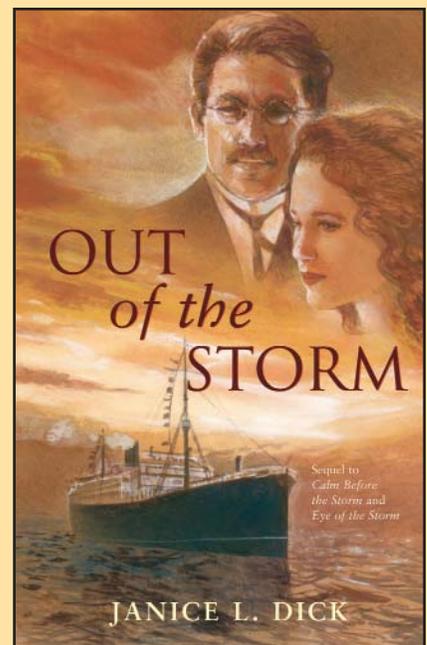
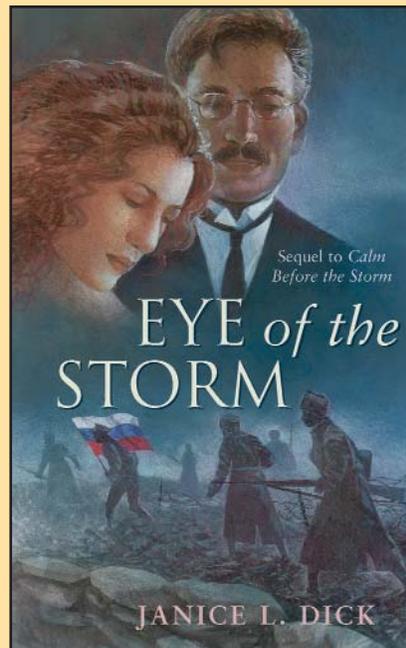
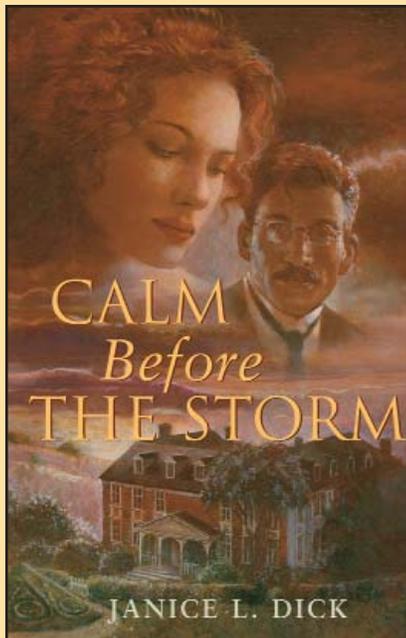
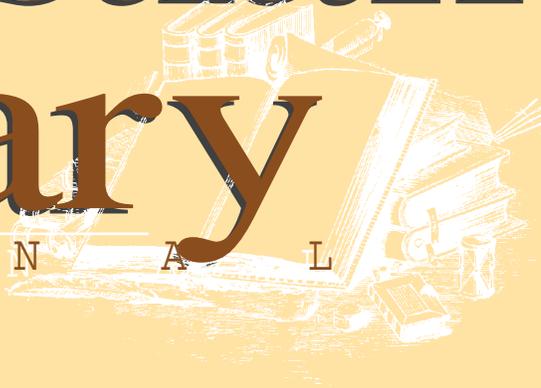


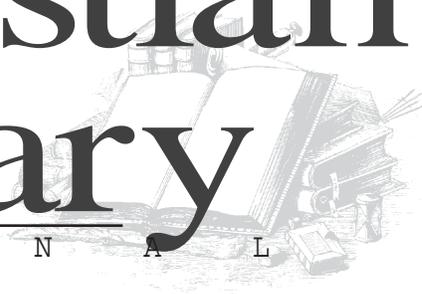
Christian Library

J O U R N A L



The *Christian Library Journal* is published quarterly January through December by Christian Library Services. Subscriptions \$20 per year online. Back issues included. Indexed in *Christian Periodical Index*. Address correspondence to Info@ChristianLibraryJ.org, or to Christian Library Services, 1225 Johnson Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801-3109. Copyright 2005 by Christian Library Services.

Christian Library



J O U R N A L

www.christianlibraryj.org

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 Christian reader. Materials reviewed may reflect a broad range of Christian doctrinal positions and do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the *Christian Library Journal*.

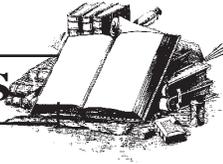
TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

Key	.....	2
Picture Book Reviews	.....	2
Children's Fiction Reviews	.....	9
Myths and Legends	Jane Mouttet	14
Children's Nonfiction Reviews	.....	17
YA Fiction Reviews	.....	30
YA Nonfiction Reviews	.....	38
Adult Fiction Reviews	.....	34
More Book Lists, Part 1	Donna W. Bowling	51
Adult Nonfiction Reviews	.....	55
Index	.....	61

Cover: *Calm Before the Storm, Eye of the Storm, Out of the Storm*, by Janice L. Dick. Herald Press, 2002 - 2004. Used with permission.

