p. ; 20 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 4.

George and Lennie are laborers working the California valley ranches during the '30s. They have a dream of someday putting enough money together to buy their own land and a small house. Until then they live hand to mouth working other people's ranches. While George is small, quick and savvy, Lennie is a giant in size and strength with the mind of a child. The long-suffering George watches out for his big friend, but is growing weary of the trouble Lennie manages to get them into. Yet this new job brings hope that their dream is within reach. The question remains whether or not they can survive the consequences of misunderstanding, which ultimately creates an inevitable resolution.

Steinbeck was known for writing about the sometimes harsh realities of the Depression. Working conditions made for tough times, and created even tougher people. *Of Mice and Men* is a poignant tale of two unlikely men who have a deep friendship despite their differences. It is perhaps these very differences that bind them. George does not have to care for the dim-witted gentle giant Lennie, but he does. Steinbeck is a master in creating memorable characters with his dialogue, plot pacing, and setting. The harshness and hopelessness is evident in George and the other ranch hands through their cynical profane speech. While the profanity is a part of who the characters are, it is something to duly note when presenting this as a novel for students. The book presents excellent grounds for discussion on demanding topics such as the value of friendship, the definition of mercy, and how hopelessness can breed discontent.

Pam Webb, B.A. High School English Teacher, Sandpoint, Idaho.

Circle of grace / Penelope J. Stokes. LCCN 2003070120. New York : Doubleday, 2004.

HBB, 0385510136; \$19.95.

Fic. Women--North Carolina--Fiction; Female friendship--Fiction; Asheville (N.C.)--Fiction; Psychological fiction; Christian fiction. 358 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Four college friends start a circle journal, promising to only write the truth. But as Grace reads about her friends' successful lives, she begins to embellish her own disappointing story. Through the years the lies grow, until three decades after graduation, Grace discovers she has terminal cancer. Desperate to connect, she invites Tess, Lovey, and Liz to a weekend

reunion, where she'll reveal the truth, then go home to end her life before the cancer does. The invitation prompts memories for all the women, and Grace isn't the only one who's hidden the truth. Can their renewed friendship bring healing?

This character-driven novel focuses on one friend at a time, delving deeply into their pasts, but Grace's dilemma provides the subtle suspense to hold the book together. Their four distinct personalities keep the reading varied and interesting. Settings are only mentioned as they relate to the characters' lives and the depth of perception is keen. Several immoral situations crop up in the novel, but the details only show the impact on the characters' lives. My major disappointment with this novel is the large amount of curse words included throughout. While they add to character realism, deleting or softening them would do nothing to damage the fabric of the prose. Otherwise, this is an insightful, heartwarming read for women.

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

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Hadassah : one night with the king / Tommy Tenney with Mark Andrew Olsen. LCCN 2003021804. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2004.

HBB, 0764227378; \$19.99.

Fic. Esther, Queen of Persia--Fiction; Xerxes I, King of Persia, 519-465 or 4 B.C.--Fiction; Bible, O.T.--History of Biblical events--Fiction; Women in the Bible--Fiction; Queens--Iran--Fiction; Iran--History--To 640--Fiction. 351 p. : map ; 24 cm.

Adult. Rating : *5.

A Jewish girl is adopted by her older cousin after the massacre of both their families. Fearful of again encountering the murderers, whose sign is a twisted cross, Mordecai keeps Hadassah isolated inside the capital city of Susa and conceals their Jewishness. When Queen Vashti is banished and later killed, Hadassah's life changes forever. Taken into the palace as a queen candidate, she spends a year preparing for one night with the king. But gaining a crown is risky amid palace intrigue, and Hadassah's worst fears are realized when she spots a twisted cross worn by the king's top advisor.

This familiar story is made fresh and suspenseful with several subplots. While Haman's use of a swastika seems farfetched, the other elements blend seamlessly into the biblical story. Though much of the suspense dies three-fourths of the way through the novel, it remains an engaging read from beginning to end, a result of detailed characterization. Hadassah's growth from a frightened child to a powerful queen ties the story together. Descriptions of Persian life are lush and become tedious in a few places, while the sparse dialogue is purposeful and dramatic. Issues surrounding harem life are

dealt with discreetly but not ignored. Recommended for adults, especially women, who long for a deeper look into Esther's life.

