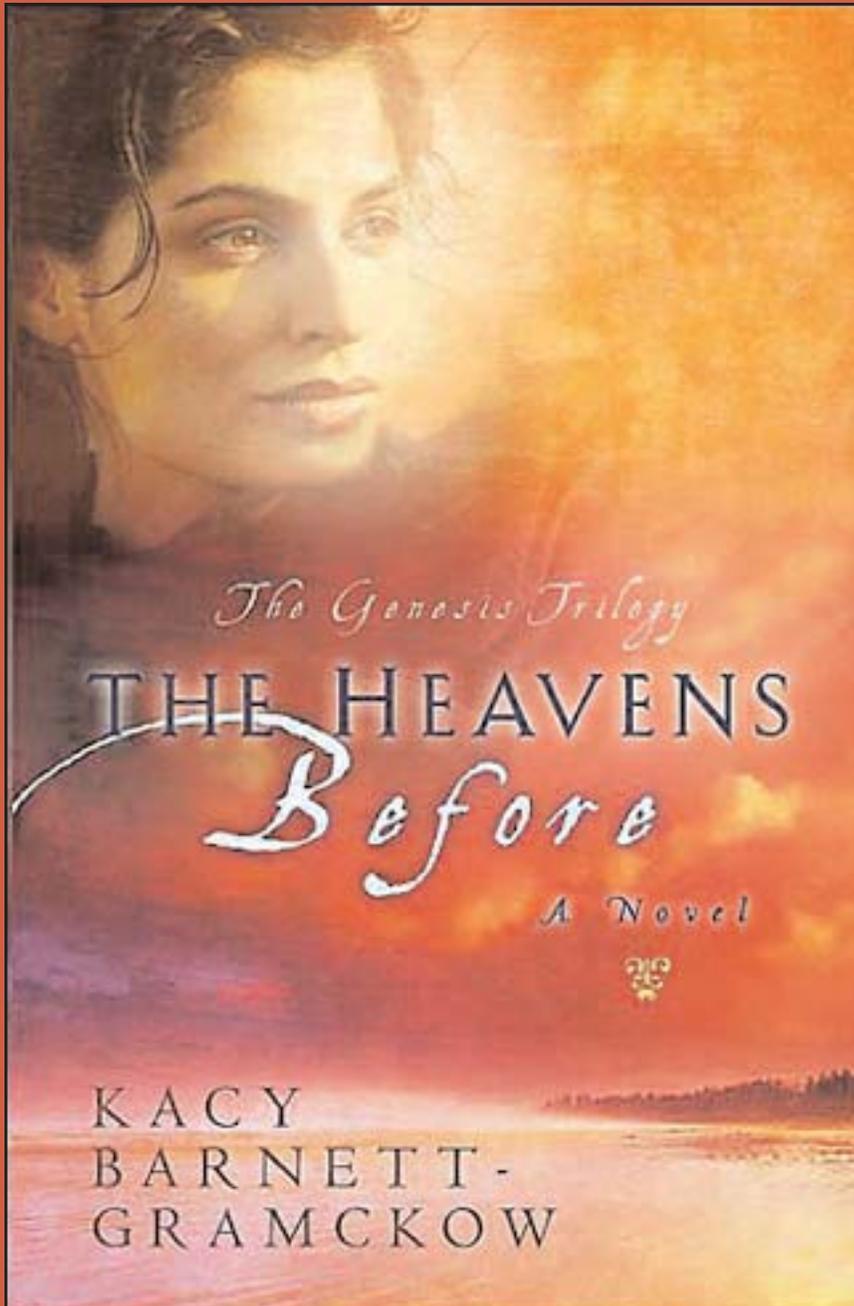
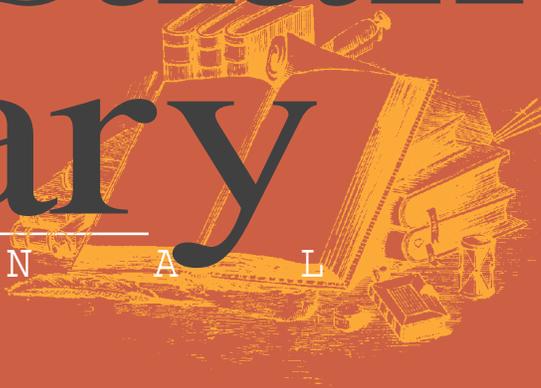


Christian Library

J O U R N A L



This Issue Features:

- ◆ **Reading About Women of the West**
- ◆ **Native Americans : Forced Relocation**
- ◆ **More Christian Selection Tools**
- ◆ **Many Reviews of Award-Winning and Highly Recommended Older Titles**



A Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Greetings from Maputo, Mozambique! We're enjoying a lovely early summer day with brilliant blue skies, palm trees waving in the breeze off the Indian Ocean and Maputo Bay on our way to share Thanksgiving dinner with the missionary team here. Trees in bright orange red blossom abound, with colorful bougainvillea drooping over walls and fences. Beautiful! For those of you who don't know, I am traveling about twice a year to various mission fields to catalog and automate MK and Bible school/seminary libraries. With two weeks to go here, I'm rushing to finish the collection at CAM (Christian Academy in Mozambique), a school with about 35 students from seven countries.

When I arrive home in mid-December, the next 6-8 months will be devoted to finishing the first phase of the core collection for young Christian readers. Donna Bowling, a friend and writer whose work you have seen in CLJ, and I are working together, she on fiction and literature, and I on nonfiction. We'd both appreciate prayer for wisdom and clarity of thinking as we select 1500 books each for elementary and secondary students. We hope to have the collection on the market in late spring, and will announce it in CLJ and on our website.

For some time the need to get CLJ back in print has been heavy on my mind. Many readers write that they would so appreciate being able to receive the journal in the mail, rather than printing it out themselves or read it online. I understand, and will do all I can to make this happen. And YOU can help, as well. The only concern is that we need a minimum of 2,000 subscribers who are willing to pay \$35 a year for the journal; this would cover both printing and mailing costs, plus equipment and software replacements every 4-5 years. So spread the word and we'll see what God does!

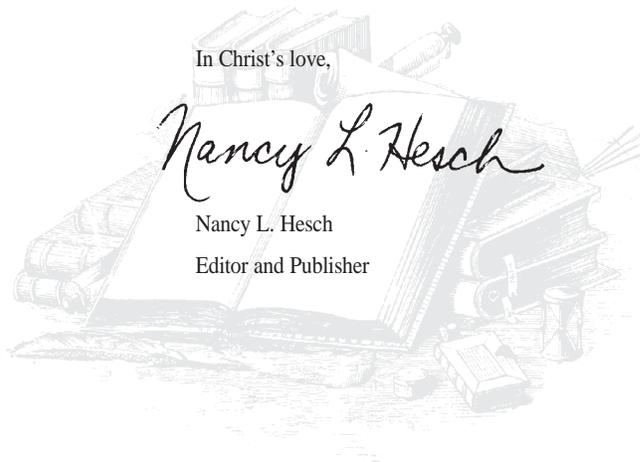
Another way you can help is by purchasing books through us. You get a 25% discount on all but nonfiction series titles (many such publishers won't give resellers a discount). In the U.S., books will arrive within two weeks of receiving your order and payment. More details and a November 2004 order form online. Let us hear from you!

In Christ's love,



Nancy L. Hesch

Nancy L. Hesch
Editor and Publisher



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

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J O U R N A L

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

Women of the West	Rosemarie DiCristo2
Native Americans: Forced Relocation	Jane Mouttet5
What, Another Book List? Part 2	Donna W. Bowling8

Nancy Hesch	Editor & Publisher
Dr. Ray Legg	Editor: Nonfiction
Mary McKinney	Editor: Fiction YA Nonfiction
Maxine Cambra	Editor: YA Fiction
Rosemarie DiCristo	Editor: Children's Nonfiction
Sylvia Stopforth	Editor: Children's Fiction
Karen Brehmer	Editor: Picture Books

R E V I E W S

Key12
Picture Books12
Children's Fiction20
Children's Nonfiction25
YA Fiction37
YA Nonfiction44
Fiction52
Nonfiction62
Index69

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Women of the West

by Rosemarie DiCristo

Women of the West... mention that phrase and some names immediately come to mind: Annie Oakley, Calamity Jane, even Belle Starr, Cattle Annie, and Kate Elder. But what of Sandra Day O'Connor and Babe Didrickson, or Mary Pickford, Amy Tan, and Sacajawea? They were western women, too. And what of women whose lives may have been remarkable but whose names are not readily recognizable? The following books provide information on famous and not so famous western women.

Extraordinary women of the American West / Judy Alter. (Extraordinary people.) LCCN 98005812. New York : Children's Book Press, 1999.

PAP, 0516264656, List price: \$16.95; CLJ price: \$12.75.

978. Women--West (U.S.)--Biography; West (U.S.)--Biography. 288 p. : ill. ; 25 cm.

Grades 6-10. Rating : 3, with caution.

Extraordinary Women, part of Children's Book Press' Extraordinary People series, highlights the lives of over fifty significant women. Author Judy Alter focuses on architects and suffragists, wives and businesswomen, entertainers and members of the military, doctors, smugglers, and gamblers. Coverage begins in the eighteenth Century.

Extraordinary Woman is nicely produced and liberally illustrated (there are even photos of each woman on the table of contents page), but several aspects of the book are problematic. Although the short bios (about two to four pages each) are clearly written, Alter frequently makes simplistic statements that she doesn't back up ("In the East, things were often done the way they had always been done because people feared change"). Also, many details are

contradictory. In one profile, Alter says a woman earned one hundred dollars per column in the 1860s and lived in poverty; in another, a woman earning one hundred dollars a month in 1876 earned "a great deal of money." More often Alter will imply a woman did wondrous things, then write that her husband was responsible, as in the bio of a woman Alter claimed "made the sidesaddle bearable for other women." It turns out that her husband designed it; the woman merely rode in it.

Extraordinary Woman overemphasizes the horrors women faced. True, it's a book on women's issues, but Alter implies women bore the worst burdens of history; men's hardships are ignored or discounted. The text makes these statements seem more Alter's opinion than fact. For instance, in a photo of "weary-looking women standing in front of dismal sod huts, with children clutching at their ragged skirts," every person in the photo looks dismal, weary, and ragged.

Also possibly problematic: the behavior of outlaws, murderers, and similarly socially suspect women (featured alongside women such as Sandra Day O'Connor, Amy Tan, and Laura Ingalls Wilder) are portrayed as free-spirited and daring. Those who think them scandalous are portrayed as overly judgmental.

Aspects worth noting: Alter profiles women who might otherwise be unknown; she gives equal emphasis to modern and historical women, she focuses on women of all races and cultures, and her writing is detailed enough to provide valuable information, yet lively enough to keep the reader's interest.

Women of the Western frontier in fact, fiction, and film / by Ron Lackmann. LCCN 97034075. Jefferson, N.C. : McFarland & Co., 1997.

HBB, 0786404000, List price: \$45.00; CLJ price: \$36.00.

978. Women--West (U.S.)--Biography; West (U.S.)--Biography. 209 p. : ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 10-Adult. Rating : 3.

Ron Lackman's *Women of the Western Frontier in Fact, Fiction and Film* is a comprehensive study of famous, infamous, and ordinary women of the West, comparing how they actually lived to how their lives have been portrayed. (Lackman also focuses on the famous men with whom these women had relationships).

This is a lively, easy to read book, and gives a good overview of the West while arguing that

most of what has been recorded is highly romanticized. The argument is well presented, but Lackman presents his own brand of romanticizing, portraying as admirable (or at least, delightfully unconventional) those women who drank, cursed, killed, dressed like men, or took part in "diversified sexual activities." Occasional admissions that most of the (male) outlaws were indeed brutal killers doesn't quite mute Lackman's obvious fascination with their lifestyles.

Respectable women are included, and even get their own chapters, but they are often simply listed, with just a sentence or two of description. The bulk of the coverage is on female outlaws or the wives and lovers of male outlaws; prostitutes, madams, and gambling ladies; and entertainers. Calamity Jane and Belle Starr share a chapter.

There are some language concerns. "whorehouse" and other coarse words are regularly used. God's name is taken in vain in quotations. There are blunt statements about the character traits of some women (that Belle Starr shared her bed with numerous men; that Calamity Jane was a heavy drinker and prostitute), but few details are given.

On the positive side, *Women of the Western Frontier* is scrupulously researched. Lackman includes meticulous biographical details about his subjects (which include Annie Oakley, Lola Montez, Sarah Bernhardt, and the Harvey Girls). If there is more than one historical account of an incident in a person's life, Lackman includes detailed accounts of each one, including which, if any, is more likely. Fictional accounts are handled the same way. While Lackman covers the prejudices and social problems women faced in the West, he isn't as heavy handed as Alter. However, note that there are some glaring errors: for example, that Evelyn Keyes played Careen in *Gone with the Wind* (she played Suellen) or that "over 100" people died when the Titanic sank.

The book is liberally illustrated with black and white photos of the person profiled, or of actors and actresses who've portrayed that person. The photos include a shot of five nightgown-clad saloon girls drinking out of bottles, as well as one suggestive shot of the buxom "wife" of Wyatt Earp wearing a transparent, clingy, low-cut gown.

Back of the book matter includes a three page filmography of silent films about the West, and a nearly forty page appendix giving plot information on sound movies and television

programs featuring Western women. There's also a four page descriptive list of the most popular Western cities depicted in fiction, and a three page bibliography.

Black women of the Old West / William Loren Katz. LCCN 95009969. New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1995.

HBB, 0689319444, List price: \$19.95; CLJ price: \$15.00.

978. African American women pioneers--West (U.S.)--History. xii, 84 p. : ill. ; 21 x 26 cm.

Grades 5-9. Rating : 5.

Black Women of the Old West, more so than the other books reviewed, is a study of ordinary (or at least, not well known) women. Women who have not been featured in other compilations, women who may not be recognizable to the general public, and women who were homemakers or who fought quietly for social and educational reform are the focus here.

Included are a woman who died in California's first stagecoach robbery and a woman who helped her husband run his newspaper; the woman who owned the land that became Beverly Hills, and a woman who had extensive real estate holdings in Los Angeles; a woman who (disguised as a man) fought with the Buffalo soldiers and a woman who was head chef at a Santa Fe hotel. But some of these women are merely mentioned, and not fully profiled. Also, at times an African American man is the focus, with his wife's accomplishments added almost as an afterthought.

William Loren Katz's carefully-researched text charts the history of blacks in America from early slavery days to the Northwest Ordinance to the first attempts at ending slavery to black pioneer settlements. Also covered are the Civil War years and beyond. The Dred Scott decision gets its own chapter (with special emphasis on Harriet Scott's role). A chapter on "Frontier Agitators" includes Sojourner Truth.

Other chapters feature notable women by state or city (i.e., California or Nevada; Seattle, Washington or Cascade, Montana) or by topic ("Building in the Wilderness," "Mail Order Brides of the Southwest").

The prejudices African Americans faced are bluntly recounted but with little editorializing; the situations are allowed to speak for themselves. The "n-word" is used in quotations. That one woman may have been a bordello

owner is mentioned; however, the Christian faith of other women, when mentioned, is always portrayed in a positive light. There are also occasional brief mentions of drinking.

While *Black Women of the Old West* is fascinating and well detailed, with clearly written, short chapters, some transition paragraphs are awkward, and there's an occasional glaring typo. The book is suitable for grades five and up in both the amount of information it imparts and in the reading level, but its thin size and picture book look may turn off older readers. However, the number of photos used enhances the text, adds information as well as visual appeal, and nicely breaks up any potential "wordiness" that could scare off younger readers.

Women of the frontier / Charles W. Sundling. (Frontier land.) LCCN 98012688. Edina, Minn. : Abdo Pub. Co., 2000.

HBB, 1577650468, List price: \$24.21; CLJ price: \$18.15.

978. Frontier and pioneer life--West (U.S.); Women pioneers; West (U.S.)--Social life and customs. 32 p. : ill. (some col.), col. map ; 26 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : 4.

Women of the Frontier is part of Abdo Publishing's Frontier Land series—easy to read studies of American pioneers. Other titles include *Cowboys of the Frontier*, *Mountain Men of the Frontier*, and *Native Americans of the Frontier*.

Women of the Frontier is more a look at how all pioneers, men and women, lived than a look at the lives and accomplishments of individual women. Women's roles in the pioneer experience are noted and described, but in general ways. Often the focus is on cooking, cleaning, child-rearing, and other traditional women's work. Only two specific women are mentioned: Lizzie Williams, a successful cattle rancher, and E.J. Guerin, who dressed as a man to find work that would help her support her family.

The book begins with a recounting of how pioneers traveled West by wagon train, followed by accounts of where pioneers settled, how they built their homes, and how they lived. Courtship, marriage, and social customs are covered. Also covered (and nicely detailed): the clothes men and women wore, the foods they ate, and the chores they did.

Mention is made of how marriage was considered a woman's "calling" in life, and that most women depended on men for their money but it's not presented in a heavy-handed way. Similarly, the dangers from Native Americans, the discussion of diseases the pioneers faced, and difficulties of traveling in wagon trains are handled gracefully.

Women of the Frontier is small in size and quite thin, giving it a picture book look. There are many photos, but most are of modern day models re-enacting pioneer times; only a handful are contemporary to pioneer days. A full color map, formatted as a two-page spread, shows the Oregon Trail and the transcontinental railroad. There's also a two page glossary and a one page index.

This is a nice book for readers wanting an overview of pioneer life, especially the daily details. It's more a book to whet the reader's appetite than a book to provide detailed information.

Great women of the Old West / by Judy Alter. (We the people.) LCCN 11016. Minneapolis : Compass Point Books, 2001.

HBB, 0756500990, List price: \$22.60; CLJ price: \$16.95.

978. Women pioneers; Frontier and pioneer life--West (U.S.); West (U.S.)--Social life and customs. 48 p. : ill. (some col.), map ; 24 cm.

Grades 2-5. Rating : 3.

Great Women of the Old West, part of Compass Point's We the People series focusing on key events in U.S. history, is easy to read with large type, glossy pages, and many photos and illustrations.

There are separate chapters on Indian women, Spanish women, pioneer women, and African-American women, as well as chapters on "Crossing the Plains" and "Making New Lives." Sacagawea gets her own chapter, a four-page overview of her life that touches on all the necessary details.

Since *Great Women* is so short and so liberally illustrated, there's little space to fully describe the women profiled. Some are merely mentioned by name, with a sentence about their accomplishments. Annie Oakley and Laura Ingalls Wilder, for instance, get a paragraph each in the "Did You Know?" section. Six women (including Sacagawea and Laura Ingalls Wilder again) get a one-sentence description in the appendix's "Important People." Although there is a good amount of detail on Esther

Morris, who secured women the right to vote in Wyoming, and on Biddy Mason, a former slave turned wealthy landowner, women like Sandra Day O'Connor, Ann Richards, and Wilma Mankiller are only briefly mentioned. No notorious women are profiled except for La Tules. That she gambled, smoked, and drank is merely mentioned, with the comment that she was "often criticized" for these behaviors.

The bulk of the book focuses on women in general: what they wore, how they lived, courtship and marriage rituals, etc. There is no politicizing of a women's lot in life, although author Judy Alter manages to include her "pictures of tired-looking women with children clutching their ragged skirts" line from her *Extraordinary Women* book.

For the most part, Alter presents a carefully-researched work, but some sloppiness creeps in. (She vividly describes a "famous" photo of a women wearing soiled white gloves and holding a wheelbarrow filled with buffalo chips—yet that's not the photo she uses). Another problem: the "Important People" section highlights six women, but only one, Carrie Nation, wasn't already fully featured in the body of the book; the "Did You Know?" section includes Wilder, who was just profiled in "Important People." For a book so short, it's disappointing to see the same people profiled again and again.

Alter's book covers many of the points as Charles Sundling's *Women of the Frontier*, but Alter's book more specifically focuses on various classes of women and profiles nonwhite women, which *Women of the Frontier* does not. Alter also profiles actual women while Sundling focuses on women in general. In both books, the daily details of women's lives are finely wrought, only diverging in what details are chosen. A final difference: there are many more photos in Alter's book; Sundling's has more text per page.

Great Women contains a one page index, a two page bibliography, and a timeline of important events. Words bold-faced in the text are defined in the one-page glossary.

Trailblazers : twenty amazing Western women / by Karen Surina Mulford ; foreword by Sybil Downing. (Great American women.) LCCN 2001022217. Flagstaff, Ariz. : Northland Publishing, 2001.

PAP, 0873587839, List price: \$14.95; CLJ price: \$11.25.

978. Women pioneers; Frontier and pioneer life--West (U.S.); West (U.S.)--Social life and customs. v, 178 p. : ill. ; 25 cm.

Grades 7-10. Rating : 4.

Vividly written in the style of creative nonfiction, *Trailblazers: Twenty Amazing Western Women*, profiles its women chronologically, beginning with Sacagawea and ending with Sandra Day O'Connor. The twenty women are chosen from the fields of politics, the arts, sports, aviation, and social work. All women were trailblazers in some way. Each gets her own chapter.

Author Karen Surina Mulford describes not only the woman profiled but the events of her time, helping the reader gain a fuller understanding of the historical situation. When there are contradictory accounts of a woman's life, all versions are noted. Hardships, prejudices, and the limits women faced are mentioned, but with little politicizing. However, the book's tone sometimes implies that women who remained housewives or mothers missed out on something.

While the book is carefully researched, and filled with interesting details, the text is sometimes repetitive. The information given in each chapter's opening paragraph, for instance, is nearly always repeated verbatim elsewhere in the chapter. When a photo shows several women, Mulford seldom labels which one is the woman being profiled. While all women profiled have some ties to "the West," sometimes this tie is dubious, as with Mary Pickford, who was born in Toronto and only moved to the West (Hollywood) once she became an actress.

Trailblazers is suited for grades seven and up, although advanced fifth or sixth graders would also find it useful. The reading level isn't so high as to give them problems, and potentially sticky concepts are handled gently. "Bad" women aren't portrayed as heroically as in some of the other books; while Mulford alludes to various female stereotypes, including the prostitute with a heart of gold, and mentions that many women opened bordellos, saloons, or boarding houses, little detail is given.

Some potentially problematic aspects: the pros and cons of Martha Hughes Morman marriage are listed. There's a quiet mention of Georgia O'Keefe having lived with a married man. Mild profanities appear in direct quotations. Mulford mentions one woman's decision to "take control of her body through abstinence" and refers to the "bawdy language" and "bosomy costumes" of another. Note: the description of "the brutal

work of a club-wielding police officer" beating activist Dolores Fernandez Huerta may be a little too brutal for young readers.

There's both a general bibliography, and one specific to each woman profiled. There's also a four page index. *Trailblazers* is sometimes a bit melodramatic in its writing style, and Mulford is very fond of adjectives and adverbs, but this is a nice work, suitable for most libraries.

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

Learning Native American Culture Through Children's Literature : Forced Relocation

by Jane Mouttet

The relocation of Native Americans is a regrettable portion of our nation's history. Many tribes, like the Cherokee, were forced to move from their ancestral lands so that white settlers could live there.. Others, like the Navajo, were moved as a punishment, in an attempt to civilize them. Considering the large number of people relocated, there are very few books written about this historical

tragedy. There have been a few fiction books published on this topic in recent years. More information about this time period can be found in nonfiction books about the individual tribes. Since the list is so short, it is hard to pick a favorite. While there are few, fortunately most are well done.

FICTION

The coyote bead / Gerald Hausman. LCCN 99071609. Charlottesville, Va. : Hampton Roads, 1999.

PAP, 1571741453, List price: \$11.95; CLJ price: \$9.00.

Fic. Navaho Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--Southwest, New--Fiction; Coyote (Legendary character)--Fiction; Shamans--Fiction. 143 p. : 22 cm.

Grades 7-9 & up. Rating : 4.

Tobachischin watches his parents gunned down by the "blue coats" who come to take his people away from their homeland. Though wounded, he escapes to a cliff top where his medicine man grandfather lives. They hide there until the boy heals and their food is gone. They then set out for the distant mountains where other Navajo are hiding. An enemy (Ute Indian) chases the two down, killing the grandfather and making several attempts on the boy's life.

The Coyote Bead contains the traditional Navajo religion; spiritism, man changing into animals, visions, etc. Rather than detailing the Long Walk, *The Coyote Bead* looks at one boy's struggle to remain in his homeland while all around him people are being taken.

Author Gerald Hausman spent over twenty years on the Navajo Reservation. During that time he learned many of the Navajo traditions and stories which are incorporated into his writings.

The girl who chased away sorrow : the diary of Sarah Nita, a Navajo girl / by Ann Turner. (Dear America.) LCCN 98048826. New York : Scholastic, 1999.

HBB, 0590972162, List price: \$10.95; CLJ price: \$8.95.

Fic. Navajo girls--Social conditions--Fiction; Navajo Indians--Relocation--Fiction; Navajo Indians--History--Fiction. 200 p. : ill., maps ; 20 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 4.

Sarah Nita and Kaibah are members of the Navajo tribe. They are on the mesa herding their family's sheep when their family is captured by the men in blue. The girls walk for eight days, north to Tseyi to find their relatives. Life continues in Tseyi; however the soldiers eventually come and take the family to the fort. While at the fort, the family, along with other Navajo families, struggles to learn how to eat the strange food given them by the soldiers. The Navajo soon start on their long walk to Fort Sumner. Many die along the trail—some because they are weak and ill, other because the soldiers shoot them when they don't keep up. While at Fort Sumner, Sarah Nita, and Kaibah are reunited with their family.

In *The Girl Who Chased Away Sorrow*, Ann Turner has written a story of a girl who lived during one of the saddest times in Navajo history. The time of the Long Walk was a time when the white man terribly mistreated the Navajo. There are a few minor problems with the book that do not affect the plot, but may offend Navajo readers. First, in a picture caption, Chinle is said to be in New Mexico; it is actually in Arizona. Second, Sarah Nita is

married to a member of her father's clan. Traditionally, Navajo do not marry members of either their mother's or father's clans.

Kunu : Winnebago boy escapes / Kenneth Thomasma ; Craig Fleuter, illustrator. (Voyager series.) Grand Rapids : Baker Books, 1992.

PAP, 0801088925, List price: \$5.99; Out of print; buy used.

Fic. Winnebago Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--Fiction; Grandfathers--Fiction; Survival--Fiction. 183 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : 4.

Ten-year-old Kunu missed his father who was fighting in the Civil War. Kunu lived with his mother, two younger sisters, and Chokay, his grandfather. While Chokay and Kunu were delivering horses to an Anglo in the Sioux Agency, the Sioux go on the warpath, changing the life of Kunu and the other Winnebago Indians. As a result of this uprising, all Indians were forced to relocate away from white settlers. Before they even arrive in Crow Creek, their new "home," Chokay makes plans to escape. In *Kunu*, Mr. Thomasma shows that not all Native Americans killed Anglos and not all white settlers hated Indians. Chokay and Kunu help settlers on several occasions. These settlers in turn help them escape and establish a permanent place in their traditional homeland.

The long march : the Choctaw's gift to Irish famine relief / Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick ; foreword by Gary WhiteDeer. LCCN 97339239. Berkeley, Calif. : Tricycle Press, 1998.

PAP, 1582460655, List price: \$7.95; CLJ price: \$6.00.

973. Choctaw Indians--History--19th century; Choctaw Indians--Relocation; Ireland--History--Famine, 1845-1852; Food relief--United States--History--19th century; Food relief--Ireland--History--19th century. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 2-4. Rating : 5.

The Long March is a beautiful story of the relocation of the Choctaw people. Healing was brought to the Choctaw people when they reached out to help the Irish during the famine. At first, the people didn't want to help, but the great-grandmother of the story retold the Long March story and helped the people to see that they must help. Author and illustrator Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick is an Irish woman who traveled to Oklahoma to do research for this story. The book contains an introduction by Choctaw Gary White Deer, as well as the author's notes on the history of the story. *The Long March* is endorsed by the Choctaw Nation.

Navajo long walk / Nancy M. Armstrong ; illustrated by Paulette Lambert. LCCN 94066493. Boulder, Colo. : Robert Rinehart, 0.

PAP, 1879373564, List price: \$8.95; CLJ price: \$6.75.

Fic. Navaho Long Walk, 1863-1867; Navajo Indians--History. 128 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 5.

Kee, a Navajo boy, becomes man of the family when his father, Strong Man, doesn't return after warning others that the soldiers are coming. Wise One, the grandmother, makes the decision that the family will surrender. Kee is furious, but goes along hoping to help his grandmother and sister until his father comes for them. At Fort Defiance, they are reunited with his mother who had been kidnapped. Author Nancy Armstrong uses Kee and his family to tell the story of the Navajo Long Walk. Kee learns that the white soldiers hate being at Fort Sumner away from their homes as much as the Navajo do. He learns the importance of learning the white man's ways. He learns how to get along with people who are different from him. Eventually, Kee and his family return to their home in Canyon de Chelly and are reunited with his father. The black and white drawings by Paulette Lambert are well done and give the readers a visual feel for the story.

On the long trail home / by Elisabeth Jane Stewart. LCCN 93034666. New York : Clarion Books, 1994.

HBB, 0395683610, List price: \$15.00; CLJ price: \$11.25.

Fic. Cherokee Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--Fiction; Trail of Tears, 1838--Fiction. 106 p. : map ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : 4.

Nine-year-old Meli has just been forced to move from North Carolina to Oklahoma. Her mother and sister died when the soldiers were forcing them out of their home. She has not seen her brother or father or their baby since she and her grandmother were taken. The first time they are allowed outside, Meli spots Tahlikwa (Tahli), her older brother. She runs toward him and as soon as he sees her they decide to run away. Tahli is shot. Meli cares for him the best she can. Caddo Indians take them in when Tahli becomes too sick from the gunshot wound to continue. Their medicine man heals him and they continue on their journey. *On the Long Trail Home* is the story of their return to their father and baby brother in North Carolina. Elisabeth Stewart based this fictional story on her great-grandmother's escape from the Cherokee Trail of Tears relocation.

Sing down the moon / Scott O'Dell. LCCN 71098513. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1970.

HBB, 0395109191, List price: \$18.00; CLJ price: \$13.50.

Fic. Navajo Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--Southwest, New--Fiction. 137 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : 5.

Being captured and sold into slavery, as well as facing forced relocation, are part of the history of many Native American tribes. In *Sing Down the Moon*, Scott O'Dell captures both of these horrors in the life of Bright Morning, a Navajo. First, as a fourteen-year-old, Bright Morning is captured by Spanish slavers and sold to a woman in a town several days east of Navajoland. She, along with two friends, steals three horses and escapes back to her homeland. After returning to her home in Canyon de Chelly, the American soldiers come and force her people to move to Fort Sumner, 300 miles to the southeast. Bright Morning and her husband escape and eventually return to their home in Canyon de Chelly. Not only is this a story of the injustices the Navajo faced in the 1860's, it is the story of a Navajo girl herding her mother's sheep, and becoming a wife and mother.

NONFICTION

Life on the trail of tears / Laura Fischer. (Picture the past.) LCCN 2003005421. Chicago : Heinemann Library, 2003.

HBB, 1403438005, List price: \$25.64; CLJ price: \$19.25.

973.04. Trail of Tears, 1838; Cherokee Indians--History; Indians of North America--Southwest, New. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades 2-4. Rating : 4.

Life on the Trail of Tears is part of the series Picture the Past. Accurate information, a glossary, bibliography, and an index make this a good reference book for middle elementary students. Five tribes walked the Trail of Tears from Southeastern United States to Indian Territory in Oklahoma. In *Life on the Trail of Tears*, Laura Fischer focuses on the Cherokee Indians. The book includes short vignettes of famous Cherokee and bits that give greater insight into Cherokee life. The fourteen two-page chapters cover: why the Trail of Tears happened, what happened along the trail, food, clothing, and children. The book is illustrated using photos, drawings, and paintings.

Navajo long walk : the tragic story of a proud people's forced march from their homeland / by Joseph Bruchac ; with illustrations and captions by Shonto Begay. LCCN 2001000567. Washington, D.C. : National Geographic, 2002.

HBB, 0792270584, List price: \$18.95; CLJ price: \$14.25.

979.1. Navaho Long Walk, 1863-1867; Bosque Redondo Indian Reservation (N.M.); Navajo Indians--History. vii, 47 p. : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 5.

Navajo Long Walk is a well-written account of the event. Joseph Bruchac consulted many from the Navajo Nation in the writing of this book. He includes the Navajo creation story as well as some background information. The book concludes with a short afterward of the Navajo's contribution to the world in the twentieth century. While the book does not have an index, it is a useful resource for those interested in this tragic time in American history. Shonto Begay's illustrations are reminiscent of VanGogh. I especially appreciated his interpretive captions on the larger colored illustrations.

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

HBB, 0761412337, List price: \$32.79; CLJ price: \$24.60.

979.1004. Navajo Indians; Indians of North America--Southwest, New; Navajo Long Walk, 1863-1867; Carson, Kit, 1809-1868; Barbonsito, 1820-1871; Bosque Redondo Indian Reservation (N.M.). 94 p. : ill., map ; 26 cm.

Grades 7-9. Rating : 3.

The Long Walk is a bitter memory for the Navajo people. In his book, *The Long Walk*, author Raymond Bial starts with the early history of the Navajo as background information. The book continues through the Long Walk to the period following it. It ends with a chapter on the Navajo today. He has done an excellent job of researching Navajo history. However, the book is a bit academic. Only those who have to research the period will probably take the time to read the book in its entirety. The book is illustrated with black and white photos, many of which are from the 1800's. It contains an index and bibliographies, which add to its value as a reference book.

The Trail of Tears / by Joseph Bruchac ; illustrated by Diana Magnuson. (Step into reading. Step 5.) LCCN 2002014929. New York : Random House, 1999.

HBB, 0679990526, List price: \$11.99; CLJ price: \$9.00.

975.0049755. Trail of Tears, 1838; Cherokee Indians--History; Cherokee Indians--Relocation. 46 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 23 cm.

Grades 2-4. Rating : 5.

The Trail of Tears is a Step 4 book in Random House's Step Into Reading series. Joseph Bruchac has written an accurate story of the Cherokee Trail of Tears for students ready for short chapter books. Written in fiction style, the six chapters read like a storybook. While the book is nonfiction, it is not set up like a reference book (no glossary, index, etc.), yet it would be a good resource for research. The colored artwork of Diana Magnuson successfully depicts Cherokee life and compliments the text.

The Trail of Tears / Sally Senzell Isaacs. (The American adventure.) LCCN 2003013024. Chicago : Heinemann Library, 2004.

HBB, 1403425078, List price: \$25.64; CLJ price: \$19.25.

973.04. Trail of Tears, 1838; Cherokee Indians--History; Cherokee Indians--Relocation; Indians of North America--Southwest, New. 32 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 29 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 4.

The Trail of Tears is part of Heinemann Library's American Adventure series. The book has eleven two-page chapters or articles. Author Sally Isaacs has included information on

Cherokee life before, during, and after the Trail of Tears, as well as information on Cherokee government. Each chapter contains color-coded panels, which either contain general U.S. history or more detailed information about the Native Americans. The book uses drawings and photographs, which are clearly identified with detailed captions. The book includes maps, a glossary, a timeline, an index, and a list of books to read and places to visit. It would be a useful book for student research.

Walking the Choctaw road : stories from red people memory / Tim Tingle. LCCN 2003001069. El Paso, Tex. : Cinco Puntos Press, 2003.

HBB, 0938317741, List price: \$16.95; CLJ price: \$12.75.

398.2. Choctaw Indians--History--Anecdotes; Choctaw Indians--Folklore; Indians of North America--Folklore. 142 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 7-9. Rating : 4.

Walking the Choctaw Road is a compilation of stories from Choctaw history from 1800 to the present. I chose to include it in this relocation column because several stories deal with the time period surrounding the Choctaw Trail of Tears. Author Tim Tingle is a Choctaw storyteller. The stories in the book were obtained from Choctaw elders or ones he himself experienced. The influence of Christian missionaries is evident in the stories, as is the spiritism of traditional beliefs. The stories give the readers a feel for what life was/is like for the Choctaw Indians: being forced to move because whites wanted their land, having their homes burned so they'd move sooner, having stones thrown in their faces just because they are Indian. *Walking the Choctaw Road* does an excellent job of telling the Native side of history without condemning the white man. The book is illustrated with black and white photographs from each story's time period.

Classroom Activities

Spend time as a class researching the relocation periods of several different Native tribes.

Compare the experience of the different groups.

Discuss how your students would feel if they experienced some of the things the Natives experienced during the relocation period.

Jane Mouttet has been a mission school teacher

or librarian on the Navajo Reservation since 1983. She is currently working on a Masters Degree in Children's Literature. She lives with her husband and three children near Window Rock, Arizona. You can reach her at Jane@NativeAmericanChildrensLit.com. She'd love to hear your ideas on using these books in the classroom.

What, Another Book List? Part 2

by Donna W. Bowling

Since "What, Another Book List?" appeared in the Spring/Summer 2002 issue of *CLJ*, a number of other annotated book lists from a Christian perspective have come to my attention. A few have been reviewed in *CLJ* in the last couple of years. Here are several more to be considered. Each makes its own unique contribution.

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Books children love : a guide to the best children's literature / Elizabeth Laraway Wilson. Rev. ed. LCCN 2002013455. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 2002.

PAP, 1581341989, List price: \$14.99; CLJ price: \$11.25

011.62. Children--Books and reading--United States; Children's literature--Bibliography; Christian literature for children--Bibliography; Best books. 320 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : *5.

The revised edition of Elizabeth Wilson's *Books Children Love* maintains its standing as one of the most useful annotated book lists for Christian parents, especially home schooling parents, as well as for Christian school libraries. Wilson wrote *Books Children Love* in response to the strong interest prompted by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay's *For the Children's Sake* (Crossway, 1984). Macaulay, daughter of Francis and Edith Schaeffer, popularized the philosophy of English educator Charlotte Mason who promoted the use of "real books," vs. textbooks, in education. Wilson's emphasis on non-fiction topics provides valuable information not included in most other booklists from a Christian perspective. Of the twenty-five chapters, twenty deal with non-fiction topics of interest to schoolchildren. The five chapters on literature include anthologies, poetry and rhymes, and three chapters devoted to graded levels of difficulty, each subdivided into standard genres.

Wilson's criteria for selection remain the same: ability to catch and hold the child's interest, literary quality, and values consistent with a Christian worldview. This edition has almost 1000 entries, for 765 titles, with around 220 second or third entries for titles that fit in more than one category. More than half the titles are

new to this edition, including most of those in the non-fiction categories. Wilson has rearranged and reorganized some of the chapters, but the format remains much the same. Entries within chapters are arranged alphabetically by author, with title, illustrator, publisher, date (with original date, if necessary), pages, grade levels, and if the book is also listed under another topic. Generous descriptive annotations run from several lines to half a page for primary listings. Annotations for secondary listings indicate the special relevance of the book for that topic. Many of the annotations end with additional related titles. The combined author-title index includes a few, but not all, of those related titles, so searching by author may be needed to locate them.

The format is attractive, with comfortable margins and occasional black and white illustrations sprinkled throughout. Very few minor errors are apparent. (However, one entry, on p. 242, combines two different Opie titles, with very different format and content, the *Oxford Nursery Rhyme Book* and the *Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes*. The former is appropriate for use with children; the latter is more scholarly.) Wilson's unique title is highly recommended for home, church, and Christian school libraries.

Core collection for small libraries : an annotated bibliography of books for children and young adults / Janice A. DeLong and Rachel E. Schwedt. LCCN 96042267. Lanham, Md. : Rowman & Littlefield/Scarecrow Press, 1997.

HBB, 0810832526, List price: \$37.95; Order direct: <http://www.scarecrowpress.com/>

011.62. Small libraries--Book lists; Children's stories, English--Bibliography; Children's libraries--United States--Book lists. vi, 229 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Janice A. DeLong and Rachel E Schwedt, an education professor and a librarian at Liberty University, compiled the Core Collection for Small Libraries in response to many requests for "lists of books that would enhance the study of school subjects, yet be interesting enough to spark a child's desire to keep reading." Chapters are arranged by genre--picture books, traditional literature, modern fantasy, multicultural books, historical fiction, contemporary fiction,

nonfiction, and poetry. Each chapter begins with a few pages of introduction, followed by entries arranged alphabetically by author, with title, illustrator, publisher, date, grade level, and major award. At the end of paragraph-length descriptive annotations for each book are two short lists for that title: Applications (classroom) and Values.

Of the almost five hundred entries, around one-third also appear in Lindskoog, and a few more in the Hunt books. More than eighty appear in The Book Tree. The selection philosophy of DeLong and Schwedt is less inclusive than, for example, that of Hunt's Honey books. To provide additional guidance to books that stress worthwhile values, the first appendix lists recommended authors whose works consistently promote such values. The second appendix lists Newbery and Caldecott award winners, and discusses a few additional major awards. Particularly helpful for educational purposes is the subject index, which includes references to the Values and most of the Applications noted for individual titles. A separate author-title index refers to major entries in the bibliography, but not to occasional related titles mentioned in the annotations. Especially recommended for its Applications and Values as listed in the subject index.

How to raise a reader / Elaine K. McEwan. LCCN 99022613. Grand Rapids : Baker Books, 1999.

PAP, 0801011841, List price: \$11.99; OP; buy used 649. Children's literature--Bibliography; Children--Books and reading--United States--Bibliography; Children--Books and reading--United States; Reading--Parent participation--United States. 205 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Elaine McEwan combines her experience as a teacher, principal, and school librarian in *How to Raise a Reader*. Half of her eight chapters provide guidance to parents as they seek to raise their children to become life-long readers. These four chapters discuss the importance of a language-rich environment in the home with parents frequently reading aloud. McEwan stresses both the necessity of phonemic awareness and an intentional emphasis on development of comprehension skills. Chapter titles include "Rate Your School's Reading

Quotient" and "Seventy-Plus Ways to Raise a Reader."

Annotated book lists predominate the other four chapters—for birth to age 3, ages 4 to 7, ages 8 to 12, and reluctant readers. These chapters begin with descriptions of different children at each level. Book list entries in each chapter are subdivided into categories such as Bible stories, poetry, read aloud, independent reading, etc., depending on the age level, and then arranged alphabetically by author. Paragraph length descriptive annotations that follow the standard bibliographical information sometimes refer to related titles. In addition to the nearly 250 annotated entries in these chapters, nine "resource" sections at the end of the book include further listings of books, web sites, and other sources to promote reading independence. The subject index refers to the content discussed in the book, not the subjects in the children's books listed. An author index refers to both children's books and adult educational titles cited.

Generous white space and small black and white illustrations at the ends of chapters provide a pleasing format. About half of the annotated children's titles also appear in Lindskoog, and almost as many in the third or fourth edition of Hunt's *Honey for a Child's Heart*. The unique practical suggestions, combined with a Christian emphasis, make this a very useful title for interested parents or teachers. Highly recommended.

Book lover's guide to great reading : a guided tour of classic & contemporary literature, / Terry W. Glaspey. LCCN 2001024041. Downer's Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2001.

PAP, 0830823298, List price: \$11.00; CLJ price: \$8.25
230. Best books; Christian literature--Bibliography;
Christians--Books and reading--Bibliography;
Christians--Books and reading. 237 p. ; 21 cm.
Adult. Rating : 5.

Terry Glaspey, a self-confessed "biblioholic," is the author of more than a dozen books on literary topics. His *Book Lover's Guide to Great Reading* cites around 850 titles selected to nurture the thinking Christian. His chapter on "Great Books of the Christian Tradition" is arranged chronologically, beginning with the Bible. Other chapters deal with other classic writers, poetry, contemporary fiction, books to develop thinking like a Christian, and books to foster spiritual life. A chapter on "Great Books for Young Readers" lists over 120 titles. Except for the chronological chapter on other classics,

the other chapters are arranged alphabetically by author. Each entry consists of the author's name and one or more titles, followed by a paragraph length annotation that discusses those titles and occasionally lists additional titles. For many authors, sample paragraphs from that author's work provide extra perspective. Separate author and titles indexes.

In his *Book Lover's Guide to Great Reading*, Glaspey notes that "portions of this book were originally published in *Great Books of the Christian Tradition ... 1996*." The newer book includes nearly 300 additional titles, including many in the new chapters on poetry, books to develop thinking like a Christian, and books to foster spiritual life. His chapter on "Great Books for Young Readers" (with a few added titles) also appeared earlier in his *Children of a Greater God* (1995), which focused on "awakening your child's moral vision." The quality of Glaspey's selections shows in that Glaspey includes nearly 300 authors discussed in Larsen, 1999 (*CLJ*, Fall 2001); and around 150 authors mentioned by Cowan and Guinness, 1998 (*CLJ*, Winter 2000). Over 130 titles also appear in Hatcher, 1994 (*CLJ*, June 2003). His appendix on "Plundering the Egyptians" explains his selections of some significant authors with a non-Christian worldview. In it he asserts the value of a Christian's interacting with secular culture with a discriminating, but committed mind. Some titles could be useful for doubting Christians. While *Book Lover's Guide* has slightly smaller print and a bit less white space than his earlier books, it does not discourage the reader. Recommended for home, Christian school, and church libraries.

Christian fiction : a guide to the genre, / John Mort. LCCN 2001050840. Greenwood Village, Colo. : Libraries Unlimited, 2002.

HBB, 1563088711, List price: \$55.00; CLJ price: \$41.25
809.3. Christian fiction--Bibliography; Christian fiction--Stories, plots, etc.; Christian fiction--History and criticism. xi, 339 p. ; 27 cm.
Adult. Rating : 5.

In his *Christian Fiction: A Guide to the Genre*, John Mort directly addresses the community of professional librarians through this contribution to Libraries Unlimited's Genreflecting Advisory Series. He asserts that Christian fiction has a relevant and valuable place in the public library collection. This comprehensive work, with its annotated bibliography of nearly 2000 titles, is also geared to booksellers, home-school teachers, writers, and editors. The fifteen

chapters include: "The Christian Alternative," "Readers' Advisory Sources" (including *Christian Library Journal* and some web sites), "Christian Classics," a variety of topical chapters, "Catholic Fiction," "Amish, Mennonite, and Quaker Fiction," "Mormon Fiction," and "Young Adults." A significant majority of the titles are published by members of the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association (ECPA), and are marked with a distinguishing icon. Other icons indicate exceptional merit; appropriate for discussion groups; Gold Medallion, Rita, or Christy award winners; or strong young adult interest. Within the subdivisions of each major chapter, arrangement is alphabetical by author and then by series title or individual title. Entries include title, date, publisher, binding, pagination, ISBN, and if out of print. For some series, a descriptive annotation discusses the series as a whole, followed by a listing of individual titles in the series. For other series, individual titles have their own annotations.