Published in the U.S.A. ©2005, Christian Library Journal.



My pal, Victor = Mi amigo, Victor / written by Diane Gonzales ; illustrated by Robert L. Sweetland ; translated by Eida de la Vega = Mi amigo, Victor / escrito por Diane Gonzales Bertrand ; ilustrado por Robert L. Sweetland ; traducción por Eida de la Vega. LCCN 2004302018. Green Bay, Wis. : Raven Tree Press, 2004.

HBB, 0972019294, list cost: \$16.95.

E. Spanish language materials--Bilingual; Amistad--Novela infantil; Niños impedidos--Novela infantil; Libros bilingües; Friendship--Fiction. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades K-4. Rating : 4.

Victor and Dominic, two Latino boys, are best friends. They do all the things best friends do: relate stories, use their imaginations, exchange jokes and riddles, cheer at sporting events, go

swimming, tell scary stories at sleepovers, ride rollercoasters, play with Victor's dog, blow bubble-gum bubbles, and more. "But the most important thing about my pal, Victor, is that he likes me just the way I am." And, that just the way I am, is in a motorized wheel chair." The text is bilingual, English/Spanish. Robert Sweetland has drawn full color realistic pictures, which cover most of each double-page spread, allowing just enough room for the text. An English/Spanish vocabulary list and the answers to the riddles are appended.

Bertrand and Sweetland will share the 2005 Schneider Family Book Award for the grade school audience. The award, donated by Dr. Katherine Schneider, honors an author or illustrator for a book that embodies an artistic

expression of the disability experience. The story is simple, the illustration exuberant. The theme of unconditional friendship and the joy friends have fills the pages. Only on the last page does the reader find out that Victor is handicapped when the illustrator draws him in a wheelchair. Even though the boys are Latino, the appeal is universal. Wonderful message. The only slightly negative aspect of the entire book, for some religious audiences, is the appearance of a dragon and a ghost in three illustrations.

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

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

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

DVD Videodisc

LLB Loose-leaf binding

The story of Mr. Pippin / written and illustrated by Johannah Bluedorn. Muscatine, Ia. : Trivium Pursuit, 2004.

HBB, 0974361682, list cost: \$12.

E. Pets—Fiction; Raccoons—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

Mr. Pippin, an orphaned raccoon, is adopted by Ava and spends the summer with this young lady and her family. Mr. Pippin grows up from a tiny bottle-fed baby to a curious, jelly bean-loving raccoon. Along the way, Mr. Pippin meets Cashmere the parrot, Dulce the cow, and Rosie the dog. We watch as Mr. Pippin discovers the flower garden, climbs a cherry tree, and explores the house and grounds of Ava's family. Finally, Mr. Pippin is old enough to make his home in the woods near Ava's house.

These 32 pages of full color pictures with simple text are sure to delight children of all ages. This is a good read-aloud. My girls all loved it (ages 4, 5, and 8), and I enjoyed reading it to them. The illustrations are all charming watercolors done with beautiful attention to detail. The last page gives four color photographs of the real Mr. Pippin as a baby (being held by the author) and as a slightly older raccoon (being held by his adopted mother, Ava). This book, a true story, will appeal to a broad range of people, especially animal lovers (Mr. Pippin also encounters skunks, a turtle, and another raccoon). This medium sized picture book has a sewn binding and pictorial boards (no dust jacket).

David Rainey, Senior Bibliographer, State Library of Louisiana, Baton Rouge.

The Easterville miracle / Melody Carlson ; illustrations by Susan Reagan. LCCN 2004272381. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2004.

HBB, 0805426809, list cost: \$12.99.

E. Jesus Christ—Resurrection—Juvenile literature; Jesus Christ—Resurrection—Fiction; Easter—Juvenile literature; Easter—Fiction; Stories in rhyme. 31 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 4.

An illustrated Christian fable, *The Easterville Miracle* introduces the audience to the very commercial traditions enjoyed by the folk of Easterville. They 'just don't know' how it got that way. Then one day, troubled and confused, Sam begins asking why. While looking for the true meaning of Easter, Sam finds a helper with the answer. They collaborate on a miracle, and the townspeople learn the wonderful truth about Easter.

Gold Medallion winning author Melody Carlson presents her entertaining, truth-teaching story in easy-to-read and remember verse. With experience in greeting card and children's book illustrating, Susan Reagan's acrylic, rainbow bright, cartoon type pictures bring this story to

life. Readers will recognize the hectic Easter preparations and relish the cooperative miracle, which teaches the true Easter story. The last page closes, appropriately, with John 3:16 (NIV). *The Easterville Miracle* is the latest book in Carlson and Reagan's series of Christian fables for children in verse.

All libraries interested in the true Easter story presented for younger children will appreciate *The Easterville Miracle*. Families, babysitters, and school and church classes will find it popular and useful. A very pretty picture book, with a bright cover, it will make an appreciated gift.