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

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Life everlasting / Robert Whitlow. LCCN 2004011374. Nashville : WestBow Press, 2004.

PAP, 0849943752; \$14.99.

Fic. Santee River Valley (S.C.)--Fiction; Christian fiction. 403 p. ; 23 cm.

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

In book number two in his Santee Series, Robert Whitlow continues the story that began in *Life Support* (W Pub. Group, 2003) when Baxter Richardson was pushed over the edge of a cliff by his wife, Rena. Left for dead, but alive with a bad head injury, Richardson has now been moved to a cottage behind his home where he is cared for twenty-four seven.

Whitlow's characters are always fully fleshed out and believable. As in all of his books, he includes an attorney or two, a good antagonist (if one can be so), a strong Christian—in this case a pianist/pastor who believes God can use music as a means of healing, and usually a love interest. He gifts his story with twists and turns in the plot that keep the reader turning the pages and eagerly awaiting his next book. Set in the low country region of South Carolina, *Life Everlasting* includes deceptive alliances, uncertain romance, courtroom drama, and the ultimate struggle between life, and life everlasting.

Helen Hunter, BA, Freelance Writer/Editor, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The narrow door at Colditz / Robert L. Wise. LCCN 2004302305. Nashville : Broadman and Holman, 2004.

PAP, 0805430725; \$12.99.

Fic. Escapes--Fiction; World War, 1939-1945--Prisoners and prisons--German--Fiction; Colditz (Concentration camp)--Fiction. x, 307 p. ; 23 cm.

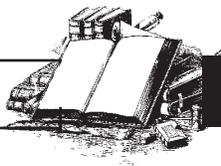
Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 5.

Fiction based in fact is always an interesting read—trying to determine which characters lived in real life, and which were added by the author's imagination to move the story ahead. Robert Wise, writing a World War II novel, chose Colditz Castle in Germany as the setting. The castle south of Leipzig, Germany, still rises into the sky as a remnant from medieval times, yet includes in the pages of its history the stories of many young men who were imprisoned there during the mid-1940s. These Allies, men from armies fighting against Hitler's Third Reich, had escaped other concentration camps as the war progressed only to find themselves incarcerated in the cold, imposing structure of a castle.

This story takes place in 1942 and 1943 as a group of prisoners work daily on plans to escape Colditz. The theme of freedom runs throughout the book. One American soldier, Sergeant Tony Irving, through his Bible reading, believes God has given him a clue about a way of escape—"the narrow door." Wise has done a fine job of keeping the tension tight and building throughout the 306 pages. Cold, hunger, abuse by the German guards, and a new Commandant with a reputation for violence create the negative side. Finding positives in a prison requires creativity. The soldiers, well-organized within, continually plan escapes, use carefully planned pranks to torment their guards, and do everything they can to keep from dwelling on their circumstances.

The Narrow Door at Colditz is a well-written slice of history that adults and high school students, particularly males, should enjoy.

Helen Hunter, BA. Freelance Writer/Editor, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



Church library ministry information service / Beth Andrews and others. Nashville : Broadman and Holman, 2004.

PAP, 0805459065; \$21.99.

027.6. Church libraries--United States--Handbooks, manuals, etc. 159 p. : ill. ; 28 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

You'll wonder why someone didn't think of this idea sooner. *Church Library Ministry Information Service* is not bound, but consists of loose sheets. These three-hole punched pages allow you to create a book uniquely designed for your library ministry.

Preprinted tabs will help library workers know where to add new information. Tab topics include: Administration, Classification and Cataloging, Collection Development, Promotion, and Index and CGSP. Contents covered in the loose pages include: library design, starting a library ministry, classifying special types of formats, automating the church library, and creating media clubs. Several black and white drawings cover topics as diverse as a videocassette processing sample, and where to put a label on a book spine. "Grocers' Secrets Can Make a Difference in the Library" has cute ideas for promotion.