Mort's more comprehensive work discusses around 190 titles (a large majority of the about 250 adult and young adult titles listed) also included in Walker, 1998 (*CLJ*, Winter/Spring 1999). However, Mort does not include titles for elementary and pre-school level children. Most of the titles in the young adult chapter are appropriate for middle school children; many adult books especially appropriate for young adults are marked throughout the adult chapters. Nearly one hundred titles also appear in Hunt's book for teens, and nearly 80 in Hunt's book for women. If some titles by non-ECPA publishers include content that might bother some evangelicals, Mort often notes that in his annotations. Although somewhat expensive, this very useful work is highly recommended.

The best Christian children's books, 1942-1992, / by Karen Khamis ; illustrations by Dominic Catalano. Oswego, N.Y. : Ephemeron Press, 1994.

PAP, 0912290142, List price: \$7.79; Order direct: 31
Germar Drive, Oswego, NY 13126
011.62. Christian literature for children--Bibliography; Children--Books and reading--Bibliography. 56 p. ; 17 cm.
Adult. Rating : 4.

The Best Christian Children's Books, 1942-1992: A Bibliography of Books for Pre-school Through High School, also includes a few classics still in print. Author Karen Khamis, a former elementary school teacher, considered both literary merit and positive Christian worldview as she read through 447 potential

books. Of these, she has chosen 157 titles as excellent Gold Star titles and an additional 46 Companion titles that have some literary weakness, but are "still well-worth reading." In her introduction, she illustrates her criteria in action as she discusses her reasons for excluding another 24 specific titles. Books in the Gold Star category are listed alphabetically by author; those in the Companion group appear in a separate listing. Entries include author, title, place, publisher, date, pagination, grade level, and a code for type of book: autobiography, Bible, biography, Bible story, classic, fantasy, folk/fairy tale, historical fiction, information book, picture book, poetry, realistic fiction, science fiction. She also notes titles with "stylistic limitation due to the era in which it was written," or those which "may contain sensitive issues." Paragraph length annotations often mention specifically Christian values. Other annotations point out quality illustrations.

Out of about 200 titles, around one-third of them do not appear in any of the other fifteen bibliographies examined. Some, but not all, of these titles are from publishers specializing in Sunday School materials. Many, but not all, are non-fiction titles. Titles also appearing in other bibliographies vary in number, depending partly on the length of the other bibliographies. Some titles appear in many, if not most, of the other bibliographies consulted. This slight booklet from Ephemeron Press has value for both the discussion in its introduction and the unique titles included. Recommended.

100 Christian books that changed the century / William J. Petersen and Randy Petersen. LCCN 00030500. Grand Rapids : Baker/Fleming H. Revell, 2000.

HBB, 0800757351, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

270.8. Christian literature--History and criticism; Literature, Modern--20th century. 222 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Around the beginning of the Twenty-first century, many different lists of one hundred significant books, dealing with a variety of topics, appeared in print. William J. Peterson and his son Randy responded to mother's suggestion with their *100 Christian Books That Changed the Century*. Both men have wide experience as editors and as authors of more than twenty books dealing mostly with religious subjects. The Petersons did not concentrate on literary quality, theological influence, or best seller appeal. "These are not necessarily the best books, but those that have helped to shape

people, other thinkers and writers, churches, movements, and society in general."

Beginning with the publication of Charles Sheldon's *In His Steps* in 1899 (because of its impact during both the early 1900s and late 1900s), titles are arranged chronologically by date of publication, ending with Rick Warren's *The Purpose Driven Church* in 1995. Two or three pages of commentary discuss some history of the author, the special impact of that title, and other major works of that author. Only two authors, C. S. Lewis and Catherine Marshall, have written such different types of books that they have more than one entry. Three groundbreaking titles addressed specifically to children are: *Hurlbut's Story of the Bible* by Jesse Lyman Hurlbut (1904), C. S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia* (1950), and Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time* (1962). Over ten per cent of the titles are fiction, and a few more are in the categories of biography or history. Bible study tools, devotional books, missions and evangelism are among a number of other religious areas represented. While most authors included are Evangelical, a few Catholic or mainline Protestant authors are included. In "The Runners-Up" chapter, around twenty additional titles appear, along with mention of several major literary, theological, and popular authors not included. The Index of Names lists only the authors of the one hundred books, not others cited in the annotations or the runners-up.

Two other lists of one hundred significant books appeared in *World* magazine (Dec. 4, 1999) and *Christianity Today* (Apr. 24, 2000). Nearly thirty per cent of the authors in the Peterson's list appear in the *Christianity Today* list; nearly twenty per cent appear in the *World* list—and more, if the runners-up are counted. Glaspey discusses more than thirty per cent of Peterson's authors, and Hunt's Honey books for teens and women also include several of those authors. The Petersons' book is particularly useful for its chronological historical perspective and for the brief biographical information on the authors. Recommended for home, church, and Christian school libraries.

Additional sources of quality titles for Christian young readers are those books recognized as winners of awards. Some Christian award titles appear in web sites:

Children's Crown Gallery Award, Children's Crown Award, Lamplighter Award Children's Crown Award—Winners

<<http://www.childrencrownaward.org/winners.htm>> "Past nominees by year" document available on request from <smorrow@brentwoodchristian.org>

Christy Awards: Allegory, Contemporary/General, Futuristic, North American Historical, International Historical, Romance, Suspense, Western, First novel <<http://www.christyawards.com>>

Gold Medallion Book Awards: Preschool children, Elementary Children, Youth

Evangelical Christian Publishers Association <http://www.ecpa.org/ECPA/Gawards.html>

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Honey for a child's heart, 4th ed. / Gladys Hunt. Zondervan, 2002.

Honey for a teen's heart / Gladys Hunt and Barbara Hampton. Zondervan, 2002.

Honey for a woman's heart / Gladys Hunt. Zondervan, 2002.

The company of the creative / David L. Larsen. Kregel, 1999.

How to grow a young reader, rev. ed. / Kathryn Lindskoog and Ranelda Mack Hunsicker. Harold Shaw, 1999.

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Children and Adults* / Barbara J. Walker.
Neal-Schuman, 1998.

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44, (5): 92-93 (Apr. 24, 2000).
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"The Century's Top 100 Books" / by Gene
Edward Veith and Marvin Olasky. *World* 14,
(47): 14-18, 20, 22 (Dec. 4, 1999).
<[http://www.worldmag.com/
subscriber/displayarticle.cfm?id=3366](http://www.worldmag.com/subscriber/displayarticle.cfm?id=3366)>



Why mosquitoes buzz in people's ears : a West African tale / retold by Verna Aardema ; pictures by Leo and Diane Dillon. LCCN 74002886. New York : Dial Press, 1975. Also available in Spanish: 0803760892.

HBB, 0803760892, List price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75.

E. Animals--Folklore; Folklore--Africa, West; Caldecott Medal. 30 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 1-4. Rating : 4.

Ripples of influence. Verna Aardema takes the smallest of incidents, the mosquito telling the iguana a tall tale, and bases a book on that moment. *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears* follows the effect of iguana's reaction. Disgust, suspicion, misunderstanding, the trails leads to

the unintentional death of an owlet. Mother Owl, in her grief, won't call the sun to rise, and the animals are alarmed at this change in routine. King Lion presides over a council meeting and they get to the end of the chain-of-events with the culprit forever doomed to plead her case.

In a logical sequence, Aardema pursues this African folk tale through the jungle. It isn't the size of the creature that determines the placement in the story, but character traits. For instance, the python is a natural predator of the rabbit. So, when he chooses to hide in her burrow, she flees in fright. And this precipitates the next leg of the story's journey.

Leo and Diane Dillon add stunning drawings to adorn the story. The animals are large, even imposing, not necessarily drawn to scale. The sun majestically oversees the events.

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

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Goose moon / Carolyn Arden, illustrated by Jim Postier. LCCN 2003108161. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyds Mills, 2004.

HBB, 159078040X, List price: \$15.95; CLJ price: \$12.00.

E. Geese--Fiction; Grandparents--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades K-4. Rating : *5.

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 states within the review

Grades levels based on interest, not reading levels.

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

Based on Native American folklore, Carolyn Arden gives us *Goose Moon*, a delightful story about a young girl wondering if summer will ever come. The story progresses quickly from fall to winter and we relive the joys of sledding, drinking cocoa, and singing by the fire. Finally, the girl becomes tired of winter and wonders if it will ever be summer again. Her grandfather lovingly assures her that she will know summer is coming when the Goose Moon appears. When we finally see the Goose Moon, we can almost hear the honking of the returning geese.

Jim Postier's realistic watercolor illustrations are beautifully done and draw us right into the story. I especially liked seeing the Goose Moon reflected in Grandpa's glasses and the girl's eyes.

The historical information in the back of the book helps to enrich the story and give it an air of realism. The obviously loving relationship between the girl and her grandpa is soothing and uplifting. All in all, *Goose Moon* would be a charming addition to your library.

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

You bad dog! / by Leslie Baker. LCCN 2003270957. New York : PenguinPutnam Children's Books/Dutton, 2003.

HBB, 0525471278, List price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$12.00.

E. Play--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 25 x 26 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 3.

Written and illustrated by Leslie Baker, with one to two short sentences per page, *You Bad Dog!* is the simple story of a big dog (Bridget, a rottweiler), annoyed by the antics of a little dog (Lulu, a terrier).

Lulu always does the wrong thing, whether it's eating her master's cookies or knocking all her clothes off the clothes line. Yet it's Bridget who always gets the blame. One day the fed-up Bridget hides out in a movie theater only to find Lulu has gotten herself trapped inside. Bridget decides to leave Lulu there to teach Lulu a lesson. But can Bridget really be that cruel to her best friend?

Baker's story is an easy to read, pleasant tale (both for older children reading it themselves and for adults who are reading it aloud). It is gently humorous, and the smudgy-looking watercolor paintings, boldly done in browns, yellows, blacks, purples, and pinks, are appealing. The expressions on the dogs' faces are priceless; children, especially dog lovers, will be delighted.

You Bad Dog! has a nice message on loyalty, but the story is merely enjoyable, not outstanding. The ending is a bit mushy. Lulu never gets punished for her behaviors and never changes; also, it's a little unclear if Bridget decides 'if you can't beat them, join them' or just resigns herself to things always being the same.

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

Sneakers, the seaside cat / by Margaret Wise Brown ; illustrated by Anne Mortimer. LCCN 2002024235. New York : HarperCollins, 2003.

HBB, 006028692X, List price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$12.00.

E. Cats--Fiction; Beaches--Fiction; Ocean--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 27 cm.

Grades -PS-2. Rating : 3.

Sneakers, the Seaside Cat is an edited version of a chapter from *Seven Stories About a Cat Named Sneakers* by Margaret Wise Brown, published in 1955. Sneakers travels to the seaside with his human family. He explores and discovers fish, butterflies, a seagull, sand shrimp, a seashell, a crab, fog, and the pounding of the surf.

The editing has left the text awkward. The omission of a section describing the buoy and its warning bell leaves the song about the ding, dong, dong of the buoy at the end of the book out of place. The text seems to be a string of disconnected events.

The real purpose of this book seems to be to provide a display of Anne Mortimer's excellent illustrations. She has illustrated several cat books and clearly has an appreciation of her subjects. Sneakers is so realistic he seems ready to leap off the page. Mortimer has captured Sneaker's wide eyed wonder for the world around him. Small children will enjoy exploring the beach with Sneaker's as their guide.

Karla Castle

Don't worry about tomorrow / Melody Carlson ; illustrations by Susan Reagan. (Just like Jesus said.) LCCN 2001043316. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2001.

HBB, 0805423869, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

E. Worry; Fear; Christian life. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

Love your neighbor / Melody Carlson ; illustrations by Susan Reagan. (Just like Jesus said.) LCCN 2001043318. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2001.

HBB, 0805423834, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

E. Behavior--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Stories in rhyme. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

Secretly do good deeds / Melody Carlson ; illustrations by Susan Reagan. (Just like Jesus said.) LCCN 2001043315. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2002.

HBB, 0805423842, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

E. Behavior--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Stories in rhyme. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

Show each other forgiveness / Melody Carlson ; illustrations by Susan Reagan. (Just like Jesus said.) LCCN 2001043317. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2002.

HBB, 0805423850, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

E. Behavior--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction; Forgiveness--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Stories in rhyme. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

Melody Carlson's delightful series, *Just Like Jesus Said*, teaches children what Christ might do in every day situations.

In *Love Your Neighbor* a boy complains about the mean, rude kid next door. His grandmother opens her Bible and reads that Jesus tells us to love our neighbor. The boy dreams of all the creatures he would rather be friends with than his neighbor but Jesus' words keep haunting him until he decides to try once more.

Secretly Do Good Deeds shows children a myriad of ways they can help others. An anonymous favor excites and impresses a girl and motivates her to duplicate the acts of kindness. In secret she proceeds to do favors for her friends and neighbors.

Show Each Other Forgiveness sets a good example for everyone. A boy blames his friend for losing the soccer ball and after an argument the friend leaves. The boy's unwarranted anger escalates, ruining his entire day until he remembers Jesus said to show each other forgiveness.

Don't Worry About Tomorrow shows a fearful girl who worries about all the terrible things that could happen to her if she went outside to play. Then, in a wistful fantasy, she learns how God takes care of the birds, the flowers and everyone in the world.

These are excellent books for reading to small children and preschoolers. Children who already read will love the rhymes. Susan Reagan illustrates all the books with creative and

colorful, round faces on the animals as well as the children. Melody Carlson's publishing credits include over one hundred books for children, teens, and adults.

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

Where horses run free : a dream for the American mustang / by Joy Cowley ; paintings by Layne Johnson. LCCN 2002117206. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyds Mills, 2003.

HBB, 1590780620, List price: \$15.95; CLJ price: \$12.00.

E. Cowboys--Fiction; Wild horses--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 29 cm.

Grades K-5. Rating : 4.

Wild horses gallop gracefully across the open plains, free as the wind. But men settle their land, reducing their habitat. The horses are seen as pests and eventually herded into trucks that transport them to government holding pens. These crowded conditions take their toll on the horses, even the strong and spirited lead mare. All hope seems lost for these captive creatures until a seasoned cowboy drives by and notices their plight. Examining the herd, his eye catches sight of the ailing lead mare. Then and there, the cowboy promises to help and determines to return them to freedom.

In *Where Wild Horses Run Free: A Dream for the American Mustang*, author Joy Cowley writes an informative and provocative account of America's wild horses using vivid language and age-appropriate vocabulary. Although the theme is interesting, at times the story line plods along too evenly without engaging the reader in a decisive height of action. However, the author does accomplish her purpose of increasing awareness about this beautiful animal.

Layne Johnson's illustrations are richly done in strong, earthy tones. They effectively convey the action of the book and transport the reader to the breathtaking, open spaces of the American western range.

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

Diary of a worm / by Doreen Cronin ; pictures by Harry Bliss. LCCN 2002007949. New York : Harper/Joanna Cotler Books, 2003.

HBB, 006000150X, List price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$12.00.

E. Worms--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

Doreen Cronin, whose teamwork with Betsy Lewin produced the 2001 Caldecott Honor book *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type*, has teamed up with yet another talented illustrator (Harry Bliss) to come up with *Diary of a Worm*, the amusing story of a young male earthworm, told through his journal entries and upclose shots of his life.

At home, Worm gets scolded for telling his vain sister that, no matter how pretty she thinks she is, her face will always look like her rear end; he is taught good manners by his grandfather.

At school, he gets in trouble for eating his homework, makes (and later eats) a macaroni necklace in art class, and attends a school dance, where he and friends do the Hokey Pokey—sort of.

After school, Worm plays with his friend Spider, fights with him about the importance of legs, and makes him laugh so hard he falls off his tree. Other funny bits: Worm's choice of future career (Secret Service), a nightmare he has, caused by eating too much garbage before bed, and what he likes and dislikes about being a worm. Also funny: "snapshots" of him and his family, friends, and classmates, found on the flyleaf in both front and back.

There's more to this book than humor, though; it is also an ideal book for introducing the importance of earthworms in the earth's ecosystem, using the serious comments that have been slyly tucked in alongside the fun.

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

The wondrous whirligig : the Wright brothers first flying machine / Andrew Glass. LCCN 2002068940. New York : Holiday House, 2003.

HBB, 0823417174, List price: \$16.95; CLJ price: \$12.75.

E. Wright, Orville, 1871-1948--Childhood and youth--Fiction; Wright, Wilbur, 1867-1912--Childhood and youth--Fiction; Helicopters--Fiction; Flight--Fiction; Inventors--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 4.

Andrew Glass has selected a small event in the early lives of Orville and Wilbur Wright to develop this rollicking historical fiction tall tale picture book. The Wright brothers' father, Bishop Wright, an itinerant preacher, brought a whirligig toy home as a present for his sons. The whirligig, precursor to the helicopter, spins and hops and gives Orville and Wilbur some big ideas to build a people sized whirligig. Always their advocate, Mrs. Wright urges the boys to use their creative, inventive minds, make

detailed drawings, and build their many projects, including a chair whirligig. One is left with the idea of another project to come when a bicycle zooms past on the last page.

Glass uses large colorful humorous action filled pictures to illustrate the story. Glass's illustrations are becoming an easily recognizable trademark in his books. The pictures illustrate, but don't tell the story as they dance across and over the pages. Most of the large quantity of books published for the centennial of the Wright flight cover a larger time frame than *Whirligig*. However, this title would be fun to use to introduce a number of other titles during a storytime or booktalk. Glass himself recommends in an "Author's Note" that older students read factual information, suggesting Freedman's *The Wright Brothers*. I would recommend *The Wondrous Whirligig* as a supplemental title for those schools that have nonfiction titles appropriate for grades 1-3.

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

The girl who loved wild horses / story and illustrations by Paul Goble. LCCN 77020500. New York : Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 2001.

HBB, 0689845049, List price: \$17.00; CLJ price: \$12.75.

E. Fairy tales; Indians of North America--Fiction; Horses--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 4.

A Native American girl has a special gift when it comes to the horses her tribe owns. She takes them to drink at the river and helps them find the sweetest grass. She cares for them when they are injured and helps them find shelter during winter blizzards. One day a severe thunderstorm catches her off guard while she is taking a nap. The horses are terrified and begin to run away. She can't stop them, so she jumps on one as he races by. Finding shelter in a cave, she knows she is lost. A wild stallion takes them into his herd and they stay with the wild horses until being found a year later by two warriors from her tribe. After returning home to her village, she longs for life with the wild horses and once again goes to live with them, eventually becoming the mate of the wild stallion that leads the herd.

Paul Goble has written and illustrated this timeless Native American tale of a girl who loves horses. She loves them so much, in fact, that she becomes one of them. The story is interesting and the full-color illustrations are

rather detailed and lovely. Winner of the Caldecott Medal in 1979, this book has also won several other notable awards. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading Native American stories to their children, especially children who love horses.

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

The trellis and the seed / Jan Karon ; paintings by Robert Gantt Steele. LCCN 2002015752. New York : Viking/Firefly, 2003.

HBB, 0670892890, List price: \$15.95; CLJ price: \$12.00.

E. Seeds--Fiction; Moonflower--Fiction; Flowers--Fiction; Growth--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 25 cm.

Grades K-2. Rating : 5.

The Trellis and the Seed is "a book of encouragement for all ages", according to the front cover of this delightful book. It is that and much more for the lucky person who chooses to pick up and read this beautifully illustrated book. What starts out as a doubting little seed grows into a glorious moonflower vine by the time this well-written story ends. With Earth's assurances, the tiny seed is told God has something special planned for it, but as time passes, it begins to doubt her words. As Nice Woman continues her ministrations to the seed, it eventually becomes a lovely flower-covered vine.

Written by the best-selling author of the Mitford Years series, Jan Karon, *The Trellis and the Seed* provides inspiration for its reader. With a little love and patience, even the smallest seed can become a glorious vine big enough to cover a tall trellis. The concepts of perseverance and patience are strongly noticeable, and being different is also shown as being a good character trait. While this book only takes five to ten minutes to read, it is a book that will leave a lasting impact on its reader. I highly recommend this book as a wonderful addition to any public or personal library.

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

Hooway for Wodney Wat / Helen Lester ; illustrated by Lynn Munsinger. LCCN 98046149. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1999.

HBB, 0395923921, List price: \$16.00; CLJ price: \$12.00.

E. Speech disorders--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Bullies--Fiction; Rodents--Fiction. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 25 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 3.

Hooway for Wodney Wat, by Helen Lester, is a story about Rodney, a student in a school for rodents. Rodney is the object of ridicule to his classmates and is extremely shy because of a speech impediment. A new student, Camilla Capybara, joins Rodney's class and bullies the others, trampling them so she can be first at everything until the day that Miss Fuzzleworth, the teacher, chooses Rodney as the leader for "Simon Says." With Rodney's speech impediment that prevents him from pronouncing his r's, and some quick thinking, Rodney becomes a hero by succeeding in making Camilla look foolish. When "Wodney says go west!" all the other rodents lay down to rest, but Camilla stomps off toward the "west" and is gone forever.

This entertaining, read-aloud book, will appeal to children who will pity poor Rodney, hiding inside his jacket when he is teased, and cheer for him when he becomes a hero by saving the class from the bully. Readers may want to add this cute story to their collection of other animal stories written by Helen Lester. The bright watercolor paintings by Lynn Munsinger are engaging, high quality cartoons, and accurately capture the moods and actions of the furry characters just as they have done in her numerous other books.

Florence G. Craig, *Christian Counseling Center Office Coordinator, Freelance Writer, Telford, Pennsylvania.*

A hat for Ivan / Max Lucado ; illustrated by David Wenzel. LCCN 2003019027. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway, 2004.

HBB, 1581344147, List price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$12.00.

E. Identity--Fiction; Fathers and sons--Fiction; Hats--Fiction. 28 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 4.

Ivan, a happy young boy, lives in Hatville, a town where everyone wears hats. Not just any hats. Hats that show their occupation, or their hobby, or what they love most. They get their hats on their tenth birthdays, in a special ceremony presided over by The Hatmaker, who chooses which hat suits which person. Ivan's father is The Hatmaker and Ivan eagerly waits to find out what hat his father will present to him. Unfortunately, every villager has a suggestion about what hat is best for Ivan, and by listening to them, Ivan gets very, very confused.

A Hat For Ivan is a lively book. With six to nine paragraphs per page and lots of dialog, Max Lucado's charming, funny text will be delightful to read aloud. David Wenzel's bold, cartoony illustrations, done in earth tones, add to the

humor, and the cast of characters is suitably multi-ethnic.

Ivan's eagerness to get his hat right now will ring true to most kids (and many adults). But the consequences of his taking any hat from anyone willing to offer one is not only funny, it's a terrifically subtle way of showing what happens if we settle for less than God's will for us. (That the Hatmaker, Ivan's loving father, clearly represents God, should be clear to most readers).

Although Ivan's reasons for accepting the false hats are all good (he doesn't want to hurt his friends' feelings), he soon finds himself juggling many hats, none of which fit—and none of which bring happiness. The message, of course, is that "wearing a hat" just to please others causes chaos. Another message: the right hat for one person may be the wrong hat for you.

The only potential disappointment: readers never find out what hat Ivan's father presents to Ivan.

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

Daniel in the lions' den / retold and illustrated by Jean Marzollo. LCCN 2002116720. New York : Little, Brown, 2004.

HBB, 0316741329, List price: \$15.95; CLJ price: \$12.00.

E. Daniel (Biblical figure). 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

David and Goliath : a Bible story / retold and illustrated by Jean Marzollo. LCCN 2003059376. New York : Little, Brown, 2004.

HBB, 0316741388, List price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$12.00.

222. David, King of Israel; Goliath (Biblical giant); Bible stories. O.T. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

Miriam and her brother Moses / Jean Marzollo. LCCN 2002116719. New York : Little, Brown, 2004.

HBB, 0316741310, List price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$12.00.

E. Miriam (Biblical figure); Moses (Biblical figure). 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

Jean Marzollo's Bible story series are great read-aloud stories. The fun begins with the book jacket, where a stream of tiny silhouetted characters (ants in Daniel's, sheep in David's, fish in Miriam's) begin making comments about the story and conversation-starting questions directed to the reader, such as "Who's Daniel? Sh-h-h. You'll find out." and "Whew! What

happened to Miriam and her mother?" The comments continue throughout the book and onto the inside flaps and the back cover and they can be used to provoke thought about the story beyond Marzollo's words. This lovely extra feature will be lost to library patrons when the book jacket is either discarded or attached to the inside of the book, but it is a nice touch.

Still, the stories themselves stand on their own, with bold, bright watercolors that have been tweaked digitally and a clear story line based strongly on the biblical account of each event. Marzollo does add a few fictional details and lines of dialogue and (in each) short songs that can be sung to suggested tunes, such as Miriam's song to her baby brother, sung to the tune of "Hava Nagila", and the 23rd Psalm, sung by David to "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star".

However, unlike some other Bible stories I've read, Marzollo's additions are consistent with what is known about each character. Miriam, for example, is portrayed as a little girl who sings made-up songs as she goes about her day, which fits with her appearance at the head of the nation of Israel as they emerge from the Red Sea, singing a song of celebration she apparently made up on the spot. I look forward to the next book in this series, *Jonah and the Whale*.

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

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Make way for ducklings / Robert McCloskey. 60th anniversary limited ed. LCCN 41051868. New York : Viking, 1941.

HBB, 0670451495, List price: \$17.99; CLJ price: \$13.50.

E. Ducks--Fiction; Boston (Mass.)--Fiction; Caldecott Medal. 1 v. (unpaged) : illus. ; 31 x 24 cm.

Grades PS-4. Rating : *5.

Make Way for Ducklings is a classic tale, about a duck family's challenge of finding a place to live. Mr. And Mrs. Mallard decide to settle on a nice pond in the Boston Public Garden. But seeking a safer place to hatch their ducklings, they then choose an island nearby in the Charles River. When the ducklings are old enough, Mrs. Mallard sets out on the adventurous trek across Boston to the Public Garden, with the ducklings following along in a straight line. Michael, the policeman, helps them arrive safely at the pond where Mr. Mallard awaits them.

Robert McCloskey wrote *Make Way for Ducklings* in 1941 and won the Caldecott Medal for his illustrations. Before making his brown

ink drawings, he brought some ducklings into his apartment bathtub and spent days observing and sketching their antics. His detail in the facial expressions of the characters brings his simple drawings to life. The storyline includes the family structure of mother, father, and children. Despite the dangers of the city, Mrs. Mallard arrives safely with her brood. This book makes an endearing read aloud for K-2 children. The duckling names rhyme, making this a natural lead-in for a mini-lesson on on-set rhymes. It has a reading level of L on the Fountas and Pinnell scale, so first and second grade students could read it independently.

Part of the enduring charm of this story comes from the fact that McCloskey himself was intrigued by the true incident in Boston upon which he based his book. *Make Way for Ducklings* has been so popular over the years that, on the 150th anniversary of the Boston Public Garden in 1987, a bronze replica sculpture of Mrs. Mallard and her ducklings was installed near the famous gate. This warm, family story has been proven by the test of time and should be a part of any children's literature collection.

Jean M. Wensink, MS. Elementary Teacher & Freelance Writer, Sheboygan Falls, Wis
and

Donna W. Bowling, PhD. Library/Educational Consultant; Cataloger, Graduate Insti

Ashanti to Zulu : African traditions / Margaret Musgrove ; pictures by Leo and Diane Dillon. New York : PenguinPutnam/Dial, 1976.

HBB, 0803703589, List price: \$19.99; CLJ price: \$15.00.

E. Ethnology--Africa; Alphabet; Africa--Social life and customs. 32 p. : chiefly col. ill. ; 33 cm.

Grades 2-4. Rating : 5.

The watercolor, pastel, and acrylic paintings found in this ABC book of African culture won husband and wife illustrator team Leo and Diane Dillon a Caldecott medal, with their thoroughly researched depictions of the culture of various African nations. Most of the paintings show a man, a woman (several unobtrusively bare-breasted), a child, their living quarters, a local artifact, and an animal native to that country, although in some cases, they would not normally have been found together. Each picture is framed in watercolor and black ink, with interwoven corners based on the Kano Knot design which symbolizes endless searching and was first used in Kano, a city in northern Nigeria.

Margaret Musgrove lived and studied in Ghana and did extensive research in the U.S., as well, to make her portion of the book as accurate as possible. Each letter of the alphabet is represented by a paragraph explaining a custom or event common to one or more of the peoples of Africa, such as dancing, clothing styles, food gathering, and education. In order to make the African words she includes as easy to understand as possible, she does change the way plurals are formed, but otherwise, she sticks to the facts. All in all, this book is a lovely introduction to the continent of Africa and would provide a good jumping-off place for studies of other topics, too such as geography, agriculture, art, and marriage, and family living.

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

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Black cat / by Christopher Myers. LCCN 98028609. New York : Scholastic, 1999.

HBB, 0590033751, List price: \$16.95; CLJ price: \$12.75.

E. City and town life--Fiction; Cats--Fiction; Coretta Scott King Award. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : *5.

A black cat with glass green eyes, silently pads and glides across the city. It sees children playing on playgrounds where the fences seem like cages and leaps gracefully through netless basketball hoops on rusty poles. The cat adds its shadow to the chalk drawings on the sidewalks and the graffiti on the walls, hears the rhythms of the trains, and slides along the insides of the subway cars. It sees the violence, as well as togetherness of the people, hears sirens and silence that reverberates with sound. The black cat sees all and tells none, as it creeps and slinks among the layers of humanity that inhabit its city streets.

Black Cat by Christopher Myers, a Coretta Scott King Honor Book, is a poetic picture book about a nearly invisible cat that both blends in and fills in the busy streets. Illustrations, a combination of photos, collage, ink, and gouache, appropriately represent the diversity of city life. Myers started out collaborating with his award winning writer father, Walter Dean Myers (*Harlem: A Poem*, Scholastic, 1997). Mood and atmosphere are exquisitely presented and immediately draw the reader into the story. Word rhythms and expression have a multicultural feel, without being overt. This captivating tale is poetry in motion. Highly recommended for all libraries.

A home for Panda / by Ann Whitehead Nagda ; illustrated by Jim Effler. (Amazing animal adventures.) LCCN 2002042832. Norwalk, Conn. : Soundprints, 2003.

HBB, 159249045X, List price: \$15.95; CLJ price: \$12.00.

E. Pandas--Fiction; Giant panda--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades PS-1. Rating : 4.

Crocodile crossing / by Schuyler Bull ; illustrated by Alan Male. (Amazing animal adventures.) LCCN 2002042833. Norwalk, Conn. : Soundprints, 2003.

HBB, 1592490514, List price: \$15.95; CLJ price: \$12.00.

597.98. Ecology--Luangwa River Valley (Zambia and Mozambique); Crocodiles; Crocodiles--Behavior--Juvenile literature; Luangwa River Valley (Zambia and Mozambique). 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades PS-1. Rating : 4.

Grizzly bear family / by Audrey Fraggaloch ; illustrated by Donald G. Eberhart. (Amazing animal adventures.) LCCN 2002042831. Norwalk, Conn. : Soundprints, 2003.

HBB, 1592490484, List price: \$15.95; CLJ price: \$12.00.

E. Bears--Fiction; Grizzly bear--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades PS-1. Rating : 4.

A tiger tale / by Ann Whitehead Nagda ; illustrated by Paul Kratter. (Amazing animal adventures.) LCCN 2002042834. Norwalk, Conn. : Soundprints, 2003.

HBB, 1592490425, List price: \$15.95; CLJ price: \$12.00.

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

Grades PS-1. Rating : 4.

Soundprints series Amazing Animal Adventures are storybooks with educational aids. As children listen to the audio tapes and play with plush toys they learn to recognize the written words on the page. These books for young readers are beautifully illustrated and reveal an insider's perspective on the lives of some of children's favorite animals: crocodiles, pandas, grizzly bears, and tigers, among others. The animal themes range from hunting prey, eating vegetarian diets, and surviving predators, to adventurous traveling escapades.

A Home for Panda is a story of a misty mountain habitat that is part of the beautiful landscape of China. Tender green bamboo shoots are the staple of a Panda's diet and become dry or brittle before he has a chance to fill his big belly. Predators like wild dogs force Panda to seek refuge in cold water streams, while monkeys

and other bears can pester him in the trees. Beautiful winter forest scenes are the challenge of this tranquil animal's search for safety and adequate food supplies.

On the sandy banks of a river filled with activity, a mother crocodile supervises the hatching of fifty baby crocodiles. The plot of *Crocodile Crossing* occurs during the dry season when the little water bed nursery dries out and the family must move to the Luangwa River, a perilous journey for such tiny crocs. Fowl like marabou and hawks threaten to pluck the babies from the water, while mother is stalking zebra and sable antelope at the water's edge to feed her growing crocodiles. When the rain finally comes they find themselves secure.

Grizzly Bear Family accurately portrays the instinctive behaviors in the relationship between mother and bear cubs. Foraging for food is the number one lesson of survival in a potentially dangerous rainforest. And the mother grizzly bear's ability to protect her young as highlighted in the story is legend. Lush renderings of landscapes in Canada and Alaska set the backdrop for this forest story.

In the story *A Tiger Tale* an animal's basic survival instinct is again featured. A mother tiger spends most of the book attempting to catch game for her young cubs, while the author introduces us to other jungle animals like monkeys and rhinos. After fighting for the food and losing it to a larger tiger, mom tiger is determined to finally feed her cubs. She traps a deer and pulls it from the grasp of nearby crocodiles who were anticipating a free meal.

It is important to teach young children to become nature lovers and have an appreciation for all life in the wild, as well as critters in their own backyard. The Bible begins with God giving humans the duty to look after nature. (Genesis 2:15). In order to grow up caring for God's world, it is important to teach children to respect and have an appreciation for wild life in the natural habitat. By providing stories, visuals, and audios children are helped in developing an appreciation for wildlife and what these creatures need to survive. Beautifully illustrated stories are designed to get children involved with the habits and habitats of the animal world. A map for each habitat (for example the Grizzly in the Pacific Northwest Rainforest, the Bengal Tiger habitat in the Southeast Asia, the African Nile Crocodile, and the Panda in Southeast China) is provided in the back of the hand pocketbook versions. A picture glossary showing flowers, foliage, trees, fowl,

and companion forest animals fill the last four pages as a quick reference. No index, appendix, or bibliography. Recommended for elementary school teachers and students who are interested in natural sciences.

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo, MSN, MLS; Nursing Educator, Academic Librarian, Beaver creek

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

HBB, 0805003142, List price: \$17.00; CLJ price: \$12.75.

E. Imagination. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. illus.; 27 cm.

Grades PS-2. 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.

Sumi's first day of school ever / by Soyung Pak ; illustrated by Joung Un Kim. LCCN 2002011309. New York : PenguinPutnam/Viking, 2003.

HBB, 067003522X, List price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$12.00.

E. First day of school--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Korean Americans--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 25 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 4.

Sumi's most important lessons were learned from her mother: how to say your name requires practice. *Sumi's First Day of School Ever* by Soyung Pak takes us to the confusing place that is school. When you are little, everything in school appears big, wide, and tall. School is a lonely place, Sumi finds. There are so many questions, like "Where do I sit?" School is a scary place. And the children are rude. School is a mean place. It takes Sumi relaxing into an activity where she shines, that of drawing, to

find out that everyone is good at something, the first step towards making friends. School is an okay place.

Soyung Pak addressed the cultural differences in her gentle *Sumi's First Day of School Ever*. Everything is overwhelming on this landmark day even if you do speak the language. Compound the new experience by the fact that you only say a few words in English. The book is a narrative about the hours spent away from family. The emotions of the girl dominate the storyline. How does everything impact her well-being? The author allows the reality of good experiences and bad to become part of the telling.

The illustrations by Joung Un Kim enhance this tenderly told tale. Care is taken to show the school day in detail, the teacher and the students with expressions to match the story. Sumi, in particular, transforms from a scared girl to one experiencing the acceptance of new friendship.

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

Yo! Yes? / by Chris Raschka. LCCN 92025644. New York : Scholastic/ Orchard, 1993.

HBB, 0531054691, List price: \$16.95; CLJ price: \$12.75.

E. African Americans--Fiction; Race relations--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Caldecott Honor Book. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades PS-1. Rating : 4.

Yo! Yes? is a picture book with simple words for small children—in fact, it only contains 34 words, many of which are repeated. But don't let that fool you. The words coupled with the pictures in this book bring out the main idea quite nicely. The watercolor illustrations depict two young children, one white, one black, who happen to meet on a street, and after a short exchange of words, decide to become friends.

This is a good book to read to young children when attempting to teach them acceptance of different races and types of people. Winner of the Caldecott Honor Award in 1994, *Yo! Yes?* is a great book to have on hand for a library's younger readers.

Sherri Myers, Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

No, David! / David Shannon. LCCN 97035125. New York : Blue Sky Press, 1998.

HBB, 0590930028, List price: \$15.95; CLJ price: \$12.00.

E. Behavior--Fiction; Caldecott Honor Book. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Preschool. Rating : 5.

David's mother always seems to be saying the words, "No, David," in one form or the other. From crayons on the wall to overflowing the tub or streaking naked down the block, preschooler David is always in trouble. Mom's patience might wear thin through the day with this mischievous little boy, but at nighttime she has a ready hug and a, "Yes, David...I love you," which makes everything all right.

Author and illustrator David Shannon based this book on one he wrote as a little boy, using the only two words he knew how to spell—no and David. He has produced a fun book with hilarious illustrations that most kids will be able to relate to. Early readers will find this to be just the right challenge. The book is labeled Reading Level 1 but also For all ages. And the child in all of us will definitely enjoy this entertaining look at all those variations of the universal "no" that many of us knew so well.

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

White snow, bright snow / by Alvin Tresselt ; illustrated by Roger Duvoisin. LCCN 47011601. New York : HarperCollins, 1947.

HBB, 0688411614, List price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75.

E. Snow--Fiction; Caldecott Medal. 33 p. col. illus. 27 cm.

Grades K-1. Rating : 4.

White Snow Bright Snow is a short children's book that describes the excitement felt when a fresh snow is about to begin. The various ways people have of telling it's about to snow are described, as well as how each one deals with the snow after its fall. This fun book begins with the anticipation of a snowfall and concludes with the anticipation of the coming spring.

White Snow Bright Snow was written in 1947, and won the Caldecott Medal in 1948. It is somewhat dated as to the illustrations and colors used, but the story content is still applicable. I feel this book would be a good addition to a library, especially one geared toward younger readers. The men have jobs and the wives stay at home. I feel the book has value, and is a rather enjoyable read as the excitement of a fresh snow is captured quite nicely.

Sherri Myers, Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

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

HBB, 0395389496, List price: \$18.95; CLJ price: \$14.25.

E. North Pole--Fiction; Santa Claus--Fiction; Christmas--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 30 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

The Polar Express has become a Christmas children's classic in the near twenty years since it was written. Author and illustrator Chris Van Allsburg created a beautiful story of childhood fantasy along with illustrations that lend an air of added 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. In addition, *Polar Express* is a Caldecott Medal Winner.

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

Sector 7 / David Wiesner. LCCN 96040343. New York : Clarion Books, 1997.

HBB, 0395746566, List price: \$16.00; CLJ price: \$12.00.

E. Empire State Building (New York, N.Y.)--Fiction; Stories without words; Clouds--Fiction; Caldecott Honor Book. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 4.

Sector 7 tells the story of a young boy on a class field trip to the Empire State Building on a foggy day with low visibility. A friendly cloud snatches the little boy's hat and takes him on a tour of Sector 7, a cloud factory in the sky. Tired of their regular shapes, they have the little boy draw new designs for them to change into. The people in charge soon take notice and send him back to meet his classmates on the field trip.

Sector 7 by David Weisner is a preschool book with pictures only. The story is well-told without the use of words, however, and will have your child making up their own words to

the story as they look at the colorful pictures. The illustrations are eye-catching and tell the tale quite well. It will give young children an appreciation for cloud watching and enable them to use their vivid imaginations also. As the winner of the Caldecott Medal, *Sector 7* is a book that is a good purchase for most libraries.

Sherri Myers, Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

Old turtle and the broken truth / a story by Douglas Wood ; watercolors by Jon J. Muth. LCCN 2002151460. New York : Scholastic/The Chicken House, 2003.

HBB, 0439321093, List price: \$17.95; CLJ price: \$13.50.

E. Truth--Fiction; Toleration--Fiction; Nature--Effect of human beings on--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : Not recommended.

One night light ago when the earth was perfect, something fell to earth. The animals recognized it as a broken truth. They left it alone and forgot about it. A man came along and started using the broken truth for his own purposes and the purposes of his own people. Before too long, man had corrupted the broken truth and made it something ugly. The animals asked Old Turtle for help but she said men weren't ready for the real truth. Finally a little girl came to find Old Turtle to seek help for the earth. Old Turtle gave her the other piece of the Truth and told her how to use it. The girl journeyed back and united the pieces and gave the whole Truth to the people. The people were immediately healed of their selfishness and sin. The broken truth: You Are Loved. The missing piece: And So Are They.

A charitable interpretation of this story is that God sent us Truth through the Old Testament but we didn't understand Truth until it was completed in the New Testament. Such an interpretation stretches the author's intent though. Expanding on the theme of his first Old Turtle book, Douglas Wood conveys a New Age message that all animals and natural world are good. Only people are bad and mess things up. Lest anyone miss the message, there is salvation for those pesky humans through Old Turtle's wisdom. Is Old Turtle God? If so, God is female. The high point of this book, like the first one, is the quality of the illustrations. It would be a joy to see such exquisite watercolors by Jon J. Muth in Christian storybooks.

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

A full hand / Thomas F. Yezerski. LCCN 00140219. New York : Farrar Straus Giroux, 2002.

HBB, 0374425027, List price: \$16.00; CLJ price: \$12.00.

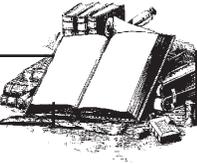
E. Canals--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 3.

Nine-year-old Asa's father is the captain of a canal boat. One fall day the Captain announces that his mule handler has quit and Asa will need to be "a full hand" the next day. While Captain steers the canal boat, Asa directs the mules along the towpath on the shore. The boat is floated to the coal chutes to be filled with coal to take to New Jersey. Facts about early canal life are interspersed with adventures: travel through a lock, an inclined plane apparatus, an aqueduct bridge, and a thunderstorm resulting in runaway mules and a wrecked boat.

Thomas Yezerski based this pioneer story loosely on the workings of the Morris Canal in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. A forward explains more details about the transportation and freight service canal boats provided in nineteenth century America. Cheryl Harness' book *The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal* (Simon & Schuster, 1995) could be a non-fiction companion picture book explaining how and why the canals were built. Full-page watercolor illustrations defined with black pen and ink sketching help explain some of the workings of the canal and set the story of the book in 19th century middle Atlantic. The father/son relationship is positive, and consistent with the child labor practices of the time. The dialogue is lackluster, merely filling the gaps in the telling of the life and times of the canal. The book will be of particular interest to children and adults living in the two states and teachers who have a transportation or early American everyday life unit as part of their curriculum.

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



Miss Hickory / by Carolyn Sherwin Bailey, with lithographs by Ruth Gannett. LCCN 46007275. New York : PenguinPutnam/Viking, 1946.

HBB, 0670479403, List price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75.

Fic. Dolls--Fiction; Country life--Fiction; Newbery Medal. 120 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 4.

Carolyn Sherwin Bailey's Newbery Medal winning book *Miss Hickory* was first published in 1946, but it holds up well. It's a charming look at a spunky, sharp, and ultimately too stubborn doll-woman.

Miss Hickory is not a store-bought doll but rather a homemade one, constructed from a branched twig and a hickory nut head with facial features painted on. She comes to life when no one is around, interacting with the animals in her woodland home. As the book opens, her human family is leaving for the winter, meaning Miss Hickory must endure the harsh New Hampshire climate alone—and Chipmunk has just stolen her corn cob house. Then Crow finds Miss Hickory an empty nest to live in, and her adventures begin.

Miss Hickory is a character children will relate to, and the predicaments she faces, especially her fears of being alone, ring true. Bailey's writing is lively and evocative. There's a chance modern readers will be put off by the old-fashioned feel, lengthy descriptions, and infrequent dialog, but Miss Hickory and her animal friends are carefully-crafted characters, with recognizable traits and failings.

There's gentle humor (for example, Squirrel's continuing interest in Miss Hickory's nut head) and rich descriptions of forest life. Some children may be disturbed when Doe is killed by hunters, but it happens so subtly the youngest readers may not realize what has occurred. Some children may also be disturbed (or disappointed) by Miss Hickory's fate.

There are references to church-going and Bible reading, and mention of a Christmas celebration where all animals gather in the barn to watch the midnight moonlight make the impression of a child's body in the hay of a manger. It's treated as a solemn, holy event.

Miss Hickory is a classic, lovingly written and presented, and a story children should long remember.

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

Double fudge / Judy Blume. LCCN 2002067774. New York : Penguin/Dutton, 2002.

HBB, 0525469265, List price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$12.00.

Fic. Brothers--Fiction; Family life--Fiction; Money--Fiction; Embarrassment--Fiction; Humorous stories. 213 p. : 22 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : 4.

Twelve-year-old Peter Hatcher and his little brother "Fudge" (whose real name is Farley Drexel Hatcher) live in an apartment with their parents and little sister Tootsie. Five-year-old Fudge is obsessed with money and almost drives Peter crazy with his constant questions and silly sayings.

When they meet up with long-lost family members on a trip to the money mint in Washington, D.C., the eccentric Howie Hatcher family invites themselves to the Hatcher apartment for a visit. As if putting up with Fudge isn't bad enough, poor Peter finds himself having to deal with his cousins, twins Flora and Fauna, and their little brother Farley. Will Peter survive their three week stay?

Judy Blume has written an incredibly funny chapter book for kids ages nine to twelve. With four other "Fudge" books in this series, *Double Fudge* is a welcome addition to the collection. Children will laugh out loud at the silly antics that Fudge gets up to throughout this book, and older children with young siblings will sympathize with poor Peter. With the patience of a saint, Peter tells the story of his chaotic family in a fun-to-read story that will leave the reader hoping for more episodes to come.