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

Ella Sarah gets dressed / Margaret Chodos-Irvine. LCCN 2002005097. San Diego : Harcourt, 2003.

HBB, 0152164138, list cost: \$16.00.

E. Clothing and dress—Fiction; Individuality—Fiction; Caldecott Honor. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades PS-K. Rating : 5.

Preschooler Ella Sarah wakes up to announce that she would like to wear, "my pink polka-dot pants, my dress with orange-and-green flowers, my purple-and-blue striped socks, my yellow shoes, and my red hat," much to the consternation of her mother, father, and big sister. To each of their suggestions for a different less fancy or less silly outfit, Ella Sarah declares a defiant, "NO." She throws a tantrum and proceeds to dress herself in her proclaimed choice of attire. When Ella Sarah answers the doorbell and invites her friends in for a "tea party," they are equally flamboyantly attired. Chodos-Irvine's artwork has been created using brilliant colors and a variety of printmaking techniques. Additionally, she and Judy the Sieck designed the lettering.

With spare text and illustration, Margaret Chodos-Irvine recreates the feistiness of a spirited two, three, or four year old. The clothing litany is repeated after each "no," and then again while Ella Sarah dresses herself. Bright, almost fluorescent colors of yellow, peach, green, and blue abound. Some objects have prints on top of prints. While most pages have colored backgrounds, white backgrounds are used for emphasis when Ella Sarah has a tantrum, throws her bear, and finally dresses herself. A delightfully perceptive childhood romp. Perhaps adults who have recently parented a preschooler will appreciate it most. When the reviewer shared the book with kindergartners, they could easily relate via themselves or a younger sibling. For her efforts, Ms. Chodos-Irvine earned a Caldecott Honor Award in 2004. This is a must addition for those working with preschoolers and kindergartners.

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

Mr. Tanen's tie trouble / written and illustrated by Maryann Cocca-Leffler. LCCN 2004018579. Morton Grove, Ill. : Albert Whitman, 2003.

HBB, 0807553050, list cost: \$15.95.

E. Schools—Fiction; School principals—Fiction; Neckties—Fiction; Occupations—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

The principal, Mr. Tanen, is back in this sequel to *Mr. Tanen's Ties*. Mr. Tanen arrives back at school following winter vacation to discover that the school has been repaired and fixed up. As he is admiring the work, he chooses his ties for the first day back to school, including a tie with swings and slides to wear when Mr. Tanen announces the new playground. However, the trouble begins when Mr. Tanen finds out that there is no money left from the school repairs to buy the new playground equipment. The students will be disappointed. Mr. Tanen quickly thinks up a solution that everyone benefits from and saves the playground.

Mr. Tanen's Tie Trouble is a delightful book. The illustrations combine bright watercolor pictures with pattern and design. Children may even want to design their own ties to reflect the important events in their lives. The story line will make an enjoyable read aloud for younger children. The main theme of the story is one of self sacrifice and doing things for others. The school community clearly supports Mr. Tanen and helps him solve the playground problem showing that great things can happen when people work together. *Mr. Tanen's Tie Trouble* is a charming read aloud that will captivate young listeners and readers.

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

Two old potatoes and me / words by John Coy ; pictures by Carolyn Fisher. LCCN 2002043261. New York : Alfred A. Knopf, 2003.

HBB, 0375821805, list cost: \$15.95.

E. Fathers and daughters—Fiction; Potatoes—Fiction; Divorce—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades K-4. Rating : 4.

A young girl finds two sprouty old potatoes in a cupboard and wants to throw them out, until her father suggests they use them to grow new potatoes. That's the plot of *Two Old Potatoes and Me*, a picture book written by John Coy and illustrated by Carolyn Fisher.

It's a sweet, simple tale, beautifully told. Coy uses simple, conversational prose, not verse, to tell his story, but even so the words manage to be poetic (for example, lines like "Green plants poked up like caterpillars unfolding"). These words swirl across the page, or along a character's arm, or down a long tiny column, and appear as handwritten block text, or initial caps, or script. This unusual, creative layout nicely suits Fisher's bold quirky drawings, done

in browns, greens, blues, and reds. There's a chance some words, written in pale colors on pale backgrounds, might be missed by a less alert reader; on the other hand, readers eager to search out the 'hidden' text will be well rewarded by the charm of the story.

The relationship between father and daughter is subtle but deep and loving. Also subtle: the fact that father and mother don't live together, and the girl must split her time between them. The characters are African-American, a plus in areas with diverse readership.

Two Old Potatoes and Me is a lovely story that should charm young readers as well as readers who think they've outgrown picture books. A bonus: a recipe for mashed potatoes is included.

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

Please say please! : Penguin's guide to manners / by Margery Cuyler ; illustrated by Will Hillenbrand. LCCN 2003005527. New York : Scholastic, 2004.

HBB, 0590292242, list cost: \$15.95.