The book lacks colored pictures. You can easily add your own information, however, and include bright illustrations. An index is useful. The last few pages explain the Christian Growth Study Plan. The authors have covered the basics of church library work, and an amazing amount of details. Each church library worker would benefit from his or her own copy of *Church Library Ministry Information Service*.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Church Librarian, Baxter, Kentucky.

The design revolution : answering the toughest questions about intelligent design / William A. Dembski. LCCN 2003020589. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2004.

HBB, 0830823751; \$22.00.

124. Intelligent design (Teleology)--Miscellanea. 334 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

This book consists of forty-four chapters, each answering a specific question. The chapters are grouped into six parts: Basic Distinctions, Detecting Design, Information, Issues Arising From Naturalism, Theoretical Challenges to Intelligent Design, and A New Kind of Science. Part One deals with simple questions like "What is intelligent design?" and "Is intelligent design a cleverly disguised form of scientific creationism?" (Dembski says no.) Much of the rest of the book deals with more advanced level

questions such as "How does specified complexity function as a criterion for detecting design?" and "How does the mathematical theory of information relate to intelligent design...?"

Readers should be aware that this is not an introduction to Intelligent Design. Many of the questions answered here would only be asked by scientists or people with a firm grasp of evolutionary theory or the Intelligent Design movement. Even though some "tough" questions are addressed here, Dembski succeeds in answering them clearly and as simply as possible.

Dembski presents Intelligent Design as a new vision to replace Darwinianism. Such a "revolution" comes with resistance, and chapter 41, "Peer Review," gives some very interesting examples of the difficulties that Dembski and others have faced. This book is a positive contribution to understanding one of the hottest movements in science, and will make a fine resource for Christian teachers, students, and thinkers. A select bibliography and an index are included at the back of the book.

David Rainey, Senior Bibliographer, State Library of Louisiana, Baton Rouge.

Why I am a Christian / John Stott. LCCN 2003021410. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2003.

HBB, 083083205X; \$10.00.

239. Theology, Doctrinal; Christianity. 140 p. ; 19 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

John Stott is a well known author with many books to his credit and known world-wide as a preacher and communicator of the finest caliber. His latest offering, *Why I Am a Christian*, was written, not to merely rebut the famous address by Bertrand Russell entitled "Why I Am Not a Christian," but rather to acknowledge and defend the case for Christianity that never was considered by Russell and many of his listeners. Since Stott has spent his lifetime grappling with questions about Jesus in his own personal life and with skeptics and seekers around the globe, he is the perfect choice to present the case for considering the Christian faith.

Why I Am a Christian is a small, well-organized book that takes the reader through God's pursuit of each of us, the claims of Jesus, His cross, His humanness, freedom in Christ, how He is the fulfillment of all our aspirations, and then directs us to His greatest of all invitations. The language is plain and easily understood and clearly spoken from the heart of the author. It

concludes with a section of notes from each chapter and a Scripture index.

This book would be a good suggestion for a reader wrestling with the issues of Christ as Savior or for anyone looking for direction in his life. It is persuasive and invites us to take an honest look at the claims of Christ—and accept them into our hearts and lives.

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

For better, for worse : devotional thoughts for married couples / compiled and edited by Marlene Bagnull. LCCN 2003110704. Camp Hill, Pa. : Christian Publications, 2003.

PAP, 0889652147; \$14.99.

242/.644. Spouses--Prayer-books and devotions--English; Marriage--Religious aspects--Christianity--Meditations; Devotional calendars. xiii, 302 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Reading the more than 100 devotional contributions to Marlene Bagnull's book *For Better, For Worse* made me cherish my marriage even more. Each devotional starts out with a scripture verse to match the devotional topic, and a prayer at the end. The chapter titles walk readers through the basics of the marriage vows: To Have and to Hold, For Better, For Worse, For Richer, for Poorer, and so on.