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

The good that I should : Romans 7 for kids / written by Gwyn Borcharding ; pictures by Vincent Nguyen. St. Louis, Mo. : Concordia, 2004.

HBB, 0758603924, List price: \$9.99; CLJ price: \$7.50.

Fic. Sin--Biblical teaching--Juvenile fiction. 31 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 3.

A boy who gets in trouble at school, torments his sister, and chooses to disobey his mother is the central character in *The Good That I Should*. Each time he is in trouble he wonders, "The good that I should do, I often don't do. The wrong that I shouldn't do, that's what I do!" The book finally comes to the conclusion that we all sin, but that Jesus took our punishment for it. In this way, the book attempts to explain Romans 7.

In a simple rhyming text, Gwyn Borcharding has used a child's language to illuminate how sin arises in our lives even when we clearly know the difference between right and wrong. Although this book starts very strong, it is incomplete in its application. To describe the dilemma Paul has illustrated is good; to give children practical tools to help them would be better. The last six stanzas of this book present the gospel that Jesus Christ died for our sins, but the connection between the child's struggles and the path to forgiveness isn't clear. Nor is the implication that as we grow in our faith, our choices should reflect more and more that we choose to serve Christ.

When I read this book to children in a Christian school the children all immediately identified with the boy's struggle to stay on the right path, but the conclusion did not provide them the catalyst for moving to the next step: confession, repentance, and forgiveness. If the adult reader does not have the time to explore these with the child, or is confused as well, this book will not help much. A child reading it on his own might well remain bewildered. Illustrations by Vincent Nguyen are charming.

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

Caddie Woodlawn / by Carol Ryrie Brink; illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman. LCCN 73000588. New York : Simon & Schuster, 1973.

HBB, 0027136701, List price: \$17.00; CLJ price: \$12.75.

Fic. Frontier and pioneer life--Wisconsin--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Wisconsin--Fiction. 288 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 4.

Caroline "Caddie" Woodlawn is everything her father wants her to be and everything her mother

despairs of her being. The tough eleven-year-old tomboy living on the prairie in Wisconsin climbs trees and spurns anything lady-like. Courageous and compassionate, Caddie goes to warn the Indians that some of the settlers want to kill them. She also physically fights one of the big boys in school because he is unkind to her friend. Not too good to be true, Caddie also makes some terrible choices when her proper Bostonian cousin Annabelle comes to visit. In experiencing the consequences of those choices, Caddie starts to leave her childhood behind.

Caddie is an engaging character full of mischief and promise, yet burning with righteous anger when necessary. Her special bond with her father is beautifully illustrated through their interaction. When she makes a poor choice, the consequence is clear and painful. When she does things to benefit others, it is portrayed in a way to glorify the kindness of one person to another, not Caddie.

There are two potentially troubling elements in the story. First, some young boys at school lose their mother when she leaves because she is an Indian and it is no longer "fashionable" for their father to have her around. Secondly, much is made of Caddie's father's Americanism in rejecting the opportunity for the family to become English and thus enjoy a life of wealth and prestige. Yet during the Civil War, the story relates that he paid someone to go fight in his place. While this was common, it makes him a slightly flawed hero to the reader, if not to Caddie.

Based on the true stories of Carol Ryrie Brink's grandmother, *Caddie Woodlawn* is an excellent read-aloud for any of the younger grades.

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

The farewell symphony / Anna Harwell Celenza ; illustrated by JoAnn E. Kitchel. LCCN 99047970. Watertown, Mass. : Charlesbridge/Talewinds, 2000.

HBB, CDR, 1570914060, List price: \$19.95; CLJ price: \$15.00.

Fic. Haydn, Joseph, 1732-1809--Fiction; Composers--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. : 27 cm. + 1 sound disc (digital ; 4 3/4 in.).

Grades 3-5. Rating : 5.

The heroic symphony / Anna Harwell Celenza ; illustrated by JoAnn E. Kitchel. LCCN 2003003732. Watertown, Mass. : Charlesbridge., 2004.

HBB, 1570915091, List price: \$19.95; CLJ price: \$15.00.

Fic. Beethoven, Ludwig van, 1770-1827--Fiction; Composers--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. : 27 cm. + 1 sound disc (digital ; 4 3/4 in.).

Grades 3-5. Rating : 5.

Pictures at an exhibition / Anna Harwell Celenza ; illustrated by JoAnn E. Kitchel. LCCN 2002002331. Watertown, Mass. : Charlesbridge., 2003.

HBB, 1570914923, List price: \$19.95; CLJ price: \$15.00.

Fic. Mussorgsky, Modest Petrovich, 1839-1881--Fiction; Composers--Fiction; Russia--History, 1801-1917--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. : 27 cm. + 1 sound disc (digital ; 4 3/4 in.).

Grades 3-5. Rating : 5.

This series about the lives of famous composers is written by Anna Harwell Celenza. She takes an anecdote from the life of each, and using primary source material and a fanciful imagination, she weaves stories, fiction based on history.

The illustrations of JoAnn E. Kitchel feature artistic elements from the time period or the geographic location of the individual composer. For instance, in *The Heroic Symphony*, Kitchel uses toile, a French fabric design of everyday life that was also used as wallpaper. Hence, the pages of this story are "wallpapered."

The Farewell Symphony describes an incident in the life of Joseph Haydn. His benefactor, Prince Nicholas, has moved his court to the summer palace Esterhaza. The families of the court musicians are not invited. Some eight months later, Papa Haydn writes and performs *The Farewell Symphony*, to remind the Prince that it is time to go home.

The Heroic Symphony was composed by Ludwig van Beethoven in the early 1800's. His inspiration was initially the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte, but over time, Napoleon exhibits less than exemplary behavior. Beethoven realizes that courage is a universal theme which applies even to his own struggle with hearing loss.

How do you face the untimely death of a dear friend? *Pictures at an Exhibition* borrows its title from the tribute of a composer, Modest Mussorgsky, to an architect. The suite, originally written for piano, traces a stroll through an art show, featuring the work of the departed Victor Hartmann.

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

Juliette Low, Girl Scout founder / written by Helen Boyd Higgins ; illustrated by Cathy Morrison. (Young patriots series ; 4.) LCCN 2001005463. Carmel, Ind. : Patria Press, 2002.

HBB, 1882859081, List price: \$15.00; CLJ price: \$11.25.

Fic. Low, Juliette Gordon, 1860-1927--Childhood and youth--Juvenile fiction; Low, Juliette Gordon, 1860-1927--Childhood and youth--Fiction. 124 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-7. Rating : 5.

In this biography from The Young Patriots Series, Helen Boyd Higgins tells the story of Juliette Gordon, born to a well-to-do family in Savannah, Georgia, and nicknamed Daisy. Her early life is set against the time of the Civil War. But a ratcheting of tension occurs when Daisy, a staunch supporter of the Confederacy, as well as her sisters and their mother are taken "up North" to Chicago for safety until the war is over. There, of course, she encounters numerous "Yankees" and discovers that she loves them.

Young readers will relate to Daisy's spunky fighting spirit. She faces down school bullies, tries everything the boys do, and begins an animal catchers club to take care of small abandoned animals. The book provides the right combination of information about Juliette's youth, as well as her later accomplishments.

At the age of twenty-six, Juliette marries William Mackay Low, a young Englishman who takes her to live in a castle in Scotland. Through a fortuitous meeting with Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scout organization, Mrs. Low decides that young girls should have a scouting program, too. Out of that meeting was born the Girl Scouts of America.

Cathy Morrison's black and white pencil sketches add interest to the story, giving readers peeks into Juliette Low's life from age five to forty-two. Girls may enjoy *Juliette Low, Girl Scout Founder* more than boys. Definitely suitable for church libraries.

Helen Hunter, BA. Freelance Writer/Editor, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Mahalia Jackson : gospel singer and civil rights champion / written by Montrew Dunham ; illustrated by Cathy Morrison. (Young patriots series ; 7.) LCCN 2003100641. Carmel, Ind. : Patria Press, 2003.

HBB, 1882859383, List price: \$15.00; CLJ price: \$11.25.

Fic. Jackson, Mahalia, 1911-1972--Juvenile fiction; Jackson, Mahalia, 1911-1972--Childhood and youth--Juvenile fiction; Gospel musicians--United States--Biography--Juvenile fiction; Singers--Fiction. 106 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Grades 3-7. Rating : 5.

In thirteen short, early-reader chapters Montrew Dunham describes Mahalia Jackson's life, from a poor childhood in New Orleans, Louisiana to her move to Chicago when she was 16 years old, and her life there as a gospel singer. The black

and white illustrations by Cathy Morrison underscore Mahalia's happy, but poor, life and also reveal the joy she experienced when singing.

Because Mahalia's father preached in a Baptist church, her early life was centered there. She sang gospel music from an early age. At about the same time that the Great Depression hit America, Mahalia went to Chicago, hoping to attend nursing school. Instead, she worked as a laundress and sang in the church choir on Sundays.

This biography reads as fiction, with just the right combination of narrative and dialogue. Even as a young person, Mahalia had remarkable strength of character. Although she had several opportunities to "make good" in the music business, because of her faith in God she chose instead to sing gospel music.

Beware, for this glimpse into the history and life of Mahalia Jackson could hook kids on history or biography. *Mahalia Jackson: Gospel Singer and Civil Rights Champion*, part of the Young Patriots Series, is suitable for church libraries. Jackson's strength of character and unwavering focus should be an inspiration to today's readers.

Helen Hunter, BA. Freelance Writer/Editor, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Lumber camp library / by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock ; illustrated by James Bernardin. LCCN 2001039684. New York : HarperCollins/HarperTrophy, 2002.

PAP. 0060293217, List price: \$14.99; CLJ price: \$11.25

Fic. People with disabilities--Fiction; Blind--Fiction; Teaching--Fiction; Literacy--Fiction; Loggers--Fiction; Books and reading--Fiction; Single-parent families--Fiction. 87 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 3.

Lumber Camp Library tells the story of Ruby Sawyer. She is the oldest of eleven children. Her pa is a hard working lumberjack and life in the lumber camp is good until Ruby's pa is killed in a log jam incident. The family must leave the lumber camp and move into town. Hard times follow as Ruby's ma tries to support the large family by doing laundry. Important relationships develop and the family's problems are solved in unexpected ways.

Full page pencil drawings by James Bernardin accurately support the text and clearly communicate the emotions of the characters.

This is a "feel good" story about surviving hardship. Often this kind of book is overly dramatic and romantic. However, this story is

enjoyable and not overly simplistic. Family and friendship are clearly valued, and are positively portrayed by author Natalie Kinsey-Warnock.

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

Gay-Neck, the story of a pigeon / by Dhan Gopal Mukerji ; illustrated by Boris Artzybasheff. LCCN 68013419. New York : Dutton Children's Books,

HBB. 0525304002, List price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$12.00.

Fic. Pigeons--Fiction; India--Fiction; Newbery Medal. 191 p. illus. 21 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 4.

Gay-Neck: The Story of a Pigeon is simply that, the story of a pigeon in the land of India, from his birth through much of his life, even to his training and use by a Bengal Regiment in France during World War I. It is a beautifully written book, filled with adventure as our hero, Gay-Neck, travels the countryside, escaping the repeated hawk attacks common in the life of a pigeon. The story is told in the voice of Gay-Neck's "owner" (if that word can be used to describe the person who loves and cares for him), and gives a wonderful perspective on the Great War and life as the author knew it as a boy in India.

This book won the 1928 Newbery Medal for best contribution to American children's literature, and although it is a little far-fetched, that quality only adds to the charm of the story. Author Dhan Gopal Mukerji offers adventure, excitement, and insights on bird and animal behavior throughout the tale.

Unfortunately, a book with this title in today's culture may not be readily chosen by a child, or an adult, but perhaps a display of award winners would be the needed impetus for someone to look beyond the cover and discover a jewel of a story.

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

Shiloh / by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. LCCN 90000603. New York : Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 1991.

HBB. 0689316143, List price: \$16.00; CLJ price: \$12.00.

Fic. Dogs--Fiction; Animals--Treatment--Fiction; West Virginia--Fiction. 144 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : 5.

Marty Preston is eleven years old. He lives in a rural West Virginia community where self-respect and respect for others runs deep. When a little beagle fleeing abuse runs across Marty, his heart cannot withstand the look in the dog's

eyes. He nurtures it, but his father insists they return it to its owner, Judd Travers.

The second time the dog shows up, Marty vows he will do anything to keep the dog from going back. This starts the boy down a road of deception that twists his stomach in knots. He names the dog Shiloh and begins nursing it back to mental and physical health. When the owner discovers Marty has kept the dog, he demands its return. Marty resolves to stand up to the man, but then he witnesses Judd committing an illegal act, which places Marty in a strong bargaining position for the dog. Even so, Judd demands twenty hours of labor from Marty to pay for the dog's value. Thinking he'll break Marty, Judd gives him the hardest, most menial tasks. By the end of the twenty hours, Marty has earned Judd's respect, his own self-respect, and even the barest hint of future friendship.

Shiloh is a wonderful story for readers in grades 3-5. Marty's outrage over Shiloh's treatment is shared by the reader. However, so is his justification of deception and theft. Making a bargain over the illegal act raises some moral questions that will ensure a good class discussion. Ultimately Marty proves himself to be a boy trying to do the right thing in a wrong world, a feeling many children this age will understand. Phyllis Reynolds Naylor's writing style is very rural West Virginia but it is not insulting to the people of the region, and enhances the story.

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

The mystery of the Indian carvings / Gloria Repp. LCCN 2002001871. Greenville, S.C. : JourneyForth, 2002.

PAP. 1579247261, List price: \$7.49; CLJ price: \$5.50.

Fic. British Columbia--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories; Christian life--Fiction. 118 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

The Mystery of the Indian Carvings, by Gloria Repp, is set on Barlett Island, British Columbia, Canada. Julie Fletcher, a young teen, is sent to live with her aunt and uncle for the summer. Cousin Karin considers her a nuisance, Aunt Myra is distracted, and Uncle Nate is consumed by his project. The Indian artifacts in the study hold instant interest for Julie. But several significant pieces of the collection are missing. Why? Is the vivacious journalist Vivian Taylor the key? Or perhaps the recluse Paul Edenshaw? Julie and Robert Greystone, Uncle Nate's prodigy, set out to solve this mystery.

Gloria Repp tells a straight-forward story, from a Christian perspective. The details provided

are components to the solving of the mystery. The reader is cast in the role of detective by the very title of the book. Chapter by chapter, clues add up. The climax is, as in all good mysteries, the "a-ha!" moment, with everything neatly fitting together.

The setting is critical to the storyline. The proximity to the Indian community and the remoteness of the island make the ending more believable.

Sketches by Steven J. Pelicano are a visual replica of the author's words. They capture the essence of the setting and narrative with the attention the illustrator pays to detail. Particularly fine is the color drawing on the cover, which is reproduced in black and white on the title page.

The Mystery of the Indian Carvings is a great read for intermediate elementary school girls.

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

When the chickens went on strike : a Rosh Hashanah tale / by Erica Silverman ; adapted from a story by Sholom Aleichem ; illustrations by Matthew Trueman. LCCN 2001040397. New York : PenguinPutnam Children's Books/Dutton, 2003.

HBB, 0525468625, List price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$12.00.

Fic. Jews--Russia--Fiction; Rosh ha-Shanah--Fiction; Chickens--Fiction; Behavior--Fiction; Humorous stories. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 3.

"Customs come and customs go" is the message of *When The Chickens Went On Strike*, a picture book adapted by Erica Silverman from a story by Sholom Aleichem. It's set in a late 19th/early 20th century Russian-Jewish village where the townspeople practice Kapores—the Rosh Hashanah ritual of holding a live chicken over a person's head while another person says prayers. It's done to rid the person of bad deeds, so he/she can start the new year fresh.

The townspeople may like the custom, but their chickens certainly don't, and when the disgusted birds go on strike, the people are frantic. How will they survive without Kapores? But, as the chickens themselves wonder, do people really need a chicken to take away their bad deeds?

Silverman's text is smoothly flowing, with a subtle Yiddish sound and a definite folktale feel. The vocabulary and number of words per page are somewhat more advanced than what one would find in the average picture book. Older

children will enjoy reading the book on their own, but there are also enough action scenes—and action words—to make the book a pleasure for children being read to.

Matthew Trueman's paintings are done in ink and pencil, then colored pencil and gouache, then acrylic paint, then glazed in oil. They are boldly and brilliantly rendered in browns, greens, and golds, and nicely capture the look of a Russian-Jewish village and people. The illustrations are also comically appealing, especially in the renderings of the chickens.

The story's ending is a bit abrupt (nothing is really resolved, although the townsfolk do learn to survive without Kapores) and the boy protagonist plays only a minor role, making this a pleasant, but not compelling, tale.

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

Sylvester and the magic pebble / William Steig. LCCN 2004015445. New York : Simon & Schuster.

HBB, 067166154X, List price: \$16.00; CLJ price: \$12.00.

Fic. Donkeys--Fiction; Magic--Fiction; Missing children--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 4.

Sylvester Duncan is a young donkey who collected pebbles. One rainy Saturday, he finds a very special one. It is a magic pebble! On the way home to show his parents, Sylvester meets up with a hungry lion. Unthinkingly, Sylvester wishes to be a rock so he doesn't get eaten. Unfortunately for Sylvester, unless he is holding the pebble, his wishes will not come true. Therefore, unless someone finds the pebble, places it on Sylvester's back, and he makes the wish to be a donkey again, he will remain a rock forever. Will Sylvester's parents ever find him, or is he destined to remain a rock for eternity?

Winner of the Caldecott Medal, *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* is a story sure to delight the young children in your life. With colorful illustrations done by author William Steig himself, this book will send a message to your child that the important things in life aren't material, but things like love and family. A whole range of emotions will be experienced by the reader, from happiness to sadness, and then elation when Sylvester is reunited with his parents. How appropriate that his parents are the ones who rescue him from his fate as a rock! I enjoyed this classic story and am sure you and your children will too.

Sherri Myers, Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

I, Juan de Pareja / Elizabeth Borton de Treviño. New York : Farrar Straus Giroux, 1965.

HBB, 0374335311, List price: \$17.00; CLJ price: \$12.75.

Fic. Pareja, Juan de, 1606-1670--Fiction; Velazquez, Diego Rodriguez de Silva, 1559-1600--Fiction; Newbery Medal. 192 p. : 22 cm.

Grades 6-12. Rating : 4.

"It was wrong, what I was doing, I knew. Worse, I intended to continue it secretly." Juan de Pareja, loyal servant to Renaissance painter Diego Velasquez, loves his master more than anything. After learning what life as a slave without a kind master could be, Juan desires to do anything to please Velasquez. Juan also reveres God and the Catholic church. However, another desire burns within that causes him to risk his position in the Velasquez household.

This historical fiction account, *I, Juan de Pareja*, describes a slice of life in Renaissance Spain. The gentle, slow pace of the plot reinforces Juan's gentle spirit. The little dialogue used by author Elizabeth Borton de Treviño furthers characterization.

Reading about Juan reminds us to be a little more in awe of God, of the talents he gives us, of what he has created, and to be a little less worried about our own rights and privileges.

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

Father fox's Christmas rhymes / Clyde Watson ; pictures by Wendy Watson. LCCN 2002075200. New York : Farrar Straus Giroux, 2003.

LIB, 0374375763, List price: \$16.00; CLJ price: \$12.00.

Fic. American poetry; Christmas--Poetry; Children's poetry, American; Christmas. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

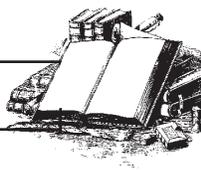
Grades PS-2. Rating : 3.

Thirty years ago, sisters Clyde and Wendy Watson came out with *Father Fox's Penny Rhymes*, and its folk rhymes about the Fox family became instant classics. Now, the Watsons are back with another book about the Fox family, this time at Christmas. The illustrations are charming, set against dark teal night skies and apricot polka-dot walls, and they have just the right amount of detail to interest a little reader's eyes without overwhelming him.

The book's bouncy rhymes, although less folksy than those in *Penny Rhymes*, are still quite readable and tell about all the pleasures of Christmas: playing in the snow, hunting for the perfect tree, keeping secrets, making presents, eating delicious food, waiting for Santa, and

being together as a family. *Father Fox's Christmas Rhymes* doesn't go into the history of the holiday at all or the reason it began, but what it does include things most readers will recognize. If Christmas books are in high demand in your library and you already have others that go into the religious background of Christmas, you might want to add this one, especially if you own the Watsons' previous Father Fox book.

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



200's—Religion

*

God's power / Stephen Elkins, author ; Tim O'Connor, illustrations. (The greatest Bible stories ever told ; vol. 1.) LCCN 2004296168. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2001.

HBB, 0805424660, List price: \$9.99; CLJ price: \$7.50.

220.9. Bible stories; Bible--Songs and music; God; Songs. 30 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm. + 1 sound disc (digital) ; 4 3/4 in.).

Grades PS-5. Rating : *5.

God's Power is one of ten books in the Word and Song Audio Book series. The author, Stephen Elkins, adapted seven Bible stories for children ages 3 to 10. As the title suggests, each selection focuses on God's power. Stories included are: In the Beginning, Dry Bones, Words from a Burning Bush, Let My People Go, The Passover, The Tower of Babel, and Jesus Calms the Storm.

A CD contains the same stories, and ten related songs. Lloyd Ogilvie, Dean Stone, and George Beverly Shea narrate the CD Bible stories. Talented musicians and voices present the songs in a way that appeals to children.

Words in this book closely parallel the Bible. Each story includes the NIV scripture reference and a highlighted "Affirmation." The affirmation for Jesus Calms the Storm is: I will run to Jesus when I am afraid. Reading *God's Power* will help children understand the Bible. Words flow well, and conversations between biblical characters are interesting.

Illustrations by Tim O'Connor are colorful and well coordinated with each selection. In fact, the pictures are wonderful! I chuckled at O'Connor's version of the Egyptians trying to shoo away the frogs during a plague. (You'll likely chuckle, too!)

Other titles in the Word and Song Audio Book series include *Amazing Miracles*, *Children in the Bible*, *The Good Shepherd*, and *Special Families*.

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

Noah's ark / illustrated by Peter Spier. LCCN 76043630. Garden City, N.Y. : Random House/Doubleday, 1977.

HBB, 0385094736, List price: \$16.95; CLJ price: \$12.75.

222. Noah's ark; Noah's ark--Pictorial works; Bible stories. O.T.; Dutch poetry. 1 v. (unpaged) : chiefly col. ill. ; 21 x 27 cm.

Grades K-2. Rating : 4.

Peter Spier tells the biblical tale of Noah's ark with his book of the same title. Using only a few words and many colorful illustrations, Mr. Spier has told the tale in his own unique way that is sure to catch your children's eye. A poem entitled "The Flood," written by Jacobus Revius in Dutch, has been translated and included. This version of *Noah's Ark* includes pictures of the more mundane tasks Noah had to undertake such as mucking out the stalls and feeding all of those animals. Some of the illustrations are quite humorous and are rather detailed. I enjoyed "reading" this book and think young children will also enjoy this Caldecott Medal winner.

Sherri Myers, Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

Noah's ark / Jerry Pinkney. LCCN 2002002010. New York : SeaStar Books, 2002.

HBB, 1587172011, List price: \$15.95; CLJ price: \$12.00.

222. Noah's ark; Noah (Biblical figure); Bible stories--O.T. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

Jerry Pinkney has been illustrating children's books since 1964, and his accomplishments over the years include five Caldecott Honor medals and the 1998 U.S. nomination for the Hans Christian Andersen Award for lifetime achievement. He has done illustrations for all sorts of stories, from American and African folk tales like John Henry and Spider, to stories by authors like Mildred Taylor, Julius Lester, and Gloria Jean Pinkney (his wife).

This time Pinkney has used his amazing talent to tell the story of Noah and the ark through both words and illustrations, beginning with words taken from scripture on the flyleaf and in the back, and filling the pages between with his masterful use of watercolors, pencil, and colored pencil to tell the well-known story, adding

carefully-chosen words throughout to fill in what the illustrations cannot explain.

It isn't much. From the arrested expression on Noah's face when God first speaks to him, to the pointing and jeering of the crowds, to the scenes of Noah's family feeding the animals and sitting around talking to each other, Pinkney's paintings put you right in the middle of the story. You can almost feel the spray of the ocean waves and the soft fur of the animals and hear the noises the animals make as they are fed and cared for. Both the lovely illustrations and the story told accurately in almost poetic words make this a book well worth adding to your Bible story collection.

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

Forgive and forget : the story of Joseph / written and illustrated by Damon J. Taylor. (Child sockology.) LCCN 2003549457. Grand Rapids : Kregal Kidzone, 2002.

PAP, 082543856X, List price: \$10.99; CLJ price: \$8.25.

222. Joseph (Son of Jacob)--Juvenile literature; Bible stories, English--O.T.--Genesis. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 3.

Forgive and Forget, part of Kregal's Child Sockology series, uses main character Coleman's problems with baby sister Shelby—most particularly, Shelby's habit of chewing and drooling on Coleman's much-beloved socks—to tie in with the biblical story of Joseph.

Coleman is a young boy who plays make believe with his socks... imagining them as distinct characters with cheery faces. Coleman's conversations with the socks help him solve his dilemmas. When Shelby gets hold of several, making them "all slimy with baby spit," Coleman is furious. His shouting makes Shelby cry, but Coleman doesn't care, until Sockariah, one of his wisest sock pals, recounts the story of Joseph... and its lesson on forgiveness.

Cartoony, appealing illustrations of the socks and the kids make *Forgive and Forget* a book with definite eye appeal. Not only are the socks expressively rendered, the bold, colorful illustrations are placed under, over, or beside the

text, comic book style, a definite plus for reluctant readers.

The text, too, is reader friendly: simply written, and full of action words, snappy dialog, and corny (but kid-appropriate) humor. ("Hi, guys, what's up?" Joseph says to his brothers just before they throw him in the pit. "You are," they respond).

Coleman's anger at his sister's misdeeds will ring true; who hasn't had a brother or sister ruin a prized possession? The lesson on forgiveness is nicely taught, and the part about Potiphar's wife gently told (she wants Joseph to be her boyfriend). Front matter lists ways adults can help kids learn the book's lesson, including reading it together, sharing their own experiences, and helping children create a coat of many colors.

This is a nice choice for kids ready for a book between a picture book and chapter book. It's also a nice choice for read-aloud time.

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

The Lord's prayer / illustrated by Heidi Holder. LCCN 2004040420. Asheville, N.C. : Front Street, 2004.

HBB, 1932425039, List price: \$16.95; CLJ price: \$12.75.

226.9. Lord's prayer--Juvenile literature. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 4.

This book consists solely of The Lord's Prayer as text to the body of the book. The illustrator does a remarkable job at the end of the book in detailing the significance drawn into each picture.

This book would be a wonderful tool used in teaching The Lord's Prayer as well as in exploring the details Holder adds to each picture depicting Christian significance as well as the illustrator's thoughts placed into each painting. Holder uses nature, animals, and even insects along with the words of faith of The Lord's Prayer, to get the reader to think more deeply about these important words often uttered by memory without much thought.

The darkness of the illustrations is all that holds me back from giving this book the highest rating. Still this book is worthy of a spot on many bookshelves.

S. Katherine Lopez, Freelance Writer, Beavercreek, Ohio.

Learning about God / Lois Rock ; illustrated by Maureen Galvani. LCCN 2003060785. New York : Little, Brown, 2004.

HBB, 0316766976, List price: \$9.95; CLJ price: \$7.50.

231. God; God--Biblical teaching. 32 p. : ill. ; 25 cm.

Preschool. Rating : 3.

Do you find it difficult to answer the most basic questions from your preschooler about God, the Bible, prayer, and Jesus? Lois Rock has put together four little books: *Learning About God*, *Learning About the Bible*, *Learning About Prayer*, and *Learning About Jesus* that will help you teach your children about God. Each book begins with a simplified definition of each topic and then goes on to answer twelve questions related to the book's title topic. At the end of each book the twelve questions are listed for review.

The illustrations are colorful and age appropriate for the child to visually relate to the lessons throughout the book.

The author does not use any scripture references, but does paraphrase many truths from the scriptures. Following Jesus' teachings, loving God, and wanting to be his friend are the key themes throughout these books.

A fine addition to any preschool, nursery or a child's own bookshelf these "Learning About God" books will be a good resource for you as you teach your young children.

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

My book of prayers / written and compiled by Su Box ; illustrated by Carolyn Cox. LCCN 2004300212. New York : Warner Faith, 2004.

HBB, 0316749672, List price: \$9.95; CLJ price: \$7.45.

242. Prayers. 96 p. : col. ill. ; 17 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 4.

My Book of Prayers is a wonderful book that will encourage small children to pray at various times throughout the day-and will provide them with the words to use. Su Box has compiled poems from various sources and authors to provide young children with a collection of short prayers for various occasions and situations, such as praising God for the good things and asking for help when things go wrong. Children will enjoy the colorful illustrations on each page and will quickly begin memorizing some of the simpler prayers presented to them. An index at the end provides a quick guide to what page a certain favorite

prayer is on. If you'd like to give your child a book to encourage them to talk with God throughout their day, this is an excellent one to choose.

Sherri Myers, Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

Hymns for a kid's heart, vol. 2 / Bobbie Wolgemuth, Joni Eareckson Tada ; illustrations by Sergio Martinez. (Great hymns of our faith.) LCCN 2003002480. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway, 2004.

HBB, 1581345828, List price: \$19.99; CLJ price: \$15.00.

264'.23. Hymns. v. <1-2 > : col. ill., music ; 24 cm. + 1 sound disc (digital ; 4 3/4 in.).

All ages. Rating : 4.

Volume two of *Hymns for a Kid's Heart* continues where volume one left off, presenting children with the words and music to, and the stories behind, twelve classic Christian hymns.

The hymns are divided into four categories: Hymns About God, About Christian Living, About Our Home in Heaven, and Of Celebration and Patriotism. As in volume one, there is a page or two of background information on each hymn and its composer (written by Bobbie Wolgemuth) followed by Joni Eareckson Tada's reflection on the theme of the hymn. Also included is a Bible verse and a prayer. All aspects of the text are geared to point out God's goodness, even the descriptions of the hymnists' lives.

Dreamy illustrations by Sergio Martinez nicely complement the text. The hymns themselves, performed by Wolgemuth, Tada, and a child choir, are lushly orchestrated and include both hymns of adoration and "moving along" songs.

The authors take the attitude that music, especially praise and worship music, is necessary to help a child's soul soar; they also feel hymns teach a child that through singing he or she can "lift their day and everything that's a part of it" to God. But despite the child emphasis, *Hymns for a Kid's Heart* is suitable for all audiences: adults who want to learn more about classic Christian music, or anyone who wants to hear beautiful music.

The CD that comes with the book is about 40 minutes long. The hymns chosen for volume two are more varied than those chosen for volume one. Included: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty; To God Be the Glory; Trust and Obey; Onward Christian Soldiers; and My Country 'Tis of Thee.

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

300's—Social Sciences

The kids guide to money cents / written by Keltie Thomas ; illustrated by Stephen MacEachern. C20039036774. Toronto : KidsCan, 2004.

HBB, 1553373898, List price: \$14.95; CLJ price: \$11.25

332.024'054. Children--Finance, personal; Personal finance--Juvenile literature; Money--Juvenile literature. 56 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 4-6 (7-10). Rating : 5.

Imagine three friends with money problems. One is a big spender, one is a born entrepreneur and the third is a penny pincher. In order to help them understand how to solve their problems, their teacher directs the three of them to write a report about money. That's the premise for this excellent book. The kids wonder about subjects such as why we need money, budgeting, getting value for money, finding a job, the stock market, credit, and how banks work. The left side of each two-page spread has an engaging cartoon strip featuring the three friends' discussion about the topic. Their answers and their "report" fill the right page.

Stephen MacEachern has done a great job of conveying the three personalities through the cartoons. The illustrations capture the spirit of the quest and will appeal to any reader.

In addition to the illustrations, what really makes this book work is Keltie Thomas's explanations. Her tight, believable dialogue between the friends sets up the question to be researched. The answers are unsophisticated enough for kids to understand while still giving credit to the reader for intelligence. The book discusses philanthropy and even profiles some real-live child philanthropists, so it encourages social responsibility. Parents might add some information on tithing and stewardship.

This book will be useful to any educator trying to teach the principles of money, dollar value, and budgeting. It even has a simple lesson in inflation. This is a book many adults would benefit from reading as well.

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

The Fourth of July / Debra Hess. (Symbols of America.) LCCN 2003004934. New York : Benchmark Books, 2004.

HBB, 0761417117, List price: \$25.65; Order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.us/mcc/default.asp>

394.2634. Fourth of July--Juvenile literature; Fourth of July celebrations--Juvenile literature; Fourth of July; Holidays. 40 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 24 cm.

Grades 2-5. Rating : 3.

Liberally illustrated with maps, reproductions of 18th century paintings, and bold color photos of modern-day kids (who are suitably multi-ethnic), *The Fourth of July* gives a nice overview of the events leading to the American Revolution and U.S. independence. Author Debra Hess' text is simply written and easy to understand, with approximately one paragraph per page. Unfamiliar words are italicized, then defined in the book's appendix.

The French and Indian War, the various taxes on the colonies, the Boston Tea Party, and the First and Second Continental Congresses are all included, and sidebars discuss the Liberty Bell, Uncle Sam, and George M. Cohan. However, there are only two short paragraphs on the writing of the Declaration of Independence, and two more on its signing and distribution. More emphasis is placed on the various ways Americans celebrate the Fourth of July, and while the meanings of freedom, equality, and America as a land of opportunity are nicely emphasized.

Elementary school children reading *The Fourth of July* will surely get a good understanding of the importance of this holiday.

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

Over in the pink house : new jump rope rhymes / Rebecca Kai Dotlich, illustrated by Melanie Hall. LCCN 2003108227. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyds Mills, 2004.

HBB, 1590780272, List price: \$15.95; CLJ price: \$12.00.

398. Jump rope rhymes. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 1-4. Rating : 4.

Rebecca Kai Dotlich invites jump rope enthusiasts to join the fun in *Over in the Pink House*. The rhymes skip from attic to basement, encompassing points all over the globe. Days of the week, courtship, dining on tough alligators, all are fair game. And the names could be interchangeable to personalize your own skip-rope group. For instance, there's Harry, Hilda, Hannah, Jillian. Or, perhaps, just the alliteration of nonsense words fills the bill. "Bustle, bustle, biddle, beddle, do you know a girl named Gretel?" Every day happenings to imagination, *Over in the Pink House* is a welcomed addition to both reading and activity centers.

Of supreme importance in jump rope rhymes is the rhythm. Dotlich's poems run the gamut from simple to complex, including some that feature upbeat. Upbeats (starting the poem before the heavy downbeat) must be dealt with

or the accent inherent in the rhyme, the instant when the jumper's feet strike the pavement, that intersection will be askew. So Dotlich does not always follow the easy path, but it is possible to achieve satisfaction with a little preparation.

The drawings in *Over in the Pink House* have their own fancy. Melanie Hall uses water colors with a flair. The figures are enclosed by black line drawings, but the colors are allowed to drift, like pleasant memories. Plenty of white space lends a cleanness to the page. A signature girl jumping rope decorates the lower right hand corner. If you flip through the pages quickly, the bonus treat is a cartoon show.

Dotlich has also authored *In the Spin of Things: Poetry of Motion*, and *Lemonade Sun: And Other Summer Poems*.

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

The funny little woman / retold by Arlene Mosel ; pictures by Blair Lent. LCCN 75179046. New York : PenguinPutnam/Puffin, 1972.

PAP, 0140547533, List price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.45.

398.2. Folklore; Caldecott Medal. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. illus. ; 24 x 25 cm.

Grades 1-4. Rating : 3.

The Funny Little Woman, retold by Arlene Mosel, is the story of a little Japanese woman who loves to make rice dumplings. One day one of her dumplings rolls from the table and through a crack in the ground. Thus begins a strange journey into an underground world of gods and wicked oni. The little woman is captured by an oni and kept as the cook for a whole underground community. They have a magic spoon that turns one grain of rice into a potful. "Tee-he-he-he...that's easy," she laughs. Eventually, she becomes homesick and tries to escape. When the oni almost catch her, she looks so funny that the oni's laughter helps her to get away.

In this retelling of exotic folklore, a moral the reader can derive is that laughter can help a person make the best out of a bad situation. The story might encourage children to read additional books to learn more about the Asian culture. Blair Lent's Caldecott Medal winning illustrations include both black-and-white sketches and pastel watercolors. The Japanese costume and home are lovely paintings, but the demon-like, clawed creatures with horns and fangs can be frightening for young children still in the nightmare stage. Therefore, this read-

aloud book is recommended for children grades one to four.

Florence G. Craig, *Christian Counseling Center Office Coordinator; Freelance Writer, Telford, Pennsylvania.*

Frog went a-courtin' / retold by John Langstaff ; with pictures by Feodor Rojankovsky. LCCN 55005237. New York : Harcourt/Gulliver Books, 1955.

HBB, 015230214X, List price: \$16.00; CLJ price: \$12.00.

398.2. Folk songs--United States. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 4.

"Frog went a-courtin', he did ride," to "If you want anymore, you must sing it yourself!," *Frog Went A-Courtin'* by John Langstaff is a joyful recounting of a special love between Frog and Miss Mousie. With Uncle Rat's blessing, the two are united in Holy Matrimony. The guest list is eclectic and each one lends his own contribution to the festivities: a song, a dance, a pass 'round the wedding cake. The party is disrupted by the appearance of the grumpy old tom cat. Mr. and Mrs. Frog honeymoon in France.

"The story of the story" tells us that the ballad was brought to America by Scottish and British immigrants. The story and tune are shaped over the 400 years of its lifetime. A familiar children's song, Langstaff acknowledges that he's not only blended various versions of the lyrics, but he's also modified the tune. The story is entertaining in the improbability of the mix of characters starting with a frog wooing and winning a mouse.

What's green, white, and black? The beginning of Feodor Rojankovsky's illustrations. He picks up the color as the story gains momentum, alternating between his original color scheme and a full palette. His drawings are charmingly full of detail.

Frog Went A-Courtin' was the Caldecott Award winner for 1955. Langstaff also wrote a version of *Over in the Meadow*, a children's counting song.

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

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

HBB, 0152656618, List price: \$16.00; CLJ price: \$12.00.

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

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

Gerald McDermott won a Caldecott Honor medal with this boldly illustrated tale about a trickster named Raven, a central character in most Native American tales from the Pacific Northwest. Raven is a shape-shifter, a mischief-maker, and a cultural hero, who brings both tricks and blessings to his people and appears in stylized form on many of their totem poles, carved and woven items, baskets, and jewelry. Many versions of the trickster tales are told in this region of the country; this is McDermott's, told with simple words and bright illustrations of gouache, colored pencil, and pastel on heavyweight cold-press watercolor paper.

In McDermott's version, the world and its people live in darkness and Raven decides to go find them light. When he finds the lodge of the Sky Chief, where the sun is kept, he becomes a pine needle. The Sky Chief's daughter swallows him in a cup of water and he is then born to her as the Sky Chief's grandchild. Raven's grandfather is very fond of him and when he fusses about the box the sun is kept in and then about the sun itself, the Sky Chief tells his daughter to give the bright ball of light to Raven to play with. Raven then changed himself back into his bird form and steals the sun, which he plants in the sky for the use of mankind. McDermott adds a touch of interactivity with a few questions about the legend, which are then answered on the same page.

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

500's—Natural Sciences & Mathematics

Color / written by Melinda Lilly ; photos by Scott M. Thompson. (Read and do science.) LCCN 2003012390. Vero Beach, Fla. : Rourke, 2004.

HBB, 1589526465, List price: \$14.45; Order direct : <http://www.rourkepublishing.com/library/>

535.6. Color. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 19 x 20 cm.

Grades 2-6. Rating : 4.

Make it grow / written by Melinda Lilly ; photos by Scott M. Thompson ; design by Elizabeth Bender ; educational consultants, Kimberly Weiner, Betty Carter, Maria Czech. (Read and do science.) LCCN 2003012388. Vero Beach, Fla. : Rourke, 2004.

HBB, 1589526376, List price: \$14.45; Order direct : <http://www.rourkepublishing.com/library/>

571.8. Growth (Plants); Plants--Development; Experiments; Growth (Plants)--Experiments. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 19 x 20 cm.

Grades 2-6. Rating : 4.

Sound / written by Melinda Lilly ; photos by Scott M. Thompson ; design by Elizabeth Bender ; educational consultants, Kimberly Weiner, Betty Carter, Maria Czech. (Read and do science.) LCCN 2003012440. Vero Beach, Fla. : Rourke, 2004.

LIB, 1589526481, List price: \$14.45; Order direct :

<http://www.rourkepublishing.com/library/>

534. Sound. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 19 x 20 cm.

Grades 2-6. Rating : 4.

Dirty and clean / written by Melinda Lilly ; photos by Scott M. Thompson ; design by Elizabeth Bender ; educational consultants, Kimberly Weiner, Betty Carter, Maria Czech. (Read and do science.) LCCN 2003012441. Vero Beach, Fla. : Rourke, 2004.

HBB, 1589526368, List price: \$14.45; Order direct :

<http://www.rourkepublishing.com/library/>

613. Hygiene--Juvenile literature; Cleanliness. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 19 x 20 cm.

Grades 2-6. Rating : 4.

Solid, liquid, and gas / written by Melinda Lilly ; photos by Scott M. Thompson ; design by Elizabeth Bender ; educational consultants, Kimberly Weiner, Betty Carter, Maria Czech. (Read and do science.) LCCN 2003012392. Vero Beach, Fla. : Rourke, 2004.

LIB, 1589526481, List price: \$14.45; Order direct :

<http://www.rourkepublishing.com/library/>

530. Matter. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 19 x 20 cm.

Grades 2-6. Rating : 4.

Gravity / written by Melinda Lilly ; photos by Scott M. Thompson ; design by Elizabeth Bender ; educational consultants, Kimberly Weiner, Betty Carter, Maria Czech. (Read and do science.) Vero Beach, Fla. : Rourke, 2004.

LIB, 1589526422, List price: \$14.45; Order direct :

<http://www.rourkepublishing.com/library/>

531. Gravity. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 19 x 20 cm.

Grades 2-6. Rating : 4.

Real students doing real science make this set a great addition to any library. Finding books that turn children on to science at such a young age is not easy. Yet, Lilly has not only done it, she has done it well. Each book in the set provides a basic understanding of a particular subject. Each topic in the set begins with an anticipatory question or two. Then each book, using simple sentences with real students acting out the information, presents the material. There is at least one experiment for each book. The glossary for each book has the key words pronounced as they are said and not spelled phonetically. An example is "air pressure" which is handled (AIR PRESH ur) allowing

students to use reading skills they have rather than decoding skills they don't have or are not well developed. Each book has a "Take It Further" section with experiments for the more mature student. The last page has an index but more importantly, it has additional questions for young scientists to think about after finishing the book.

Lilly wrote these books with help from professional educators. Three educational consultants with Education Specialist degrees were helpful in providing age appropriate and content specific information. The multiethnic student body will readily identify with the information. Students reading or having this set read to them will become very excited about science.

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

Snowflake Bentley / Jacqueline Briggs Martin ; illustrated by Mary Azarian. LCCN 97012458. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1998.

HBB, 0395861624, List price: \$16.00; CLJ price: \$12.00.

551.57. Bentley, W. A. (Wilson Alwyn), 1865-1931; Scientists; Snow. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 x 27 cm.

Grades PS-4. Rating : 4.

Snowflake Bentley, a Caldecott Medal winner by Jacqueline Briggs Martin, is the story of a scientist/photographer whose single-minded goal was to capture the beauty of nature, like dew on a spider web, but his favorite subject is snowflakes. As a child, Wilson A. Bentley is fascinated with snowflakes. While other children are building snow forts, he studies individual flakes, first drawing them, and eventually, photographing them. Others think he is foolish because "snow is as common as dirt in Vermont," but Bentley believes that by capturing natural beauty for others to appreciate, that he is giving a gift to the world. He is the man who makes the startling discovery that each single snowflake is different from all others and that difference is caused by "a little more cold, a bit less wind or a bit more moisture."

Besides the scientific lessons learned in this story, a great lesson Bentley teaches us is to have our own goal, regardless of what others think, and to persevere patiently. Even until his death, he works tirelessly at different methods to achieve his dream and eventually publishes a book of his photographs, *Snow Crystals*. Mary Azarian's hand-colored woodcuts capture the beauty and serenity of nature in the early 20th

century. Her folk art in earthy tones is a lovely portrayal of rural life that brings history alive for young readers.

Florence G. Craig, Christian Counseling Center Office Coordinator, Freelance Writer, Telford, Pennsylvania.

Why do plants grow? / Susan Horner. (Miracle of creation series ; 1.) Chicago : Moody, 2004.

PAP, 0802409210, List price: \$9.99; CLJ price: \$7.50.

581.82. Plants; Creation. 32 p. : ill. ; 20 x 23 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 5.

Why do birds build nests? / Susan Horner. (Miracle of creation series ; 2.) Chicago : Moody, 2004.

PAP, 0802409229, List price: \$9.99; CLJ price: \$7.50.

306.7. Birds; Creation. 32 p. : ill. ; 20 x 23 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 5.

What is God's design for my body? / Susan Horner. (Miracle of creation series.) LCCN 2004301245. Chicago : Moody, 2004.

PAP, 0802409237, List price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.45.

306.7. Sexual ethics; Sex--Religious aspects; Body, Human--Religious aspects. 59 p. : ill. ; 13 cm.

Grades 4-12. Rating : 4.

The Miracle of Creation series from Moody is designed to give parents a comfortable, scripture-centered way to discuss reproduction with their children. In each book author Susan Horner explains in age-appropriate language God's design for creation and procreation. The books should be read in order, with the older children reading the first two as well. For most families, there will be gap in time between the first two and the third. The watercolors by Nancy Munger in the first two books are beautiful. The reader almost feels the softness of the chickadee feathers and the hardness of their eggs' shells. The third book is illustrated with photographs.