E. Etiquette—Fiction; Behavior—Fiction; Penguins—Fiction; Animals—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

The note on the front cover of Margery Cuyler's *Please Say Please!* reads, "Penguin has invited his animal friends to dinner, and their manners are all mixed up, Hippo puts her napkin on her head, and elephant sprays milk everywhere. Oh, My! Just right for young children, this playful first guide to manners is 'giggle-iscious fun!' Those descriptive words are quite correct. Such a delightful introduction to manners will fascinate both preschool children and young readers.

Boys and girls meet Penguin's friends—Pig, Hippo, Lion, Bear, Elephant, Chimpanzee, Giraffe, and Parrot. These lovable animal characters can't remember their manners. Pig wipes his muddy hooves on the tablecloth, and Lion hates cauliflower. Rhino talks with his mouth full. Giraffe burps to show she's happy. After each manners mistake, we read, "Is that right? No, that's wrong." (Imagine small heads answering questions with little head shakes!)

Will Hillenbrand drew the whimsical animals with pen, ink, and crayon on vellum. All of Penguin's colorful friends teach manners. Certainly, these fascinating characters also show bad manners. Bear throws a spoon across the room. Chimpanzee grabs the bananas and says, "Gimme, Gimme." Yet, the animals learn—and then choose—good manners.

I used this book in five story times with small children. *Please Say Please!* reads well, and provides ample opportunities for visuals. Hopefully, the children did not go home and practice the bad manners of Penguin's animal friends!

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. *Volunteer, Church Children's Library, Dexter, Kentucky.*

The big snow / by Berta and Elmer Hader. LCCN 48010240. New York : Simon & Schuster, 1976, 1948.

HBB, 27379108, list cost: \$17.95.

E. Animals—Fiction; Winter—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. (part col.) ; 26 cm.

Grades K-2. Rating : 4.

Husband and wife team Berta and Elmer Hader won the Caldecott Medal in 1949 for *The Big Snow*. The animals and birds of the woods and fields are getting ready for autumn. Mrs. Cottontail and her baby provide the introduction as they watch birds flying south. Over twenty different animals are mentioned in the text as they "prepare" for winter weather. Then, just after the full moon, snow begins to fall, and continues until the animals have trouble finding the food they require. A little old man and a little old woman (the Haders' self-portrait) emerge from their house to feed the animals, who then quickly spread the word that food is available. The illustrations alternate between pencil sketches and watercolor paintings.

For 21st century children the story is a bit slow and drear. Ecologically, the feeding of the animals is questionable in this century. The parade of animals is very long. However, team *The Big Snow* with the four other Caldecott snow books and a broad view of winter, and art media can be studied. The realistic sketches of the animals in autumn and winter are superb, the detail fine. Sketches dance around the edge of the pages providing more images. These pencil sketches alternate with lush full-color watercolor paintings that have as much detail as the sketches. Overall, *The Big Snow* is a gentle, loving, and lovely book.

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

*

So that's what God is like! / story by LeAnne Hardy ; illustrated by Janet Wilson. Grand Rapids : Kregel Kidzone, 2004.

HBB, 0825427827, list cost: \$13.99.

E. God—Fiction; South Africa—Social conditions, 1961—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 19 x 25 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : *5.

Temba, a curious little African boy, is the youngest in his family, except for his newborn baby sister. He loves to help out and is included in the joys of a nurturing family. When Temba goes to church, he learns much about God from his Sunday School teacher, the minister, and his Granny, who sings loudly in the choir. He wants to learn more about God, and questions Granny on their way home from church to find out what God is like. Temba finds that, although the

answer is not an easy one, it is a very satisfying one that give him great delight.

So That's What God Is Like! by LeAnne Hardy, illustrations by Janet Wilson, is a wonderful story about a young boy's journey into the realization that a big God can love a little boy. Bright, inviting illustrations are outlined in beaded ribbon motif that is representative of the Zulu people of South Africa. Colors and textures used are similar to many of Jerry Pinkney's latest works. Writing moves and sways, the rhythm adding to the visual impact of Temba's inquisitive nature that is both intense and easily drawn onto the next new excitement. Background as a family of shepherds in a small African village appropriately emphasizes God's love for us in our humbleness before Him. Generously sprinkled with scriptures (Holy Bible, NIV) throughout. A classic to be treasured and shared with children for generations to come. Highly recommended for homeschooling, cherished one-on-one reading times, and church children's libraries.

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

Kitten's first full moon / Kevin Henkes. LCCN 2003012564. New York : Greenwillow, 2004.

HBB, 0060588284, list cost: \$15.99.

E. Cats—Fiction; Animals—Infancy—Fiction; Moon—Fiction; Caldecott Medal. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

It is the first time in Kitten's life that she has seen a full moon, but she thinks it is a bowl of milk in the sky. She determines to have some of that milk by licking at it and ending up with a bug on her tongue, by jumping up at it and tumbling down, by chasing it and never getting any closer. Each time "there was the little bowl of milk, just waiting." Kitten climbs a tree and sees another bigger bowl of milk in the pond. She jumps down to the pond, then races to its edge and leaps in, only ending up "wet and sad and tired and hungry." So she goes home where there is a bowl of milk on the porch and the lucky kitten can sleep with its tummy full. Kevin Henkes' drawings were made using gouache and colored pencil in shades of gray, black, and white on milk colored paper. Thick black lines outline the kitten while gray tones provide the shadow and detail.