Common marital difficulties such as personality conflicts, unmet expectations, finances, and so on are personally addressed in *For Better, For Worse*. Each author sheds light on how they overcame these issues, ways that they still work on them in a loving relationship, and give renewed hope and perspective on what some may consider a hopeless case.

Whether a couple is newly engaged, or has been married for many years, this devotional book has something for everyone! In the author's opening pages there is a well-written, biblically based letter of advice to a groom, and a letter of advice to a bride written by Bob Hostetler, award-winning author, editor, pastor, and speaker from southwestern Ohio. If you are one that struggles with finding devotional time, or can't get your spouse to be interested in a devotional, this couple's devotional is actually fun and easy to read. The entries are short, personal, and effective. Every couple will glean renewed perspective and get the, "For Better..." from this book into their marriage.

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

Serious times : making your life matter in an urgent day / James Emery White. LCCN 2004004358. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2004.

HBB, 0830832114; \$17.00.

248.4. Christian life; Christian biography; Church history. 192 p. : ill. : 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

James Emery White has written *Serious Times* about the urgency of our modern lives. The beginning provides a broad overview of Western history. White writes that "understanding our day demands understanding the day before." With that in mind, he gives us the story of the Western world and shows how serious lives combined with serious times can change the course of history. Using the lives of such notables as William Wilberforce, Deitrich Bonhoeffer, and C.S. Lewis, he demonstrates how our beliefs and living out those beliefs can make a difference.

In the introduction, the author explains to the reader his organization of the book and even advises skipping to the challenge if you do not feel up to the history. The remainder of the book challenges us, modern readers living in very serious times, to deepen our awareness of the world of today and develop lives that will have consequence in that world by deepening our souls, developing our minds, answering the call, and aligning with the church.

Interspersed throughout the book are short biographies of well-known Christians, many small black and white photos and sketches. The book concludes, not only with notes and credits, but information about a website developed to aid the reader in continuing the vision of *Serious Time*.

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

Suffering in slow motion / Pamala Kennedy and Richard Kennedy. LCCN 2004000699. Ventura, Calif. : Regal Books, 2004.

PAP, 0830735003; \$10.99.

248.8/61. Church work with the terminally ill; Terminal care--Religious aspects; Terminally ill--Religious life. 170 p. : 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Suffering in Slow Motion is a beautifully written book sure to stir your heart as well as offer hope and comfort. Written by husband and wife team Pamala and Richard Kennedy through years of journaling while "suffering in slow motion," they offer a ray of encouragement and advice to readers while not downplaying the struggles of slowly dying or caring for someone with a terminal illness.

After a year's onset of symptoms, the Kennedys would learn their lives would never be the same when Richard was diagnosed with Frontotemporal Dementia, a disease that would slowly affect the lives of the whole family. You will

hear how during seven years this family has coped with the deterioration one family member's health from both the one afflicted with the illness as well as his primary care giver, his wife. The Kennedys' three children speak although briefly, directly, and with great faith about how they are able to continue in their lives and in support of their father and mother. The Kennedys also include sections from other caregivers of a family member with a terminal illness. They want the reader to know they are not alone.

While this writing duo never shuns the fact that they are suffering, they never shy from the fact that through their faith in God, and help from family and friends, this journey has positives as well.

The book is set up for the individual reader or a study group. It is written for the person suffering from a terminal illness, the caregiver(s), family members, friends, or anyone interested in learning about the subject. I highly recommend it.

S. Katherine Lopez, Freelance Writer, Beavercreek, Ohio.

For kids' sake : winning the tug-of-war for future generations / H. B. London, Jr., Neil B. Wiseman. LCCN 2003022737. Ventura, Calif. : Regal Books, 2004.

HBB, 0830732446; \$18.99.

259/.22. Church work with children; Family--Religious aspects--Christianity; Children--Religious life. 219 p. : ill. : 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

For Kids' Sake was written for parents, pastors, church leaders, and teachers, although it can be read by anyone interested in strengthening their church. It begins with a strong message. The two pastors who wrote this book clearly state that most churches are failing in ministering to children and their families. They include sobering statistics on our nation's children, families, churches, and society. Though preachy in the beginning, the tone mellows and the stories provided in the end are refreshing as well as enlightening.