All three books begin with Ecclesiastes 3:1 – that everything has a season. *Why Do Plants Grow* starts with seeds, which look lifeless but are packed full of information and potential growth. The embryo in the seed pushes out roots and a stem, and the cycle begins. Horner depicts pollination with an accurate description of the process and specific vocabulary including ovary, sperm, and hormones. Told in the context of God's plan for reproduction, this is a gentle introduction to the words children will hear in a context of human reproduction later. Family activities at the end help illustrate the principles involved and a good glossary recapitulates the new words. This can be used in a classroom or a library collection.

In *Why Do Birds Build Nests* Susan Horner chose chickadees to illustrate the principle of responsible reproduction in the context of God's master plan. Charming, cheerful, and recognizable to most children, the chickadees here are pictures of happy monogamous mating. Here too, the words such as ovary, hormones, testes, and sperm are used appropriately and specifically. Mating is described although not illustrated. Horner places the birds in God's context by pointing out that chickadees do this because their instinct does not allow them to do anything else. Family activities and a glossary conclude this book as well. This can also be used in a classroom or a library collection.

Firmly rooted in the belief that God's plan is for boys and girls to wait to have sex with the person God has chosen for them, *What Is God's Design For My Body* explores all the aspects of human reproduction. It covers the how, why, when, and with whom in clinical specificity bathed in scripture. The imagery of Ecclesiastes, the Song of Solomon, and the admonitions of Paul regarding purity root the text in God's design. Horner takes a strong position on why marriage is the only appropriate place for intercourse and only then explains the mechanics of it in detail. It is this detail which prompts the reviewer's advice not to put this book in a library fully accessible to all ages. Most appropriately used by a parent and child, even then the child's interest and maturity level will determine a parent's approach. Throughout the book there are profiles of young people who waited until marriage or who are still waiting, but they are all necessarily college age and older so their stories might not be as interesting to the young reader. Done in black and white photographs and an edgy style, this will be a helpful book for the tongue-tied or unsure.

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

Sea horses / by Sally M. Walker. (Early bird nature books.) LCCN 2002014357. Minneapolis : Lerner Publications, 2004.

HBB, 0822530511, List price: \$18.95; Order direct: <http://www.lernerbooks.com/>

597. Sea horses. 47 p. : col. ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 5.

Sally Walker concisely presents easily readable information about similarities and differences among sea horses and other sea creatures. Sea grass beds, the roots of mangrove trees, and coral reefs are the three major warm water habitats for sea horses. An unusual approach to animal life topics is included in the chapter titled "A Sea Horse's Day." The final chapter

discusses the dangers sea horses face, and what is being done to help them.

Primary teachers often look for research materials for ocean projects. This title fits the project perfectly because it answers the frequently asked categories for primary research: food, appearance, habitat, babies, and enemies. In fact, each chapter serves as the source for one of the categories. The topic of mating is handled cautiously by saying that the mother visits the father every day, and "one day, she puts her eggs into the father's brood pouch."

Color photographs are clear, colorful, close-up, and have been matched precisely to the text. A glossary is appended, but a bibliography and/or web sites would be helpful for additional research by the slightly older student. The title is part of Lerner's "Early Bird Nature Book" series. If the format and content, in the remainder of the series, are consistent with this title, Lerner has a winning combination for schools.

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

I wonder why camels have humps and other questions about animals / Anita Ganeri. (I wonder why.) LCCN 2003276423. Boston : Kingfisher, 2003.

PAP, 0753456605, List price: \$5.95; CLJ price: \$4.45.
591. Animals--Habits and behavior; Questions and answers. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 22 cm.
PS-Grade 3. Rating : 4.

I wonder why kangaroos have pouches and other questions about baby animals / Jenny Wood. (I wonder why.) LCCN 2003276422. Boston : Kingfisher, 2003.

PAP, 0753456613, List price: \$5.95; CLJ price: \$4.45.
591.3. Animals--Infancy; Parental behavior in animals; Questions and answers. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 22 cm.
PS-Grade 3. Rating : 4.

I wonder why planes have wings and other questions about transportation / Christopher Maynard. (I wonder why.) LCCN 2003276424. Boston : Kingfisher, 2003.

PAP, 0753456621, List price: \$5.95; CLJ price: \$4.45.
629.04. Transportation--Miscellaneous; Vehicles--Miscellaneous; Questions and answers. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 22 cm.
PS-Grade 3. Rating : 4.

I wonder why the wind blows and other questions about our planet / Anita Ganeri. (I wonder why.) LCCN 2003276421. Boston : Kingfisher, 2003.

PAP, 0753456648, List price: \$5.95; CLJ price: \$4.45.
550. Earth--Miscellaneous; Geophysics--Miscellaneous; Questions and answers. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 22 cm.

PS-Grade 3. Rating : 4.

I wonder why trees have leaves, and other questions about plants / Andrew Charman. (I wonder why.) LCCN 97000189. New York : Kingfisher, 2003.

PAP, 075345663X, List price: \$5.95; CLJ price: \$4.45.
580. Plants--Miscellaneous; Questions and answers. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.
PS-Grade 3. Rating : 4.

I wonder why zippers have teeth and other questions about inventions / Barbara Taylor. (I wonder why.) New York : Kingfisher, 2003.

PAP, 0753456656, List price: \$5.95; CLJ price: \$4.45.
608. Inventions--Miscellaneous; Questions and answers. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.
PS-Grade 3. Rating : 4.

These lightweight small paperback books occupy little space and are inexpensive enough to be widely available. Each is filled with realistic color illustrations and cartoons that give life to the text and engage children. The highly visual approach encourages children to keep reading. Hardcover and paperback editions were published earlier.

A one page index enables the reader to locate specific points of interest. The answers to questions are both lively and detailed combining incredible information for introduction or discussion. The 3 or 4 illustrations on each page lend easy access.

Recommended for school and public libraries where children can handle books and have a title available for special programs or interests. Families can purchase any of these titles to spark interest while adding colorful material at minimal cost.

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

Duck / Claire Llewellyn ; illustrated by Simon Mendez. (Starting life.) LCCN 2003048766. Chanhassen, Minn. : Two Can/NorthWord, 2004.

HBB, 1559718781, List price: \$16.95; CLJ price: \$12.75.
598.4. Ducks; Animals--Infancy. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 23 x 28 cm.
Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Tree / Claire Llewellyn ; illustrated by Simon Mendez. (Starting life.) LCCN 2003051007. Chanhassen, Minn. : Two Can/NorthWord, 2004.

HBB, 155971879X, List price: \$16.95; CLJ price: \$12.75.
634. Apples--Life cycles. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 23 x 28 cm.
Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

One opens this book to discover the inside cover consisting of an attractive photo and a partial size page. Each of the next seven sections each increases the size of the partial size page, giving a quick overview of the book and inviting touch to reveal an aspect of life for the tree or duck. Creatively, each page opened is complimented and actually becomes a full page, continuing the inside cover. The last section offers full pages with the illustrations occupying two pages for a large view and closes with use of the inside back cover illustrating the life cycle. Clever, inviting, and informative.

The quality of the paper used complements both possible added handling of the pages and lends brighter color illustrations. Simple text enables children to follow the text. A picture glossary and index adds further ease of understanding.

Tree follows the life cycle of a tree from the seed, first leaves, first visitors, spring buds, spring blossoms, making seeds, tiny fruits, the fruit ripens, fall harvest, a winter rest, to a new tree. Duck describes the physical characteristics and behavior of ducks, including their development from egg to adult.

Highly recommended for school libraries where students can explore titles on their own, and for public libraries where parents seek titles to enjoy with their children. Parents can easily also utilize this series with ages 5 to 7 as the illustrations convey a lot of content, and enable them to cover added points with their children.

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

Crow / by Lee Jacobs. (Wild America.) LCCN 2002013163. San Diego : Gale/Lucent, 2003.

LIB, 1567115675, List price: \$23.70; CLJ price: \$18.96.
598.8. Crows. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 20 x 24 cm.
Grades 2-5. Rating : 4.

Earthworm / by Lee Jacobs. (Wild America.) LCCN 2002015837. San Diego : Gale/Lucent, 2003.

LIB, 1567115683, List price: \$23.70; CLJ price: \$18.96.
592. Earthworms. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 20 x 24 cm.
Grades 2-5. Rating : 4.

Beaver / by Lee Jacobs. (Wild America.) LCCN 2002011725. San Diego : Gale/Lucent, 2003.

LIB, 1567115667, List price: \$23.70; CLJ price: \$18.96.
599.37. Beavers. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 20 x 24 cm.
Grades 2-5. Rating : 4.

**Mouse / by Lee Jacobs. (Wild America.)
LCCN 2002011927. San Diego :
Gale/Lucent, 2003.**

LIB, 1567115691, List price: \$23.70; CLJ price: \$18.96.
599.35. Mice. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 20 x 24 cm.
Grades 2-5. Rating : 4.

**Turtle / by Lee Jacobs. (Wild America.)
LCCN 2002012531. San Diego :
Gale/Lucent, 2003.**

LIB, 1567115713, List price: \$23.70; CLJ price: \$18.96.
597.92. Turtles. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 20 x 24 cm.
Grades 2-5. Rating : 4.

**Opossum / by Lee Jacobs. (Wild America.)
LCCN 2002010366. San Diego :
Gale/Lucent, 2003.**

LIB, 1567115705, List price: \$23.70; CLJ price: \$18.96.
599.2. Opossums. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 20 x 24 cm.
Grades 2-5. Rating : 4.

This Wild America habitats series discusses the body, food, mating, and living habits of the wild animal, and its interaction with humans. Many colorful photographs add interest and understanding to the commentary offered.

A short glossary and index enable the student to look for specifics.

Recommended for school libraries where students have time to read on their own. Public libraries can add this series for it is one that adults can utilize to read with children both to stimulate interest and to initiate discussion of the importance of environment, and the animal's relationship to humans. For small church libraries whose budget only enables one title to be added, consider *Wild in the USA* (Scholastic, 2003) by Hammerslough and Corwin, ISBN 0439435676.

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

**Hawks / Wayne Lynch ; illustrations by
Fred Smith. (Our wild world series.)
LCCN 2003059998. Chanhassen, Minn. :
Two Can/NorthWord, 2004.**

HBB, 1559718854, List price: \$10.95; CLJ price: \$8.25.
598.9. Hawks. 47 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 23 cm.
Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

**Prairie dogs / Marybeth Lorbiecki ;
illustrations by Wayne Ford. (Our wild
world series.) LCCN 2003059993.
Chanhassen, Minn. : Two
Can/NorthWord, 2004.**

HBB, 1559718838, List price: \$10.95; CLJ price: \$8.25.
599.36. Prairie dogs. 47 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 23 cm.
Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

Using full page and half page color photographs, middle schoolers are introduced to creatures in the wild in ways sure to hold their attention. The 8 x 8 inch format does justice to the up-close photos. Funfacts are highlighted every few pages, adding not only quick interest, but relating well to the content of the text. There's a lot of information offered in habitat, body structure, habits, and life cycle.

Recommended for public library and school libraries seeking to have a title inviting to children and offering a lot of detail. Those who have *Growing Up Wild* (Atheneum Books, 2001) geared toward primary grade children will find this a natural collection for grades 4 to 6. Its timeless approach makes this a series that can be part of the collection for many years.

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

700's—The Arts and Recreation

**In print! 40 cool publishing projects for
kids / Joe Rhatigan. New York :
Sterling/Lark, 2003.**

HBB, 1579903592, List price: \$19.95; CLJ price: \$15.00.

745.5. Authorship; Creative writing; Publishers and publishing; Creative activities and seat work. 128 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.
Grades 4-6. Rating : 5.

What a wonderful resource for young people and their parents or teachers, librarians, too! The contents of *In Print* include writing secrets, design tips and tricks, 85 pages of projects, steps to getting published, and a selected list of magazines that accept submissions from young writers. It concludes with appendixes and a glossary as well as an index.

The largest portion of the book is given to projects and helping kids to understand that getting your words into print doesn't mean simply magazines, books, and newspapers. These projects show unique and creative ways to get your words out there whether it's an umbrella, t-shirt or you're starting a family newsletter. This section also includes info on starting a writer's group or workshop, putting on a play, 10 poetry whoppers exposed (or why kids think they can't or don't want to write poetry) and so much, much more!

Whether you are a young person with a writing bent or an adult that is working with young people, *In Print* could be an invaluable tool. And with its bright colors, variety of fonts, great

photos and sketches, it's a fun book to browse through as you make plans for your next project!

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

**God bless the child / words and music by
Billie Holiday and Arthur Herzog Jr. ;
illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. LCCN
00063200. New York :
HarperCollins/Amistad, 2004.**

HBB, 0060287977, List price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75.

782.42164/0268. Children's songs--United States--Texts; Spirituals (Songs); Songs. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm. + 1 sound disk (4 3/4 in.).
Grades 1-4. Rating : 4.

During the first fifty years of the twentieth century, many rural southern blacks moved north to urban areas in search of better paying jobs and free education. Jerry Pinkney's water color paintings accompany the lyrics of Billie Holiday's hit song, *God Bless the Child*, to tell the story of one family's experience during this Great Migration. Their rural life includes family unity, hard work and play. Their urban life is different with each family member having a separate job, involvement with many other families, and a tenement apartment, but family unity continues.

The book includes a compact disc with a single track, a recording of Billie Holiday singing "God Bless the Child." The illustrations are of high quality. The depiction of life, work and play is rich with plenty of details and emotion.

Recommended for any children's literature collection.

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

**The great horse-less carriage race / by
Michael Dooling. LCCN 2001016589.
New York : Holiday House, 2002.**

HBB, 0823416402, List price: \$16.95; CLJ price: \$12.75.

796.72/09/04. Duryea, J. Frank (James Frank), 1859-1976; Duryea automobile; World records; Automobile racing; Automobiles--History. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 29 cm.
Grades 1-3. Rating : 4.

On Thanksgiving Day in 1895, The Chicago Times-Herald sponsored a race to prove that the horse-less carriage was a better form of transportation than the horse and carriage. The race began about 9:00 A.M. and ended eleven hours later, covering 52 miles across the city of Chicago. Seventy-nine carriages entered the race, but only six made it to the starting line. A foot of snow, cold, and mechanical problems caused the others to drop out. At the end of the

day Frank Duryea, who went on to found America's first automobile company, crossed the finish line first in his all-American built carriage.

Michael Dooling, who both wrote and illustrated this title, did an enormous amount of research to depict the times accurately in his pictures. Each of the six competing carriages is initially shown in a sepia vignette and again in events during the race. Dooling manages to show motion by having all race events move to the right. As the race progresses, additional color is added, yet Dooling maintains the blustery gray day. *Horse-less Carriage* is a thoroughly researched book that could fit into units about transportation, history of cars, Chicago, the 1890s, and racing. Dooling's website motto is "history through picture books." He certainly manages that. However, if the budget is small, purchase this as a second choice because of the narrowness of topic.

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

I gave my mom a castle / Jean Little ; with illustrations by Kady MacDonald Denton. LCCN 2003106254. Custer, Wash. : Orca Book Publishers, 2003.

PAP, 1551432536, List price: \$7.95; CLJ price: \$5.90.
811/.54. Children's poetry, Canadian; Gifts. 80 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.
Grades 5-9. Rating : 4.

Little, author of more than 40 books for children, has captured the hearts of several generations. Parents may well recall *Fans of Little* (Viking, 1988) and *Stars Come Out Within* (Viking, 1991) and the third volume in the series, *His Banner Over Me* (Viking Penguin, 2002), all coming of age stories with respect for feelings and intellect. Her realistic characters were evident in *From Anna* (HarperTrophy, 1991) and *Hey World, Here I Am* (HarperTrophy, 1990). This first poetry collection since *Hey World, Here I Am* continues to offer mini stories about the pains and joys of growing up, with emphasis in the 43 stories of giving and receiving.

The stories feature a wide cast of characters from toddlers to teens to adults. This funny and poignant muster of poems and vignettes is sure to delight and convey a lot about gifts. Gifts come in all shapes and sizes. Some sit on a shelf. Some live in the heart. Some hurt. Some heal. Little has a knack of involving the children (and one might add parents or teachers enjoying the book with children) without sermonizing or talking down to.

Of support to teachers in public school districts where character education is part of the core curriculum, and of particular help to homeschoolers and Christian school educators seeking a way of inviting children to appreciate family and one's surroundings.

Recommended for inclusion on school library shelves and for parents seeking a title to enjoy with their middle school and older children. As a paperback it doesn't lend itself well to public library circulation, though for those libraries that can add a cover, it will compliment not only Little's earlier works but offer poems that speak to children and youth.

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

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A visit to William Blake's inn : poems for innocent and experienced travelers / by Nancy Willard ; illustrated by Alice and Martin Provensen. LCCN 80027403. New York : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1981.

HBB, 0152938222, List price: \$17.00; CLJ price: \$12.75.
811/.54. Blake, William, 1757-1827--Poetry; American poetry; African Americans--Biography; Caldecott Honor Book. 44 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.
Grades 5-8. Rating : *5.

Winner of both the prestigious Newbery and Caldecott awards, Nancy Willard's charming book of poetry inspired by *William Blake's Songs of Innocence and Songs of Experience* will delight young readers as well as adults. The poems are all connected by the theme of a visit to the imaginary William Blake's Inn where famous characters from his poems become attendants to the guests in the book. In a brief introduction, the author explains how she became intrigued by William Blake's poetry at the age of seven.

A Visit to William Blake's Inn: Poems for the Innocent and Experienced, is filled with quirky creatures like the King of Cats, a man in a marmalade hat, and bread-baking dragons. The illustrations are a charming flat folk-art style that must be revisited to be appreciated fully. Rich with whimsy and featuring hidden treasure in every page, they will delight the reader. The pictures are a superb match with the text, flowing together with ease of understanding. The quality is top-notch and will give a child a taste of Blake that might inspire a future interest in his work.

Although the book is written for middle school children, it cannot help but be a hit with adults

as well because the vocabulary is for the more mature. The rhymes are simple enough for little ones, however, and because of the genuine joyfulness of the work, they will undoubtedly be interested as well. Children may appreciate the text more if it is read to them at first, either collectively or individually, even if drawn to the illustrations. But as they come to know the work, the text and pictures will hold them captive. Highly recommended for all readers.

Cathy M. Elliott, BS. Writer/Library Information Technician, Shasta College, An

The Edmund Fitzgerald : the song of the bell / by Kathy-Jo Wargin & illustrated by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen. LCCN 2003013155. Chelsea, Mich. : Sleeping Bear Press, 2003.

HBB, 1585361267, List price: \$17.95; CLJ price: \$13.50.
917.74/9043. Edmund Fitzgerald (Ship); Shipwrecks. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill., col. map ; 29 cm.
Grades 2-4. Rating : 5.

Author Kathy-jo Wargin had a personal reason to write *The Edmund Fitzgerald: Song of the Bell*. Her dad's first cousin, Nolan Church, was the porter on that ill-fated ship, and she remembers clearly how sad her dad was when the news of the ship's sinking came. She manages to express both the excitement of the event and the sorrow of those left behind as she tells the story, making both the shipwreck and the men come alive in the process, especially the captain, Gerald McSorley.

The ship's bell holds pride of place in the story and in the back of the book, Wargin tells of how the original bell was brought up on July 4, 1995, and replaced with a replica, engraved with the names of the lost crewmen, to act as a grave marker. The original bell is now on display at the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum at Whitefish Point, Michigan, 17 miles from the location of the shipwreck. She also tells briefly in the front matter how the Great Lakes were carved out and filled long ago by glaciers.

Gijsbert Van Frankenhuyzen's oil paintings add atmosphere to the story and show clearly the amount of time he spent in roaming around similar ships for inspiration. This book could be used to start a unit on erosion, glaciers, or the Great Lakes themselves and would be useful and educational addition to any library. It would be an especially good purchase for a library located near Lake Superior, where the tragedy occurred.

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

900's—Geography, History, & Biography

The Blackbirch kid's visual reference of the United States / by the editors of Blackbirch Press. LCCN 2002004239. San Diego : Gale/Blackbirch, 2002.

HBB, 1567116590, List price: \$49.95; CLJ price: \$36.96.

973. U.S. states--Miscellanea; United States--Miscellanea; United States--Territories and possessions--Miscellanea. 336 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 3-7. Rating : 5.

This visual journey presents fascinating information about each of the 50 United States. Each state's section includes a detailed state map, quick at-a-glance information on population, capital city, state size, state tree, flower & animal, highest point, and electoral votes. There are also fun facts about state firsts and state history. Text discusses each state's unique geography, history, and people.

Before the individualized consideration of each state, there are 50 pages that compare all states to each other. These broad categories includes state size, population, temperature and climate, highest elevations, longest rivers, per capital personal income, most highways, most bridges, and worst traffic. This section will interest older youth and adults.

Recommended for children's collections in all private, church, and public libraries. It's multiple use and quick visual reference makes this a resource one can use with a student, or one which the youth can readily self-use. The attractive illustrations, maps, and photos make the reading easy and concentration inviting.

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

Montana / by Ruth Bjorklund. (It's my state!.) LCCN 2003020344. New York : Benchmark Books, 2004.

HBB, 0761416897, List price: \$27.97; Order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.us/mcc/default.asp>

978.6. Montana. 80 p. : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 4.

Big Sky Country is the nickname for the fourth-largest state in the nation, Montana. Mountains, plains, and glacier lakes are among the beauty of this landscape. The lynx, paddlefish, and rubber boa are all indigenous creatures. Some of the original people in the land were the Blackfeet and Shoshone Indians dating from the 1600's.

How do you make a Tipi? What were the travels of Lewis and Clark through Montana? When was copper King? ...are just a few of the

questions answered for readers. Learners are provided with "Important Dates" such as when Congress created Yellowstone National Park, or when Montana became the 41st state. Famous Montanans include the first female Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin, and artist Charles M. Russell. Events include such celebrations as the Annual Bison Roundup on National Bison Range one of the oldest wildlife refuges in the nation. In Montana, there are many ways to make a living but agriculture is the backbone of its economy. The products and resources are as diverse as its citizens. Students will enjoy a journey through the Treasure State. Index.

Young elementary students will enjoy researching the states with this series entitled It's My State. The photographic depiction of the unique features of each state will help readers become familiar with their country. Every book is full of "Quick Look" facts, history, people, crafts, recipes, plants, animals, products, and resources from that particular state. With this easy overview of geography, government, and economy, students can develop a concise idea of the contemporary life in all the states represented. The information is reliable and each offers a calendar of events with both celebrate and ordinary citizens. At the end you find the state flag, emblem, pictorial map, and song. The book concludes with a reference page to other books and websites for further research

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo, MSN, MLS; Nursing Educator, Academic Librarian, Beaver Creek

B is for Big Sky Country : a Montana alphabet / written by Sneed B. Collard III ; illustrated by Joanna Yardley. LCCN 2003013131. Chelsea, Mich. : Gale/Sleeping Bear Press, 2003.

LIB, 1585360988, List price: \$17.95; CLJ price: \$13.50.

978.6. Montana; Alphabet. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 29 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

C is for cowboy: a Wyoming alphabet / written by Eugene Gagliano ; illustrated by Susan Guy. LCCN 2003010470. Chelsea, Mich. : Gale/Sleeping Bear Press, 2003.

LIB, 158536097X, List price: \$17.95; CLJ price: \$13.50.

978.7. Wyoming; Alphabet. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill., col. map ; 24 x 29 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

P is for pilgrim : a Thanksgiving alphabet / written by Carol Crane ; illustrated by Helle Urban. LCCN 2003010464. Chelsea, Mich. : Gale/Sleeping Bear Press, 2003.

LIB, 1585361348, List price: \$17.95; CLJ price: \$13.50.

394.2649. Thanksgiving Day; Pilgrims (New Plymouth Colony); Alphabet. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 x 29 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

T is for Tar Heel : a North Carolina alphabet / written by Carol Crane ; illustrated by Gary Palmer. LCCN 2003010381. Chelsea, Mich. : Gale/Sleeping Bear Press, 2003.

LIB, 1585360821, List price: \$17.95; CLJ price: \$13.50.

975.6. North Carolina; Alphabet. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 29 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

V is for Viking : a Minnesota alphabet / written by Kathy-Jo Wargin ; illustrated by Karen Latham and Rebecca Latham. LCCN 2003013211. Chelsea, Mich. : Gale/Sleeping Bear Press, 2003.

LIB, 1585361259, List price: \$17.95; CLJ price: \$13.50.

977.6. Minnesota; Alphabet. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill., col. map ; 24 x 29 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

M is for majestic : a national parks alphabet / written by David Domeniconi and illustrated by Pam Carroll. LCCN 2003010467. Chelsea, Mich. : Sleeping Bear Press, 2003.

HBB, 1585361380, List price: \$17.95; CLJ price: \$13.50.

333.78/3/0973. National parks and reserves; Alphabet. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill., col. map ; 27 x 29 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

Sleeping Bear Press, a small publishing house in Chelsea, Michigan, tackled a big job several years ago—publishing a series of state alphabet books that can be used to teach children about the wonders of our country—and they've been doing a great job. The books that have come out to date are both entertaining and informative, using eye-catching titles, clever rhymes, expository text, and beautifully detailed illustrations (some with hidden pictures) to tell about the symbols, history, landmarks, accomplishments, and people of each state. In most cases, the authors and illustrators doing the book also have ties to the featured state, which adds an insider's special knowledge to the work. The most recent titles (for Minnesota, North Carolina, Montana, and Wyoming) are as interesting and well-done as previous titles.

State information isn't all the folks at Sleeping Bear Press have used the alphabet for, though.

Their stand-alone ABCs have used the same text and illustration format to explain such things as the history and traditions of Christmas, the history, people, places, and things that make up the USA and Canada, and the facts and fun of hockey and soccer. Recent stand-alones include *P Is for Pilgrim*, which tells about the history and celebration of one of our most beloved national holidays, and *M Is for Majestic*, which takes readers on a tour of the US parks system.

Sleeping Bear Press alphabet titles can be used by all ages, too. Toddlers will enjoy looking at the pictures and listening to the bouncy rhymes. Grade schoolers reading the books for themselves will find themselves learning new things in a fun, non-threatening format. And even grown-ups may learn a thing or two in the process. For example, did you know that the Bundt® pan was invented by a Minnesotan? This series offers many uses and is well worth adding to your library.

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

Argentina / by Sharon Gordon. (Discovering cultures.) LCCN 2003019097. New York : Benchmark Books, 2003.

HBB, 0761417230, List price: \$17.95; Order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.us/mcc/default.asp>
982. Argentina. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 2-4. Rating : 4.

Poland / by Sharon Gordon. (Discovering cultures.) LCCN 2003019101. New York : Benchmark Books, 2003.

HBB, 0761417249, List price: \$17.95; Order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.us/mcc/default.asp>
943.8. Poland. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 2-4. Rating : 4.

Iraq / Dana Meachen Rau. (Discovering cultures.) LCCN 2003019100. New York : Benchmark Books, 2003.

HBB, 0761417265, List price: \$17.95; Order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.us/mcc/default.asp>
956.7. Iraq. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 2-4. Rating : 4.

Dominican Republic / by Sarah De Capua. (Discovering cultures.) LCCN 2003019099. New York : Benchmark Books, 2003.

HBB, 0761417222, List price: \$17.95; Order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.us/mcc/default.asp>
972.93. Dominican Republic. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 2-4. Rating : 4.

Children will be delighted to see four new volumes in the Discovering Cultures from Benchmark Books. Each book profiles what is special about the country, the climate, the holidays, school life, national sports and unique

cultural features. The highlight of each book is a recipe for a native dish. There are also short biographies of famous native sons and daughters, a glossary, bibliography, and index.

The books are written for the targeted age range; thus none of the difficult subjects present in many of these countries are addressed. The focus is on the children of the country, the foods, and the rich cultural heritage each of the countries proudly claim. One of the nicest features about these books is that they acknowledge the presence and importance of Christianity in the country's history and present day life, while still recognizing other sizeable religious groups' existence.

The book on Argentina by Sharon Gordon highlights the importance of family, music, and the tradition of the gauchos. The majority of Argentines are Roman Catholics of European ancestry. This influences daily life, celebrations, and how they view their culture. The recipe in this book, empanadas, will require an adult's assistance but promises a delicious outcome! One of the interesting profiles is about the Child Journalist Project that began ten years ago in the poorest barrios of Buenos Aires. It may just inspire your students to do something similar!

What makes Poland Polish? Once again, the unifying feature in Poland is similar ancestry and religion. Most Poles are Roman Catholic with a strong nationalist tradition. This book focuses on the vitality of Poland today as shown in their holidays and festivals. One should not expect a book targeted to this age group to dwell on historical detail, but author Sharon Gordon makes such a brief, sanitized mention of Poland's 20th century history, the reader would never know that the Poles were anything other than complete victims of the aggressor nations. While the book mentions wycinanki (the folk art of paper cutouts) there are no accompanying illustrations. Overall, this is the least impressive of the series the reviewer has seen.

Curious to know something about a place many of them hear about on the news or perhaps have a family member serving in, children will vie to check out this new book on Iraq. Dana Meachen Rau focuses on the positives about Iraq such as family, religion, and culture. The book does state that Iraq fought with the United States in the first Gulf War and again in 2003 and gives Saddam Hussein a full paragraph describing the former president as "cruel to people who disagreed with him." It gives just enough information to convey the current situation, but no more. The sections on Living in Iraq, School

Days, and Just for Fun, show that the majority of Iraqis are just trying to get on with life. Shown to a military member recently returned from Iraq who has a child in the age group this book is written for, it earned a thumbs-up for accuracy and presentation.

Where can you find a poison-fanged rodent, naturally occurring amber, and the town that produces the most professional baseball players in the world? If you guessed the Dominican Republic, you must have read this book! Author Sarah De Capua has harvested some amazing facts to share about this small Caribbean country which will make any reader a whiz in trivia games. The solenodon is a rat like creature found only on Hispaniola and Cuba. Amber occurs in the Dominican Republic's mountains, and San Pedro de Macoris is the baseball player-producing town. Just ask Sammy Sosa! With a delicious recipe for a pineapple milk shake and a great craft page and this book is easily the best in the series so far.

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

Gladys Aylward : daring to trust / written by Renee Taft Meloche ; illustrated by Bryan Pollard. (Heroes for young readers.) Seattle : YWAM Publishing, 2001.

HBB, 1576582280, List price: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.
B or 266. Aylward, Gladys; Missionaries--China--Biography. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 cm.
Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

George Muller : faith to feed ten thousand / written by Renee Taft Meloche ; illustrated by Bryan Pollard. (Heroes for young readers.) Seattle : YWAM Publishing, 2001.

HBB, 1576582329, List price: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.
B or 923.642. Muller, George, 1805-1989; Prayer. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 cm.
Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Eric Liddell : running for a higher prize / written by Renee Taft Meloche ; illustrated by Bryan Pollard. (Heroes for young readers.) Seattle : YWAM Publishing, 2001.

HBB, 1576582302, List price: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.
B or 266. Liddell, Eric, 1902-1945; Missionaries--China--Biography. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 cm.
Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Corrie ten Boom : shining in the darkness / written by Renee Taft Meloche ; illustrated by Bryan Pollard. (Heroes for young readers.) Seattle : YWAM Publishing, 2002.

HBB, 1576582310, List price: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.

B or 284/2/0924. Ten Boom, Corrie; Christian biography--Netherlands. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Amy Carmichael : rescuing the children / written by Renee Taft Meloche ; illustrated by Bryan Pollard. (Heroes for young readers.) Seattle : YWAM Publishing, 2002.

HBB, 1576582337, List price: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.

B or 266. Carmichael, Amy, 1867-1951; Dohnavur Fellowship; Women missionaries--Ireland--Biography; Women missionaries--India--Biography; Missionaries--India--Biography. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

William Carey : bearer of good news / written by Renee Taft Meloche ; illustrated by Bryan Pollard. (Heroes for young readers.) Seattle : YWAM Publishing, 2002.

HBB, 1576582361, List price: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.

B or 266. Carey, William, 1761-1834; Missionaries--India--Biography. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Nate Saint : heavenbound / written by Renee Taft Meloche ; illustrated by Bryan Pollard. (Heroes for young readers.) Seattle : YWAM Publishing, 2001.

HBB, 1576582299, List price: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.

B or 266. Saint, Nathaniel, 1923-1956; Missionaries--Ecuador--Biography. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Mary Slessor : courage in Africa / written by Renee Taft Meloche ; illustrated by Bryan Pollard. (Heroes for young readers.) Seattle : YWAM Publishing, 2002.

HBB, 157658237X, List price: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.

B or 266. Slessor, Mary Mitchell, 1848-1915; Missionaries--Africa--Biography. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

The series Heroes for Young Readers portrays good role models for everyone. Renee Taft Meloche selected Christian individuals who made the world a better place. Children will learn about 19th century England, the jungles of Ecuador, Germany during World War II, Africa, India, and China. Boys and girls can read about sports, war, Bible translations, and an orphanage.

Each book is written in poetry. Read from the last page of *Nate Saint*:

Nate died a martyr's death. He loved
the Aucas and his Lord
And he lives up in heaven now.
How great is his reward.

The last page of *Corrie Ten Boom* includes:

Though she had known the suffering of
the deepest, darkest pit
she'd also known the deeper love
of God through all of it
and that was why she risked her life
to do just what was right
so God's great love could flow through her
And shine out in the night.

Bryan Pollard's superb illustrations show Nate Saint's yellow airplane flying into a jungle with bright parrots and nearly naked tribesmen. In William Carey's India, you'll see someone about to sacrifice a goat to Kali, a crowd throwing rocks, and the missionary's print shop burning to the ground. Mary Slessor's book includes jungle animals, an angry African warrior and pictures of "White Ma." (Slessor)

Many titles include illustrations of boys and girls. Certainly, youngsters are prominent in George Müller's orphanage and Gladys Aylward's efforts to save children during a war. Even Corrie Ten Boom's story, set in World War II Germany, shows the Ten Boom family hiding families with little ones.

Life is not sugarcoated in Heroes for Young Readers. You'll learn about fleas in a prison, Nate Saint's death, and young girls who were kept by Hindu temple priests. Yet, the books have a universal optimism. For the cause of Christ, people braved overwhelming odds to do what was right.

The back cover of each book includes a short poem and about 100 words describing the hero. Adults—or children who are reading—can quickly grasp the time, place and special ministry of the person. In the description of Eric Liddell, we read, "...he stunned the world by refusing to run his Olympic race on a Sunday...Many people thought Eric was a traitor and a fool..." George Müller's description begins: "The people of Bristol, England, thought God had more important things to care about than an orphan's breakfast."

Heroes for Young Readers are excellent for homeschoolers, church libraries, family

libraries, and Christian schools. They are based on a series for older readers, *Christian Heroes: Then and Now*, by Janet and Geoff Benge.

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

Benjamin Banneker : pioneering scientist / by Ginger Wadsworth ; illustrations by Craig Orback. (On my own biography.) LCCN 2002000985. Minneapolis : Lerner Publications, 2002.

LIB, 0876149166, List price: \$17.95; Order direct: <http://www.lernerbooks.com/>.

B or 520/.92. Banneker, Benjamin, 1731-1806; African Americans--Biography; Astronomers. 47 p. : col. ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 3.

Benjamin Banneker is best known for the surveying assistance he gave when the plat for Washington, D.C. was laid out in 1791. However, his claim to fame is far more extensive, for he was a scientist who noted and recorded natural cycles in his farmer's and sea almanacs. He was also an inventor, building a wooden clock. Banneker, a free black man, who lived in the 18th century and loved to learn, spent hours and days recording his observations, reading and gathering data from family and acquaintances. His skills and knowledge were unusual for a black man of that era. Ginger Wadsworth documents his many achievements in this easy-to-read biography.

An afterward and timeline are included which provide additional information about living as a free black man in the 1700s. Two reproduction photographs, one of Banneker, and one of the front cover of his almanac are included. The book is part of the "On My Own Biography" series. Craig Orback's illustrations use strong opaque paint, which reflect the many sides of Banneker's life. This short biography is an adequate introduction to the very important life and work which teachers will find useful in units on slavery, civil rights history, and the Revolution. Not a required purchase except where demand dictates.

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

The daring escape of Ellen Craft / by Cathy Moore ; illustrations by Mary O'Keefe Young. (On my own history.) LCCN 2001000220. Minneapolis : Lerner Publications, 2002.

HBB, 0876144628, List price: \$17.95; Order direct: <http://www.lernerbooks.com/>

B or 973.7. Craft, William; Craft, Ellen; African Americans--Biography; Fugitive slaves. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 4.

Husband and wife, William and Ellen Craft, were slaves who desired to escape. . Ellen had been sold away from her parents, and she vowed she would never have children in slavery. Around Christmas 1848, Ellen and William conceived a dangerous plan to use Christmas passes to help them escape. Ellen masqueraded as an ill white man, and William as her slave, to fool people along the route to Philadelphia where they would be free. It was a five-day trip filled with hair-raising escapades and narrow escapes. The most difficult aspect of the plan required Ellen to think like a man, a white man, a white slave owning man.

Cathy Moore writes a fast passed narrative about a little known event in slave history, making the event accessible to younger newly independent readers. She documents her story with research from William Croft's own account *Running a Thousand Miles to Freedom*. An afterword, bibliography, and timeline are included which provide additional information about the Crofts' life as abolitionists, their flight to England, their family, and former slaves in Georgia and South Carolina. Two reproduction photographs are included. Part of the "On My Own History" series. Mary Young's illustrations are adequate period watercolor. *The Daring Escape...* is a human-interest story, which readers will find fascinating on its own, but teachers will find useful in units on slavery, civil rights history, and the period prior to the Civil War. Not an absolute purchase, but a fine addition.

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

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Laura Ingalls Wilder / Leslie Strudwick. (My favorite writer.) LCCN 2002005583. Mankato, Minn. : Weigl, 2003.

HBB, 1590360273. List price: \$26.00; Order direct: www.weigl.com/ Search by series on their search page.

B or 813. Wilder, Laura Ingalls, 1867-1957; Authors, American; Authorship; Women--Biography. 32 p. : ill. (some col.), col. map ; 27 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : *5.

Laura Ingalls Wilder by Leslie Strudwick, an installment in the "My Favorite Writer" series, is the biography of one of America's most highly regarded writers, best known for her "Little House" books. The author candidly and accurately shares the story of Ms. Wilder's early childhood and the trials that her family and she often faced in their migration toward the West in the late 1800's. Ms. Strudwick excels in

maintaining the reader's interest by providing pictures to complement the stories of Laura's life.

I found many points of interest within this work and was impressed by the book's quality, precision, and layout. The author includes charts, a quiz, and a glossary to enhance the reader's understanding of pioneer life in the late 19th century. The historical data within this work is clearly presented, highly informative, and well researched. I was especially moved by the author's inclusion of creative writing tips and her words of support for aspiring young authors as gleaned from Ms. Wilder's own thoughts about writing.

The author, in telling Ms. Wilder's story, shows in wonderful fashion the fact that one's will in life might, at times, be tested but one's faith will always guide them through. Because of the positive outlook that the work depicts, this book would be of great benefit to any child and would provide enjoyable reading for the child's parent, as well.

Jill Eisnagle, Poet and Writer, Texas City, Texas.

The diary of Susie King Taylor, Civil War nurse / Susie Taylor King ; edited by Margaret Gay Malone ; illustrations by Laszlo Kubinyi. (In my own words.) LCCN 2003007088. New York : Benchmark Books, 2003.

HBB, 076141648X. List price: \$27.07; Order direct: <http://www.marshallcavendish.us/mcc/default.asp>

B or 973.7. Taylor, Susie King, b1848; Nurses; African Americans--Biography; Women--Biography; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Participation, African American; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives; Diaries. 80 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Adapted for the In My Own Words series from her self-published 1902 autobiography *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp with the 33d United States Colored Troops Late 1st S.C. Volunteers*, Susie King Taylor chronicles her observations and involvement during and after the Civil War. Short chapters detail her growing up and coming of age as the war began. Taylor relates how she gained education in a secret school for Negroes, then taught and worked as a young woman moving through South during the war with her soldier husband. The first-person narrative recounts her experience nursing a soldier with smallpox and the prejudices she witnessed toward blacks, including those she personally felt that led to the death of her son.

The first-hand, ground level view of the Civil War and reconstruction era are well written and

fascinating for elementary students. Learning how slavery and prejudice toward blacks was perceived by a former slave adds dimension to this otherwise often unemotional story. Occasional sidebar sections on attractive parchment-style art illuminate historical events and facts, such as health issues, soldiers' diets, Clara Barton who Taylor met, and education for former slaves. Color illustrations accent the text and provide historical context. Editor Margaret Gay Malone provides a glossary, suggested places to visit, and additional reading suggestions. Upper elementary and middle school students will gain valuable information and insight in conjunction with class studies or for personal enjoyment.

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

A picture book of Dwight David Eisenhower / David A. Adler. (Picture book biography.) LCCN 2002017149. New York : Holiday House, 2002.

HBB, 0823417026. List price: \$16.95; CLJ price: \$12.75.

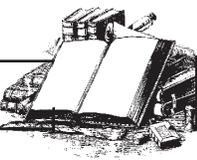
B or 973.921. Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David)--1890-1969; Presidents. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 21 x 26 cm.

Grades 2-3. Rating : 4.

David Adler continues the format of his Picture Book Biography series with this biography of Dwight David Eisenhower. Eisenhower's life is briefly presented including birth, early family and school life in Kansas, West Point, interest in sports, marriage and family life, World Wars I and II, and his presidency. Included are a timeline, author's notes, very selected bibliography, and websites. Unsourced Eisenhower quotations are included throughout the concise text.

Although all of the books in the Picture Book Biography series are slim on content, the whole series is an excellent teaching tool to introduce biographies to second and third graders. Teachers will also find the series a useful tool for introducing parts of nonfiction books. This particular title would make a good introduction to World War II and the 1950s. Most of the books in the series have colored painted illustrations, but the Eisenhower title incorporates black and white photos that add another touch of authenticity. In many ways, a typical unbalanced biography for young children which only mentions the positive qualities of Eisenhower

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



Sounder / by William H. Armstrong ; illustrated by James Barkley. LCCN 70085030. New York : Harper & Row, 1969.

HBB, 0060201436, List price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$12.00.

Fic. African Americans--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction; Family life--Fiction; Poverty--Fiction; Newbery Medal. 116 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 3 (5 nlh see note below).

Narrated by a young boy, *Sounder* relates the abject poverty of this black family in the early 20th century South. Sounder, an ugly coon dog loyal to his master, is responsible for helping the sharecropper family survive. Sounder helps the father hunt, but the game is less and less plentiful. When the boy wakes up one morning to the smell of ham he thinks it is a miracle. Later that day the miracle is destroyed as the sheriff comes to haul the father off for theft. When Sounder starts to chase the wagon, the sheriff shoots the dog. The dog disappears and the family is left to survive on whatever the boy's mother can glean from picking nuts and washing laundry. Sounder eventually returns, maimed and even uglier, but just as loyal as ever. That loyalty is a model for the boy who leaves the farm, season after season, to try to find his father.

Considered a classic Southern novel, William Armstrong's harsh indictment of that time and place where a black man's life was worth very little to anyone except his family is dark and depressing. The father's choice to steal has tragic consequences for a family barely surviving with him present in the home. After he is arrested, their chances are even worse. It is noteworthy that the mother takes the remaining ham back to town after the father is arrested. She also calls on the Lord for help time and time again. The book has unpleasant, shocking scenes as well as offensive language that is true to the time and place. Despite its Newbery Medal and the acclaim this book has received, this reviewer disliked it intently in 1970 and does not find it has improved with age. Not recommended as a read-aloud for younger grades.

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

(Editor's note: I like the book immensely, in spite of its darkness. nlh)

Timber Lane Cove / Carrie Bender. (Whispering Brook series ; 6.) LCCN 2003013271. Scottsdale, Pa. : Herald Press, 2003.

PAP, 0836192028, List price: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.

Fic. Amish--Fiction; Family life--Pennsylvania--Fiction; Farm life--Pennsylvania--Fiction; Pennsylvania--Fiction. 155 p. ; 20 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 3.

Nancy Petersheim, an Amish girl, faces unwanted change as her tenure at Hemlock Hill Farm ends now that brother Omar will marry. She accepts a nanny position at Timber Lane Cove, where she will care for the seven young Taylor children. Her foster brother, Dannie, joins her there as a carpenter's apprentice to Mr. Taylor. This book chronicles their many and varied experiences, including Nancy's romantic worries now that her beau, Andrew, has moved to Michigan for the summer, and Dannie's befriending of a mysterious old man who lives in the nearby woods. *Timber Lane Cove* is the sixth book in the Whispering Brook series.

Wholesomeness permeates this story, as would be expected in a book about the Amish. However its greatest strength becomes a frustrating weakness for the reader, who will find one-dimensional, cookie-cutter characters, simplistic scenes, and sappy sequences strewn throughout the story. Active pacing results only from an inordinate number of unrealistic crises occurring one after another. Stilted dialogue lacks authenticity, especially when peppered with pious platitudes. The author writes some wonderful descriptive segments, but not without resorting to triteness. A strong asset of this book is the good glimpse it gives into Amish life and customs. However, most children would not be receptive to its approach, and thus it would appeal to a limited audience.

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

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The winter people / Joseph Bruchac. LCCN 2002000338. New York : Dial Books, 2002.

HBB, 0803726945, List price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75.

Fic. Abenaki Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--Canada--Fiction; Coming of age--Fiction; United States--History--French and Indian War, 1755-1763--Fiction; Quebec (Quebec)--History--French and Indian War, 1755-1763--Fiction; Canada--French and Indian War, 1755-1763--Fiction. 168 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 6-8. Rating : *5.

The British raid fourteen-year-old Saxso's Abenaki village, burning homes and killing many of the residents. Among the women and children they take hostage is Saxso's mother and two sisters. Stories filter back to the remainder of the tribe that their people are not only being mistreated, but, in some cases, butchered and eaten by their savage captors. Most of the Abenaki who are left pursue the British, with only vengeance in mind, but Saxso must make up for his mistake of leaving his family unattended. He sets out on a journey along the St. Lawrence River with only the smallest spark of hope that he will be able to find and save his family from a horrible fate.

The Winter People by Joseph Bruchac is a children's tale about the flip side of the French and Indian War, from one Native American perspective. Bruchac, well-known for his expertise in presenting the authentic Native American spirit and customs in both *Pocahontas* (Silver Whistle, 2003) and *Sacajawea* (Scholastic, 2003), does not disappoint the reader in relating Saxso's account. Although there is a definite atmosphere of violence, Bruchac is not overly graphic in his sensitive portrayals of events. Mood is properly somber, but injected with tidbits of humor. Plot is clear and properly developed. Pace is as rhythmic as the river's dancing currents. Homeschoolers can feel comfortable with Bruchac's clean, yet, not overtly religious delivery. Highly recommended for all libraries.