Kevin Henkes won the 2005 Caldecott Award for this spare, simple, and dear story about a baby kitten. If one only looks at the book for a story, he may be disappointed. But examine the entire book from the jacket, cover, end pages, and the placement of objects on the page, to the font style and size. This book's entire package represents outstanding book design. Even the shimmering silver letters on the jacket carry out the silvery moon theme. Keep the jacket, by the way, for the cover only has a picture of the cat.

Circles are a repeated design featured in the moon, firefly lights, flowers, paw pads, and the kitten's eyes. Three especially effective pages place the kitten in various poses in the lower left corner and the far away bowl of milk (moon) in the upper right corner. Connecting the two objects is the repeated phrase, "Still, there was the little bowl of milk, just waiting." Other pages feature picture strips or vertical half page pictures or quarter page picture sequences, lending visual variety. Yet even with all of this variety and outstanding book design, something familiar niggles in the back of this reviewer's mind: Wanda Gag and the flowers and trees and pointy eared cats in *Millions of Cats*, Claire Turlay Newberry and the coloring in *April's Kittens*, Maurice Sendak and Max's warm supper still waiting for him in *Where the Wild Things Are*, and an old Hodja folktale about the foolish man who thought the moon had fallen into a well. None-the-less *Kitten's First Full Moon* should take a place on preschool bookshelves along with the classic *Goodnight Moon*.

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

God bless the child / words and music by Billie Holiday and Arthur Herzog Jr. ; illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. LCCN 63200. New York : Amistad, 2004.

HBB, 0060287977, list cost: \$16.99.

E. Children's songs—United States—Texts; Spirituals (Songs); Songs. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm. + 1 sound disc (digital) ; 4 3/4 in.).

All ages. Rating : 3.

Jerry Pinkney won yet another award for his watercolor illustrations, this time a 2005 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Award for Billie Holiday's song, "God Bless the Child." Jazz vocalist Billie Holiday first wrote and performed the title song "God Bless the Child," about her desire for stability and independence in 1939. It, along with "Strange Fruit," became her two most famous songs. Jerry Pinkney's illustrations tell an independent story about the great migration of African Americans from the rural South to the industrialized northern cities, which occurred during the first half of the 20th century. A CD of Holiday singing the song is included.

Holiday's song is merely the skeletal refrain for Pinkney's detailed illustrations, which depict the sharecropper's hard life, the decision to leave the South and abandon the clapboard cabin, and the arrival in the teeming big city where family members worked in sweatshops, assembly plants, and shining shoes on the street. Family life, fun times, sad times, rich and poor relatives are all represented. In a detailed artist's note, Pinkney explains the role of education as the great equalizer, and on the last page shows a child in school. Pinkney has been collecting vintage photographs of the Black experience for a long time. He used these photos as inspiration

for his watercolor story. Much as this reviewer admires Pinkney's work, in general, and the beauty of this book in particular, she has a difficult time envisioning the usefulness or effectiveness of this particular title. The young child would not have the background to understand the stand-alone pictures; an older child would consider the title almost a wordless book. Northern urban contemporary children would have an especially difficult time connecting.

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

Alicia's best friends / Lisa Jahn-Clough. LCCN 2002009341. Boston : Walter Lorraine Books, 2003.

HBB, 0618239510, list cost: \$15.00.

E. Best friends—Fiction; Friendship—Fiction. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades PS-K. Rating : 4.

Alicia has four best friends and she likes them all. But when she has a party for them to celebrate being best friends, they insist she pick a best best friend. Unable to choose between them, Alicia gives up and heads off to play with her dog Neptune. Finally figuring it out, Alicia tells her friends they are all her best friend in one way or another, based on what she enjoys doing with each of them.

Alicia's Best Friends is a bright, colorful simply-illustrated book by Lisa Jahn-Clough. It will teach young children that it's possible, and even desirable, to have many friends and not be limited to just one best friend. The words are easy to understand for smaller children with beginning language skills. The use of drawings of children of both sexes and various races brings out the uniqueness of each of us. Each child is given varying hair styles and colors, some with glasses, and all have differing interests. Alicia even considers her dog Neptune as one of her best friends. Young children will enjoy finding out you don't have to have just one best friend; it's lots more fun to have many. I highly recommend this book for youngsters of preschool and kindergarten age.

Sherri Myers. Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

A tale of two dogs / by Steven Kroll ; illustrated by Mike Reed. LCCN 2003009321. Tarrytown, N.Y. : Marshall Cavendish, 2004.

HBB, 0761451617, list cost: \$16.95.