The authors stress the importance of the people of the church stepping forward and recognizing that kids need more than they are getting from the playgrounds and school. They want to once again see the Christian church as among the top twelve influences in a child's life. Something, currently, the church is not.

The authors give some practical solutions, but mostly it's a book to get you thinking and motivated to reevaluate or revamp your church's youth and family programs. Each chapter begins with two prayers for children. Diverse in nature, alone they can get the reader thinking and would be worth sharing and discussing with teens.

A book that should be on the shelves in all church libraries and discussed within the church.

S. Katherine Lopez, Freelance Writer, Beavercreek, Ohio.

Biographical dictionary of evangelicals / editor, Timothy Larsen ; consulting editors, D.W. Bebbington, Mark A. Noll ; organizing editor, Steve Carter. LCCN 2003006847. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2003.

HBB, 0830829253; \$45.00.

B or 270.8/2/0922. Evangelicalism--Dictionaries; Christian biography--Dictionaries. xvii, 789 p. : 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 4.

Timothy Larsen is the editor for the new *Biographical Dictionary of Evangelicals*, and as Associate Professor of Theology at historically evangelical Wheaton College, Larsen can be sympathetic to his subject. Consulting editor Mark Noll, of course, is one of evangelicalism's most eminent historians, and with the additional work of accomplished religious historian David Bebbington, InterVarsity Press (the British IVP uses a hyphen), and dozens of well-degreed contributors, the *BDE* will be a valuable addition to any reference library.

The biographies average two double-column pages in length and comprise treatments of an array of evangelicals "from John Wyclif to John Wimber" (the *BDE* includes only those born before 1936). The scope of the work stretches across denominational lines but focuses upon men and women in those professions most likely to be influential in evangelicalism—preachers, writers, evangelists, etc. The collection consists primarily of English speakers but includes others such as Luther, Calvin, and Arminius.

Entries include illuminating anecdotes and places evangelical figures firmly in their historical context. J. Gresham Machen's and Carl McIntire's biographies, for example, though supplied by different contributors, both explain the conservative-liberal battles in Presbyterianism which made those men important leaders.

Aside from its usefulness as a quick but substantive reference, an especially valuable feature of the *BDE* is the brief bibliography of secondary literature (and autobiographies) given at the end of each profile. Subject and name indexes follow the text.

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

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The one : a realistic guide to choosing your soul mate / Ben Young and Samuel Adams. LCCN 2001030639. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 2001.

PAP, 0765267441; \$13.99.

646.77. Mate selection; Mate selection--Religious aspects--Christianity; Single people--Psychology. xxi, 193 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

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

Waiting around for your soul mate to show up? This book provides practical, godly advice for finding the love of your life. Beginning with dealing with pressure to find a mate, and dispelling common myths (such as there's only one person right for you), the book moves to discussing places to find and not to find potential soul mates. The core of the book presents the Love Target, a guide to choosing a person you can bond with in three important areas—relationally, character-wise, and spiritually. The book closes with guidance for current relationships and preparation for future ones.

Both authors have a background of working with singles and their relationships. Ben Young, an associate pastor, hosts a nationally syndicated radio show, *The Single Connection*. Dr. Samuel Adams is a licensed clinical psychologist and speaks at relationship conferences. The book's focus is singles in their mid-twenties or older, but it lays a solid foundation for young people in high school and college. Each chapter ends with a practical step you can take to implement the principles given. While the authors don't advocate courtship, they stress being prepared for marriage, involving your family and friends in the relationship, and taking a year or two to really get to know the person before you commit to them.

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

The little style guide to great Christian writing and publishing / Leonard G. Goss and Carolyn Stanford Goss. LCCN 2004300092. Nashville : Broadman and Holman, 2004.

PAP, 0805427872; \$12.99.