Kim Harris, Children's Librarian, Lyell Branch of the Rochester Public Library, R

Bud, not Buddy / Christopher Paul Curtis. LCCN 99010614. New York : Random House/Delacorte, 1999.

HBB, 0385323069, List price: \$16.95; CLJ price: \$12.75.

Fic. Runaways--Fiction; African Americans--Fiction; Depressions--1929--Fiction. viii, 245 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 4.

Bud Caldwell was six when his mother died and the city authorities put him in an orphanage. But before he left home, he stashed his mother's mysterious flyers in his suitcase. The words, "Herman E. Calloway and the Dusky Devastators of the Depression. Appearing in Flint, Michigan," was written on the flyers. Bud never knew his father and his mother would not divulge the names of these musicians. But her attachment to them caused Bud to believe Herman E. Calloway is his father.

At ten, Bud's placement in his second foster home ends in a fiasco. The son starts a fistfight and blames Bud, who is then banned from the house. Bud spends the night in a cold, cobwebby shed. Afraid of retribution at the orphanage, he decides to run away and heads for Flint, Michigan, to find his father.

As Bud hitches his way to Flint, he encounters danger as well as kindness from people on the road, in the food lines, and at the Hooverville squatter camp. Christopher Paul Curtis captures the essence of the 1930's depression era and received the 2000 Newbery Medal for *Bud, Not Buddy*.

Take note: Bud's list of "Rules and Things for Having a Funner Life and Making a Better Liar Out of Yourself" helps him cope with the adult world. Typical of the times, there is a slight demeaning of blacks. Curtis' well-developed characters ring true and may frighten younger children.

According to Curtis some characters are based on real people, including his own grandfathers. In 1995, Curtis wrote *The Watsons Go To Birmingham--1963*, which won a Newbery Honor and the Coretta Scott King Honor award.

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

The ear, the eye and the arm / by Nancy Farmer. LCCN 93011814. New York : Orchard Books, 1994.

HBB, 0531068293, List price: \$18.95; CLJ price: \$14.25.

Fic. Science fiction; Zimbabwe--Fiction; Blacks--Zimbabwe--Fiction. 311 p. ; 23 cm.

Grades 6-8. Rating : 4.

A few years ago, this was the new book everyone was raving about! A Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Book Award nominee and a 1995 Newbery Honor Book, it is set in Zimbabwe in a very hi-tec 2194. General Matsika's three children are heltered and protected by their loving and powerful father. One morning they seemed to have simply

disappeared yet have actually been kidnapped. The Ear (hearing abilities), the Eye (visual abilities), and the Arm (unusual strength) are the detectives hired to find them. This rather long, but very entertaining, book entails their many adventures until ultimately returning home, three considerably changed children.

The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm is inspired by Shona mythology and based on a classical African tale. One aspect of this story is the spiritual coming-of-age of Tendai, the oldest of the three children. His spiritual journey is, of course, not of a Christian nature but one of mythology and the tribal spirit world. The book is filled with adventure, action, and interestingly, is also very amusing. The genre is science fiction and is written for upper elementary and middle school age readers. It will appeal particularly to sci-fi buffs, would make a good read aloud in a classroom or home setting and will be read by both boys and girls. The book includes a glossary of unfamiliar and foreign words and also an appendix of certain features of the Zimbabwean culture, such as the Spirit world of Shona, the Ngoro, witchcraft, slavery and several others items.

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

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Over the divide / Catherine Farnes. LCCN 2001001501. Greenville, S.C. : BJUP/Journey Books, 2001.

PAP, 157924646X, List price: \$6.49; CLJ price: \$4.85.

Fic. Backpacking--Fiction; Camping--Fiction; Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Conversion--Fiction; Self-reliance--Fiction; Montana--Fiction. 146 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : *5.

Jacy and Dakota started guiding six-day hikes with their dad in the wilderness of Montana after their mom died eight years before. This week they have an odd assortment of customers to handle—whiny girls, newlyweds, tennis star Neil D'Ary and his overprotective father, and Pastor Adams. Their dad warns Jacy and her brother not to get involved in their clients' personal lives, but her dad's friendship with Pastor Adams surprises Jacy. Hayden Craig hasn't wanted anything to do with God since his wife's death. Then the unexpected occurs, and Jacy and Dakota are left to lead the group alone.

The happenings on the trail and Jacy's spiritual journey wind tightly together into an effective plot. Events are shown in detail as they relate to the emotions of the characters. Each character comes sharply into focus as Jacy interacts with them, becoming vivid and three-dimensional

while others remain cardboard. The breathtaking outdoor settings become a fitting backdrop to other characters' new perspective on their problems, but Jacy's reevaluations come from the unique combination of customers and her father's absence. Humor springs up despite the rough terrain and circumstances. Farnes allows the teens to interact naturally without forcing them to speak the latest lingo. Recommended for teens, especially girls with a love for the outdoors.

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

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The way of escape / Catherine Farnes. LCCN 47470. Greenville, S.C. : BJUP/Journey Books, 2000.

PAP, 1579244548, List price: \$6.49; CLJ price: \$4.85.

Fic. Death--Fiction; Grief--Fiction; Uncles--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 157 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : *5.

After their parents' death, sixteen-year-old Brenna Ewen and her younger brother Connor come to live with their uncle and his family. Brenna struggles with her grief as she tries to adjust to a new home, new school, and new family, a preacher's family. Connor doesn't even try to fit in as he lashes out in anger, especially toward Uncle Ben. Brenna begins to feel like she is living someone else's life in their home with their parents, and she longs to escape the artificiality. Could her relatives' strong faith in God be the answer?

The plot unfolds genuinely, showing Brenna's long journey through grief. Readers realize that though the healing process is never quite finished in this life, the pain gradually lessens. Major characters are fully drawn, but only a few details are given about minor characters, as most of them appeared in the previous books of the series. While each book can stand alone, together they form a complete story. The setting, both indoor and outdoor, is mostly mentioned in contrast to Brenna's old home. The excellent dialogue is realistic without becoming unnaturally hip. Infrequent humor is gentle, keeping with the tone of the book. Though this novel may help teens dealing with grief, it would be more beneficial for them to read the four books in order.

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

Zulu dog / Anton Ferreira. LCCN 2001050156. New York : Farrar Straus Giroux, 2002.

HBB, 0374392234, List price: \$16.00; CLJ price: \$12.00.

Fic. Zulu (African people)--Fiction; Race relations--South Africa--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction; South Africa--Fiction. xi, 195 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 6-8. Rating : 4.

Vusi, a young Zulu boy living in rural South Africa, becomes fast, but secret, friends with Shirley, the daughter of a white African farmer. Even in post-apartheid South Africa the occurrence is unusual, but the crippled Zulu dog Gillette (named for his razor sharp teeth) is the catalyst which brings them together. The reader learns an extraordinary amount about contemporary issues in the former Zulu empire: the poverty of the proud Zulus, the hatred between some of the white farmers and the blacks, the schools, the scrambling for jobs, housing conditions, food, and family life. A stark contrast is drawn between the resources of the two races. Yet, among all of the conflict there is friendship, love, and forgiveness. Anton Ferreira has written a powerful story about two young characters who give hope to the future of South Africa.

Ferreira pulls no punches as he describes the ferocity of the leopard, which maims the young puppy or pins the injured runaway Shirley against the cliff. The images are gruesome and scary. The images of the black thugs who threaten Vusi's father, both while driving his taxi and at the village, are also intimidating. The characters of the two children and the dog are well developed and multifaceted, but most of the adults are less rounded. The racial problems between Vusi's and Shirley's families are solved too slickly, especially the quickness with which a new home on the farm is offered to Vusi's whole family. The book is not for the faint at heart, but for the reader who appreciates the stark realism of a contemporary multicultural dog story.

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

The young Huguenots / by Edith S. Floyer. (Huguenot inheritance series ; 4.) LCCN 98042051. Pella, Ia. : Inheritance Publications, 1998.

PAP, 0921100655, List price: \$9.90; CLJ price: \$7.50.

Fic. Huguenots--France--Juvenile fiction; Huguenots--France--Fiction; France--History--Louis XIV, 1643-1715--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction. 181 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Grades 8-12. Rating : 4.

In 1686 France, when the Protestant Reformists, the Huguenots, are being persecuted by

members of the Roman Catholic Church, the De St. Croix family bravely stand by their Protestant convictions. In one fell swoop, Marie, Henri, Louis, and Guillaume De St. Croix find themselves orphaned and on the run from the local dragoons. Their lives as pampered, petted, and protected children of French nobility are forever changed. Now they must find their way to the safety of Amsterdam with little money and only the guidance of a quickly scripted note left them by their father. Along the road, the children learn outdoor survival skills, warn a village of oncoming disaster, and save the life of a Comtese.

The Young Huguenots by Edith S. Floyer is #4 in the Huguenot Inheritance series. Although each book in the series complements the others, they can be read independently as well without confusion. Floyer deftly portrays the depth of faith and convictions of the early Church and the willingness of its saints to, if necessary, die for their beliefs. Dialogue, though slightly stiff, is believable when taken in context to time frame. Style is reminiscent of both Johann Wyss's *Swiss Family Robinson* (Yearling Books, Reissue 1999) and John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* (Bridge-Logos, revised and updated edition 1998). Plot is focused and well paced. Recommended as classic children's historical fiction for Christian education, homeschoolers, and alternative classics collections on French religious history.

Kim Harris, Children's Librarian, Lyell Branch of the Rochester Public Library, R

The trouble with Jeremy Chance / George Harrar ; illustrations by Elizabeth Thayer. LCCN 2003000529. Minneapolis : Milkweed Editions, 2003.

PAP, 1571316469, List price: \$6.95; CLJ price: \$5.20.

Fic. Fathers and sons--Fiction; Country life--New Hampshire--Fiction; Coming of age--Fiction; World War, 1914-1919--Fiction; New Hampshire--History--20th century--Fiction. 143 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

Set in rural New Hampshire near the end of WWI, this historical fiction work by George Harrar follows the misadventures of 12-year-old Jeremy Chance. After a wealthy woman hires Pa to build furniture, a dispute ensues between him and old Mr. Cutter next door over a black walnut tree. The conflict escalates when Pa builds a "spite fence" between the two properties, and Jeremy sides with Mr. Cutter. Jeremy's adventures become increasingly dangerous when he flees home for Boston to meet his older brother, Davey, whose ship is

returning from the war. Jeremy's greatest adventure yet awaits him there.

Although the story line initially seems haphazard, especially for this age group, a solid plot is set and the tempo gains momentum after the first three chapters, resulting in an exciting finish. Harrar skillfully brings the characters to life through action and dialogue, and he depicts the main character, Jeremy, realistically and thoughtfully. He renders believable adventures through good design and inserting the right props. Also, he supplies enough interesting quality details to establish historical authenticity.

Initially, the story seems weak on intrigue. And the main historical event needs generous doses of suspense and intensity. The illustrations are well done, but are too sparse in number to add much overall.

Despite these weaknesses, *The Trouble with Jeremy Chance* contains appealing scenes, interesting information, and strong writing, making it a valuable addition to the home or classroom library.

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

In search of honor / by Donna Lynn Hess. (Light line.) LCCN 91026926. Greenville, S.C. : BJUP/Journey Books, 1991.

PAP, 0890845956, List price: \$6.49; CLJ price: \$4.85.

Fic. France--History--Revolution--1789-1799--Fiction. x, 153 p. : map ; 22 cm.

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

In Search of Honor is a book that will captivate any reader who enjoys an intermix of history along with a good story line. The story begins with a young Jacques Chenier prior to the French revolution. He endures the heedless death of his beloved father by a mere lad whose high ranking in class places no significance on the death of a man of little wealth. Thus begins the story of the inner and outer struggles of Jacques along with the unsuspecting people along his path who help to lead him to what really constitutes a wealthy life. "It is your heart—not your circumstances—that will determine whether you become a man of honor or disgrace," the author writes.

Hess takes the reader through the growth of a boy to a man as well as through the turmoil of the French revolution. Throughout the book it is clear that this is a book promoting a moral without being "preachy." Also craftily illustrated throughout the book, the writer makes

clear that first impressions are not necessarily accurate.

Although a book written for those in grades 9-12, I think many adults would gain much in entertainment as well as enlightenment from this book.

S. Katherine Lopez, Freelance Writer, Beavercreek, Ohio.

Hound Heaven / Linda Oatman High. LCCN 2003112910. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyds Mills, 2004.

PAP, 1590782445, List price: \$9.95; CLJ price: \$7.50.
Fic. Dogs--Fiction. 174 p. ; 21 cm.
Grades 5-9. Rating : 5.

Silver Nickles, living with her Pawpaw in a tarpaper shack in West Virginia, dreams of owning a dog, so she gets a job in a kennel to earn the money to buy one. Unfortunately, the only person who believes she can succeed is Silver herself.

Linda Oatman *High's Hound Heaven* is a beautifully written story with a plucky, poignant heroine. Silver is an orphan—her parents and sister died in a car crash—but the poverty of her surroundings and the loneliness she feels never breaks her spirit.

She's exquisitely drawn, and achingly real. Silver has little in common with her shallow best friend Rose, yet she truly loves Rose, and Rose loves her. Similarly, nerdy Dudley Baxter, although an annoyance to Silver, ultimately becomes as close a friend as Rose... and a possible future love interest. As for Pawpaw, he and Silver share a deep, close bond that's wonderfully portrayed.

While Silver's extremely strong faith influences all her decisions, *Hound Heaven* isn't so much a Christian novel as a novel about a Christian. Silver regularly goes to church, respects Pastor Pete, and is distressed that Pawpaw and Rose aren't religious, but the book also has several scenes that, while innocent, can be problematic. There's reference to Pawpaw slipping out a "cuss word every now and then" when he's sleeping. Rose believes her dreamcatcher earrings filter out bad dreams; Silver scoffs... but later receives, and wears, a dreamcatcher necklace. There are running jokes about Silver's flat chest and Pawpaw's "booger green" sofa, and a joke about passing gas. Silver once thinks the moon "winks" at her, convincing her something "heaven-like" will happen.

Hound Heaven is a story of a brave, resilient girl lovingly fighting the odds to get what she wants.

Middle school girls should love it. Highly recommended.

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

Loamhedge / Brian Jacques ; illustrated by David Elliot. (Redwall.) LCCN 2003000716. New York : Philomel Books, 2003.

HBB, 0399237240, List price: \$23.99; CLJ price: \$18.00.
Fic. Animals--fiction; Fantasy. 424 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 4-8. Rating : 5.

Loamhedge is the sixteenth book in the charming Redwall series by Brian Jacques. The prodigals Bragoon, an otter, and Saro, a squirrel, have returned to Redwall Abbey after many seasons away. Older and mature, they are entrusted by Martin the Warrior's spirit with a mission to find Loamhedge, an ancient abbey where they hope to find a cure for Martha, a haremmaid who is in a wheelchair. Bragoon carries Martin's sword for the Abbey. They are surprised to be joined by three young Abbey rogues, Horty the hare, Springald the mouse, and Fenna the squirrel, who seek adventure. In a different part of the land, Lonna Bowstripe, a badger, has been attacked and left for dead by Raga Bol, the evil sea rat captain. Lonna's quest for vengeance leads him to Redwall in time to save it from the sea rats. Difficulties for Lonna as well as for Bragoon, Saro, and their young burdens are many, but the rewards are great.

Brian Jacques' Redwall books are so good because they have the thrill of action, the threat of evil triumphing, and the good at the end being believable. The vocabulary is challenging at times. Often the dialogue is confusing until the reader gets used to it but it is great because it conveys the different species' peculiarities. The Dibbuns will make you laugh out loud such as when Muggum screams, "where's my puddin'?" I love reading these books myself, but when a teacher or parent reads them aloud, they come alive. In my 4th grade class, both the girls and the boys love the Redwall series.

Lindy Westenhoff, 4th grade, Dominion Christian School, Oakton, Virginia

Good-bye to all that / created by Lissa Halls Johnson ; written by Jeanette Hanscome. (Brio girls ; 5.) LCCN 2002004563. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2002.

PAP, 1589970519, List price: \$6.99; CLJ price: \$5.20.
Fic. Dating (Social customs)--Fiction; Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Science projects--Fiction; High schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 182 p. ; 19 cm.

Grades 7-10. Rating : 5.

Grasping at moonbeams / created by Lissa Halls Johnson ; written by Jane Vogel. (Brio girls ; 6.) LCCN 2002005578. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2002.

PAP, 1589970527, List price: \$6.99; CLJ price: \$5.20.
Fic. Witchcraft--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 182 p. ; 19 cm.
Grades 7-10. Rating : 5.

Dragonfly on my shoulder / created by Lissa Halls Johnson ; written by Jeanette Hanscome. (Brio girls ; 9.) LCCN 2003016757. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003.

PAP, 1589970888, List price: \$6.99; CLJ price: \$5.20.
Fic. Ranch life--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 183 p. ; 20 cm.
Grades 7-10. Rating : 5.

Going crazy till Wednesday / created by Lissa Halls Johnson ; written by Jane Vogel. (Brio girls ; 10.) LCCN 2003020745. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003.

PAP, 1589970896, List price: \$6.99; CLJ price: \$5.20.
Fic. Camping--Fiction; Shelters for the homeless--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; High schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 184 p. ; 19 cm.
Grades 7-10. Rating : 5.

The Brio Girls series follows a tight group of friends, most of whom have known each other since elementary school. Four of these five teens follow Jesus as their savior. One girl, Solana, is not a believer but her friends stick by her and show her the love of Christ.

The fifth book, *Good-bye to All That*, chronicles the story of Solana when she decides to begin having sex. This book provides a tangible illustration why God intends sex to remain within the bounds of marriage. In book six, *Grasping at Moonbeams*, Solana takes an interest in a new "youth group" and Becca is ecstatic until she discovers that the spirituality this group promotes is Wicca. Lissa Halls Johnson helps readers understand why Wicca can be deceptive and why it does not agree with the absolute truth of the Bible. In the ninth book, *Dragonfly on my Shoulder*, the Brio gang raises funds to save the Dragonfly Ranch. In the process, Solana meets a promising new spiritual mentor. The most recent Brio title is *Going Crazy Till Wednesday*. Here, readers follow Becca as she takes on an enormous amount of responsibility starting an adventure program for the local community center.

Overall, these books help illustrate the value of friendship and the importance of reaching out to non-Christian friends in love. The Brio Girls series also does a good job dealing delicately and thoughtfully with challenging and crucial

issues. These teens face the difficulty of being true to Christian moral values while living in a society that often does not uphold or even understand those values. They are not sheltered from the realities of the world around them. These teens also face the challenge of sharing their faith with an unbelieving friend. In each title, the Brio Girl teens must make difficult decisions and they often make mistakes. However, throughout the series, readers get a chance to see each character grow and change their attitudes about life and faith. I would highly recommend this series for any Christian classroom or library.

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

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The invisible friend / Lois Walfrid Johnson. (Viking quest ; 3.) LCCN 2004001136. Chicago : Moody, 2004.

PAP, 0802431143, List price: \$7.99; CLJ price: \$5.90.

Fic. Vikings--Fiction; Slaves--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Norway--History--To 1030--Fiction. 217 p. ; 19 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : *5.

As Irish captive Briana O'Toole arrives in Norway, she catches a glimpse of Keely, her sister who was captured six years before. The young Viking, Mikkel, assigns Bree to assist his mother, but she still refuses to think of herself as a slave. Bree tries to contact her sister and the younger slave, Lil, to plan a way to escape, but gradually begins to love and witness to Mikkel's family. When Bree's brother Devin arrives with ransom money for Bree, Mikkel arrests him and confiscates the money. Can Bree and Devin still find the courage to win?

The plot runs smoothly with plenty of twists and surprises to keep readers turning pages, with a much more satisfying conclusion than the previous two books in the series. While enough information is given in the story for the book to stand alone, it is best read as part of the series. Each character is vividly drawn through emotions, dialogue, and action. The tight prose suits the characters and the historical setting of the story, and many details about the lives of the Vikings are portrayed. Spiritual themes such as forgiveness, honesty, and trust are clearly and plausibly shown through the characters' actions and words.

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

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

PAP, 0849943221, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

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.*

Christmas after all : the great depression diary of Minnie Swift / by Kathryn Lasky. (Dear America.) LCCN 67031. New York : Scholastic, 2001.

HBB, 0439219434, List price: \$10.95; CLJ price: \$8.25.

Fic. Depressions--1929--Fiction; Family life--Indiana--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction; Indiana--Fiction. 182 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : 4.

Eleven-year-old Minnie Swift kept a diary during the lean years of the Great Depression. *Christmas After All*, by Kathryn Lasky, recounts events in Indianapolis, Indiana. Life included

meatless meatloaf, parents who were worried about money, and homemade Christmas presents. Terms in the book reflect the early 1930's—Charlie Chan on the radio, Hoovervilles, soup kitchens, bread lines, President Roosevelt's New Deal, and the WPA.

Mr. Swift disappeared, just before Christmas. The whole neighborhood wondered if the devoted father had abandoned his family. Then Minnie's father returned. He had sold three stories for \$600.00! In an era of bank closings and job layoffs, that sum represented a fortune!

Though fiction, Minnie's diary is based on real events. The characters in *Christmas After All* are believable. Young Minnie's description of both joy and heartache allows readers to really identify with life in the Great Depression.

The picture section in the back of the book is interesting, but scattered photographs throughout the text would have meshed better with the story. The recipe for Molasses Crinkles, a popular Depression-era cookie, is a bonus. (They sound yummy!) Enjoy this book anytime, but the red-bound book would be ideal for family reading at Christmas.

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

Second-best friend / Beverly Lewis. (Holly's heart ; 6.) LCCN 2002002801. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2002.

PAP, 0764225057, List price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.45.

Fic. Friendship--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Jealousy--Fiction; Stepfamilies--Fiction. 149 p. ; 19 cm.

Grades 7-10. Rating : 3.

Eight is enough / Beverly Lewis. (Holly's heart ; 13.) LCCN 2003014709. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003.

PAP, 0764226207, List price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.45.

Fic. Stepfamilies--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 156 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 7-10. Rating : 3.

It's a girl thing / by Beverly Lewis. (Holly's heart ; 14.) LCCN 2003014710. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003.

PAP, 0764226215, List price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.45.

Fic. Stepfamilies--Fiction; High schools--fiction; Schools--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 150 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 7-10. Rating : 3.

Holly has a lot to deal with these days. Her parents divorced and her mother has remarried her widowed uncle. Now cousins have become bousins, Holly's combined word for this new relationship. In *Second-Best Friend*, Andie, Holly's long-time best friend, is excitedly expecting a visit from her Austrian penpal. So

excited, in fact, that it seems to Holly, she is playing second fiddle to an "Austrian beauty". *Eight Is Enough* is Holly's exact response to her mother's pregnancy. Why do they need an addition to an already large family and crowded home? Maybe she should try to live part of the year with her father and make some space for that new sibling on the way. And in *It's a Girl Thing*, Holly's long awaited trip to DC with her high school choir is in definite jeopardy if her mom goes into labor that weekend. Why does Holly have to be the one to babysit for her younger siblings? Why not Stan? Is it just because he's a guy and doesn't go in for the baby thing?

Typical teen problems, ones that will hit home with many readers, are the stuff that Holly's Heart books are made of. Easy to read, rather disjointed at times, they all have a message of God's love and his interest in teen's lives, although at times a weak message. Some events are rather improbable, such as Holly going off with a friend from out of state while in DC for the choir competition. Sean and Holly have mainly corresponded through e-mail and grab the chance to get together in person while she's in Washington. When they spend the afternoon alone, away from the group, no adult in charge is frantically looking for them but rather they understand she's with Sean and all will be well. That is not a likely scenario. Though Holly is a high school student, this series is written at the interest and reading level of middle schoolers and is labeled preteen fiction on the book covers.

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

Midnight mystery / Dandi Daley Mackall. (Winnie the horse gentler ; 4.) LCCN 2004563911. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House/Tyndale Kids, 2002.

PAP, 0842355456, List price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.45.
Fic. Fathers and daughters--Fiction; Horses--Fiction; Christian fiction. 195 p. : ill. ; 18 cm.
Grades 4-7. Rating : 4.

Gift horse / Dandi Daley Mackall. (Winnie the horse gentler ; 6.) LCCN 2003586719. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House/Tyndale Kids, 2003.

PAP, 0842355472, List price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.45.
Fic. Teenage girls--Fiction; Horses--Fiction; Christian fiction. 205 p. : ill. ; 18 cm.
Grades 4-7. Rating : 4.

Winnie Willis is great with horses... but not so great with people. Her mother is dead, her father's the local junk man, so she's teased a lot. Tough enough for an ordinary girl, but Winnie is insecure, awkward, and very sensitive.

Like her mother, Winnie is a horse gentler... and there's no horse she can't reach. She even runs a mini-business, stabling and taking care of problem horses. But she cannot take care of her personal life. She and her father haven't been close since Mrs. Willis' death. And Winnie has a rocky relationship with God.

Winnie the Horse Gentler by Dandi Daley Mackall is brilliantly written. It's a quiet, introspective series about a quiet introspective girl. Winnie is smart and lonely, with a wry sense of humor that's way too self-deprecating. She's a fighter... but has absolutely no self confidence, and is often flummoxed by rich and snobby Summer Spidell.

Midnight Mystery has Winnie helping out at the circus that's come to town. Ramon, a trick rider, finds his act being sabotaged... and Winnie vows to discover who's responsible.

Although the mystery is played for laughs (Winnie sees suspects everywhere; her friends think she's nuts) and the villain turns out to be not so villainous, it's a satisfying book, character driven rather than plot driven. *Gift Horse* is much more serious.

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

Will Northaway & the quest for liberty / Susan Olasky. (Young American patriots ; 1.) LCCN 2003025425. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway, 2004.

PAP, 1581344759, List price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.45.
Fic. United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775--Fiction; Fathers and sons--Fiction. 127 p. ; 20 cm.
Grades 4-7. Rating : 3.

Will Northaway & the fight for freedom / Susan Olasky. (Young American patriots ; 2.) LCCN 2003026752. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway, 2004.

PAP, 1581344767, List price: \$5.99; CLJ price: \$4.45.
Fic. United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775--Fiction; Apprentices--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction. 111 p. ; 20 cm.
Grades 4-7. Rating : 3.

Will Northaway, a skinny, short, sallow-skinned orphan boy who reeks of fish, survives on the London streets by begging—or stealing—food. The local merchants ignore his thieving, but when a British officer frames Will for his own attack on an English gentleman, Will flees by ship to America, where he hopes to find his long-lost father. *Will Northaway and the Quest for Liberty* tells this part of Will's story as well as his apprenticeship as a printer's devil in Colonial Boston. *Will Northaway and the Fight for Freedom* finds Will and his master on

opposite sides of the growing revolutionary unrest.

Susan Olasky's Young American Patriots series is fast-moving and easy to read, meaning it will appeal to middle school boys and girls. Will is resourceful, gutsy boy, likeable and realistically drawn. His desperate search for his father (who'd abandoned the family years ago) rings true; kid readers will definitely root for him. The ocean voyage where Will is worked hard by the rambunctious crew is thrilling, and his adventures in 1764 Boston, which include historical figures such as Samuel Adams and Ebenezer Mackintosh, make history come alive. However, the series doesn't whitewash any of its characters, and some scenes may be problematic.

Will's stealing goes unpunished. He once offers to do chores for a pint of ale, and twice actually drinks some (once at his father's orders; once becoming light-headed). Several other characters drink, or have weaknesses for gin. One also has a weakness for women. A minor character has a "very special friend" and an illicit romantic relationship is strongly implied, and Will's mother (who died before the books begin) was never married to his father. In several graphic scenes, a child is crushed under the wheels of a wagon; Will's dog is killed by bullies; and Will himself is tarred and feathered.

On the positive side, honesty and integrity are stressed, the good characters never participate in the bad behaviors, and several characters show a strong Christian faith, although Will is still undecided by the end of book two.

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

The winter room / Gary Paulsen. LCCN 89042541. New York : Orchard Books, 1989.

HBB, 0531058395, List price: \$15.95; CLJ price: \$12.00.
Fic. Farm life--Minnesota--Fiction; Minnesota--Fiction; Lumber and lumbering--Fiction; Norwegian Americans--Fiction; Newbery Honor Book. 103 p. ; 22 cm.
Grades 6-8. Rating : 5.

The winter room is the place where the family gathers in the season of winter—Eldon, his brother, Wayne, his parents, his Uncle David, and old Nels. Author Gary Paulsen takes us through the seasons, building up the suspense for winter and the winter room. Life on a Minnesota farm can be brutal and coarse, yet filled with the delights of nature and family life. On icy cold nights, the boys listen avidly to Uncle David's tales of superheroes. But when

Wayne feels that Uncle David has deceived them, his love and trust in his family is almost destroyed. Yet something wonderful comes from the experience, too.

Awarding winning Paulsen has written *The Winter Room* in his usual inimitable style, drawing the reader into the story, leading us to his desired destination with intensity. It is written for middle school aged readers, a simple yet powerful story of a family farm and the seasons of that farm in the 1930's. A short book, *The Winter Room* shows the author's well-crafted writing with outstanding characterization and description and will surely be popular with Gary Paulsen's many fans.

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

Danger follows / Goerky Smith. LCCN 98042385. Greenville, S.C. : BJUP/Journey Books, 1998.

PAP, 1579240704, List price: \$6.49; CLJ price: \$4.85.

Fic. Adventure and adventurers--fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Oceania--Fiction. 98 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 7-10. Rating : 3.

Jill Wyman joins her parents on a marine life research trip to find safe beaches for sea turtles to lay their eggs. After a brief stop in Australia, they board a forty-two foot sailboat, the *Sailfish*, and head out into the island-dotted South Pacific. But strange things start happening on the trip. Unwrapped cheese. A tiny plane swooping in and barely avoiding their sail. A man seen in Australia spotted at a tourist stop. Someone is following them, but why?

The plot reads like an outdated juvenile detective story, with obvious clues and villains springing out in the climax, though it does keep the reader flipping pages. The main character acts more like a ten-year-old than a teenager most of the time, and the parents' efforts to be "cool" sometimes appear condescending. Prose is choppy to the point of becoming hard to follow, and some of the dialog doesn't fit with the characters. Much information about sailing and marine life is presented easily within the flow of the story. The dialog is filled with humor, but unfortunately much of it falls flat. Preteens who are interested in sailing and oceans may want to give this book a chance.

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

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The alliance / Sarah Anne Sumpolec. (Becoming Beka series ; 2.) LCCN 2003025062. Chicago : Moody, 2004.

PAP, 0802464521, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. Christian life--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; High schools--Fiction; Occultism--Fiction; Theater--Fiction. 243 p. ; 21 cm.

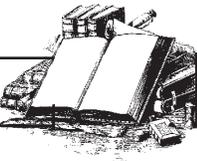
Grades 9-12. Rating : *5.

The Alliance picks up where the first book in the *Becoming Beka* series left off. Beka heads back to school after an encounter with and an acceptance of Christ. However, her new faith is tenuous as Beka is expecting a feeling or some type of excitement in her life now. Instead she is faced early on with difficult choices concerning her friends and a boy she likes. After landing a part in the school musical, Beka is befriended by popular Gretchen. However, the more time Beka spends with Gretchen the more she must struggle with her newfound beliefs. Finally encounters with the occult, at the prodding of Gretchen, wake Beka up to the seriousness of the world of darkness. The pressure Beka feels to fit in, be popular and liked almost cost her her faith, her friends, and her family.

Sarah Anne Sumpolec, author of the *Becoming Beka* series, pays close attention to detail in developing her characters and her plot. With the ever-increasing prominence of occult fascination by young people today, her plot rings with reality. The confusion Beka feels, unsure of which direction to take or which side to choose is also realistic. The foibles and fears of Beka shine through in the character development of this young person who is stumbling on her way to becoming an adult. During this time, Sumpolec also builds on Beka's uncertainty about her faith in a credible manner.

This is a great book that high school teens will be able to relate to and learn from.

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



200's—Religion

Every young woman's battle : guarding your mind, heart, and body in a sex-saturated world / Shannon Ethridge & Stephen Arterburn. LCCN 2004002068. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2004.

PAP, 1578568560, List price: \$13.99; CLJ price: \$10.50.

241. Young women--Conduct of life; Young women--Religious life. xii, 225 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades 10-College (and their parents). Rating : 5.

Shannon Ethridge writes with spiritual conviction about the landmines of unbalanced pop cultural messages designed to confuse and cheapen aspects of the intimate love relationships. With an honest and informative approach to true life situations, Ethridge provides valuable ideas for godly dating relationships. This book gives the guidance girls need to counteract the negative messages routinely delivered through the media via music, movies, and fashion magazines. Understanding the battle is the first step, and this text provides private testimonies related to various temptations. Myths are dispelled and blueprints for sexual integrity are provided and supported by scripture.

Avoiding the pitfalls of destructive behavior is core to the book's content with sections on topics like "When Love Becomes An Addiction." Ethridge encourages readers to be aware of their own "sexual fire" but realistically to understand the power behind things like wardrobe and flirting. Chapters on guarding your mind, heart, and body round out the book with advice to allow time to look for Mr. Right while becoming ready to be Mrs. Right. Starting with scripture as the heading for each chapter, the theme is based on the premise that becoming beloved involves falling in love with Jesus first. The book contains extensive endnotes with bibliographic references for each chapter. This resource provides a solid foundation for any high school or college age girl or mother-daughter small-group study. Enjoyable and thought provoking literature, this is a good read for any parent or teen.

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo, MSN, MLS; Nursing Educator, Academic Librarian, Beavercreek

A teen's guide to Christian living : practical answers to tough questions about God and faith / Bettie B. Youngs, Jennifer Leigh Youngs, Debbie Thurman. LCCN 2003042335. Deerfield Beach, Fla. : Health Communications/Faith Communications, 2003.

PAP, 0757301010, List price: \$12.95; CLJ price: \$9.75.

248.8. Christian teenagers--Religious life. xxviii, 358 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 8-12. Rating : 5.

This practical guide for teens addresses issues and questions in straightforward language. The answers provide a wonderful jumping block from a sound foundation of truth. With topics like dating, friends, cults, the significance of the cross, sin, family, forgiveness, and more, this book reaches a teen's heart with solid answers and food for thought. Each section of topics has personal reflection questions to further encourage discussion and dialogue. In part six, Teen Talk, real teens tell their stories of how God has shown himself in their lives. The appendix includes prayers, suggested resources, and a list of support agencies.

In a culture that tells our teens there are no moral absolutes, truth is relative, religions are all the same, and where tolerance is out of balance, this guide brings the truth of God's principles into sharp focus. Biblically sound answers are now available for both teens and their parents as they seek to make sense of godliness in a godless world. The book is ideal for small group discussion as well as personal study and reflection.

Jeanne Doyon, Freelance Writer, Pomfret Center, Connecticut.

Ultimate core : maximum life transformation for the third millenium / by Winkie Pratney and Trevor Yaxley. LCCN 2003002570. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003.

PAP, 076422803X, List price: \$14.99; CLJ price: \$11.25.

248.8. Youth--Religious life; Evangelistic work; Witness bearing (Christianity). 298 p. 23 cm.

Grades 8-12. Rating : 5.

Ultimate Core is divided into 16 chapters, each based on a verse from the beatitudes found in

Matthew 5:1-16. "Core" is used in several ways: first, as an acronym (Church On the Radical Edge); second, as a theme for the chapters (i.e. Core Vision, Core Heart, etc.); and third, as the over-arching concept and goal of the book—to provide foundational, "core" truths for living life as a believer. Pratney covers such concepts as being a learner (disciple), hearing God's voice, repentance and restitution, prayer, sexuality, living in today's culture, Bible study, and much more.

This book does an excellent job of answering the question, "What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?" *Ultimate Core* is the most practical book on being a disciple that I have seen. It deals with issues and attitudes that today's teens face: music, media, persecution, purity, forgiveness, pride—it's all here.

The writing style is readable, but the information is densely packed. Readers may even want to approach this as a handbook, but herein lies the book's only flaw: there is no index. A website is provided, however, at www.ultimatecore.net which includes free youth ministry materials to supplement the book.

David Rainey, MLIS. Reference Librarian, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

300's—Social Sciences

Culture wars : opposing viewpoints / Mary E. Williams, ed. (Opposing viewpoints.) LCCN 2002042611. San Diego : Gale/Greenhaven, 2003.

HBB, 0737716797, List price: \$33.70; CLJ price: \$26.96.

306/.0973. United States--Social conditions--1980--; Popular culture--United States; Social problems--United States; United States--Social life and customs; United States--Politics and government--1989-. 224 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

Students are offered original source viewpoints on different sides of culture wars, including views from prominent spokespeople, professionals in the discipline, and ordinary people. Topics include the state of America's culture wars, whether American culture is in

decline, what political and cultural influences benefit society, and whether government should regulate cultural values.

At a time when liberal versus conservative arguments are sidebarred in the press or in heated political rhetoric, this discussion enables the student to sift through inconsistencies in opinions, why certain opinions are held, and which require further evaluation. Teachers can utilize the book to enhance student understanding of the issue.

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

Alcohol : opposing viewpoints / Karen F. Balkin, book editor. (Opposing viewpoints series.) LCCN 2003049297. San Diego : Gale/Greenhaven, 2004.

LIB, 0737712163, List price: \$33.70; CLJ price: \$26.96.

362.292. Alcoholism; Drinking of alcoholic beverages--Health aspects; Alcoholics--Rehabilitation; Alcoholism--Prevention. 192 p. : ill. ; 22 cm..

Grades 7-12. Rating : 4.

Biological warfare : opposing viewpoints / William Dudley, book editor. (Opposing viewpoints series.) LCCN 2003042400. San Diego : Gale/Greenhaven, 2004.

LIB, 0737716711, List price: \$33.70; CLJ price: \$26.96.

358. Biological warfare; World politics--21st century. 218 p. : ill., map ; 23 cm..

Grades 7-12. Rating : 4.

The information revolution : opposing viewpoints / Laura K. Egen Dorf, book editor. (Opposing viewpoints series.) LCCN 2003044813. San Diego : Gale/Greenhaven, 2004.

LIB, 0737716940, List price: \$33.70; CLJ price: \$26.96.

303.48. Information technology--Social aspects; Information society. 202 p. : ill. ; 23 cm..

Grades 7-12. Rating : 4.

The Middle East : opposing viewpoints / William Dudley, book editor. (Opposing viewpoints series.) LCCN 2003049020. San Diego : Gale/Greenhaven, 2004.

LIB, 0737718064, List price: \$33.70; CLJ price: \$26.96.

305.8. Ethnic conflict--Middle East; Arab-Israeli conflict; Islam and politics--Middle East; Violence--Religious aspects--Islam; Peace--Religious aspects--Islam; Middle East--Foreign relations--United States. 203 p. : ill. ; 23 cm..

Grades 7-12. Rating : 4.

Iraq : opposing viewpoints: / William Dudley, book editor. (Opposing viewpoints series.) LCCN 2003049374. San Diego : Gale/Lucent, 2004.

LIB, 073772286X, List price: \$33.70; CLJ price: \$26.96.

956.7044. Iraq War, 2003--Causes; Iraq War, 2003--Moral and ethical aspects--United States; United States--Relations--Iraq; Iraq--Relations--United States; United States--Foreign relations, 2001--; Democracy--Iraq. 202 p. : ill. ; 23 cm..

Grades 7-12. Rating : 5.

Criminal justice : opposing viewpoints / Tamara L. Roleff, book editor. (Opposing viewpoints series.) LCCN 2002045479. San Diego : Gale/Greenhaven, 2003.

LIB, 0737716770, List price: \$33.70; CLJ price: \$26.96.

364. Criminal justice, administration of--United States. 206 p. : ill. ; 23 cm..

Grades 7-12. Rating : 4.

The *Opposing Viewpoints* series by Greenhaven Press is a concise attempt to expose the reader to many of different viewpoints regarding current issues and events. Selections from various sources and writers with widely divergent agendas and views make reading these books a bit like a watching tennis match. The back and forth can be dizzying if read in one session. However, time to think about each piece can help the reader refine his or her point of view. Each book has at least four chapters. The chapters each have a preface setting the stage. Each individual essay has two or three questions prefacing the piece. Periodical bibliographies are well done, providing resources for further research. The target age for the publisher is grades 7-12 but they are much more likely to be useful to high school students rather than middle school students due to complexity of language and thought. The appendices of the books have more good resources for students to explore including a list of organizations and websites. While there is some concern about topics being overtaken by events, overall the series holds up well.

A touchy subject in many circles, the merits and faults of alcohol are explored in *Alcohol*, edited by Karen Balkin. The chapter headings indicate somewhat of a bias overall. The first asks whether alcohol use is beneficial to human health with experts on both sides weighing in. The succeeding chapter heading indicates which side won the battle of the first chapter. Chapter 2 asks what the causes of alcohol abuse are, and chapter 3 asks how alcoholism should be treated. The final chapter asks what measures should be taken to reduce alcohol-related problems. This last chapter will be interesting to teens as it includes a debate about minimum drinking age laws.

The title of *Biological Warfare*, edited by William Dudley, is jarring at first because one wonders how there could ever be two sides to the issue of biological weapons! The volume is

much more complex than that, and examines issues such as what a serious danger biological weapons pose, and what nations and groups constitute the greatest threat in this area. The last two chapters debate what measures the U.S. should take to prepare for biological warfare and how biological warfare might be prevented. Even the oldest pieces in this book are sobering in the information they provide about how uncontrolled the stocks of many biological agents are in the post-Soviet, post-Saddam era.

The Information Revolution, edited by Laura Egen Dorf, shows how the information revolution is a mixed blessing to our society. The book first explores how the Internet has changed society with the subsequent chapter looking specifically to whether education has benefited. Next is a series of articles debating whether rights are threatened in the information age and finally, a chapter tries to predict the future of the information revolution. With a generation of students in high school who have never known life without the internet, this volume is worthwhile to get them to consider the benefits as well as the risks involved with having too much information available to too many people. The chapter on whether education has been at all improved by the information revolution is thought provoking.

The Middle East, edited by William Dudley, has four chapters that lend themselves very well to trying to understand the conflicts that drive so much of our foreign policy. The chapter headings give a glimpse of this: Why Is the Middle East a Conflict Area, How Does Islam Affect the Middle East, What Role Should the US Play in the Middle East, and Is Peace Between Israel and the Palestinians Possible? With pieces authored by Yasir Arafat and George W. Bush, the volume carries the weight of some heavy thinking behind the opinions. This volume remains current because the problems of the Middle East just recycle over and over.

With the media of the world focussing on whether weapons of mass destruction ever did exist in Iraq, it is easy to get sidetracked about the real issues that existed with Saddam Hussein in control of that country and its resources. *Iraq*, edited by William Dudley, keeps alive the debate about whether the US should have taken the course of action it did, and what role the US should play in Iraq. chapter three asks what kind of government would be best for Iraq, and chapter four speculates on what is in the future for Iraq. Several of the essays in the book are

written by Iraqis, undoubtedly the best people to determine what their future holds. This will be a particularly good volume for students as they are extremely interested in the war that has occurred in their lifetime.

Criminal Justice, edited by Tamara L. Roleff, takes on some of the most challenging issues of crime and punishment within our society. Leading off with whether the criminal justice system needs reformation are pieces by defense lawyers as well as prosecutors. Whether the prison system is effective is the subject matter of chapter two. Sentencing laws are examined in the third chapter and the final chapter speculates on just what rights should be a part of our system. This last chapter is particularly interesting as it debates the issue of Victims' Rights as well as the Miranda warning. In the context of the Patriot Act, these are fascinating issues to consider.

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

And the bride wore white : seven secrets to sexual purity / Dannah Gresh ; [foreword by Jaci Velasquez]. LCCN 269514. Chicago : Moody, 1999.

PAP, 0802483445, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

306.7/0835. Sexual ethics--Biblical teaching; Sexual ethics. 192 p. : ill. ; 23 cm..

Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

And the Bride Wore White, Dannah Gresh's guide for teen girls trying to maintain pure dating relationships, is based on seven secrets Gresh learned while dating her future husband. It is supplemented by her teenage experiences, and includes diary excerpts.

Gresh is an author and speaker whose ministry, Pure Freedom, provides retreats and materials to equip teens to stay sexually pure. Her book, with its short chapters, simple writing, and highly conversational tone, gives a fresh, immediate look at the issue. Speaking honestly to her readers, Gresh is comforting, not judgmental, as she discusses topics such as Satan's Big Fat Sex Lie (she actually lists three), the importance of self-worth, understanding the heavenly purpose of sex, how to break off bad relationships, and how to envision a godly husband.

Appendices contain interviews with five Christian celebrities (Steven Curtis Chapman; Josh McDowell; Rebecca St. James; Joshua Harris; and Becky Tirabassi) on sex and purity, as well as "letters from the heart," written by experts on purity issues. The letters deal with

topics such as singleness, God's timing, and abortion.

Although this edition, the Celebration Edition (celebrating the fact that 100,000 copies have been sold) incorporates new stories gleaned from girls Gresh took on purity retreats, the statistics haven't been updated; many are from the 1980s; some are from the 1970s.

The book's emphasis on God will lessen its appeal to secular markets. The gentle but honest language, while perfectly suitable for most teen health classes, might make more conservative Christian households hesitate (for instance, there's a frank recounting of sexual abuse).

And the Bride Wore White is a valuable book, with practical advice on how to initiate a plan for pure relationships. However, as Gresh herself states, it's just a guide. Teens must put its concepts into practice.

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

Deterring and investigating attack : the role of the FBI and CIA / Jennifer Keeley. (The Lucent library of homeland security.) LCCN 2003015027. San Diego : Gale/Lucent, 2003.

HBB, 1590183746, List price: \$27.45; CLJ price: \$21.96.

363.32/0973. Terrorism--Prevention; United States--Federal Bureau of Investigation; United States--Central Intelligence Agency; Terrorism--Government policy; National security. 128 p. : ill. ; 24 cm..

Grades 4-6 (7-10). Rating : 4.

Defending the borders : the role of border and immigration control / Gail B. Stewart. (The Lucent library of homeland security.) LCCN 2003010074. San Diego : Gale/Lucent, 2004.