E. Dogs—Fiction. 32 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

"Love overlooks a multitude of sins," could be the theme for Steven Kroll's story, *A Tale of Two Dogs*. Morgan is an adorable puppy that gets into a lot of mischief—so much mischief, in fact, that Mr. Morrison can't tolerate one more dinner spilled onto his lap. Morgan's somersault into the dinner table is the last straw and the dog

must go back to the pound. The children's hearts are broken and their parents come home with another dog. "A smaller dog. An older dog. A quieter dog." Though the children try to get Peanut to play, the little beagle just lies around looking sad. Then one day, the Morrisons get a phone call from Peanut's former owners, the family that adopted Morgan, wanting to bring Morgan for a visit. Both dogs run into the arms of their original families, and in spite of the problems that sent the dogs back to the pound, everyone realizes that love matters more than a few broken dishes and chewed slippers.

Award-winning illustrator Mike Reed's bright and colorful paintings make this fun story come alive with excitement and will delight his young audience. Early readers easily master the text, and younger children will fall in love with the laughable and heart-warming pictures. Reed's contemporary illustrations are also found in children's books like *Catching the Wild Waiyuuzee* (S&S, 2000) and *The Bug in Teacher's Coffee* (HarperCollins, 1999).

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

The red book / by Barbara Lehman. LCCN 2004303050. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2004.

HBB, 0618428585, list cost: \$12.95.

E. Wordless books; Imagination—Fiction; Books—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 4.

On her walk to school, a young city girl finds a red book in a snow pile. While in school she takes the book from her backpack to look at. As she looks at a map, consecutive pictures zoom in until she sees a boy on a tropical island who finds a red book. Inside that book are pictures of a city, and when his eye zooms in he sees the girl who is looking at her red book. On the way home, the girl buys balloons to fly to the island, but the book falls away. The boy sees this happen in his book and is distressed until the girl and balloon land on his island. What will happen to the dropped book? A new adventure? Lehman's representational artwork has been created using watercolor, gouache, and ink.

Lehman has created a magical story in a wordless picture book. However, this is not necessarily a book for the non-reader; it is a book for the child with a sharp eye and an imaginative mind. White margins frame the coloring book outline pictures, except for the page on which the girl flies away with the balloons. The red book is somewhere on each page, but sometimes it is very tiny. The observant eye will also note the many details depicted on the tropical island and the snowy city. Ms. Lehman won a 2005 Caldecott Honor Award for her work, which is reminiscent of Banyai's *Zoom* and *Re-zoom* (both Viking, 1995). If the circulation of *Zoom* and *Re-zoom* is any indication of interest, *The Red Book*

should be a frequently requested title. Be sure the art teacher and creative writing teacher are introduced to the book.

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

Thank you, Jesus / written by Charlotte Lundy, illustrated by Heather Claremont. LCCN 2003385306. Mooresville, N.C. : Bay Light, 2003.

HBB, 0967028019, list cost: \$15.95.

E. Jesus Christ—Fiction; Thankfulness—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 4.

A moral tale told by both word and picture, *Thank You, Jesus* relates how a little girl, Madison, fears a kitten because it has only three legs. Through loving interaction and by telling Madison how Jesus loves and cares for all people, including the needy and sick, Grandma helps Madison to lose her fear and fall in love with the kitten.

Eighth in Charlotte Lundy's *Thank You, God* series, *Thank You, Jesus* was a ForeWord Magazine Award finalist. A simple story with which children will easily identify, this tale has several important themes, including befriending and realizing the potential of the disabled, grandparent/child relationships, and relating everyday life to the Bible. Majoring in smiles, filled with motion and emotion, Heather Claremont's colorful, mixed media illustrations happily amplify this story. A child's prayer written by a Baptist pastor prefaces the story, succinctly stating the major theme of accepting each other's differences.

Schools, care givers, and families will enjoy reading this book. Both secular and Christian libraries will find it useful.

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

You're all my favorites / Sam McBratney ; illustrated by Anita Jeram. LCCN 2004045169. Cambridge, Mass. : Candlewick Press, 2004.

HBB, 076362442X, list cost: \$15.99.

E. Self-esteem—Fiction; Parent and child—Fiction; Bears—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 27 cm.

Grades PS-K. Rating : 4.

Three little bears grow up with the reassuring message that they are "the most wonderful baby bears in the whole wide world." As time goes by they begin to question if this is true. More importantly, they begin to worry that they aren't as wonderful as their siblings. Each seeks reassurance from mommy bear, then daddy bear, that they are as special and loved as the others. As daddy bear tells them each that they are the most perfect "first", "second", and "third" baby bears ever, the little bears are satisfied that they are special and unique in their own way.

You're All My Favorites is from the same team who brought us the classic *Guess How Much I Love You*. Sam McBratney warmly writes about that special love between parent and child and Anita Jeram's soft watercolor and pencil illustrations echo the sweet tone of the story. While the story is sweet, it won't stop most children from feeling those inevitable pangs of insecurity or questioning who is "really" their parents favorite. But as an affectionate reminder of the boundless love between parent and child, this book is a winner.

The positive message of this story is universal and should appeal to both parent and child. It is a very nice read-aloud bedtime story and the adorable and soothing illustrations are full of charming details.