808/.06623. Religious literature--Authorship; Authorship--Style manuals. xiii, 210 p. ; 18 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Though *The Little Style Guide to Great Christian Writing and Publishing* measures just five by seven inches, it is not little. In it, Leonard and Carolyn Goss offer a large amount of information in a volume that easily rests in the palm of your hand.

Readers will find just what they are looking for...and topics they didn't know they needed! Study punctuation, copyright laws, and writing for religious publishers. Read the extensive list of suggested books for authors and editors or learn definitions related to word processing and electronic media. Further, "Common Editing and Publishing Process Definitions" describes words such as blurbs, ISBN, IT, Netiquette, and URL.

Each of the 12 chapters has a different focus. Chapter one deals with book production. The authors offer honest words of wisdom ranging from preparing the manuscript to relationships between editors and authors. Chapter eight, "Words, Words, Words—Tricky Spellings and Meanings, Bugaboos, and Pitfalls," answers your questions. What is the difference between persecute and prosecute? Between xenophile and xenophobe? Between flotsam and jetsam?

The subject index is adequate, but more detail would be useful. A particularly helpful feature is the number of brief cross-references to *The Chicago Manual of Style* (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2003 ed.). Students, published writers, and hopeful would-be writers will all benefit from this guide. New writing books constantly appear, but not all are gems. This one is a high-quality diamond, however. Put it on your "must buy" list.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. *Church Librarian, Baxter, Kentucky.*

A Kentucky Christmas / edited by George Ella Lyon. LCCN 2003012681. Lexington : Univ. of Kentucky Press, 2003.

HBB, 0813122791; \$28.00.

810.8/0334. American literature--Kentucky; Christmas--Literary collections; Christmas--Kentucky; Kentucky--Social life and customs; Kentucky--Literary collections. 337 p. ; 26 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

George Ella Lyon is the editor of *Kentucky Christmas*, a collection of holiday poetry, fiction, essays, recipes, and songs gathered from over sixty different authors. Among the memories stored in this celebration anthology are contributions from five Kentucky Poet Laureates, historians, singers and cooks. The themes are about old friends, families, and sometimes forgotten customs. Within the pages of this Bluegrass State holiday treasure are hometown stories that are heartwarming and also sad. The text has captured the spirit of a state's keepsake traditions through snapshots of the past and the present for future readers of Kentucky folklore and history. At the end of the book, is a recommendation list of further reading of other well respected Kentucky authors that were not included because their work did not fit the parameters of this anthology. There are also thirteen pages of author biographies and resumes of their writing legacies.

Lyon is an award-winning author herself of more than thirty different books for children and adults. She is also known for her essays and editing of other compilations. This is a legacy of literature for anyone from Kentucky or those interested in its rich literary history. Recommended for public, high school and college libraries.

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo, MSN, MLS. *Academic Librarian, Beavercreek, Ohio.*

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A man of faith : the spiritual journey of George W. Bush / David Aikman. LCCN 2004002069. Nashville : W Publishing, 2004.

HBB, 0849918111; \$21.99.

973.931/092 or B. Bush, George W. (George Walker), 1946- --Religion; Church and state--United States; United States--Religion. x, 237 p. : ill. ; 25 cm.

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

Aikman presents a balanced look at George W. Bush and the impact his faith has made on his career and his personal life. Beginning with Bush's statement about Christ during a Republican presidential-candidate debate, the author traces a thread of faith throughout the Bush family history and the president's early years. Then Aikman digs deeper into Bush's life and the steps he took toward faith and growing in Christ, from Bible reading habits to giving up alcohol. The book ends with a discussion of the role of faith in the Bush's presidential policies and in the lives of past presidents.

The author clearly documents information gained from those close to Bush with full endnotes and an extensive index. Presentation is somewhat stilted, and while the book holds the reader's interest it is not captivating. Most notable is the careful balance between opposing worldviews. Aikman writes nothing to endorse or belittle Christianity, presenting quotes and facts without a perceivable bias in either direction. The eight-page photo section primarily captures highlights of Bush's political career; only three pictures are from before 1999. The no-frills format may deter some readers, but anyone genuinely interested in George W. Bush's life will find plenty to keep them reading.

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

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