HBB, 1590183762, List price: \$27.45; CLJ price: \$21.96.

973.931. War on terrorism, 2001; Terrorism--Prevention; Border patrols; Terrorists. 128 p. : ill. ; 24 cm..

Grades 4-6 (7-10). Rating : 4.

This Homeland Security series follows in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, when some felt that only with greater security could Americans go about their lives free of fear and reservation. Each volume looks at how to ensure homeland security, along with its successes and challenges. They look at whether ensuring safety by curtailing America's freedoms is a viable tradeoff.

An assortment of photos throughout the text enables students to follow the discussion and contributes to a better understanding. Each of these two volumes contains a wealth of material,

information well researched, and launching points for further study and discussion. The volumes are quality and timely though will need replacement in five years.

Recommended for school libraries where students deal with current events. Public libraries can add this series with confidence for the discussion enables youth to deal with controversial and difficult subjects. Footnotes and bibliography give testimony to the care with which questions are offered, and how the sense of national unity and purpose can splinter as people advanced countless ideas for achieving security.

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

Learning disabilities / Henny H. Kim, book editor. (Contemporary issues companion.) LCCN 2003054010. San Diego : Gale/Greenhaven, 2004.

LIB, 0737716215, List price: \$33.70; CLJ price: \$26.96.

371.92. Learning disabilities; Learning disabled children--Education. 158 p. : ill. ; 23 cm..

Grades 11-12, Adult. Rating : 5.

Learning Disabilities (Henny H. Kim, book editor) is from the Contemporary Issues Companion Anthology series. It is a resource dedicated to the distribution of information, chiefly the symptoms and remediation for dyslexia. These essays authored by respected authorities in the field are meant to gain insight into specific questions. A perusal of the table of contents allows the reader to hone in on the topic of particular interest. There is an overview, followed by the diagnosis, teaching, and finally anecdotes of people with learning disabilities. Other sections in this text include organizations to contact, a bibliography and the index.

Some important ideas the author points out in *Learning Disabilities*: Because adequate reading skills are the basis for all other learning, (15) the significant discrepancy between achievement and intellectual ability of person with dyslexia is frustrating. Often, the child is labeled as "lazy." Einstein was told, "Your mere presence spoils the respect of the class for me."(28) That kind of attitude is dispelled by the knowledge gained through reading this book. "Learning is an active process of acquiring and retaining knowledge so it can be applied in future situations."(88) This skill does not come naturally to those affected with Learning Disabilities, neurological disorders, but there are solutions to help these people live productive, non-stressful lives. The main

message of *Learning Disabilities* is "You are not alone." (134)

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

Geography crafts for kids : 50 cool projects & activities for exploring the world / Joe Rhatigan & Heather Smith. LCCN 2001038649. New York : Sterling/Lark, 2002.

HBB, 1579901964, List price: \$24.95; CLJ price: \$18.75.

372.89/1044. Geography--Study and teaching (Elementary)--Activity programs. 144 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 27 cm..

Grades 5-8. Rating : 3.

A balanced mix of hands-on activities and educational text make up *Geography Crafts for Kids*, by Joe Rhatigan and Heather Smith. Projects span history, from ancient astrolabes to decorative map pillow cases and mobiles made from painted CDs. Considerably broader than traditional geography, topics include science, history, world politics, ecology, and astronomy, and have an international, multi-cultural feel.

Geography for Kids holds unexpected content, both in the selection of projects and their geopolitical aspects. "Geography isn't just a science, it's a celebration of everything that's different and not so different about the 6 billion and then some inhabitants of the earth," say the authors about chapter three's projects: a world treasure hunt, international snacks, postage stamp box, family tree batik banner, time capsule, clay bowl, world drum, felt story cloth, and Internet-based citizenship quiz. Page designs are colorful with varied typefaces, sidebars, tables, and interesting photography. Photos show how projects should look, along with step-by-step directions. Icons designate projects needing adult help, though more than are so noted require advanced skills and interpretations. A few—topography of a person's face, dream box for hoped-for travels, and how to read tree rings—seem incongruous. Three activity templates and a project listing by educational standards are useful. Though categorized for elementary use, content seems more geared to sixth through ninth grade comprehension and use.

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

400's—Language

Origins of the alphabets / Joseph Naveh. St. Louis, Mo. : Concordia/Palphot, n.d.

PAR, 0304293369, List price: \$9.99; CLJ price: \$7.50.

411. Writing--History; Alphabet. 72 p. : col. photos. ; 24 cm..

Grades 7-12. Rating : 3.

Most of us with a classical education were taught that our alphabet began with the Phoenicians. However, there is some dispute within the small world of epigraphy and palaeography as to whether the Phoenician, Hebrew, and Aramaic scripts are actually alphabets or merely syllabic writing.

Archeologist and alphabet scholar Joseph Naveh argues that the term alphabet means simply that a limited number of letters (twenty to thirty) are listed in a fixed order. Beginning with that premise, his *Origins of the Alphabets* takes a fascinating look at the evolution of such letter lists or alphabets. Explaining the relationships between existing samples of ancient scripts, he interweaves their history. For a student of the Bible, this interweaving is a reassuring mirror of the truth of the Bible. The subject matter is interesting and quite detailed, so the book is best enjoyed in small chunks with time to think about each progressive step in development. The strongest point about the book is that excellent photography of ancient sources illustrates the text.

The second part of the book traces the development of each individual letter in the present English alphabet. This book would be highly recommended, but alas, there is no bibliography or resource list at all. All of the facts contained therein are either the author's opinion or will require research elsewhere. This is a shame as otherwise this would be a wonderful reference work for a high school library. As it is, only the most robust library budgets can afford to purchase non-fiction books that lack scholarly documentation as to the truth of their contents.

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

800's—Literature & Rhetoric

Stories from where we live : the Great Lakes / edited by Sara St. Antoine ; maps by Paul Mirocha ; illustrations by Trudy Nicholson. (Stories from where we live.) LCCN 2002071837. Minneapolis : Milkweed Editions, 2003.

HBB, 1571316396, List price: \$19.95; CLJ price: \$15.00.

810.8/077. American literature--Great Lakes Region; Great Lakes Region--Literary collections; Great Lakes--Literary collections; Great Lakes Region; Great Lakes. xiii, 242 p. : ill., maps ; 24 cm..

Grades 4-6. Rating : 5.

Most of us with a classical education were taught that our alphabet began with the Phoenicians. However, there is some dispute within the small world of epigraphy and palaeography as to whether the Phoenician, Hebrew, and Aramaic scripts are actually alphabets or merely syllabic writing. Archeologist and alphabet scholar Joseph Naveh argues that the term alphabet means simply that a limited number of letters (twenty to thirty) are listed in a fixed order. Beginning with that premise, his *Origins of the Alphabets* takes a fascinating look at the evolution of such letter lists or alphabets. Explaining the relationships between existing samples of ancient scripts, he interweaves their history. For a student of the Bible, this interweaving is a reassuring mirror of the truth of the Bible. The subject matter is interesting and quite detailed, so the book is best enjoyed in small chunks with time to think about each progressive step in development. The strongest point about the book is that excellent photography of ancient sources illustrates the text.

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

900's—Geography, History, & Biography

Discovering Lewis & Clark from the air / photography by Jim Wark ; text by Joseph A. Mussulman. LCCN 2003027641. Missoula, Mont. : Mountain Press, 2004.

HBB, 0878424903, List price: \$40.00.; CLJ price: \$30.00.

917.8/0022/2. Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806); Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail--Aerial photographs; West (U.S.)--History, Local--Aerial photographs; West (U.S.)--Travel and description. 261 p. : col. ill. ; 25 x 26 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

Mostly photographs with short bursts of text, *Discovering Lewis and Clark From the Air* is an excellent look at the journey of Lewis and Clark.

Simply written and fascinating, it describes in great detail the preparation for the expedition, the expedition's failures and successes, the types and amounts of supplies needed, the wildlife of the areas the Corps of Discovery passed through, and more.

Joseph Mussulman has broken the book into five sections; clearly-drawn maps precede each section, showing that portion of the route and important points passed (including rivers and other natural features). Modern state boundaries are drawn in.

Quotations from the actual journals of the Corps of Discovery are used (with the original misspellings and grammatical mistakes) in addition to Mussulman's nicely-researched text. Also included: details about the pre-trip planning in Washington, the recruitment of the Corps of Discovery, and the "eastern" (pre-St. Louis) portion of the trip. Footnotes and a bibliography list further sources of information.

Jim Wark's full-color aerial photos were chosen for both aesthetic appeal and narrative function and give a good overview of the journey. In some, the range of vision shown is approximately as much ground as Lewis and Clark covered in four days. The photos, of course, are modern and show changes made in the areas the expedition passed through. Those changes, when they affect the reader's understanding of the journey, are noted.

While Musselman's text is usually informative, once he merely refers to a "significant failure" of the mission without explaining why the failure was significant. Note: there are several brief mentions of wine and whiskey drinking.

Though this book won't provide extensive information for the serious researcher, it is perfect for someone wanting a quick yet detailed understanding of the Corps of Discovery's accomplishments.

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

Germany / Barbara Fuller, Gabriele Vossmeier. (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 2003008186. New York : Benchmark Books, 2003.

HBB, 0761416676, List price: \$37.07; CLJ price: \$22.96.

943. Germany. 144 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), col. maps ; 26 cm..

Grades 5-8. Rating : 4.

In the Cultures of the World Series, 2nd edition, the books celebrate each country with an updated and expanded coverage of each culture.

Every page is illustrated photographs or has explanatory diagrams and sidebars. The format is designed to challenge young readers to travel the globe with their minds. Topics covered include: geography, history, government, economics, people, religion, language, arts, festivals, and cuisine.

Germany begins with a myriad of facts and excellent photographs of each region of the country covering states, cities, climate, flora and fauna. Early history to the reunification of the two portions of Germany is accompanied by current government, economy, and environment concerns. The culture and characteristics of Germans' dress, housing, childhood rituals, weddings and other lifestyle features are included. A new chapter focuses contemporary issues like politics and the effects of modern life on endangered species. In the Arts, Language and Religion sections the authors cover major contributions to music, movies, architecture, and literature. The differences between High and Low German are explained as well as the etiquette of speech. Major forms of Christianity as well as other ethnic religions are discussed. Leisure activities favorite festivals and food specialties are the final features of this text. Classic regional recipes like Sauerbraten, new maps, an easy-to-find fact section and time line add general interest to the back of the book. Glossary, Index, Bibliography and Further Information sections that further books, websites, music, and videos all located in the last pages. This new addition is recommended for students in middle school.

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo, MSN, MLS; Nursing Educator, Academic Librarian, Beaver creek

Saudi Arabia / Adrian Sinkler, book editor. (World's hot spots.) LCCN 2002192535. San Diego : Gale/Greenhaven, 2004.

LIB, 0737718110, List price: \$28.70; CLJ price: \$22.96.

953.8. United States--Foreign relations--Saudi Arabia; Saudi Arabia--Foreign relations--United States; Saudi Arabia--Foreign relations--2001-; September 11 Terrorist Attacks, 2001. 159 p. : maps ; 24 cm..

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

Iraq / Debra A. Miller, book editor. (World's hot spots.) LCCN 2003040761. San Diego : Gale/Greenhaven, 2004.

LIB, 0737718137, List price: \$28.70; CLJ price: \$22.96.

956.7044. Iraq. 128 p. : maps ; 24 cm..

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

Afghanistan / John Boaz, book editor. (World's hot spots.) LCCN 2003044856. San Diego : Gale/Greenhaven, 2004.

LIB, 0737717211, List price: \$28.70; CLJ price: \$22.96.

958.104. Afghanistan--History--Soviet occupation, 1979-1989; Afghanistan--History--1989-2001; Afghanistan--History--2001-. 128 p. : map ; 24 cm..

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

The Palestinians and the disputed territories / Neil Alger, book editor. (World's hot spots.) LCCN 2003048327. San Diego : Gale/Greenhaven, 2004.

LIB, 0737714891, List price: \$28.70; CLJ price: \$22.96.

956.04. Arab-Israeli conflict. 144 p. : maps ; 24 cm..

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

Pakistan / Adrian Sinkler, book editor. (World's hot spots.) LCCN 2002032213. San Diego : Gale/Greenhaven, 2003.

LIB, 0737714581, List price: \$28.70; CLJ price: \$22.96.

954.91. Pakistan--Politics and government--1988-; Pakistan--Foreign relations--India; India--Foreign relations--Pakistan; Terrorism--Government policy--Pakistan. 138 p. : maps ; 24 cm..

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

North Korea / Debra A. Miller, book editor. (World's hot spots.) LCCN 2003059903. San Diego : Gale/Greenhaven, 2004.

LIB, 0737722940, List price: \$28.70; CLJ price: \$22.96.

951.93. Korea (North). 127 p. : ill., maps ; 24 cm..

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

The World's Hot Spots series meets a timely demand for information and discussion among secondary students and young adults to better understand the areas embroiled in conflicts that contribute to catastrophic events. Each volume is an anthology of primary and secondary documents that provides historical background to the conflict. Offered in the discussion is a wide range of opinions from world leaders, activists, and professional writers concerning the root causes and potential solutions to the problems facing the countries covered in this series.

Of particular value is an annotated table of contents, bibliography, glossaries of terms and important figures, and a chronology of events covering the country from ancient times to the present. The discussion tone is one students can relate to as it is clear, concise, and detailed enough to grasp more than an overview.

Recommended for school libraries where students explore specific countries. Public libraries collections seeking to provide a series with current information and detailed information on issues that often have a global reach and demand the attention of the entire international community have a current and well-researched title. An index enables

librarians or teachers to locate specifics to compliment other titles offered to students.

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

The American Revolution / by Gail B. Stewart. (People at the center of.) LCCN 2003013656. San Diego : Gale/Lucent, 2004.

LIB, 1567117694, List price: \$23.70; CLJ price: \$18.96.

973.3. United States--History--Revolution1775-1783; United States--History--Revolution1775-1783--Biography. 48 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm..

Grades 7-9. Rating : 4.

The Civil War / by Chris Hughes. (People at the center of.) LCCN 2003003621. San Diego : Gale/Lucent, 2004.

LIB, 1567117643, List price: \$23.70; CLJ price: \$18.96.

973.7. United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Biography. 48 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm..

Grades 7-9. Rating : 4.

The Industrial Revolution / by Sara Wooten. (People at the center of.) LCCN 2003010092. San Diego : Gale/Lucent, 2004.

LIB, 1567117651, List price: \$23.70; CLJ price: \$18.96.

330.941. Industrial revolution; Stephenson, George, 1781-184; Slater, Samuel, 1768-1835; Gompers, Samuel, 1850-1924. 48 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm..

Grades 7-9. Rating : 4.

World War I / by Gail B. Stewart. (People at the center of.) LCCN 2003016805. San Diego : Gale/Lucent, 2004.

LIB, 1567117732, List price: \$23.70; CLJ price: \$18.96.

940.3. World War, 1814-1918; World War, 1914-1918--Biography. 48 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm..

Grades 7-9. Rating : 4.

World War II / by Audrey Kupferberg. (People at the center of.) LCCN 2003010093. San Diego : Gale/Lucent, 2004.

LIB, 1567117740, List price: \$23.70; CLJ price: \$18.96.

940.53. World War, 1939-1945; World War, 1939-1945--Biography. 48 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm..

Grades 7-9. Rating : 4.

History is more than past events, it is the people who were involved in those events. The People at the Center of series takes a brief look at several (twelve to date) periods of history and the people who made history.

Each book contains an introduction to the time period, and fifteen to seventeen short biographies of the people involved. Most biographies are contained on a two-page spread with half of that being illustrations, although some run to four pages. Captions clearly

identify the illustrations. A chronology of events help the reader put the events into perspective. An index and list of additional resources (including web sites) help make the series a useful reference set.

The American Revolution includes biographies of: King George III, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Paine, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Gage, Abigail Adams, Benedict Arnold, Francis Marion, Marquis de Lafayette, Mary Hays McCauley (Molly Pitcher), Nathan Hale, Baron von Steuben, and John Paul Jones.

Biographies of John C. Calhoun, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Dred Scott, John Brown, Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Clara Barton, Andrew Johnson, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, William Tecumseh Sherman, and photographer Matthew Brady are included in *The Civil War*.

The Industrial Revolution covers many inventors and leaders in the Industrial Revolution. Sir Richard Arkwright built spinning factories for making cotton thread. Samuel Slater brought the technology to America. Leaders in their industries, Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller are included. Labor movement leaders, Samuel Gompers and Mary Harris Jones and reformer Jane Addams have biographies in the book. As do James Watt, George Stephenson, Robert Fulton, Samuel Morse, Charles Goodyear, Alexander Bell, Thomas Edison, and Henry Ford.

World War I covers leaders, spies, and heroes. The biography of Mata Hari may cause objections to its reference to dancing naked. Other biographies included are: Kaiser Wilhelm II, Czar Nicholas II, Hiram Maxim, David Lloyd George, Archduke Ferdinand, Baron von Richthofen, Edith Cavell, Ferdinand von Zeppelin, Woodrow Wilson, Sire Ernest Swinton, John Pershing, Eddie Rickenbacker, George Creel, and Georges Clemenceau.

Most of the biographies in *World War II* are political or military leaders. Those included are: Adolf Hitler, Joseph Goebbels, Heinrich Himmler, Mussolini, Hirohito, Arthur Neville Chamberlain, Winston Churchill, Joseph Stalin, Philippe Petain, Charles de Gaulle, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Douglas MacArthur, George Patton, Dwight Eisenhower, Eleanor Roosevelt, Anne Frank, and Harry Truman.

The People at the Center of series seems well-researched, and would be a good starting point for study.

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

George Washington, the writer : a treasury of letters, diaries, and publications / [edited by] edited by Carolyn Yoder. LCCN 2002108915. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyds Mills, 2003.

HBB, 1563971992, List price: \$16.95; CLJ price: \$12.75.

973.41. Washington, George, 1732-1799. 141 p. ; 26 cm..

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Carolyn P. Yoder has compiled a biography of the nation's first president that gives the reader a rich survey of his life from the age of sixteen until just before his death. Through excerpts of his letters, speeches, diaries, and even his will, an authentic overview of George Washington's days is accessible and makes interesting reading for children and adults. The information is well documented, with an extensive bibliography. In an age of history revisionism, Carolyn Yoder's extensive editorial credentials cannot help but give the reader assurance of an authoritative effort. Yoder's text lends understanding to the humanity of the President as well as to how his writings relate historically to the times in which he lived.

Aside from Yoder's comments and Washington's own words, the work is enhanced with black and white illustrations including archival photographs of sites and reproductions of paintings and prints. In addition, there are informative appendixes that include credits for pictures and text, a detailed, illustrated chronology, resource guide for the reader listing parks, museums, and libraries, complete index, web sites, and a recommended reading list.

To find so many of Washington's works in one volume allows his story to be told frequently in his own words—a biography with autobiographical overtones. It is also an informative look at many of his writings in a single source, allowing the reader to glimpse his growth and change from youth to man to leader. *George Washington, the Writer : A Treasury of Letters, Diaries, and Public Documents* is a well-researched work that would enrich the collection of any library or home, and is highly recommended for purchase.

Cathy M. Elliott, BS. Writer/ Library Information Technician, Shasta College, An

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

PAP, 1576582582, List cost: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.
B or 266. Booth, William; Salvation Army. 2XX p. : maps ; 24 cm..
Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

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

PAP, 1576582825, List price: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.
B or 266. Bingham, Rowland V., 1872-1942; Sudan Interior Mission--Biography; Missionaries--Sudan (Region)--Biography; Missionaries--Canada--Biography. 183 p. : maps ; 21 cm..
Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

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

PAP, 1576581888, List cost: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.
B or 266. Moon, Lottie; Missionaries--China--Biography. 2xx p. : maps ; 24 cm..
Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

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

PAP, 1576582094, List cost: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.
B or 266. Moon, Lottie; Missionaries--China--Biography. 64 p. : 24 cm..
Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

George Muller : the guardian of Bristol's orphans / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Christian heroes : then & now.) LCCN 0. Lynnwood, Wash. : YWAM Publishing, 1999.

PAP, 1576581454, List price: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.
B or 372.64. Muller, George, 1805-1989; Prayer; Faith. 203 p. : maps ; 21 cm..
Grades 5-8. Rating : 5.

George Muller : unit study, curriculum guide / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Christian heroes : then & now.) LCCN 0. Lynnwood, Wash. : YWAM Publishing, 2002.

PAP, 1576582035, List price: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.
B or 372.64. Muller, George, 1805-1989; Prayer; Faith. 64 p..
Grades 5-8. Rating : 5.

William Carey : obliged to go / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Christian heroes : then & now.) LCCN 98048980. Seattle : YWAM Publishing, 1998.

PAP, 1576581470, List price: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.
B or 266. Carey, William, 1761-1834; Missionaries--England--Biography; Baptists--England--Biography; Missionaries--India--Biography. 213 p. : map ; 21 cm..
Grades 5-8. Rating : 5.

William Carey : unit study, curriculum guide / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Christian heroes : then & now.) Seattle : YWAM Publishing, 2001.

PAP, 157658190X, List cost: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.
B or 266. Carey, William, 1761-1834; Missionaries--England--Biography; Baptists--England--Biography; Missionaries--India--Biography. 62 p. ; 24 cm..
Grades 5-8. Rating : 5.

Eric Liddell : unit study, curriculum guide / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Christian heroes : then & now.) LCCN 0. Lynnwood, Wash. : YWAM Publishing, 2001.

PAP, 1576581829, List price: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.
B or 266. Liddell, Eric, 1902-1945. 62 p..
Grades 5-8. Rating : 5.

The series, Christian Heroes: Then and Now, includes nearly two dozen titles by Janet and Geoff Benge. These inspiring books teach missions, world geography, history, and customs about the time and place of each story.

Regarding young George Muller: "Everyone at Halle heard about the clever divinity student who could guzzle ten pints of beer in a single setting, could tell the most outrageous stories, including one about being thrown in jail..." But, the wild young man changed. *George Muller: The Guardian of Bristol's Orphans* chronicles his belief that God loved English orphans. God provided, and Muller kept the faith. At age 60, he wrote over 3000 letters a year, and oversaw the work of three ministries—all for the cause of Christ. Read about George Muller for historical insights, for hope with wayward children, and for personal encouragement to work faithfully for God.

William Carey, an English weaver, taught himself Latin, Hebrew, and Greek. Then, he was called to missions. *William Carey: Obligated to Go* doesn't include a dull moment! Carey faced the death of family members, a hesitant and troubled wife, poverty, sickness, and questionable co-workers. Yet, he persevered in India with translation work, and opposed Hindu practices and beliefs.

Reproducible maps and fact sheets in the curriculum guides help the original purchaser. A sample essay question is, "Why do you think Eric Liddell was able to turn his back on fame and become a missionary to China? Give examples to back up your opinions."

Community Links in the curriculum guides encourage students to apply lessons to everyday living. The activities for William Carey include: visit an Indian church, become acquainted with an Indian family, go to an Indian restaurant, ask

a retired missionary to speak to your class, and tour a print shop.

Each curriculum guide contains an appendix, "Books and Resources." The George Muller guide lists eight biographies from publishers as diverse as YMAM, Kregel Publications, Moody Press, and Bethany House. The curriculum guide about Eric Liddell contains biography titles, information about a documentary movie, related National Geographic articles, and the Internet site, www.eric-liddell.org.

This series is suitable for homeschoolers, church libraries, and family reading time. Each book is interesting, and true to the facts. Readers can find inspiration, adventure, and suspense!

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

Cheaper by the dozen / Frank B. Gilbreth, Jr. and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey. (Perennial classics.) LCCN 2001059138. New York : HarperCollins, 2005.

HBB, 60763132, List price: \$19.95; CLJ price: \$15.00.

B or 658.5/5/0922. Gilbreth, Frank Bunker, 1868-1924; Gilbreth, Lillian Moller, 1878-1972; Industrial engineers--United States--Biography. xiv, 207 p. ; 21 cm..

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

Cheaper by the Dozen is the same charming read today that it was years ago when I read it as a young person. The story is about the Gilbreth clan, six girls and six boys, and their mother Lillian, but most of all their irrepressible father, Frank B. Gilbreth, Sr. He's a bigger than life kind of guy who loves his wife and children more than anything and takes every opportunity to show them and their many talents off—or the ones he imagines them to have! Dad is an efficiency expert and in many ways tries to run the household like a factory but has a soft heart beneath that sometimes tough exterior. Mother is his partner and defers to him in most everything, except discipline. *Cheaper by the Dozen* chronicles many of their funniest experiences, including the time they had their tonsils out en masse, or when they forgot the author, Frank, Jr., at a roadside restaurant, or just the many times Dad embarrasses them all with his loud voice and inexhaustible stories.

Cheaper by the Dozen is listed for a reading level of fifth grade, appropriate for ages ten and up, but adults will also love going back to the early part of the 20th century and reliving some of the escapades of the Gilbreth family. It also should be noted that there are several instances

of swearing in this book which purchasers may want to take into consideration.

eil Carey

Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Robert Browning / Martin Garrett. (The British Library writers' lives.) LCCN 2001032875. New York : Oxford University Press, 2002.

HBB, 0195217861, List price: \$24.00; CLJ price: \$18.00.

B or 821. Browning, Elizabeth Barrett, 1806-1861--Marriage; Browning, Robert, 1812-1889--Marriage; Poets, English--19th century--Biography; Married people--Great Britain--Biography. 128 p. : ill. (some col.), map ; 25 cm..

Grades 9-12. Rating : 5.

Poetry lovers and teachers of poetry will enjoy this edition of the lives and loves of two of the world's best-known poets. Introducing each poet separately, Garrett intertwines their lives and writings beautifully. Descriptive without overwhelming the reader, Garrett tells their story and the impact their writing had on the world. Garrett demonstrates his respect for his subjects throughout the book. He interweaves the important writers, politicians, and world events perfectly. When the book is finished, the reader has not only read about the Brownings but has come to know them and their times.

Regarding the content, the reader will not lack for anything. There are ample photographs, paintings, maps, and chronologies of people, places, and materials. Many of the photographs are handwritten letters or poems. All of these images are spaced well throughout the book. The insets of information aid the reader as the story progresses. The research used on these poets is authoritative and well documented. Garrett adds a depth and dimension to these poets not seen in many reference materials. This book, unlike some, is not dry and dull but rather makes the people come off the pages. Students who read this book or simply read sections of it will learn more about this period and the people mentioned in the passages. References provide additional research information.

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

Historic boys : their endeavors, their achievements and their times / E. S. Brooks. LCCN 42051673. Rockville, Md. : James A. Rock/Castle Keep Press, 2003.

HBB, 0918736552, List price: \$28.95; CLJ price: \$21.75.

B or 920. Boys--Biography; Biography. 332 p. ; 22 cm..

Grades 8-12. Rating : 3.

Historic girls : stories of girls who have influenced the history of their times / E. S. Brooks. LCCN 43029633. Rockville, Md. : James A. Rock/Castle Keep Press, 2003.

HBB, 0918736064, List price: \$28.95; CLJ price: \$21.75.

B or 920. Girls--Biography; Biography. 240 p. ; 23 cm..

Grades 8-12. Rating : 3.

E.S. (Elbridge Street) Brooks who died in 1902 wrote many books and stories for children including *Historic Boys* and *Historic Girls*. The 12 stories in each volume were originally printed in *Saint Nicholas* magazine in 1900. Children profiled span the globe: Olaf of Norway, Giovanni of Florence, Ixtli of Tezcucoc, Zenobia of Palmyra, Edith of Scotland, and Theresa of Avila. Each account is written in narrative style, and is six to twelve pages in length. Reproductions of black and white drawings of each subject punctuate each profile.

Mostly unheard-of personalities comprise both these books, which may be used to supplement history studies and character development activities. However, Brooks' writing has been untouched from its original older English form, which makes for strenuous reading by adults, much less children. Unfamiliar words, place names, and speaking styles will cause confusion for many readers. An atlas of ancient worlds would be valuable to locate the places named. *Historic Boys* and *Historic Girls* reveal hidden treasures of youth whose determination, strength of character and courage are worth knowing, if readers are willing to wade into deep waters.

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

Harriet Tubman : freedombound / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Heroes of history.) LCCN 2002003060. Lynnwood, Wash. : YWAM Publishing, 2002.

PAP, 1883002907, List price: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.

B or 973.7. Tubman, Harriet, 1820-1913?; Slaves; African Americans--Biography; Women--Biography; Underground railroad; Antislavery movements. 193 p. : map ; 21 cm..

Grades 4-6. Rating : 3.

William Penn : liberty and justice for all / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Heroes of history.) LCCN 2001007283. Lynnwood, Wash. : YWAM Publishing, 2002.

PAP, 1883002826, List price: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.

B or 974.8. Penn, William, 1644-1718; Pioneers--Pennsylvania--Biography; Quakers--Pennsylvania--Biography; Pioneers; Quakers; Pennsylvania--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775. 199 p. : map ; 21 cm..

Grades 4-6. Rating : 3.

John Adams : independence forever / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Heroes of history.) LCCN 2002012947. Lynnwood, Wash. : YWAM Publishing, 2002.

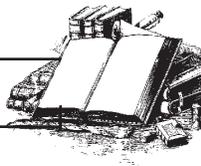
PAP, 1883002516, List price: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.

B or 973.4. Adams, John, 1735-1826; Presidents. 213 p. : map ; 21 cm..

Grades 4-6. Rating : 3.

The Heroes of History series by Janet & Geoff Benge continues their tradition of packing as many facts as possible into a mostly-readable format for grades four through six. Written to be used with unit studies, these books provide a fair "first brush" with a subject. Although the authors alternate between imagined dialogue and known facts, the text still feels somewhat formal and stilted. The dearth of illustrations adds to that feeling. It is unlikely that a student, having read one of these, would progress to another simply because the presentation of the material was engaging. Each book closes with a half page bibliography pointing a student to other resources. These would not be a primary purchase in our library unless a teacher was using the curriculum guide and book in class.

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



**Genesis / Ken Abraham and Daniel Hart.
(The prodigal project ; 1.) LCCN
2002192650. New York : Plume, 2003.**

PAP, 0452284201, List price: \$12.00; CLJ price: \$8.95.

Fic. Rapture (Christian eschatology)--Fiction; Christian fiction; Fantasy fiction. 289 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult, Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

**Exodus / Ken Abraham and Daniel Hart.
(The prodigal project ; 2.) LCCN
2003045998. New York : Plume, 2003.**

PAP, 0452284473, List price: \$12.00; CLJ price: \$8.95.

Fic. Rapture (Christian eschatology)--Fiction; Christian fiction; Fantasy fiction. 271 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult, Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

**Numbers / Ken Abraham and Daniel Hart.
(The prodigal project ; 3.) LCCN
2003058010. New York : Plume, 2003.**

PAP, 0452284562, List price: \$13.00; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. Rapture (Christian eschatology)--Fiction; Christian fiction; Fantasy fiction. 275 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult, Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

Book one, *Genesis*, in The Prodigal Project series by Ken Abraham and Daniel Hart, introduces a plethora of characters and conundrums. Mercy Ark, a hospital ship based off the coast of Africa, is blown up. Three nuns and a bus full of children on their way to school are shot beyond recognition in South America. Reverend Henderson Smith's church in Selma, Alabama, is torched to the ground by a crazed arsonist soon after he is approached to take on a larger denomination. Millions of people, including the President of the United States and his wife, simply disappear into thin air, leaving only a pile of dust and their earthly belongings behind. Pillaging, plundering, and war become the norm, rather than the exception, and concerned citizens like computer geek Thomas Church, government agent John Jameson, and international journalist Cat Early are scrambling to find answers to this impossible puzzle. Meanwhile, European politician, Azul Dante, emerges as the possible savior, along with a mysterious new movement referred to as "The Prodigal Project."

Book two, *Exodus*, deals with the purposelessness those left behind face and the push for order, either toward or away from God. Book three, *Numbers*, focuses more on the character sketches of seven people, among the

many presented. Their struggle to stay true and faithful to both God and country leads them to the very precipice of global war.

Writing style is similar to Tom Clancy's classic character juggling. Although not as well researched as the LaHaye / Jenkins Left Behind series, the Abraham / Hart series has been both thoughtfully and meticulously prepared. The predominantly panoramic view of events appropriately represents the worldwide chaos of the times. Known for his bestsellers, among them *I Was Wrong* (Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996), co-authored with former television minister Jim Baker, Abraham is a seasoned author and co-author. Hart's service in Vietnam, as well as police work on city streets, adds the validity of one who has experienced the violence and havoc people can create for each other. Recommended for larger public library collections.

Kim Harris, *Children's Librarian, Lyell Branch of the Rochester Public Library, R*

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**Jordan's crossing / Randall Arthur.
LCCN 2003005095. Sisters, Ore. :
Multnomah, 2003.**

PAP, 1590522605, List price: \$11.99; CLJ price: \$8.95.

Fic. Clergy--Fiction; Europe--Fiction; Missions--Fiction; Professional ethics--Fiction; Christian fiction. 311 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : *5.

A liberal pastor looking for a way to increase his income accepts a lucrative position in Germany. Though at odds with his wife's opposition to the move, Jordan Rau sees great opportunity for his thirteen-year-old epileptic son, Chase, as well as the family's financial gain. Chase is the delight of Jordan's heart and when, after only weeks in Munich, the boy and his girlfriend are kidnapped and killed by thugs, Jordan becomes obsessed with the murder, vowing to bring justice by himself.

Jordan alienates his daughter and wounds his wife by choosing to take this difficult journey alone. Relocating back to the U.S.A. is not enough to solve their problems and it looks as if Jordan and Susan will divorce. The situation seems hopeless until Jordan meets an older

pastor, Jason Faircloth, who offers sage biblical advice, twenty-four hour prayer, a listening ear, and asks nothing in return.

Jordan's Crossing, first issued in 1993, is an action-packed novel of contemporary fiction with plenty of suspense. Randall Arthur's strong, believable writing was wowing audiences before the writing in Christian fiction began to mature. Arthur's books have a recurring theme—the response of the church to its congregates during severe trials. If readers see a troubling element that is recognizable in their own churches, they will also find the higher road in the person of Pastor Jason Faircloth, the protagonist in Arthur's first book, *Wisdom Hunter*. Faircloth's cameo appearances in *Jordan's Crossing* and his next book, *Brotherhood of Betrayal*, loosely links the three novels, giving them such a feeling of reality that the reader will long to make an appointment with the kind pastor and present his own problems for perusal.

Filled with intriguing characters, suspenseful situations, natural dialogue, a compelling story, and plenty of take-away, Randall Arthur's book has it all. Highly recommended.

Cathy M. Elliott, BS. *Writer/ Library Information Technician, Shasta College, An*

**A sundog moment : a novel of hope /
Sharon Baldacci. LCCN 2003025804.
New York : Warner Faith, 2004.**

HBB, 0446533661, List price: \$19.95; CLJ price: \$15.00.

Fic. Multiple sclerosis--Patients--Fiction; Pain--Treatment--Fiction; Self-help groups--Fiction; Drug traffic--Fiction; Women--Fiction; Christian fiction. viii, 355 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

Elizabeth and Michael Whittaker were living the perfect life, with a beautiful daughter, a nice house, plenty of money, and many friends. Then the unthinkable happens—Elizabeth is diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Unable to do anything to prevent her health from deteriorating, Elizabeth and Michael must learn to live with the debilitating disease. As the disease begins to progress, Elizabeth must confront it head-on, and not try to hide it any longer when it becomes evident to others she is ill. When she joins a support group to aid her in

this, she finds herself being drawn into illegal activities. Michael and Elizabeth must do a lot of soul-searching and compromising in order to keep their marriage together and their faith strong. Over-protective Michael and well-meaning relatives also tend to make things somewhat more difficult for Elizabeth during her struggle with MS.

A Sundog Moment is an emotional and inspiring novel written by Sharon Baldacci, an MS sufferer for over twenty-one years herself. With her own personal knowledge of the disease, Ms. Baldacci helps us to see beyond the wheelchairs and canes representative of MS to the real people using them. Elizabeth finds solace in looking for "sundogs," a weather condition that signals changes in the weather soon to occur. This is symbolic of the changes Elizabeth makes throughout the course of her illness and in her faith. Informative and encouraging, this book should appeal to a wide readership and help strengthen their faith in God.

Sherry Myers, Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

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The heavens before / Kacy Barnett-Gramckow. (The Genesis trilogy ; 1.) LCCN 2003016997. Chicago : Moody, 2004.

PAP, 0802413633, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75

Fic. Noah (Biblical figure)--Fiction; Bible--O.T.--Genesis--Fiction; Deluge--Fiction; Noah's ark--Fiction; Daughters-in-law--Fiction; Religious fiction. 383 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult, Grades 9-12. Rating : *5.

Annah hasn't spoken since her father's death twenty-five years ago. Her family views her as mindless, but Annah's silence is her only protection from the murderer, her own brother. Her life is filled with work and beatings until the day she meets a gentle young man named Shem. Shem's family is isolated and scorned for the huge wooden structure they've built and their belief in the Most High. He believes the silent woman he sees across the river is the wife God has chosen for him, but it will take faith and courage to free her from her cruel family.

This novel breathes life into the familiar story of Noah's ark. The plot captivates instead of thrills, realistically portraying a world at odds with God. Each character, vividly drawn, acts within the confines of the era. Dialogue flows smoothly, and the author describes Annah's mute gestures eloquently. Many objects and people are called by different names—for example, kentum for century, Noakh for Noah—to establish the ancient-world flavor of

the story. The author drew on much creationist research to craft an accurate pre-Flood setting and show the cataclysmic event. This book is an engaging and informative read for anyone interested in the Flood, but many will also enjoy the insightful characters.

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

Beyond mist blue mountains / Carrie Bender. (Dora's diary ; 3.) LCCN 2003001812. Scottsdale, Pa. : Herald Press, 2003.

PAP, 083619165X, List price: \$8.99; CLJ price: \$6.70.

Fic. Women missionaries--Fiction; Adopted children--Fiction; Married women--Fiction; Childlessness--Fiction; Belize--Fiction; Christian fiction. 163 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

Taking up the family story started in *Miriam's Journal* and continued in *Dora's Diary*, author Carrie Bender chronicles the newly married life of Dora and husband Matthew. Eager to start a family of their own, Dora and Matthew travel to Belize to work in the orphanage run by Dora's aunt and uncle. Dora marks events in her journal: the homesickness they feel from time to time, thieves in the night, a kidnapped child and, of course, caring for the dear children of the orphanage.

These are sweet stories, ones that make you long for the simple life of family, friends and God. The characters are real and they face both joy and hardship through their faith in God. Interspersed with Dora's entries are many Bible verses, poems and "Golden Gems." But the book itself is a gem—one that the reader feels enriched by reading.

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

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Private justice / Terri Blackstock. (Newpointe 911 ; 1.) LCCN 97036571. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1998.

PAP, 0310217571, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. Fire fighters--Fiction; Louisiana--Fiction; Detective and mystery stories; Christian fiction. 375 p. : maps ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : *5.

Shadow of doubt / Terri Blackstock. (Newpointe 911 ; 2.) LCCN 98019195. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1998.

PAP, 31021758X, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. Louisiana--Fiction; Christian fiction; Detective and mystery stories; Legal stories. 371 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : *5.

Word of honor / Terri Blackstock. (Newpointe 911 ; 3.) LCCN 99030016. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1999.

PAP, 0310217598, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. Women lawyers--Fiction; Hostages--Fiction; Detective and mystery stories; Christian fiction. 361 p. : maps ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : *5.

Trial by fire / Terri Blackstock. (Newpointe 911 ; 4.) LCCN 43278. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1999.

PAP, 0310217601, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. Churches--Fiction; Women medical technologists--Fiction; Clergy--Fiction; Arson--Fiction; Fires--Fiction; Louisiana--Fiction; Romantic suspense fiction; Christian fiction. 341 p. : ill., 1 map ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : *5.

Line of duty / Terri Blackstock. (Newpointe 911 ; 5.) LCCN 2003014625. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2003.

PAP, 0310250641, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

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

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : *5.

The Newpointe 911 Series by Terri Blackstock takes place in a small town, just outside of New Orleans, LA. Delivering a high-quality, suspense-filled series can be challenge enough, but Blackstock also adds the dimensions of faith, romance, and hot off the press topics that continue to draw the reader further into each story. In Book One, *Private Justice*, Newpointe fireman Mark Branning, his friends and co-workers face a serial killer who is targeting their wives. Mark must not only fight to save the life of his wife, but that of his marriage, as well. In Book Two, *Shadow of Doubt*, police Detective Stan Shepherd is in the hospital after being poisoned, presumably by his loving, Christian wife. Book Three, *Word of Honor*, places the citizens of Newpointe at the mercy of a bomber, and attorney Jill Clark must decipher the evidence through the eyes of a five-year-old witness. Book Four, *Trial By Fire*, places pastor and fireman Nick Foster and paramedic Issie Mattreaux at the apex of a crime that has not only hurt their loved ones, but may also find one of them to be the guilty party. Book Five, *Line of Duty*, allows the reader a birds-eye view into the affects of the 9/11 tragedy. While firemen so bravely faced flames, falling buildings, and the surrounding tragedies, their families watched and prayed, hearts in throats, for their loved ones' safe return.

Author Terri Blackstock is best known for her popular Christian fiction series, the Sun Coast

Chronicles (Inspirational Press, 1999). She has also successfully collaborated with veteran author Beverly LaHaye in creating the best-selling *Seasons Under Heaven* (Zondervan, 2001), *Showers in Season* (Zondervan, 2001) and *Times in Season* (Zondervan, 2002). Blackstock made a name for herself with such secular publishers as Silhouette, Harlequin, Dell, and HarperCollins, but has since committed herself to writing exclusively Christian fiction. Style of the Newpointe 911 Series is similar to Dee Henderson's O'Malley Series. Highly recommended for public libraries, adult and teen Christian collections, and for fans of quality suspense fiction.

Kim Harris, *Children's Librarian, Lyell Branch of the Rochester Public Library, R*

Growing up on the edge of the world / Phil Callaway. LCCN 2003017162. Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House, 2004.

PAP, 0736907300, List price: \$10.99; CLJ price: \$8.25.

Fic. Boys--Fiction; Canada--Fiction; Christian fiction. 283 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12). Rating : 4.

Readers who enjoy the refreshingly honest insights of Scout in *To Kill a Mockingbird*; the mischievous Huck Finn, who struggles with a deep moral issue; and the optimistic Will Tweedy in *Cold Sassy Tree*, who suffers great loss yet doesn't let it sway him, will enjoy the character of twelve-year-old Terry Anderson in Phil Callaway's *Growing Up on the Edge of the World*.

When Terry stumbles across eighty-nine thousand dollars, he is shocked, and then thrilled. He knows he should report it to the police, but think of all the things he can do with so much money! His family has always struggled with poverty; now Terry can buy incredible gifts for his family and friends, cure his mother of Huntington's disease, heal his father who lies in a coma from a freak head injury—even buy a snowmobile for himself! He learns, however that "Conscience is a friend at first, but when it is ignored it changes roles and becomes a judge" (Callaway 240). Struggling with the secret delight of his sin, which quickly becomes a heavy weight of guilt, Terry finally confesses and discovers the true richness of God's grace, both in his own life, and that of others.

Callaway takes a delightfully circuitous path to introduce us to the little town of Grace and its inhabitants. Full of Garrison Keillor-type stories and laugh-out-loud humor, this book is

sure to please readers. The book briefly employs mild slang, (which is clearly frowned upon in Terry's family and church) and the phrase "honest to God" is used a couple of times.

Sherril Beeler, MA. *Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon.*

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His watchful eye / Jack Cavanaugh. (Songs in the night ; 2.) LCCN 2002011110. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2002.

PAP, 0764223089, List price: \$13; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Russia (Federation)--Fiction; Germans--Russia (Federation)--Fiction; Anti-Nazi movement--Fiction; Soldiers--Fiction; Germany--History--1933-1945--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction; War stories. 384 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : *5.

Winner of The Christy Award, this is book number two in the Songs in the Night Series. Cavanaugh is a skilled researcher who opens the window to viewing Christians in Hitler's Germany. She is very skilled at developing characters and using dialogue.

Pastor Josef Schumacher and his family were introduced in *While Mortals Sleep*, book number one in this series. Several of the young men he poured his life into in an attempt to influence them toward righteousness become involved in the Hitler Youth movement. Konrad, his brother Willi, Neff, Ernst, and Gunther are now involved in war on the Russian Front and find that reality bears no resemblance to the promised glory of the Third Reich. When Neff is assassinated, Konrad deserts and heads back to Berlin. He decides to "cut the head off the snake" and plans an attempt on Hitler's life. But Pastor Schumacher intervenes in his life again, showing him a better way.

Cavanaugh's storytelling brings the reader face to face with the startling shortages of food and other necessities, the brutality of the Nazi soldiers, and the sincerity of the group of Christians who clandestinely hide, feed, and protect a small group of orphans. The contrasts in this novel are clear—life and death, love and hatred, mystery and intrigue all make this book a can't-put-it-down-page-turner. This historical novel is suitable for high school students, perhaps providing some history lacking in their schoolbooks.

Helen Hunter, BA. *Freelance Writer/Editor, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.*

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Tomorrow's treasure / Linda Lee Chaikin. (East of the sun : 1.) LCCN 2002013845. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2003.

PAP, 1578565138, List price: \$13.99; CLJ price: \$10.50.

Fic. Mothers and daughters--Fiction; Social classes--Fiction; Jewelry theft--Fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. 392 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult, Grades 9-12. Rating : *5.

Yesterday's promise / Linda Lee Chaikin. (East of the sun series ; 2.) LCCN 2003019786. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2004.

PAP, 1578565146, List price: \$13.99; CLJ price: \$10.50.

Fic. British--South Africa--Fiction; Conflict of generations--Fiction; Gold mines and mining--Fiction; Women--England--Fiction; South Africa--Fiction; England--Fiction; Historical fiction; Love stories. ix, 367 p. ; maps ; 21 cm.

Adult, Grades 9-12. Rating : *5.

In *Tomorrow's Treasure*, an illegitimate child is taken from her mother, a thief steals a priceless diamond then finds himself robbed of the treasure, and the Zulu War of 1878 buries explosive secrets in South Africa. Evy Varley, the vicar's niece, grows up in the English village of Grimston Way, expecting to someday marry the curate's son and spend the rest of her life in the rectory. She refuses to join the village girls in admiring the arrogant squire's son, Rogan Chantry, but tragedy forces her to his estate. Rookwood holds many secrets surrounding his family—and hers.