Stephanie J. Teig, BA. *Freelance Writer, Plymouth, Minnesota.*

Young Larry / Daniel Pinkwater ; illustrated by Jill Pinkwater. LCCN 96041670. New York : Benchmark, 1997.

LIB, 0761450041, list cost: \$14.95.

E. Polar bear—Fiction; Bears—Fiction; Humorous stories. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 4.

The Pinkwater's have collaborated on books that address a number of engaging topics, and this one on polar bears complements their *Irving and Muktuk: Two Bad Bears* (Houghton Mifflin, 2001). The illustrations are rendered in pen and ink and colored markers.

Polar bear Larry snoozes on an ice floe and when he wakes up finds himself in Bayonne, New Jersey. Stranded at the shore, he gets a job as a lifeguard and uses his pay to buy blueberry muffins. The book could easily and quite appropriately be titled, *Hide Your Blueberry Muffins!* There's an interesting twist to the story that gives children pause for fantasy. The polar bear has a distaste for violence and eating people.

Parents will enjoy reading the story with their children. Public library collections can add this tale for its timeless quality and charming storyline.

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

Jazzy Miz Mozetta / Brenda C. Roberts ; pictures by Frank Morrison. LCCN 2002026508. New York : Farrar Straus Giroux, 2004.

HBB, 0374336741, list cost: \$16.50.

E. Dance—Fiction; African Americans—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 25 x 28 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 4.

Illustrator Frank Morrison won two awards for *Jazzy Miz Mozetta*, a 2005 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Award and a 2005 John Steptoe Award for New Talent Illustrator Award. He paints bright full color pictures depicting the

frenetic action of the story. Brenda Roberts writes a toe-tapping story featuring senior citizen Miz Mozetta who puts on her blue dancing shoes, her firecracker red dress, and pizzazzy hat for an evening of old-time jitterbugging. But her friends are achy and tired. When Miz Mozetta sees young break-dancers and wants to learn their moves, they respond that she'd get hurt, so she pouts her way home. Back home she turns the radio on to the Fat Cat Band and dreams about the old times at the Blue Pearl Ballroom. Her friends change their mind, change their clothes, and come to Miz Mozetta's for an evening of foot stomping, whirling, and twirling to the old radio sound. The young break-dancers hear the commotion and come to investigate, wanting to learn the steps to the seniors' dance. Each senior does a demo and soon they dance until Miz Mozetta has holes in her blue shoes and dreams about getting new red shoes, her best color.

If you enjoy music, if you enjoy dance, if you enjoy jazz or be-bop or hip-hop, you will smile at this intergenerational romp. Roberts fills the text with dance and music words and sounds. A dance rhythm develops as the words flow across the page. But even more rhythmical are Morrison's illustrations. Even the angular and buxom body shapes reflect music notes on some pages. One can picture Miz Mozetta and friends reliving their jitterbug haunts of the 20s, 30s, and 40s in Harlem. Bodies whirl, twist, and gyrate in the streets and in Miz Mozetta's apartment. Brilliant colors flash with the dancing feet and foot stomping beat. The characters are all African American, but the enthusiasm is cross-cultural. Share this for fun, share it in a music class, or share it with an intergenerational group. If your budget is very limited, you may want to pass, but if you have any extra funds, consider *Miz Mozetta*.

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

Nine animals and the well / James Rumford. LCCN 2002010962. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2003.

HBB, 0618309152, list cost: \$16.00.

E. Fables; Numerals—Fiction; Gifts—Fiction; Pride and vanity—Fiction; Animals—Fiction; Parties—Fiction; India—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 x 29 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

Author and illustrator James Rumford takes counting with "Arabic" numerals back to its origin in India and weaves in a lesson on pride and friendship as nine animal friends travel to the birthday party of a young raja-king. Each animal selects a perfect gift to bring, but becomes dissatisfied when comparing theirs with the gifts of the other travelers. By the end of their journey, all the gifts are lost and they arrived empty-handed. But the raja-king's joy at seeing them makes them realize that their

friendship is the greatest gift they could give to the king who already has everything he needs.

Rumford's lovel, paper-collage designs reflect the art of the Taj Mahal and transport his readers to far-off India in a time when animals talked. Brush, pen, and pencil decorate the handmade flowered paper and bring a unique quality of art to this interesting fable. The pictures will fascinate young listeners, and the fluid lines of text will surprise early readers as, like the gold coins tossed into the air, "flew, flashing and shining, into the air. Then down they came, like divers, into what surely was a bottomless well."

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

Who's knocking at the door? / by Carla Stevens ; illustrated by Lee Chapman. LCCN 2003020299. New York : Marshall Cavendish, 2004.

HBB, 0761451684, list cost: \$16.95.

E. Old age—Fiction; Domestic animals—Fiction; Kindness—Fiction. 40 p. : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 4.

Stevens (*Lily and Miss Liberty* (Scholastic, 1992), *Anna, Grandpa and the Big Storm* (Clarion, 1982)) adds another feather to her picture-book cap with this story of friendly cooperative between animals and humans. Stevens, who lives in Connecticut with her husband, two cats and family horse, and Chapman, who lives in Mexico with his wife and two dogs, convey a love for animals. Their story centers around an elderly couple who give shelter to a talking horse, a cow, and two hens on a cold night. In gratitude, the animals save them from two robbers.