Rogan heads to South Africa in search of his Uncle Henry's gold mine in *Yesterday's Promise*, leaving his love in England. But Rogan's step-uncle, Sir Julien Bley, isn't satisfied being a diamond magnate; he wants to control the fortunes—and lives—of his extended family. Back in England, Evy encounters Henry's murderer.

Plot development is slow during Evy's growing up years and Rogan's travels in South Africa, but secrets hidden in the first chapters keep readers in suspense throughout the series. The characterization is detailed and emotionally gripping, surpassing Chaikin's previous novels. Lush backgrounds provide an intricate look at the historical settings, from English estates to Zulu villages. Dialog is used unobtrusively and effectively, adding sparkle to the prose. Light humor refreshes through misadventures in Evy's childhood, contrasting with the overall brooding drama of the books. Teens and women of all ages should enjoy being swept off their feet by this gallant saga.

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

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Black / by Ted Dekker. LCCN 2003020542. Nashville : Thomas Nelson/Westbow, 2004.

HBB, 0849917905, List price: \$19.95; CLJ price: \$15.00.

Fic. Suspense fiction; Christian fiction. 400 p. ; 25 cm.

Adult, Grades 9-12. Rating : *5.

Red / Ted Dekker. LCCN 2004004529. Nashville : Thomas Nelson/Westbow Press, 2004.

HBB, 0849917913, List price: \$19.99; CLJ price: \$15.00.

Fic. Suspense fiction; Fantasy fiction. 381 p. ; 25 cm.

Adult, Grades 9-12. Rating : *5.

From the sinister opening page to the cliffhanger ending, readers will find themselves fascinated with Ted Dekker's *Black* and *Red*, a trilogy which also includes *White*, to be released in September.

Grazed in the head with a bullet, Thomas passes out. He wakes up in another world, full of black twisted trees and huge, man-eating black bats. Saved by a white bat, Thomas is led to a rich land where the trees actually glow with light and color, and the water and fruits have incredible restorative powers. Here Thomas learns that earth was decimated in 2010 by the Raison Strain, a deliberately mutated virus that ravaged the entire population of earth in three weeks time.

The dream is so vivid that when Thomas wakes, he is not sure what is real. Is his life in Denver real, and the idyllic forest just a dream? Or is the forest his real existence, and his life in Denver just a dream? Or are both worlds equally real? When newspaper headlines announce that Raison Pharmaceutical will release a new vaccine on the market, Thomas becomes convinced that his dreams of this other world are somehow linked to what is happening to him in the present. By dreaming, he sets out to gather information from his dream world that will hopefully help him stop the Raison Vaccine from falling into the hands of those who would deliberately mutate it for biological warfare and world domination.

Black is spellbinding in its unique presentation of two worlds, both of which seem so real that the reader, along with Thomas, is caught up in the puzzle of deciding which one is a dream—or, if both are real, deciding how they are inter-related. The description of the “dream world” is

inventive and vivid, reminiscent of images of the heavenly city as it is described in Revelation, and as fantastic as the world of Perelandra created in C.S. Lewis novel, with its lavish setting, and luscious, pleasure-giving fruits.

Dekker exquisitely describes the relationship God desires to have with each one of us. Dekker captures tangibly the amazingly sweet communion and celebration of the depths of God's love, which gives us such incredible joy. And when that fantastic world is marred by man's choice to dabble with evil, the devastation it brings to the land and the grief it causes God surely alludes to the temptation and fall of man in the Garden of Eden.

Full of non-stop action with realistically flawed but compelling characters, *Black* and *Red* will please adventure/fantasy/sci-fi readers, and non-readers of the genre, alike. Readers should be prepared for sinister, vile depictions of evil, and some scenes of violence (such as a “crucifixion” scene) which are necessarily shocking, but powerful. Astute readers will hugely appreciate the intricate biblical parallels and allusions that are woven throughout the novel.

Sherril Beeler, MA. Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon.

Dandelions in a jelly jar / Traci DePree. LCCN 2004004103. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2004.

PAP, 1578567297, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. High school teachers--Fiction; Women art teachers--Fiction; City and town life--Fiction; School sports--Fiction; Minnesota--Fiction; Farmers--Fiction. 320 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Dandelions in a Jelly Jar by Traci DePree explores life in the farming community of Lake Emily, Minnesota. Trudy Ploog, lately of St. Paul, blows into town full of new ideas and high energy. She is hired to replace the ailing art teacher, splitting her days between elementary and high schools. Sister Mae and her husband Peter Morgan, farmers in the area, are an incentive to settle in Lake Emily, but more so is the attractive farmer, Bert Biddle. Trudy proves impulsive, even over-bearing. In the course of *Dandelions* she learns that “beauty springs to life in the most unlikely places.” (frontis)

Traci DePree writes in short chapters, keeping a variety of storylines under control. Her characters are full of color and emotion, not sparing the spiteful or loving word. Bert tells Trudy, “There's more to you than you let people see.” (32) That hint of mystery teases the reader

to piece together the true Trudy. For the most part, *Dandelions* is about every day happenings with every day people. But, DePree's writing is at its best in the descriptive passages. Her retelling of the sheep-herding incident is hilarious, the tornado and its aftermath, ferocious. DePree also uses inter-chapters, flashbacks to give salient background to propel the story forward. There is a God-presence woven throughout the story without preachiness.

Dandelions in a Jelly Jar joins *A Can of Peas* in the Lake Emily series.

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

The African Queen / by C.S. Forester. Boston : Back Bay Books, 1984.

PAP, 0316289108, List price: \$14.95; CLJ price: \$11.25.

Fic. World war, 1914-1918--Africa, Central--Fiction; Man-woman relationships--Fiction; Africa, Central--Fiction; War stories. 256 p. ; 20 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

Set in Africa just at the beginning of WWI, Rose Sayer and her brother Samuel are English missionaries who are trying to persevere after the Germans have come and swept away their ten years of work. Rose finds herself suddenly alone once her brother dies of fever. Charlie Allnut, the area's jack of all trades, comes along shortly after, informing her they must flee the area. After burying Samuel, Rose and Allnut depart down the river in the African Queen, a 30 foot steamer that has seen better days. Rose, the prim spinster, and the rough cockney Allnut make an unlikely pair as they become partners in an improbably scheme to sink the German patrol ship, the Konigen Luise. As the two work together battling against the incessant heat, insects, the river, and illness they form an alliance that carries them on to the tumultuous ending.

The African Queen is an inspiring tale of courage that centers on how mutual respect and determination can truly overcome any number of obstacles. It's difficult to not think of Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn when *The African Queen* comes up. Yet, the book by C.S. Forester did come first, and while the movie captured the essence of Forester's story of two mismatched people taking on an impossible task, the 1935 novel far surpasses the movie in its depth of character and plot. There is humor, intrigue, mixed in with elements of philosophical discourse. Rose temporarily abandons her upbringing of Godly beliefs as she

gives herself over to the passions of her love for Charlie. She prayerfully repents and insists they marry, and while Charlie agrees he wonders about his first marriage and its validity. While the book is excellent throughout, the ending falls short and the movie's ending is actually more satisfying. A classic to consider for high school readers—or for those who are not familiar with Forster, this would be a novel to start out with.

Pam Webb, BA. *High School English Teacher, Sandpoint, Idaho.*

Ain't no mountain / Sharon Ewell Foster. LCCN 2004001021. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2004.

PAP, 0764228854, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. African American women--Fiction; Women--Maryland--Fiction; Baltimore (Md.)--Fiction; Christian fiction. 330 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12). Rating : 4.

Sharon Ewell Foster deals frankly with all kinds of issues surrounding sex and race, in her novel *Ain't No Mountain*. In the midst of hilarious but all-too-true descriptions of dating and marriage, Foster weaves powerful, thought-provoking mini-sermons about sexual purity, commitment and communication in marriage, the immense grace of God, self-worth and identity, and the importance of waiting on the Lord. She asks all the hard questions about these issues, and gives real, honest, biblical answers.

Single, and feeling stuck in a rut, Mary's beloved but incorrigible best friends drag her to a make-over, complete with straightened honey-blond hair and green contacts, which stand out startlingly with her chocolate brown eyes and skin. Heads begin to turn, but she finds herself gathering unwanted attention from mere passersby and blind dates alike. As she mentors a trio of teenage girls, Mary is challenged to probe the basis for her self-identity, her relationship with God, and her reason for commitment to sexual purity, despite past failures in this area. As she learns of God's grace and forgiveness, she also learns that her purity is not something to be worn as a badge of honor to lord over others, nor is it something she must do because "God says so." Instead, she comes to see it as her spiritual act of worship—something that she does purely out of her love for God rather than a sense of duty or obligation.

Likewise, Moor, a young business student from Africa, commits himself and his purity wholly to the Lord in order to heal from past indiscretions; he learns that he must not hide behind his celibacy, using it as an excuse not to meet

women or to seek a wife, thus turning a virtue into a type of disobedience. Instead, he must acknowledge the healing work of the Lord and allow God to lead him into the next phase of his life and relationships. Moor also learns that his purity must not become a source of pride and self-righteousness; he must not be deceived into thinking that he has maintained sexual purity in his own strength, but rather, through God's.

With its endearing characters and their honest questions and struggles with difficult sexual and racial issues, Foster's novel will appeal to singles in particular, although the message goes far beyond "singles issues." Mature high school students would also benefit from reading this book and discussing with a parent or mentor the numerous teen issues it raises (dating, promiscuity, rape, prostitution, adultery, pornography, mixed race relationships, to name just few).

Sherry Beeler, MA. *Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon.*

Beneath the ice / Alton Gansky. (Perry Sachs series ; 2.) Ulrichsville, Ohio : Barbour, 2004.

PAP, 1586606743, List price: \$12.95; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. Archaeology--Fiction; Antarctica--Fiction; Suspense fiction; Christian fiction. 319 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

Renowned architect Perry Sachs has been called to Antarctica on a top secret mission to drill over two miles through the ice into an underground lake where he discovers an ancient ziggurat, presumably the Tower of Babel. His job is abruptly complicated with the explosion of a cargo plane carrying part of his team back home, and the arrival of Enkian, a powerful mining man who worships the pre-Babylonian god Marduk. Enkian is part of a world-wide conspiracy that has infiltrated government positions clear up to the White House. His goal is to take ownership of Antarctica, unearth the ziggurat, and restore the worship of Marduk. Perry and his team must fight for their lives against this vicious enemy and an icy, unforgiving environment.

Alton Gansky's novel *Beneath the Ice* combines biblical history with intriguing scientific speculations about the formation of the continents—although it reads a bit like a superhero action movie. His description of the cold Antarctic environment is so realistic it is literally chilling. His description of the science involved in drilling through the ice likewise appears quite realistic to the average reader.

However, the over-the-top adventure begins with the appearance of Tia, Enkian's right-hand woman. She is drop-dead gorgeous, and a cold-hearted killer who can take out even the strongest of men in hand-to-hand combat. Perry and his good friend Jack sustain violent injuries at her hand—cracked ribs, internal damage, concussions, bullet wounds; they suffer from severe headaches, exhaustion, and nausea due to altitude sickness. They pull double shifts, and yet still have the strength to do the impossible—do a day's worth of heavy manual labor in an hour, and fight off the bad guys, all while lightly bantering back and forth to keep up their spirits. *Beneath the Ice* is a suspenseful adventure worth reading; readers, however, should be prepared for mild slang, ritual self-mutilation, and action violence.

Sherry Beeler, MA. *Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon.*

Secrets / by Kristen Heitzmann. LCCN 2004011996. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2004.

PAP, 0764228277, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. Secrecy--Fiction; Older women--Fiction; Grandmothers--Fiction; Home ownership--Fiction; Sonoma (Calif.)--Fiction; Grandparent and adult child--Fiction; Romantic suspense fiction. 410 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult, Grades 11-12. Rating : 5.

Lance's Italian grandmother has sent him on a quest to accomplish something—he's not sure what, since she is speech-impaired from a recent stroke—but whatever it is, it's important enough for her to send him off to an Italian nunnery to meet his ninety year old second cousin, who in turn sends him to his grandmother's childhood home in Sonoma, California. The house is being renovated to perfection by Rese Barrett, a young woman wounded and traumatized by her past, but tough as nails, and skilled at construction and wood carving. Lance, an expert cook thanks to his grandmother's tutelage, offers to be Rese's cook for when she opens the home as a bed and breakfast. In the meantime, he agrees to rebuild the carriage house in exchange for room and board, which, he hopes, will give him time and opportunity to look around and see what he can find that is so important to his grandmother.

Led by his emotions rather than his head, Lance does not know what to make of Rese's brusque manner and complete lack of emotion. She is like stone. As he chips away at her barriers, and gathers clues to his grandmother's past, the two develop a relationship that is as passionate as it is volatile. Having lost his brother in the World

Trade Center disaster, Lance is able to fully empathize with Rese's loss of both her mother, and, more recently, her father. But although opposites may attract, it also causes sparks to fly. Lance learns the hard way that honesty is the best policy, and that he must be careful not to use his natural charm and instinct to help others in a manipulative fashion; his motives must be entirely pure and unselfish. Rese gradually learns to deal with her pain, and trust others, instead of just trying to "tough it out" alone. And although self-control is her strong suit, she learns not to build walls with it.

Secrets by Kristen Heitzmann is an intricate emotional and psychological study, combined with enough mystery, dribbled out in little bits here and there to keep readers fascinated with Rese and Lance's relationship, and Lance's family history, until the very end. The book deals indirectly with schizophrenia, and childhood abuse, but shows how God uses his flawed, imperfect people to reach others with the truth of his healing love, strength, and hope.

Sherri Beeler, MA. Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon.

True courage / Dee Henderson. (The uncommon heroes ; 4.) LCCN 2004004142. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2004.

PAP, 1590520823, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. Christian fiction. 333 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 3.

FBI agent Luke Falcon has always been hesitant about getting involved with a woman because of the demands of his job. Although he and Caroline Lane hit it off, he drags his feet in pursuing a more serious relationship. However, when Caroline's sister, who is also Luke's sister-in-law, is kidnapped by a murderer he has been tracking for months, Luke and Caroline get the chance to forge a stronger bond, despite the incredible pressure both of them are under.

Dee Henderson's *True Courage* is fourth in the Uncommon Heroes series, but can easily be read on its own. The book follows her typical pattern of finger-nail biting suspense and intriguing mystery. About the time one expects the story to be over, one realizes there's still half a book left to read, and a surprising midway twist carries the reader through to the end. Although billed as a book that portrays the importance of surrendering fear to God in times of trouble, the book is very sketchy on issues of faith compared to others in the series. *True Courage* certainly makes the reader appreciate the painstaking

detail that goes into the search for missing people and kidnap victims, and thought-provokingly addresses the challenges of balancing work and family.

Sherri Beeler, MA. Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon.

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A fine line / Kathy Herman. (The Baxter series ; 5.) LCCN 2003010039. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2003.

PAP, 1590522095, List price: \$11.99; CLJ price: \$8.95.

Fic. Christian fiction. 300 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : *5.

Charlie Kirby, married, with seven children and a wonderful wife, is mayor of the small town of Baxter. When Sheila, an attractive, high-powered attorney, representing the Thompson Tire Corporation, breezes into town, the mayor is swept off his feet by her beauty and seeming attraction for him. Charlie agrees to allow the tire corporation to open a facility in Baxter, bringing his relationship with Sheila into question with the town gossips, and nearly destroying his marriage. When Sheila is killed in a seemingly random freeway shooting, and soon after, her fiancée is also killed, the town newspaper editor is enticed into seeking the truth behind the mysterious murders and the allegations against the up-to-now "squeaky-clean" mayor.

A Fine Line, a novel by Kathy Herman is the fifth and final installment in The Baxter Series, a suspense series focused on the people in a quaint, idyllic, modest town, where neighbors are like extended family, and discern nearly every event in each others' lives. In this suspenseful account of temptation, murder, and mayhem in the all-American small town of Baxter, Herman points out how easily we, as humans can stumble into temptation and ruin not only our lives, but those of our loved ones, as well. Mood and atmosphere range from a breath of fresh air to the sinister stalking of a killer. Dialogue is well written and humorous, allowing the reader a birds-eye view into the discussions of closely-knit neighbors, both those who care and those who merely enjoy a good gossip session. Highly recommended for all Christian suspense collections.

Kim Harris, Children's Librarian, Lyell Branch of the Rochester Public Library, R

Nazareth's song / Patricia Hickman. (The Millwood Hollow series ; 2.) LCCN 2003028068. New York : Warner Faith, 2004.

PAP, 0446692336, List price: \$12.95; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. Landowners--Fiction; Bankers--Fiction; Clergy--Fiction; Christian fiction. 322 p. ; 21 cm.

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

Fallen Angels, the first book in the Millwood series, sees Jeb Nubey homeless, hiding from the law and tricked into caring for three runaways. When he drives into the town of Nazareth, Arkansas, the people believe he is their new pastor—and he obliges them. However, Jeb and his faux family, the Welby children, are unmasked when the Reverend Philemon Gracie arrives at the Church in the Dell.

In *Nazareth's Song*, the second book of the Millwood series, Jeb and the Welby children adapt to community life with mixed results. Reverend Philemon Gracie, however, appreciates Jeb and his work with the church. He believes Jeb worthy of the pulpit, mentors him, and helps him attain his preaching certificate.

Other townspeople have mixed opinions. Jeb's deception causes schoolteacher, Fern Coulter, to reassess their relationship. She deems him untrustworthy and breaks it off, leaving him broken hearted.

Teen-age Angel Welby, rejected, angry and jealous of the Reverend's daughters, rebels by hanging around the son of the town's drunkard.

Jeb feels the collection plate will not support two families so he looks for other work. The local banker hires him to deliver eviction notices for a corrupt logging corporation that wants to seize all encumbered land in town. When Jeb finds the landowners are being duped he wants to quit. But Winona, the banker's beautiful daughter, pressures Jeb to continue and the community connects Jeb with the crooked scheme. Aggressive Winona, wanting Jeb all to herself, finds a home for the Welby children and pressures Jeb to give them up, to let them enjoy a real home. A heart-wrenching scene develops when Jeb tells the children.

Now Reverend Gracie needs Jeb. Gracie's illness needs medical attention and he wants Jeb to replace him. But Jeb doubts the parishioners will accept a preacher with his background.

Patricia Hickman's clever narration can be excessive at times; however it exudes southern

charm. Her charismatic characters shine from the pages rendering a true depiction of the Great Depression in Arkansas. A reader's guide with interesting questions waits at the back of book. I recommend this warm, inviting series of the South for all libraries.

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

The justice / Angela Hunt. LCCN 2001046872. Nashville : W Publishing, 2002.

PAP, 0849916313, List price: \$15.99; CLJ price: \$12.00.

Fic. Women presidents--Fiction; Political fiction; Love stories. 389 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 3.

When President Craig Parker suddenly dies midway through his term, vice-president Daryn Austin finds herself sworn in as the country's first woman president. Primed since childhood to the life of politics Daryn is willing and capable of leading her country; however, it is her personal life that she cannot manage as well. When her past involvement with Paul Santana, a lawyer with whom she had a college affair, collides with her present, her dream job begins to unravel into a nightmare. Daryn appoints Paul as one of her White House lawyers and then primes him for a vacancy in the Supreme Court. Daryn and Paul begin a collision of values and beliefs when another Supreme Court justice mentors Paul. Daryn cannot compete with Paul's newfound faith and strikes out in jealousy, destroying all she loves in the process. A riveting look at modern politics, combined with an evangelical message makes for a dynamic read. Hunt fans will once again appreciate her brilliance for plot and character.

While *The Justice* is a dynamic read, there is graininess to the novel's storyline that makes the reading uncomfortable at times. There is the extra-marital affair of Daryn and Paul, the ruthlessness of Daryn's rise to power, along with the lies, deceptions, dark secrets, and governmental conspiracies. The evangelical message comes late in the novel almost as a neat way to tie up the messy loose ends. Nevertheless, those who like intrigue, political thrillers, and are devoted Hunt fans will want to check out *The Justice*.

Pam Webb, BA. *High School English Teacher, Sandpoint, Idaho.*

The pearl / by Angela Hunt. (Women of faith fiction.) LCCN 2002153181. Nashville : Thomas Nelson/Westbow, 2003.

PAP, 0849943663, List price: \$14.99; CLJ price: \$11.25.

Fic. Women in radio broadcasting--Fiction; Radio broadcasters--Fiction; Christian fiction. 320 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 3.

Steve and Diane Sheldon are at the epitome of success—Steve has a successful family dentistry, and Diane is a popular radio counselor. They have two miracle children, Brittany by adoption and Scott Daniel by unexpected birth. The Sheldon's ideal life comes to a screeching halt when Scott Daniel is tragically killed in a fluke accident. Steve and Diane's faith, marriage, careers, and relationship with Brittany are all put on the line as they cope with their son's death. Diane cannot accept how her miracle child has been taken from her, and seeks a solution to her grief that will ironically bring further destruction.

Angela Hunt is adept at combining fact with fiction in a plausible storyline. *The Pearl* is no different. Hunt takes the hot topic of cloning and combines it with the riveting story of how a desperate, grief-stricken mother attempts to bring back what she feels was wrongly taken from her. Issues of ethics, Christian beliefs, grief, and family dynamics are all interwoven into this timely story of trying to fulfill a desire, no matter the costs involved. What could easily become another Twilight Zone episode is turned into a poignant story of how faith can be tested in times of severe circumstances, and how the eyes of faith can overcome these very same circumstances. Hunt provides an incredible amount of information about cloning in laymen terms, making this a book timely and riveting in its intent: can science and ethics/beliefs come to terms?

Pam Webb, BA. *High School English Teacher, Sandpoint, Idaho.*

Oceans apart / Karen Kingsbury. LCCN 2003025491. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2004.

PAP, 0310247497, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. Air pilots--Fiction; Air pilot's spouses--Fiction; Illegitimate children--Fiction; Fathers and sons--Fiction; Mothers--Death--Fiction; Birthfathers--Fiction; Christian fiction. 350 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Seven years ago, airplane pilot Connor Evans had a one night affair with a flight attendant, in a bizarre set of circumstances. He has regretted it ever since. Since then, he and his wife Michele have built an incredible relationship—but that is shattered when he learns that he has a seven year old son, whose mother died in a plane crash. Her will requests that her son, Max,

spend two weeks with Connor, with the hope that he will agree to claim Max as his own son. If not, the child will be put up for adoption.

As his wife reels with shock over this revelation, Connor is presented with two choices: keep his son, whom he quickly grows to love, and lose his wife—or put his son up for adoption and remain faithful to the wedding vows of commitment he made to Michele, to put her first in his life. Karen Kingsbury's *Oceans Apart*, like many of her novels, deals with difficult issues head-on. Connor must learn to own up to his responsibility for adultery, without making excuses. Michele must learn to be willing to “lay down her life for another,” for this is the true meaning of love. Forgiveness is the key. As little Max so wisely says, “love happens when people forgive.” The novel is not as dark or heavy as some of Kingsbury's other books, mainly because it focuses on the storyline more than the wounded emotions of the characters. These are addressed, certainly, but almost seem to resolve too easily for the obligatory happy ending. Despite this, the book is a good read, with endearing characters and important life lessons about the God who gives second chances, and the restoration that is possible even in marriages torn apart by adultery. The book also includes a short study guide with questions suitable for personal Bible study or discussion.

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

A new leaf / Thomas Kinkade & Katherine Spencer. (A Cape Light novel ; 4.) LCCN 2003065922. New York : Berkley Books, 2004.

HBB, 0425193985, List price: \$23.95; CLJ price: \$18.00.

Fic. Cape Light (Imaginary place)--Fiction; City and town life--Fiction; New England--Fiction; Domestic fiction. 341 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

Painter of light, Thomas Kinkade and co-author Katherine Spencer, have created a quaint New England village in the style of Jan Karon's Mitford. Fourth of the Cape Light novels, *A New Leaf*, continues the stories of Cape Light inhabitants, this time highlighting Molly Willoughby, single mom trying to make her way in the world by cooking, catering, cleaning—you name it, she'll do it to keep her family together. Enter Matthew Harding, widowed doctor, opening a practice in their community. Matthew and Molly are attracted to one another from the start but their past mistakes seem to keep them apart, as well as the reappearance of Molly's ex-husband Phil, suddenly determined

to be a better father and involved in the lives of Molly's two daughters.

The other residents of this lovely town are as unforgettable as Molly and Matthew, and seem to discover time and time again that love has a remarkable way of healing hurts and drawing people together.

This is light Christian fiction but not without wonderful lessons and the true message of forgiveness, that of man and God shining through. A new leaf can be read and understood by itself but readers of this series would suggest that you read them in order and savor every moment spent in Cape Light.

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

Hold tight the thread / Jane Kirkpatrick. (Tender ties historical series ; 3.) LCCN 2003024238. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2004.

PAP, 1578565014, List price: \$14.99; CLJ price: \$11.25.

Fic. Dorion, Marie, 1786-1850--Fiction; Women pioneers--Fiction; Oregon--Fiction; Biographical fiction; Christian fiction. 410 p. : maps ; 21 cm.

Adult, Grades 9-12. Rating : 5.

Hold Tight the Thread is Jane Kirkpatrick's third and last novel in The Tender Ties Historical Series. Kirkpatrick is at her best researching the lives of "real" people and turning that work into wonderful historical stories. In this case the person is Marie Dorion Venier Toupin, an Ioway Indian woman who crossed the Rocky Mountains with the Astor expedition—the first big overland expedition after Lewis and Clark's.

Set in the Pacific Northwest's rugged Columbia Country in the 1840s, readers are introduced to Marie, a strong and compassionate Ioway woman in her declining years. In spite of her growing faith, she sees herself as unremarkable while others find reasons to memorialize her.

Her son from her first husband, a daughter from her second husband, her third husband Jean Louis Toupin, a French Canadian, and their two children make up her family. And, not to be forgotten, a son of the past who disappeared and has not been heard from for years. The struggles of holding the threads of an unraveling family together when the relationships involve children from three different fathers cause Marie to doubt her abilities as a mother.

Their relationships with one another as well as with Toupin, their courtships, marriages, and making of their own homes is set against the even larger backdrop of the various ethnic

groups that strive to live together on the French Prairie in the newly forming Oregon Territory. French Canadians, British settlers, Americans, Catholic and protestant missionaries, fur trappers, and disease ridden Native American Indians result in a boiling political pot—each group trying to hold onto or gain land on which to make a living.

Kirkpatrick's writing is vivid, drawing you into the times and the lives of her genuine characters. She uses plenty of dialogue to move her story along, including many words and phrases in both the French and the Native American language. It is helpful that Kirkpatrick provides a "cast of characters" at the beginning of the novel. I referred to it many times in the first half of the book as I became acquainted with the names. For those who want to know more there are several pages of "suggested additional reading." Book club members will enjoy her questions for reflection

Helen Hunter, BA. *Freelance Writer/Editor, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.*

For the rest of my life / Harry Kraus. (Sequel to: Could I have this dance?.) LCCN 2003017377. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2003.

PAP, 0310249782, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. Fathers and daughters--Fiction; Huntington's chorea--Fiction; Women physicians--Fiction; Virginia--Fiction; Medical novels; Suspense fiction; Christian fiction. 361 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Dr. Claire McCall has taken a respite from her training as a surgeon to serve at her tiny hometown clinic and assist her mother in caring for her father, who suffers with advanced Huntington's disease. The genetic disease may ruin her own career and future. John Cerelli seems hesitant to propose as she prepares for her test results, and she wonders whether he would love her if she ended up like her father. Then Claire's own problems shrink as a serial rapist targets her patients and the clues point to a shocking direction.

The tightly woven plot's only fault is the unsurprising mystery conclusion, as other elements keep the ending satisfying. Skillfully developed characters balance the story with realistic problems and convincing romance, and the gripping dialogue often has a touch of humor. The frank medical prose details all of Claire's work, including examinations of the attack victims, and parts of the attacks. The various settings are only shown through a few details, allowing the characters to remain the focus of the novel. While the spiritual theme of

the book is low-key, many important principles are revealed, including not placing anything before God, and that marriage equals sacrifice.

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

Coming home / David Lewis. LCCN 2003023582. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2004.

PAP, 0764226770, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. First loves--Fiction; Young women--Fiction; Love stories; Christian fiction. 341 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

Jessie has never been good at making and keeping relationships with guys. After losing her most recent serious boyfriend, who urged her to get counseling to deal with whatever "issues" were hindering her, she makes a bold decision to visit her estranged grandmother and attempt to obtain closure on the tragic events of her childhood. She meets up with Andy, her childhood best friend, and together they plumb the depths of the mystery surrounding her mother's death. As Jessie struggles to forgive her grandmother and put her childhood demons to rest, the circumstances cause both Jessie and Andy to renew their childhood faith in the God from whom they had long since walked away.

Coming Home, by David Lewis, is an intriguing psychological drama—a mysterious story that slowly unfolds tidbit by tidbit. Halfway through the book the reader still does not have an entirely clear picture of what the secrets are surrounding Jessie and her family, but they are revealed one right after another at the end of the book in unexpected ways. The book also has an interesting side plot woven into the main characters' story. Although not a fast-paced plot, the gentle unfolding of the story fits the serious nature of its psychological focus, delving into the depths of the mind, the heart, and the relational dynamics between key characters. *Coming Home* reminds readers of the importance of finding closure on difficult issues, and of putting trust in God alone for the future, which is unknown to us, but fully known to him.

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

Quinlin's estate / David Ryan Long. LCCN 2002002471. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2002.

PAP, 0764226622, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. Historic buildings--Conservation and restoration--Fiction; Christian fiction; Suspense fiction. 389 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

In the novel *Quinlan's Estate* by David Ryan Long, Eve Lawson suspends her studies in graduate school to mount a crusade to save the estate of man instrumental in the success and survival of her home town of Lowerton. The story chronicles, journal-style, the efforts of Eve to save the beloved estate. However, in the course of her campaign Eve must face haunting truths about herself and those she loves.

Quinlan's Estate is an intricate read with well-developed characters. Main character, Eve Lawson, begins a journey to save an estate she loves. However, she ends realizing how misled and beguiled she was by those whom she loved. It is really the story of an awakening for not only Eve but other characters as well. High school readers may find the plot interesting but not face-paced enough to suit them. Long writes using flashbacks and journal entries to tell his tale. Again, these may frustrate high school readers as well. For readers interested in character development and historical events, this would be a suitable book.

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

This time around / Debra White Smith. (Seven sisters ; 6.) LCCN 2002004554. Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House, 2002.

PAP, 0736906622, List price: \$10.99; CLJ price: \$8.25.

Fic. Single mothers--Fiction; Abused wives--Fiction; Widows--Fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. 319 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

This Time Around, sixth in the Seven Sisters series, chronicles the life of journalist Sammie Jones as she recovers from a physically and emotionally abusive marriage. Trying to come to terms with her feelings, work full time, and parent full time all pull at Sammy after the death of her abusive husband. Added to the mix is that her new boss at the magazine where she works is her former fiancé R.J. Butler who left her behind years before. Wanting only to create a safe refuge for herself and her son to heal, Sammy wants nothing to do with R.J. When an innocent trip to a local vet turns into the beginning suspicions of a drug smuggling ring, Sammy begins to investigate, only to be chased into danger. In the end, Sammy grows to realize that she must learn to trust others again, and to trust God with her life.

Author Debra White Smith creates convincing characters, especially with worn-out and over-taxed Sammy as a single mom working to support her family. At times the romance between Sammy and R.J. lacks credibility because of the ever-present statements of love R.J. makes to Sam. The subplot involving the drug smuggling operation seems contrived at times with a dubious conclusion and reaction by Sam to the events. This book would interest high school girls with an affinity toward a light read and romance.

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

Of dreams and kings and mystical things : a novel of the life of King David / Joyce Strong. LCCN 2003265866. Shippensburg, Pa. : Destiny Image, 2002.

PAP, 0768430445, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. David, King of Israel--Fiction; Bible. History of Biblical events--O.T.--Fiction; Israel--Kings and rulers--Fiction; Biographical fiction; Religious fiction. 171 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

This easy read by Strong is filled with imagery that touches both the mind and soul. She is able to link Old Testament Biblical truths to New Testament relationships in way that enables the reader to dream and also probe serious questions. Her use of imagery e.g. "The only sounds were of marching feet, punctuated by the vitriolic curses of the lone figure madly hurling stones and dirt at the king..." lets the reading flow effortlessly.

She remains true to the historical biography of David while creating a highlight of character development and application to one's life. Adults have the chance to consider issues such as how God deals with us when we have done wrong to others; what role tension between loyalty and betrayal has; and what insanity and reason, mercy and justice play in our lives. The timeless examples of leadership enable both male and female to see how devotion and desire add to quality of life.

Recommended for church libraries, congregation reading shelves, and public libraries seeking to carry inspirational literature with some impact.

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

First light / Bodie & Brock Thoene. (A.D. chronicles ; 1.) LCCN 2003002758. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2003.

HBB, 0842375066, List price: \$24.99; CLJ price: \$18.75.

Fic. Jewish families--Fiction; Jerusalem--Fiction; Religious fiction; Domestic fiction. xix, 395 p. : maps ; 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

In *First Light*, Bodie and Brock Thoene transport us to the First Century Israel. Add to the seething cauldron of political and religious intrigue yet another "messiah" from Galilee. How individual lives intersect with Yeshua becomes the rich story of *First Light*. Manaen, a member of the court of Herod Antipas, has plenty of reason to hate, but "Hatred was something to keep him warm!" (p. 214) Peniel, the blind beggar, literally sees the face of God. How can this be? Marcus Longinus, Roman soldier, friend of Mary, sister of Lazarus, is fascinated by the itinerant preacher, Yeshua. Zadok, keeper of the Temple flock, also keeps a life-threatening secret about one night in Bethlehem.

The Thoenes take familiar Gospel passages, add pertinent background and flesh out narrations. The recounting criss-crosses through the area: Alexandria, Bethany, Jerusalem. The supporting characters are familiar names, albeit Hebraic for the taste of authenticity in this particular setting. For example, Nicodemus is Nakdimon, and the name Yerushalayim translates into our modern Jerusalem.

The book itself gives information. The endpapers show a map of First Century A.D. Middle East, and a map of Jerusalem in the same time frame with an inset of the Temple diagram. The prologue and epilogue embrace the story, taking us to the present and enforcing how the past affects us. The authors' note acknowledges supporting documents. The Scripture references, footnoted in this historical fiction book, are listed in the back.

First Light is Book One in the A.D. Chronicle series.

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

A shivering world / Kathy Tyers. LCCN 2003022940. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2004.

PAP, 0764226762, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. Immortalism--Fiction; Terminally ill--Fiction; Space colonies--Fiction; Mothers and daughters--Fiction; Women scienc tists--Fiction; Science fiction; Christian fiction. 398 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

True science fiction aficionados will appreciate Kathy Tyers' complexly layered novel, A

Shivering World. Graysha Brady-Phillips, suffering from a genetic disease that will shorten her life span, takes a soils-microbiology position on the planet Goddard to assist with its terraforming. Rumors suggest that the colonists of Goddard are gene healers, practicing in secret the type of genetic engineering that is forbidden by the Eugenics Board. Although her mother is the Eugenics Board commissioner, Graysha hopes to somehow gain the colonists' trust, and convince them to treat her so she can bear children who aren't carriers of the defective gene.

Graysha finds she is unwelcome on Goddard, after three attempts on her life put her in danger. But her research is crucial in uncovering the reason for a cooling trend that could thwart the colonists' efforts to successfully make a home on Goddard. The political situation becomes heated, and Graysha must make a difficult choice when off-planet authorities demand the forced evacuation and irradiation of all gene-engineered humans on Goddard. The other option is almost certain death: remain on Goddard cut off from all communication, scientific support systems, supply ships, and try to carve out a life in a volatile world before freezing to death or starving. Will Graysha go, or stay? And will her new-found faith give her the strength to endure whatever consequences she must face from her choice?

Tyers' novel weaves a complicated storyline with many layers. This requires readers to be alert, as they follow the twists and turns of various personal vendettas, futuristic political systems, planetary systems, religions, and space travel—all described in the sci-fi terminology, slang, and bizarre names of people specifically created for such a novel. *A Shivering World* raises provocative moral scientific questions, as details about terraforming, lab experiments, and so on, are explained in fascinating technical detail. The Christian faith is referred to rather obscurely, although it becomes key to Graysha's life; the Lord's name is used casually a couple times, and minor slang is employed throughout the novel.

Sherri Beeler, MA. Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon.

The chase : a novel / Susan Wales and Robin Shope. LCCN 2003024545. Grand Rapids : Baker Books/Fleming H.Revell, 2004.

PAP, 0800759346, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

Fic. Women journalists--Fiction; Investigative reporting--Fiction; Suspense fiction; Christian fiction. 365 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult, Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

Reporter Jill Lewis breaks the biggest story of her career—an adoption scandal surrounding a presidential candidate—only to find her claims refuted with impeccable paperwork and her job in Washington, D.C., terminated. Still believing in Senator Burke's guilt, Jill heads back to her small hometown and a boring job at Delavan's weekly newspaper. A road incident and memories of her late father's research into her investigation cause Jill to turn to her editor, Craig Martin, for help. As the stakes grow higher, small-town monotony transforms into a chase for Jill to salvage her job, her reputation, and her life.

Pulse-pounding plot begins with the first paragraph, and the suspense continues throughout the novel. While the romance is a bit cliché, tensions between the two main characters are realistic. A point of view change in the last paragraph weakens the ending, but in general, the prose is strong. Surprises and twists are deftly executed and keep the reader guessing. Three-dimensional characters complement the plot, adding color with their brisk, vivid attitudes, and casual dialogue and humor suit the story's light tone. While this romantic suspense novel isn't as finely honed as Dee Henderson's work, Wales' and Shope's readers can enjoy an excellent tale from these first-time novelists.

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

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Dark to mortal eyes : a novel / Eric Wilson. LCCN 2003027964. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2004.

PAP, 1578567440, List price: \$13.99; CLJ price: \$10.50.

Fic. Antiquities--Fiction; Missing persons--Fiction; Birthparents--Fiction; Young women--Fiction; Oregon--Fiction; Suspense--Fiction; Psychological fiction; Christian fiction. 436 p. ; 21 cm.

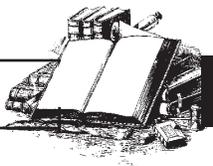
Adult. Rating : *5.

Twenty-two-year-old Josee Walker, abandoned at birth by her parents due to a debilitating blood disease, has hitched her way across country with her friend, Scooter, in hopes of meeting up with her birth parents. When she and Scooter stumble onto a canister in the woods marked GIFT and sporting a skull and crossbones, life gets weirder by the moment. Some kind of supernatural green snake bites Scooter and Josee must stare it down, asking for God's help, before it disappears. Meanwhile, a local anarchist

group calling themselves the ICV has kidnapped Josee's mother and is trying to pin her disappearance and possible death on Josee's father, Marsh. The way out of this mess seems to be tied up in Marsh's dead father's journal, but there are spiritual forces at work to destroy any hope of resolution.

Dark to Mortal Eyes, by Eric Wilson, mixes everyday reality with a very real, very alive spiritual world, encouraging the reader to revisit his/her relationship with the Lord. Wilson is in your face with the strange and unexplainable, reminding the reader that there are no neutrals. Dialogue is believable and moves well with plot. Plot is focused and dynamic. Spiritual message seems free of doctrinal bias. Oregon, with its mixtures of forests, flat lands, and ocean, is a superb backdrop for this almost mythical story. In his debut novel, Wilson's writing shows depth of study, love of craft, and devotion to the Lord. Highly recommended for all adult collections.

Kim Harris, Children's Librarian, Lyell Branch of the Rochester Public Library, R



100's—Philosophy & Psychology

Forgiving and reconciling : bridges to wholeness and hope / Everett Worthington. LCCN 2003006825. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2003.

PAP, 0830832440, List price: \$15.00; CLJ price: \$11.25.

158.2. Reconciliation; Forgiveness. 268 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Everett L. Worthington, professor and chair of psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University, has written many books, and over 150 articles on forgiveness. Unfortunately, just a few years ago, the author's mother was brutally murdered by an intruder in her house giving Dr. Worthington both scholarly expertise, and practical application of his research.

Dr. Worthington presents what he calls The REACH pyramid forgiveness model which urges readers to 1. Recall the hurt. 2. Empathize. 3. Altruistic gift of forgiveness. 4. Commit publicly to forgive. 5. Hold on to forgiveness. "Twelve Steps to Becoming a More Forgiving Person" also offers excellent, practical help.

Worthington cites many authoritative sources, and the book is accompanied by a recommendation by former President Jimmy Carter. Those sources include Augustine, Gary Chapman, Pietro Pietrini, and Lewis B. Smedes. I appreciated Les Greenberg's empty-chair technique in which the hurt person "sits in the perpetrator's chair, talks like the perpetrator and explains things from the perpetrator's point to view" to better understand and identify with the perpetrator.

Forgiveness is never easy, but this book by Dr. Worthington offers help for the hurting.

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

200's—Religion

The illustrated guide to world religions / Dean C. Halverson, general editor. LCCN 2003013903. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2003.

HBB, 0764228382, List price: \$19.99; CLJ price: \$15.00.

200. Religions. 284 p. ; 24 cm.

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

Taking a wholly evangelical Christian approach, Dean Halverson presents a foundation of information about Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, Judaism, Secularism, Confucianism, Animism and the New Age in *The Illustrated Guide to World Religions*. Halverson provides for each religion its definition, basic beliefs, where it is practiced, and how to effectively counter the religion's beliefs using Scripture.

The Illustrated Guide to World Religions is an excellent reference book for students and a useful beginning tool for anyone girding themselves for evangelism among people of other faiths. The majority of each chapter is given to comparing the religion under discussion with Christianity and how best to understand both while demonstrating the truth of Scripture and the one true God. Charts and tables are plentiful, improving readability. Photos—sometimes redundant in content—are also numerous, adding interest to the sometimes weighty information. Halverson helps Christians better grasp their own faith with chapters on why Jesus is the only way to God and how one can know the Bible is God's Word. A world religions overview, timeline, and bibliographies add additional value. Beyond student use for study and research, this book is of value to church libraries and home collections to assist Christians in knowing what and why we believe and how to express those beliefs correctly and powerfully to those of other faiths.

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

By design or by chance? / Denyse O'Leary. LCCN 2004008893. Minneapolis : Augsburg Books, 2004.

PAP, 0806651776, List price: \$15.00; CLJ price: \$11.25.

213. Intelligent design (Teleology). xiii, 337 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Canadian science writer/journalist O'Leary presents material from leading scientists and writers in the evolution/creationism debate. Author of *Faith@Science: Why Science Needs Faith in the Twenty-First Century* (J. Gordon Schillingford Publishing, 2001) and *Intelligent Design: Beyond Creation and Evolution?* (Dare Connexions, 2002), O'Leary offers clear discussion based on research that looks at key issues in an even-handed manner. She presents luculent evidence that supports a universe bursting with design and makes belief in God reasonable.

O'Leary highlights changes in recent cosmology, and modern culture's view of how life started and developed and why it is approaching a crisis. She examines creation science and looks at the intelligent design (life forms as designed rather than accidental) movement. Of particular merit, her discussion does not antagonize modernists or evangelical Christians though it is fair to say the conclusion is that Darwinism cannot survive the collapse of modernism and that design belongs in biology and cosmology. O'Leary shows the same characteristic attention to detail that Gould brought to *Structure of Evolutionary Theory* (Harvard University Press, 2002), and is more meticulous in arguments than Denton in *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis* (Adler & Adler, 2002).

Recommended for public libraries as a highly readable book for the non-scientist that engages both sides of the issue of the origins of life in the universe. The timelines, tables, focus boxes and definitions, as well as print and Internet resources enable both the average reader and specialist to look at the issues. Seventy-eight pages of notes make this a title worthy of inclusion in academic, research, and seminary libraries.

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

One hundred Bible stories activity book / Rodney L. Rathmann, editor. Rev. ed. St. Louis, Mo. : Concordia, 2004.

PAP, 0758606915, List price: \$7.95; CLJ price: \$5.90.

220.9. Bible stories. 118 p. : ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 4.

The revised edition of *One Hundred Bible Stories—Activity Book* is a companion to *One Hundred Bible Stories*. The activity book encourages students to apply biblical truths to their everyday lives. This title is recommended for small groups in church, for homeschoolers, and for family devotions. The activity book will also be useful to teach individuals whose second language is English.

Teachers can present Bible stories within the correct period, just by looking at the contents page. It lists the 100 Bible stories in chronological order. Primeval History includes creation through the Tower of Babel. The Patriarchs include The Call of Abram through Jacob and Joseph are Reunited. The last category, The Church of Christ, ends with Paul's shipwreck in Acts 27-28.

Each of the 100 stories has one or two pages of related exercises, divided into three sections. The divisions are: Thinking about God's Word, Working with God's Word, and Applying God's Word. The editor, Rodney L. Rathmann, has included questions, fill-in the blanks, word choices, and ways to compare important facts. The Bible story activity pages are not reproducible without written permission.

This activity book contains excellent life application questions. Clearly questions which can be pondered by both youngsters and older Christians.

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

The history of Christian thought / Jonathan Hill. LCCN 2003020592. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2004.

HBB, 0830827765, List price: \$21.00; CLJ price: \$15.75.

230/.09. Theology, Doctrinal--History. 352 p. : 24 cm.

Adult, Grades 11-12. Rating : 3.

The History of Christian Thought is indeed a fascinating story, made the more engaging by Jonathan Hill's adept use of biography. In fact, the story Hill tells is largely one of great theologians and their construction upon the foundational work of others.

Four of the five back-cover endorsements use the same word to describe this volume: accessible. They are all correct. The book is written in a style suited for someone unfamiliar with church history and Hill appends a glossary of terms.

Hill begins with the early luminaries, Augustine, Origen, Justin Martyr. For each major figure he offers a biographical sketch, a summary of his thought, and a few reflections. Along the way to Aquinas, Wyclif, Luther, Schleiermacher, and Moltmann (and Anselm, Duns Scotus, Hus, Wesley, Lessing, Kant, Kierkegaard, Ritschl, Newman, Schweitzer, Barth, Bultmann, Bonhoeffer, Niebuhr, Tillich, Rahner, and more), he mentions prevailing philosophies and tells of their influence upon the theologians of each major Christian era. Gnosticism, Neoplatonism, Existentialism, Pentecostalism, Postmodernism, Liberation theology, Process theology, various Church councils—these Hill describes in page-long gray boxes helpfully set in the text.

Hill is content to summarize the life and thought of most of his subjects without much effort at criticism (except when he mentions conservatives such as the Puritans, whom Hill says banned Christmas). For example, he finds praise for Calvin but also for 20th century liberals who repudiated him. In fact, the last two chapters are almost entirely dedicated to men who were not Christians at all, but who chose to do scholarly work in theology. Hill's work could be improved by focusing on modern conservative contributions to Christian thought. Those who need an accessible volume like this one may be less discerning of the author's theological bent, but can benefit from Hill's quick summaries, especially of pre-19th century theologians.

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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Grand Canyon : a different view / written and compiled by Tom Vail. LCCN 2002116471. Green Forest, Ark. : Master Books, 2003.

HBB, 0890513732, List price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75.

231.7. Deluge; Grand Canyon (Ariz.)--History; Natural history--Arizona--Grand Canyon; Bible and geology; Geology--Arizona--Grand Canyon; Grand Canyon (Ariz.)--Description and travel. 104 p. : col. ill. ; 21 x 26 cm.

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

The Grand Canyon, "...is not just an icon of beauty, however. It is a solemn witness to the mighty power of God, who is not only the omnipotent Creator of all things, but also the avenging Defender of His own holiness." From the many inspiring and spectacular writings of one of the authors who contributed to Tom Vail's beautiful book, *Grand Canyon: A Different*

Perspective. This book has it all! Biblical truths from renowned bible scholars, spectacular photographs, geological facts, testimonials, and links for further studies about the Grand Canyon, creation, and more. From the beautiful color photography of the front cover to the very last pages of Tom Vail's book you will find yourself captivated, inspired, and praising God.

The Days of Creation, The Fall, and The Flood, are the beginning titles of the story behind the Grand Canyon. Other chapter titles that follow are, The Rocks, which go on to explain the geologic time and rock scale of the canyon, The Fossils, The Water, The Plants and Animals, The "Bedrock" and finally, Tom's Story. Each chapter is filled with scripture quotes, awesome photography, well written facts, both geological and biblical.

For the classroom, this book is full of facts and inspiration about the Grand Canyon, its creation, and life surrounding it, and it reads as a devotional and travel guide through God's handiwork. It could also be used as a witnessing tool for those unbelievers in your life. It will even add beauty to your surroundings as a coffee table adornment. Relatively easy read for teens and enjoyable to just look at.

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

When God writes your love story / by Eric and Leslie Ludy. LCCN 2003017947. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2004.

PAP, 1590523520, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

248.4. Youth--Religious life; Courtship--Religious aspects--Christianity; Dating (Social customs)--Religious life--Christianity. 220 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 3.

When dreams come true / by Eric and Leslie Ludy. LCCN 2003019005. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2004.

PAP, 1590523539, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

241. Ludy, Eric; Ludy, Leslie; Christian biography; Friendship; Youth--Religious life; Courtship--Religious aspects--Christianity. 272 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 3.

In *When God Writes Your Love Story*, the Ludys recommend family involvement in the process of choosing a spouse, and they focus heavily on the young person's need to develop a close relationship with his Creator before seeking romance. Eric and Leslie both describe their experiences dating the way the world does and then tell of the joy they experienced when they let God take the reins of that portion of their lives. As a college student, Eric decided that the next girl he would date would be his eventual

wife, ending his cycle of brief relationships. High-school age Leslie decided something similar, actually electing to be home schooled at sixteen because she realized just what the pressures of public school were doing to her walk with God and her views of dating.

The Ludys describe their eventual courtship and marriage in their autobiographical *When Dreams Come True*. The touching story moves quickly and models the principles they laid out in their first book.

The Ludys write in an entertaining style appropriate for even the youngest teenager, with a generous helping of humor and personal anecdotes thrown in to keep interest up. (Note, however, that Leslie is sometimes needfully explicit regarding her negative public school experiences.) While Elisabeth Elliot's *Passion and Purity* and *Quest for Love* seem to have the single adult in mind, Josh Harris, another popular writer in the Christian dating advice field, pitches his style toward the same group the Ludys write for and thus provides a good comparison to the work of that couple. Harris' *I Kissed Dating Goodbye* and *Boy Meets Girl* cite Scripture more frequently than the Ludys, who tend to favor heavy paraphrases of Bible passages, but Harris and the Ludys give similar advice.

Mark L. Ward, Jr., PhD candidate. Research Assistant/National Newsletter Editor.

Come away : how to have a personal prayer retreat / Shel Arensen. LCCN 2002152253. Grand Rapids : Kregel, 2003.

PAP, 0825420431, List price: \$10.99; CLJ price: \$8.25.

248.3. Spiritual retreats--Christianity; Prayer--Christianity. 192 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Missionary Shel Arensen speaks from experience in *Come Away: How to Have a Personal Prayer Retreat*. He states that such an activity is meant for seeking God's face, asking for guidance, or bringing prayer burdens. Arensen provides suggestions on various forms of prayer: praise, confession, thanksgiving, listening, praying Scripture, and praying like Jesus and like Paul. He offers input on memorizing, fasting, overcoming the struggles of prayer, and praying in various settings. The appendix provides a sample prayer retreat plan.

Practical, realistic and authentic, *Come Away* proffers plentiful ideas on how to pray and for what reasons a prayer retreat might be

beneficial. Anecdotes about his and others' experiences with protracted prayer are motivational. Scripture verses and texts ably support his views and suggestions. *Come Away* is more a book on powerful, personal prayer than just about conducting a prayer retreat. Readers who have studied biblical prayer will be familiar with some of Arensen's presentation, but his humble, you-can-do-it-and-it-will-be-worth-it attitude makes this a valuable book for study and application, individually and with a prayer partner or small group.

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

Never mind the Joneses : building core Christian values in a way that fits your family / Tim Stafford. LCCN 2003020594. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2004.

HBB, 0830832017, List price: \$16; CLJ price: \$12.00.

248.4. Family--Religious life; Family--Religious aspects--Christianity; Parenting--Religious aspects--Christianity. 208 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

This book is excellent, filled with sensible ways to instill basic values in your family. Philip Yancey calls *Never Mind the Joneses*, "The most practical book on parent and family issues that I've ever read." High praise from a well known author but readers will understand why when they read it for themselves.

Author Tim Stafford discusses family culture and what exactly core values are, then goes on to list and explore values ranging from putting God at the center of your home to truthfulness, hard work, generosity, rest, caring for creation; fourteen values in all. For each one, he explains exactly what he means by that value, then goes on to give a myriad of ways to implement that value in your home. He does this in a non-judgmental way, not expecting any family to be a carbon of his or any other. There is a lot of room for variety and freedom within each of these core values while keeping the necessary security and structure of a family.

Stafford concludes with a few final words about putting these values to work, even inviting the reader to send him other ideas for expressing these values to be included in the next edition of this book. A free group discussion guide is also available from the Intervarsity Press website.

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

Transforming children into spiritual champions / George Barna. LCCN 2003019313. Ventura, Calif. : Regal Books, 2003.

HBB, 0830732934, List price: \$17.99; CLJ price: \$13.50.

248.8/45. Spiritual life--Christianity; Parenting--Religious life--Christianity. 140 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Adult (for grades 3-6). Rating : 5.

George Barna admits he was "seduced into believing the great myth of modern ministry: Adults are where the kingdom action is" until God helped him realize "children are at the top of the priority list." Share the author's enthusiasm, as you read *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*.

Barna's book contains many comforting facts. For instance: ninety-one percent of 13-year-olds pray to God during a typical week and more than four out of five young people desire a close relationship with God. Troubling statistics also emerge: one out of three babies in the United States is born to an unmarried mother. Further, the majority of children do not believe in absolute standards for morals and ethics.

How can individuals help children develop a Christian worldview and be spiritual champions? Barna suggests that churches be intentional about children's ministry: that they think family ministry and that they evaluate children's spiritual development. His plan involves giving personal touch to children, heighten security procedures in children's ministry, development of great team leadership groups, and encouragement of children to serve others and to ponder the spiritual implications of their choices. Select this book, if God is calling you to help children be spiritual champions.

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

Aaron's way : the journey of a strong-willed child / Kendra Smiley with Aaron Smiley. LCCN 2003024377. Chicago : Moody, 2004.

PAP, 0802443494, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

248.8/45. Child rearing--Religious aspects--Christianity; Control (Psychology) in children. 144 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Aaron's Way : The Journey of a Strong-willed Child, co-authored by Kendra and Aaron Smiley, gives practical insight into the person who fits this specific profile. The strong-willed child wants to be in control of himself; this autonomy is worth any price tag. The challenge of the parents is "not to break the spirit of this

child, but to shape his will." (14) Aaron, the second child of Kendra and John Smiley, demonstrates classic strong-willed behavior. This is his story. With great honesty and liberal humor, the two authors explore Aaron's unique path from infancy to adulthood. It is a journey requiring great determination, perseverance, and persistence.

The format of *Aaron's Way* ties the thoughts together with great integrity and with thought-provokers. The chapters highlight segments of Aaron's life from infancy to adulthood. For the most part, mom Kendra Smiley has the first word. She introduces the topic and gives her memories. The book then includes a section written by son Aaron, telling his recollections, reasons, and reactions to his mom's words. References from the Bible lead into anecdotes dealing with the same subject matter. There are also side-bar-like quotes from persons, mainly from the Christian community, providing added encouragement for the reader. As C. Everett Koop says, "Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation." Contents, acknowledgments, introduction, notes add further documentation to this biography.

Kendra Smiley has also authored *Empowering Choices* and *High-Wire Mom*.

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

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The veil is torn : A.D. 30 to A.D. 70, Pentecost to the destruction of Jerusalem / Christian History Project. (The Christians : their first two thousand years ; 1.) Edmonton : Christian History Project, 2002.

HBB, 0968987303, List price: \$49.95; Order direct: <http://www.christianhistoryproject.com/>

270.1. Church history--Primitive and early church, ca. 30-600. 287 p. : col. ill. ; 31 cm.

Adult, Grades 9-12. Rating : *5.

A pinch of incense : A.D. 70 to 250, from the fall of Jerusalem to the Decian persecution / [writers: Charlotte Allen . [et al.]] ; Christian History Project. (The Christians : their first two thousand years ; 2.) Edmonton : Christian History Project, 2002.

HBB, 0968987311, List price: \$49.95; Order direct: <http://www.christianhistoryproject.com/>

270.1. Church history--Primitive and early church, ca. 30-600; Persecution--History--Early church, ca. 30-600. 288 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), col. maps, ports. ; 31 cm.

Adult, Grades 9-12. Rating : *5.

By this sign : A.D. 250 to 350 ; from the Decian persecution to the Constantine era / Christian History Project. (The Christians : their first two thousand years ; 3.) Edmonton : Christian History Project, 2003.

HBB, 096898732X, List price: \$49.95; Order direct: <http://www.christianhistoryproject.com/>

270.1. Church history--Primitive and early church, ca. 30-600; Persecution--History--Early church, ca. 30-600; Constantine I, Emperor of Rome, d. 337. 285 p. : col. ill. ; 31 cm.

Adult, Grades 9-12. Rating : *5.

This well-researched and well-presented series is much needed in our libraries. Unlike many history books, this series captures the reader and does not release him until the story is done. Each chapter contains a complete explanation of a topic with quality, pertinent photographs, and at least one commissioned artwork. An index, bibliography, and end-page footnotes contribute to the quality of the work. Each book also has maps that guide the reader into deeper information without being overly detailed.

The Christian History Project is based in Canada. Its team of experts generated the information that was then sent to a team of writers. Each member of this team then wrote to their topic. The work is overseen by members of the different branches of Christianity—Protestant, Orthodox, and Catholic—to confirm the accuracy of the writing. While different styles of writers are apparent, the overall goal of educating non-Christians and Christians of the historical roots of Christianity is clearly presented. Readers are encouraged to consult their Bibles and church leaders concerning the information presented. There are quality photographs, illustrations, and maps with helpful captions. This series will continue to the total of 12. School libraries including lower college levels need this series in their collections. This is an outstanding history set.

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

Found faithful : the timeless stories of Charles Spurgeon, Amy Carmichael, C.S. Lewis, Ruth Bell Graham, and others who triumphed over pain / by Elizabeth R. Skoglund. LCCN 2003018118. Grand Rapids : Discovery House, 2004.

PAP, 1572931051, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

270.8. Suffering--Religious aspects--Christianity. 330 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12). Rating : 4.

The spiritual journeys of eight modern day "saints" of the church make up the core of

Elizabeth Skoglund's compendium, *Found Faithful*. Skoglund focuses mainly on suffering and trials the individuals experienced and the meaning each discovered through the hard times. Profiled are F.B. Meyer, Amy Carmichael, Charles Spurgeon, Hudson Taylor, Geraldine Taylor (Hudson Taylor's daughter-in-law), Isobel Kuhn, C. S. Lewis, and Ruth Bell Graham. Laced through the stories are poems, hymn lyrics, and quotations, as well as vignettes of ten other Christian statesmen and women from missionaries to hymn writers.

Much encouragement and food for thought is provided in *Found Faithful*, a work of broad and reflective research on Skoglund's part. Readers can focus on a particular personality or read the book from beginning to end for a spectrum of perspectives on dependence on God, growing through pain, maturing via loss and walking by faith, not sight. The book begins with a confusing assortment of chapters about why Skoglund wrote the book and what she learned, interspersed with brief vignettes before finally introducing the first individual. However, the author paints a clear and multi-dimensional picture of each person, often using his or her own writings and quotes. *Found Faithful* is instructive and beneficial to maturing Christians and those seeking to grow based on others' experiences.

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

300's—Social Sciences

And then I had kids : encouragement for mothers of young children / Susan Alexander Yates. LCCN 2002021548. Grand Rapids : Baker Books, 2002.

PAP, 0801064112, List price: \$12.99; CLJ price: \$9.75.

306.874/3. Motherhood--United States; Motherhood--Religious aspects--Christianity; ; Family--Religious aspects--Christianity. 209 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

So often we are bombarded with how-to books that give us specific directions in becoming the perfect parent. Books that leave readers feeling like they can never succeed or are failures as parents if their children don't fit an established mold, fill the shelves of bookstores. With a sigh of relief, readers soon learn that Yates believes there are no perfect parents and recognizes the differences in children. Also refreshing is a parenting book that bravely weaves Christianity and Christian principles along with other parenting responsibilities.

The book begins as a hug of reassurance, assuring parents that many of the problems and feelings they may encounter as parents are not so unique or awful as one might fear. Yates in a light-hearted manner, provides insights into the emotional upheaval and challenges facing parents of young children, with the focus on the role of a mother. This section, wonderful for mothers, should be a required preparatory read for the mother-to-be. As the author explains, "Somehow the pictures we had of family life did not include runny noses, upset tummies, messy homes, whining children, and exhausted moms." To learn ahead of the changes in families that are born along with a child and the overwhelming emotions they evoke in new mothers, can provide a comforting assurance to mothers-to-be that they are not bad mothers, but a normal overwhelmed mother.

A book written more for encouragement than as a how-to, Yates does provide great advice and strategies to the discipline dilemma that faces all parents. At the end of each chapter, "focus questions" provided for a book study group, probably will be ignored due to the fact the focus of the book is on the physically and emotionally drained mother who already has enough on her plate.

Another drawback to the book is that the focus of the book is toward the married mother. Although Yates often talks about the importance of including single parents, this book after the first few chapters is clearly written with the wedded mother in mind. Still this book has much to offer the Christian mother, and even if readers don't read the book cover to cover, it provides guidance and insights not found in many books.

S. Katherine Lopez, Freelance Writer, Beavercreek, Ohio.

Raising financially fit kids / Joline Godfrey. LCCN 2003056416. Berkeley, Calif. : Ten Speed Press, 2003.

PAP, 1580085369, List price: \$17.95; CLJ price: \$13.50.

332.024/054. Children--Finance, Personal; Teenagers--Finance, Personal; Saving and investment; Child rearing. 256 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Raising Financially Fit Kids by Joline Godfrey presents a detailed program for teaching children how to manage money. The program takes the child's developmental process into account and is designed to meet the child's needs and abilities at each stage. Saving, spending, and giving are all considered part of

financial fitness and age appropriate activities are provided for each.

Raising Financially Fit Kids is a book that will be beneficial to parents. The authors indicate that the process of training to children to handle money should be based on the family's financial values, but do not dictate what the financial values should be. For Christians, tithing would fit right into this program, although it is not expressly addressed. This is a very clear, sound, and usable program that can be adapted to fit any family's particular financial situation and their own financial value basis.

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

I hate school : how to help your child love learning / Cynthia Ulrich Tobias. LCCN 2003023100. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2004.

HBB, 0689865236, List price: \$15.95; CLJ price: \$12.00.

370.15/4. Motivation in education; Education--Parent participation. 206 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Fitting the school environment to students' learning needs is the premise of Cynthia Tobias' *I Hate School*. Ranging from the physical setting, eating food during class, testing, learning styles, and cultural backgrounds, to teacher relationships and whether or not to require homework, Tobias covers a wide array of aspects in which parents and educators can make adjustments to help all students find success in schooling. The book is aimed primarily at parents and includes homeschool suggestions as well as information on educational reform, choosing a school, and what to do when school settings just don't work.

Innovative, intriguing and inspiring, *I Hate School* gives hope and help to families whose children don't fit the mold of the school or classroom in which they're placed. Tobias offers research and experts' insights about how various factors—body rhythms, learning styles, teacher traits, and even the temperature of the room—influence learning ability and interest. Each of the 18 chapters ends with bulleted tips for adapting the environment or even changing it for a better "fit." Pull out quotes from students of all ages underscore and emphasize the topics. The 'Homeschool Advantage' segments are perhaps too brief, yet do spark thinking. Tobias' suggestions on how to approach teachers about adapting the classroom environment are practical and encouraging. Learning styles information is repetitive from her previous

books. Appendices include a learning styles profile summary and an educator's bibliography of learning styles. Parents and educators—current and future—will find realistic information here.

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

700's—The Arts and Recreation

Easter make & do : reproducible Bible craft ideas for ages 6-12 / Gillian Chapman. St. Louis, Mo. : Concordia, 2004.

PAP, 0758605838, List price: \$7.99; CLJ price: \$5.90.

745.594. Easter decorations; Handicraft. 2 v. : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades 1-6 (and adult helpers). Rating : 4.

Craft ideas vary from simple to the more challenging, with each one designed to be made with inexpensive supplies using recycled materials where possible. Each of the eleven project spreads features a lively retelling of the Bible story, a list of materials needed, step-by-step instructions, and a photograph on how the finished article may look. One can also find crafts tips, reproducible patterns, instructions on how to use the books, and where to find the Bible stories.

These creative ideas, on 8 x 11 inch format in with instructions in color, offer teachers and parents a way for celebrating Holy Week and Easter as well as fun, hands-on-ways to bring New Testament stories to life. The second Celebrations title offers a wealth of ideas to discover the background to the major Christian festivals (Advent, Epiphany, Candlemas, Lent, Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Thanksgiving, All Saints' Day) by looking at Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments. Ideal for children in first through sixth grades.

Recommended for media library shelves, for teacher resource centers, and for librarians to utilize in planning crafts to accompany stories.

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

800's—Literature & Rhetoric

The gospel code : novel claims about Jesus, Mary Magdalene and DaVinci / Ben Witherington III. LCCN 2004006655. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2004.

PAP, 083083267X, List price: \$15.00; CLJ price: \$11.25.

813.54. Brown, Dan. 1964- -- Da Vinci code; Mary Magdalene, Saint--In literature; Christian saints in literature; Jesus Christ--In literature; Christianity in literature. 208 p. : 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

Dan Brown's novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, has been on international best seller lists for weeks. This story has raised many questions for readers, particularly because the author seems to have blurred the lines between fact and fiction. Some of the questions are: Was Jesus really married to Mary Magdalene and did they have a child? Do the Gnostic Gospels represent the true Christian faith and did the early church try to suppress them? Did Constantine invent the doctrine of divinity of Christ? Even those that haven't read *The Da Vinci Code* are curious and asking questions such as these because the book has received so much press and media time.

Ben Witherington III is a biblical scholar who comes with the credentials to answer these questions and confront the claims that Brown makes. He is a professor of New Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary and the author of many books, including *Women and the Genesis of Christianity* and *The Brother of Jesus*.

The cover of *The Gospel Code* states that the author answers with the surefootedness of a scholar "yet in the plain language that any interested reader can follow." After reading this work (and having read *The Da Vinci Code* itself), this reviewer would have to agree the language of the author is plain, yet the subject matter itself and the covering of it does not lend to a quick, easy read. This is a deep subject and the reading of *The Gospel Code* is a challenge, not for the casual reader. Yet it does answer most of the questions that have been raised in a convincing manner, using historical and Scriptural references as well as historical and cultural analyses. *The Gospel Code* is a timely book with a subject that is up to the minute. Other authors have arrived on the literary scene earlier than Witherington with books refuting *The Da Vinci Code*. Yet, this book is considered by some (*Publishers Weekly*, May 31, 2004) with its extensive, reasoned approach to have staying power that others may lack.

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

900's—Geography, History, & Biography

Footprints in the ash : the explosive story of Mount St. Helens / John Morris, Steven A. Austin. LCCN 2003106349. Green Forest, Ark. : Master Books, 2003.

HBB, 0890514003, List price: \$16.99; CLJ price: \$12.75.

917.97/840443. Saint Helens, Mount (Wash.). 128 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

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

Using scientific data and perspective, Dr. John Morris, president of the Institute for Creation Research, and geologist/researcher Dr. Steven Austin present the events and results of the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens in *Footprints in the Ash*. After describing the eruption itself, the authors systematically discuss the devastation, geologic deposits, landform changes, effects on Spirit Lake, and then the recovery of the region. The book concludes with an exposition on how this natural event proves the truth of creation.

Through an orderly survey of this volcanic event, Morris and Austin create a format for understanding the geologic occurrences and the proof these occurrences offer about divine creation. The scientific approach adds authenticity and research value for student studies and debate. Prolific color photos, maps, diagrams, and illustrations excellently convey information and the wonder of the event. The text is segmented into small units that make easier reading of the detailed material; vocabulary is somewhat difficult in parts. The final pages apply the data from Mt. St. Helens to spiritual dimensions of faith and belief in the God of creation and judgment. This volume would be a valuable addition to high school and homeschool libraries, science classrooms and home libraries.

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

Called up : stories of life and faith from the great game of baseball / by Dave Dravecky with Mike Yorkey. LCCN 2003022952. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2003.

HBB, 031025230X, List price: \$14.99; CLJ price: \$11.25.

B or 796.357. Dravecky, Dave; Baseball--Biography. 256 p. : 20 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 3.

To enjoy this book, you must be a dyed in the wool baseball fan! Each of the forty-nine chapters is filled with references, jargon, facts and rumors of the great game of baseball and many of these will not be totally understood by a baseball neophyte. Along with most chapters is a connection to the spiritual, some of them inspiring, encouraging, or touching, some of

them a stretch as when Dravecky says that he always thinks of baseball when he hears Psalm 23 recited at a solemn occasion.

The author obviously knows his stuff and *Called Up* will be enjoyed by sports fans, reliving the many incidents and anecdotes presented in the book. For consideration for purchase, beyond the allure of the baseball wit and wisdom, it should be noted that Dravecky is often irreverent, and his comments at times border on gossip. Of course, interwoven with his thoughts and quotes is Dravecky's own story of his challenges as he faced living out his Christianity in front of his teammates and the cancer that ultimately took his arm and his baseball career. In addition, *Called Up* contains a subject and name index at the close of the book.

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

Song of Saigon : one woman's journey to freedom / Anh Vu Sawyer and Pam Proctor. LCCN 2002033062. New York : Warner Faith, 2003.

HBB, 0446529087, List price: \$17.95; CLJ price: \$13.50.

B or 959.704. Sawyer, Anh Vu--Childhood and youth; Sawyer, Anh Vu--Family; Vietnamese American women--Biography; Vietnamese Americans--Biography; Vietnamese conflict, 1861-1975--Personal narratives; Vietnamese; Vietnamese conflict, 1861-1975--Vietnam--Ho Chi Minh City; Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)--History; Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)--Biography. viii, 288 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Sawyer provides the reader a multigenerational witness of God's faithfulness. Beginning her story with the dramatic fall of Saigon, Sawyer flashes back to her opium-addicted grandfather's deliverance and shares how God's hand was always on her family. She continues the story through her arrival in the United States and her experiences. Sawyer never equivocates on her belief that God had and has a plan for her life. She is open to her family's and her shortcomings without making excuses. Her view is focused on what God has and will do for her and inspires others to see what He will do for and with them.

Sawyer shows the reader not only the times but also the culture of Vietnam. Sawyer lets the reader peer into her family's story without making any excuses. The testimony of God's faithfulness through the generations, in times of adversity and struggle, and with a purpose is replete in the book. Sawyer confronts topics directly, which may disturb some readers such as when she tells how fellow students at Wheaton referred to her soon-to-be husband as a homosexual. Sawyer also touches on how she

was almost adopted into a prostitution ring when she first came to the United States. God is not done with Sawyer or her husband. Readers will leave the book feeling they want to know more about them.

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

Amazing faith : the authorized biography of Bill Bright / by Michael Richardson. LCCN 712356. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2000.

PAP, 1578565618, List price: \$8.95; CLJ price: \$6.70.

B or 967. Bright, Bill; Campus Crusade for Christ--History; Evangelists--United States--Biography. xii, 291 p. : ill. ; 25 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

From 1945 when Bill Bright committed his life to Christ at twenty-four years of age until his death in 2003 his purpose in life was "to help fulfill the Great Commission in [my] lifetime." His passion to present the love and claims of Jesus Christ to "every living person on earth" consumed over fifty years of his life.

Amazing Faith chronicles Bright's transformation, his early growth in Christianity and his marriage to his life-partner, Vonette, in 1948. Early in their marriage Bright writes and signs a "Contract with God" and experiences a vision for a ministry on the campus of UCLA. This ministry becomes Campus Crusade for Christ that by 1999 grows to a worldwide full-time staff of 20,514 with a ministry presence in 181 countries, representing 99.2 percent of the world's population.

Throughout those years with Bill Bright in leadership, many things occurred which still have an impact on the world. One was his development of the tiny brochure entitled "Four Spiritual Laws" which continues to be used as a simple, yet effective, tool in evangelism. Another was his involvement in the production and release in 1979 of the Jesus film. By 1983 total audiences averaging 350,000 per night were viewing this film in 72 languages. Winner of the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, Bright dedicates the \$1,050,000 prize for prayer and fasting for world revival.

Amazing Faith is the truly amazing story of one man who lived his Christian life as an exciting, joy-filled adventure. Readers will realize what one person can do when their life is yielded to God. The author provides a vivid picture of Bright, painted by interviews with family, co-workers, board members, and recipients of Bright's spontaneous prayer, as well as with

Bright. We see him at the pinnacle of success as well as in times of disappointment and trouble. Yet during all of these times we see him yielded and trusting God in every circumstance. A middle section of photographs enhances the narrative.

Because of its contemporary content those considering a missionary calling should prayerfully read this book.

Helen Hunter, BA. Freelance Writer/Editor, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

100 Christian books that changed the century	10	Box, Su	26	Diary of Susie King Taylor, Civil War nurse	36
A.D. chronicles	60	Brink, Carol Rylie	20	Dillon, Diane	12, 16
Aardema, Verna	12	Brio girls	40	Dillon, Leo	12, 16
Aaron's way	64	British Library writers' lives	51	Dirty and clean	28
Abraham, Ken	52	Brooks, Elbridge Streeter	51	Discovering cultures	34
Adler, David A	36	Brown, Margaret Wise	13	Discovering Lewis & Clark from the air	47
Afghanistan	48	Bruchac, Joseph	6, 7, 37	Domeniconi, David	33
African Queen	55	Bud, not Buddy	37	Dominican Republic	34
Ain't no mountain	56	Bull, Schuyler	17	Don't worry about tomorrow	13
Alcohol : opposing viewpoints	45	By design or by chance?	62	Dooling, Michael	31
Alger, Neil	48	By this sign	65	Dora's diary	53
Allen, Charlotte	65	C is for cowboy: a Wyoming alphabet	33	Dotlich, Rebecca Kai	27
Alliance	43	Caddie Woodlawn	20	Double fudge	20
Alter, Judy	2, 3	Calaway, Phil	54	Dragonfly on my shoulder	40
Amazing animal adventures	17	Called up	67	Dravecky, Dave	67
Amazing faith	68	Cape Light novel	58	Duck	30
American adventure	7	Carey, Ernestine Gilbreth	50	Dudley, William	45
American Revolution	49	Carlson, Melody	13	Dunham, Montrew	21
Amy Carmichael : rescuing the children	35	Carroll, Pam	33	Duvoisin, Roger	18
And the bride wore white	46	Cavanaugh, Jack	54	Ear, the eye and the arm	38
And then I had kids	65	Celenza, Anna Harwell	21	Early bird nature books	29
Arden, Carolyn	12	Chaikin, L. L.	54	Earthworm	30
Arensen, Sheldon	64	Chapman, Gillian	66	East of the sun	54
Argentina	34	Charman, Andy	30	Easter make & do	66
Armstrong, Nancy M.	6	Chase : a novel	61	Eberhart, Donald G.	17
Armstrong, William Howard	37	Cheaper by the dozen	50	Edmund Fitzgerald : the song of the bell	32
Arterburn, Stephen	44	Child sockology	25	Effler, James M.	17
Arthur, Randall	52	Christian fiction : a guide to the genre	9	Egendorf, Laura K.	45
Artzybasheff, Boris	22	Christian heroes : then & now	50	Eight is enough	41
Ashanti to Zulu : African traditions	16	Christian History Project	65	Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Robert Browning	51
Austin, Steven A.	67	Christians : their first two thousand years	65	Elkins, Stephen	25
Azarian, Mary	29	Christmas after all	41	Elliot, David	40
B is for Big Sky Country : a Montana alphabet	33	Civil War	49	Eric Liddell : running for a higher prize	34
Bailey, Carolyn Sherwin	20	Collard, Sneed B.	33	Eric Liddell : unit study, curriculum guide	50
Baker, Leslie A.	13	Color	28	Ethridge, Shannon	44
Baldacci, Sharon	52	Come away	64	Every young woman's battle	44
Balkin, Karen	45	Coming home	59	Exodus	52
Barkley, James	37	Contemporary issues companion	46	Extraordinary people	2
Barna, George	64	Core collection for small libraries	8	Extraordinary women of the American West	2
Barnett-Gramckow, Kacy	53	Corrie ten Boom : shining in the darkness	34	Farewell symphony	21
Baxter series	57	Cowley, Joy	14	Farmer, Nancy	38
Beaver	30	Cox, Carolyn	26	Farnes, Catherine	38
Becoming Beka series	43	Coyote bead	5	Father fox's Christmas rhymes	23
Begay, Shonto	6	Crane, Carol	33	Ferreira, Anton	39
Bender, Carrie	37, 53	Criminal justice : opposing viewpoints	45	Fine line	57
Beneath the ice	56	Crocodile crossing	17	First light	60
Benge, Geoff	50, 51	Cronin, Doreen	14	Fischer, Laura	6
Benge, Janet	50, 51	Crow	30	Fitzpatrick, Marie-Louise	6
Benjamin Banneker : pioneering scientist	35	Culture wars : opposing viewpoints	44	Fleuter, Craig	5
Bernardin, James	22	Cultures of the world	48	Floyer, Edith S.	39
Best Christian children's books, 1942-1992	9	Curtis, Christopher Paul.	37	Footprints in the ash	67
Beyond mist blue mountains	53	Dandelions in a jelly jar	55	For the rest of my life	59
Bial, Raymond	6	Danger follows	43	Ford, Wayne	31
Biological warfare : opposing viewpoints	45	Daniel in the lions' den	15	Forester, C.S.	55
Bjorklund, Ruth	33	Daring escape of Ellen Craft	35	Forgive and forget : the story of Joseph	25
Black	55	Dark to mortal eyes : a novel	61	Forgiving and reconciling	62
Black cat	16	David and Goliath : a Bible story	15	Foster, Sharon Elwell	56
Black Friday	41	De Capua, Sarah	34	Found faithful	65
Black women of the Old West	3	Dear America	5, 41	Fourth of July	27
Blackbirch kid's visual ref. of the U. S.	33	Defending the borders	46	Fraggalosch, Audrey	17
Blackstock, Terri	53	Dekker, Ted	55	Frankenhuyzen, Gisjbert van	32
Bliss, Henry	14	DeLong, Janice	8	Frog went a-courtin'	28
Blume, Judy	20	DeMoss, Robert G.	41	Frontier land	3
Boaz, John	48	Denton, Kady MacDonald	32	Full hand	19
Book lover's guide to great reading	9	DePree, Traci	55	Fuller, Barbara	48
Books children love	8	Deterring and investigating attack	46	Funny little woman	27
Borcherding, Gwyn	20	Diary of a worm	14	Gagliano, Eugene M.	33

Galvani, Maureen	26	Hill, Jonathan	63	Kubinyi, Laszlo	36
Ganeri, Anita	30	His watchful eye	54	Kunu : Winnebago boy escapes	5
Gannett, Ruth	20	Historic boys	51	Kupferberg, Audrey E.	49
Gansky, Alton	56	Historic girls	51	Lackman, Ronald W.	2
Garrett, Martin	51	History of Christian thought	63	LaHaye, Tim F.	41
Gay-Neck, the story of a pigeon	22	Hold tight the thread	59	Lambert, Paulette	6
Genesis	52	Holder, Heidi	26	Langstaff, John	28
Genesis trilogy	53	Holiday, Billie	31	Lasky, Kathryn	41
Genreflecting advisory series	9	Holly's heart	41	Latham, Karen	33
Geography crafts for kids	47	Home for Panda	17	Latham, Rebecca	33
George Muller: faith to feed ten thousand	34	Hooway for Wodney Wat	15	Laura Ingalls Wilder	36
George Muller: the guardian of Bristol's...	50	Horner, Susan	29	Learning about God	26
George Muller : unit study, curriculum guide	50	Hound Heaven	40	Learning disabilities	46
George Washington, the writer	49	How to raise a reader	8	Lent, Blair	27
Germany	48	Hughes, Christopher	49	Lester, Helen	15
Gift horse	42	Huguenot inheritance series	39	Lewis, Beverly	41
Gilbreth, Frank B.	50	Hunt, Angela Elwell	58	Lewis, David	59
Girl who chased away sorrow	5	Hyman, Trina Schart	20	Life on the trail of tears	6
Girl who loved wild horses	14	Hymns for a kid's heart	26	Light line	39
Gladys Aylward : daring to trust	34	I gave my mom a castle	32	Lilly, Melinda	28
Glaspey, Terry W.	9	I hate school	66	Line of duty	53
Glass, Andrew	14	I wonder why camels have humps...	30	Little, Jean	32
Goble, Paul	14	I wonder why kangaroos have pouches...	30	Llewellyn, Claire	30
God bless the child	31	I wonder why planes have wings...	30	Loamhedge	40
Godfrey, Joline	66	I wonder why series	30	Long march : the Choctaw's...	6
God's power	25	I wonder why the wind blows...	30	Long Walk : the story of Navajo captivity	6
Going crazy till Wednesday	40	I wonder why trees have leaves...	30	Long, David Ryan	59
Good that I should : Romans 7 for kids	20	I wonder why zippers have teeth...	30	Lorbiecki, Marybeth	31
Good-bye to all that	40	I, Juan de Pareja	23	Lord's prayer	26
Goose moon	12	Illustrated guide to world religions	62	Lottie Moon : a unit study, curriculum guide	50
Gordon, Sharon	34	In my own words	36	Lottie Moon : giving her all for China	50
Gospel code	66	In print!	31	Love your neighbor	13
Grand Canyon : a different view	63	In search of honor	39	Lucado, Max	15
Grasping at moonbeams	40	Industrial Revolution	49	Lucent library of homeland security	46
Gravity	28	Information revolution : opposing viewpoints	45	Ludy, Eric	63
Great American women	4	Invisible friend	41	Ludy, Leslie	63
Great horse-less carriage race	31	Iraq	34	Lumber camp library	22
Great hymns of our faith	26	Iraq	48	Lynch, Wayne	31
Great journeys	6	Iraq : opposing viewpoints:	45	M is for majestic : a national parks alphabet	33
Great women of the Old West	3	Isaacs, Sally Senzell	7	MacEachern, Stephen	27
Greatest Bible stories ever told	25	It's a girl thing	41	Mackall, Dandi Daley	42
Gresh, Dannah	46	It's my state!	33	Magnuson, Diane	7
Grizzly bear family	17	Jacobs, Lee	30	Mahalia Jackson	21
Growing up on the edge of the world	54	Jacobs, Lee	30, 31	Make it grow	28
Guy, Susan	33	Jacques, Brian	40	Make way for ducklings	16
Hall, Melanie	27	John Adams : independence forever	51	Male, Alan	17
Halverson, Dean C.	62	Johnson, Layne	14	Malone, Margaret Gay	36
Hanscome, Jeanette	40	Johnson, Lissa Halls	40	Martin, Jacqueline Briggs	29
Harrar, George	39	Johnson, Lois Walfrid	41	Mary Slessor : courage in Africa	35
Harriet Tubman : freedombound	51	Jordan's crossing	52	Marzollo, Jean	15
Hart, Daniel	52	Juliette Low, Girl Scout founder	21	Maynard, Christopher	30
Hat for Ivan	15	Just like Jesus said	13	McCloskey, Robert	16
Hausman, Gerald	5	Justice	58	McDermott, Gerald	28
Hawks	31	Karon, Jan	15	McEwan, Elaine C.	8
Heavens before	53	Katz, William Loren	3	Meloche, Renee Taft	34, 35
Heitzmann, Kristin	56	Keeley, Jennifer	46	Mendez, Simon	30
Henderson, Dee	57	Khamis, Karen	9	Middle East : opposing viewpoints	45
Herman, Kathy	57	Kids guide to money cents	27	Midnight mystery	42
Heroes for young readers	34, 35	Kim, Henny H.	46	Miller, Debra A.	48
Heroes of history	51	Kim, Joung Un	17	Millwood Hollow series	57
Heroic symphony	21	Kingsbury, Karen	58	Miracle of creation series	29
Herzog, Arthur, Jr.	31	Kinkade, Thomas	58	Miriam and her brother Moses	15
Hess, Debra	27	Kinsey-Warnock, Natalie	22	Miss Hickory	20
Hess, Donna L.	39	Kirkpatrick, Jane	59	Montana	33
Hickman, Patricia	57	Kitchel, JoAnn E.	21	Moore, Cathy	35
Higgins, Helen Boyd	21	Kratter, Paul	17	Morris, John	67
High, Linda Oatman	40	Kraus, Harry Lee	59	Mort, John	9

Mortimer, Anne	13	Poland	34	Starting life	30
Mosel, Arlene	27	Polar Express	18	Steele, Robert Gantt	15
Mouse	31	Pollard, Bryan	34, 35	Steig, William	23
Mukerji, Dhan Gopal	22	Postier, Jim	12	Step into reading	7
Mulford, Karen	4	Prairie dogs	31	Stewart, Elisabeth Jane	6
Munsinger, Lynn	15	Pratney, Winkie	44	Stewart, Gail	46, 49
Musgrove, Margaret	16	Private justice	53	Stories from where we live	47
Mussulman, Joseph	47	Proctor, Pam	67	Stories from where we live : the Great Lakes	47
Muth, Jon J.	19	Prodigal project	52	Strong, Joyce	60
My book of prayers	26	Provensen, Alice	32	Strudwick, Leslie	36
My favorite writer	36	Provensen, Martin	32	Sumi's first day of school ever	17
Myers, Christopher	16	Quinlin's estate	59	Sumplec, Sarah Anne	43
Mystery of the Indian carvings	22	Raising financially fit kids	66	Sundling, Charles W.	3
Nagda, Ann Whitehead	17	Raschka, Christopher	18	Sundog moment : a novel of hope	52
Nate Saint : heavenbound	35	Rathmann, Rodney L.	62	Sylvester and the magic pebble	23
Navajo long walk	6	Rau, Dana Meachen	34	Symbols of America	27
Navajo long walk	6	Raven	28	T is for Tar Heel : a North Carolina alphabet	33
Naveh, Joseph	47	Read and do science	28	Tada, Joni Eareckson	26
Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	22	Reagan, Susan	13	Taylor, Barbara	30
Nazareth's song	57	Red	55	Taylor, Damon J.	25
Ness, Evaline	17	Redwall	40	Taylor, Susie King	36
Never mind the Joneses	64	Repp, Gloria	22	Teen's guide to Christian living	44
New leaf	58	Rhatigan, Joe	31, 47	Tender ties historical series	59
Newpointe 911	53	Richardson, Michael Lewis	68	Thayer, Elizabeth	39
Nguyen, Vincent	20	Rock, Lois	26	This time around	60
Nicholson, Trudy H.	47	Rojankovsky, Feodor	28	Thoene, Bodie	60
No, David!	18	Roleff, Tamara L.	45	Thoene, Brock	60
Noah's ark	25	Rowland Bingham : into Africa's interior	50	Thomas, Keltie	27
Noah's ark	25	Sam, Bangs, and moonshine	17	Thomasma, Kenneth	5
North Korea	48	Saudi Arabia	48	Thompson, Scott M.	28
Numbers	52	Sawyer, Anh Vu	67	Thurman, Debbie	44
Oceans apart	58	Schwedt, Rachel F.	8	Tiger tale	17
O'Connor, Tim	25	Sea horses	29	Timber Lane Cove	37
O'Dell, Scott	6	Second-best friend	41	Tingle, Tim	7
Of dreams and kings and mystical things	60	Secretly do good deeds	13	Tobias, Cynthia Ulrich	66
Olasky, Susan	42	Secrets	56	Tomorrow's treasure	54
Old turtle and the broken truth	19	Sector 7	18	Trail of Tears	7
O'Leary, Denyse	62	Seven sisters	60	Trail of Tears	7
On my own biography	35	Shadow of doubt	53	Trailblazers : twenty amazing Western women	4
On my own history	35	Shannon, David	18	Transforming children into spiritual champions	64
On the long trail home	6	Shiloh	22	Tree	30
One hundred Bible stories activity book	62	Shivering world	60	Trellis and the seed	15
Opossum	31	Sholom, Aleichem	23	Tresselt, Alvin	18
Opposing viewpoints	44, 45	Shope, Robin	61	Treviño, Elizabeth Borton de	23
Orback, Craig	35	Show each other forgiveness	13	Trial by fire	53
Origins of the alphabets	47	Silverman, Erica	23	Trouble with Jeremy Chance	39
Our wild world series	31	Sing down the moon	6	True courage	57
Over in the pink house : new jump rope rhymes	27	Sinkler, Adrian	48	Trueman, Matthew	23
Over the divide	38	Skoglund, Elizabeth R.	65	Turner, Ann Warren	5
P is for pilgrim : a Thanksgiving alphabet	33	Smiley, Aaron	64	Turtle	31
Pak, Soyung	17	Smiley, Kendra	64	Tyers, Kathy	60
Pakistan	48	Smith, Debra White	60	Ultimate core	44
Palestinians and the disputed territories	48	Smith, Fred	31	Uncommon heroes	57
Palmer, Gary	33	Smith, Goerky	43	Urban, Helle	33
Paulsen, Gary	42	Smith, Heather	47	V is for Viking : a Minnesota alphabet	33
Pearl	58	Sneakers, the seaside cat	13	Vail, Tom	63
People at the center of	49	Snowflake Bentley	29	Van Allsburg, Chris	18
Perennial classics	50	Solid, liquid, and gas	28	Veil is torn	65
Perry Sachs series	56	Song of Saigon	67	Viking quest	41
Petersen, Randy	10	Songs in the night	54	Visit to William Blake's inn	32
Petersen, William J.	10	Soul survivor series	41	Vogel, Jane	40
Picture book biography	36	Sound	28	Vossmeier, Gabriele	48
Picture book of Dwight David Eisenhower	36	Sounder	37	Voyager series	5
Picture the past	6	Spencer, Katherine	58	Wadsworth, Ginger	35
Pictures at an exhibition	21	Spier, Peter	25	Wales, Susan	61
Pinch of incense	65	St. Antoine, Sara	47	Walker, Sally M.	29
Pinkney, Jerry	25, 31	Stafford, Tim	64	Walking the Choctaw road	7

INDEX

Wargin, Kathy-Jo	32, 33
Wark, Jim	47
Watson, Clyde	23
Watson, Wendy	23
Way of escape	38
We the people	3
Wenzel, David	15
What is God's design for my body?	29
When dreams come true	63
When the chickens went on strike	23
Where horses run free	14
Whispering Brook series	37
White snow, bright snow	18
Why do birds build nests?	29
Why do plants grow?	29
Why mosquitoes buzz in people's ears	12
Wiesner, David	18
Wild America	30, 31
Will Northaway & the fight for freedom	42
Will Northaway & the quest for liberty	42
Willard, Nancy	32
William Booth : soup, soap and salvation	50
William Carey : bearer of good news	35
William Carey : obliged to go	50
William Carey : unit study, curriculum guide	50
William Penn : liberty and justice for all	51
Williams, Mary E.	44
Wilson, Elizabeth Laraway	8
Wilson, Eric	61
Winnie the horse gentler	42
Winter people	37
Winter room	42
Witherington, Ben	66
Wolgemuth, Bobbie	26
Women of faith fiction	58
Women of the frontier	3
Women of the Western frontier..	2
Wondrous whirligig	14
Wood, Douglas	19
Wood, Jenny	30
Wooten, Sara McIntosh	49
Word of honor	53
World War I	49
World War II	49
World's hot spots	48
Worthington, Everett L.	62
Yardley, Joanna	33
Yates, Susan Alexander	65
Yaxley, Trevor	44
Yesterday's promise	54
Yezerki, Thomas	19
Yo! Yes?	18
Yoder, Carolyn	49
Yorkey, Mike	67
You bad dog!	13
Young American patriots	42
Young Huguenots	39
Young patriots series	21
Young, Mary O'Keefe	35
Youngs, Bettie B.	44
Youngs, Jennifer Leigh	44
Zulu dog	39