The deep bright colors on each 8 x 11 inch page provide a folk art journey as the well-paced story unfolds. Children can read the story with interest and it lends itself to also be told by an adult or teacher or librarian.

School and public librarians can add this title for child and family enjoyment. It utilizes fantasy and fun while also deepening art appreciation and respect for people.

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

Corgiville Christmas / Tasha Tudor. LCCN 2003051412. Asheville, N.C. : Front Street, 2003.

HBB, 1932425004, list cost: \$15.95.

E. Dogs—Fiction; Animals—Fiction; Christmas—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 31 cm.

Grades K-2. Rating : 4.

While Tasha Tudor's third Corgi book has plenty of activity as the Corgiville inhabitants prepare to celebrate Christmas, it is not really a story. Instead it is more of a collection of nostalgic glimpses into various family and village traditions from a 1920's country life. In *Corgiville Christmas*, the Bigbee Browns put up

their Advent calendar and light their wreath. All the shops are decorated and the Corgi pups, kittens, and young rabbits from miles around wait patiently for Isaac Stauffer to make his legendary ice cream. Finally it is time for the town folk to take a trip to the Christmas Woods for the perfect trees. Everyone returns late, by moonlight.

Tudor's lovely watercolor and crayon illustrations make the book a banquet of images for the reader, whether adult or child. The pictures are full of activity and color and one can imagine a toddler sitting on Mom or Dad's lap, pointing at the playful Corgis while the text is read aloud. The illustrations and text match in mood and support one another well.

If *Corgiville Christmas* has a problem, it might be the inclusion of so many characters and store names. These could be confusing at first. But with repetitive reading, a child should be able to identify both the town's occupants and its businesses by name before long. Children will enjoy learning about other Christmas traditions beyond the sphere of their own families.

Tasha Tudor's sweet *Corgiville Christmas* will be a welcome addition to any family, home school, public, or school library. The book is pure enjoyment and sure to become a seasonal classic. Recommended.

Cathy M. Elliott, BS. *Writer/Library Information Technician, Shasta College, Anderson, California.*

Seeds! Seeds! Seeds! / written and illustrated by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace. LCCN 2003009318. New York : Marshall Cavendish, 2004.

HBB, 0761451595, list cost: \$16.95.

E. Seeds—Fiction; Grandfathers—Fiction; Bears—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades K-4. Rating : 4.

Buddy Bear receives a mysterious package of seeds of various shapes, textures, colors, and sizes, and a bird feeder from Gramps. Buddy also receives five packets and instructions on how to start a seed collection, make a seed picture frame, and how to grow grass in a jar that he can paste a silly paper face on. Buddy has so much fun that he adds to his seed collection from the snacks that he and his mother share, shows his seed collection off at school, and sends a picture of himself in the seed frame as thanks to his Gramps.

Seeds! Seeds! Seeds! written and illustrated by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace is a delightful story about a young bear and his mama bear that shares the discoveries that can be found in a tiny seed. Whether dried and shriveled or opening into the different stages of plant growth, new life is aptly represented in the colorful illustrations, as well as Buddy's enthusiasm. Cut paper illustrations are reminiscent of Leo Lionni's *Frederick* (Knopf Books for Young Readers,

Reissue, 1967) and Ezra Jack Keats' *Peter's Chair* (Reprint, Viking Books, 1998) 3-D collage illustrations. Each craft that Gramps has sent for Buddy to do, though not completely spelled out for the reader, can easily be copied by parents and shared with eager beginning gardeners. Illustrations of seeds and stages of growth are realistic and helpfully displayed. Recommended for one-on-one, home schooling, or small group reading. Although information is clear, best benefits will be reaped through interactive reading in this particular book.

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

Razzamadaddy / by Linda Walvoord ; illustrated by Sachiko Yoshikawa. LCCN 2003009319. New York : Marshall Cavendish, 2004.

HBB, 0761451587, list cost: \$14.95.

E. Fathers and sons—Fiction; Beaches—Fiction; Stories in rhyme. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades PS-K. Rating : 4.

"One Daddy, two Daddy, three Daddy, four. Come Daddy, go Daddy, open the door!" And so begins a little boy's retelling of the sights, sounds, and general joy he expresses as he spends his day with his father at the beach. Together they frolic, splash, build, snack, and run through the sand and surf day. Filled with onomatopoeia and alliterative tongue tickling rhyme, *Razzamadaddy* by Linda Walvoord is a tribute to the special delight children find in the one on one time with their fathers. The bright, stylized acrylic illustrations by Sachiko Yoshikawa capture the excitement and happiness of father and his young son together. Some books are meant to be shared and read over and over again, and this is one of them. Although the main character is a boy, little girls will readily relate to the fun times that can be had with a daddy at the beach.

Warm and inviting both to the eye and ear, *Razzamadaddy* is fun to read and be read to with its abundance of alliterative rhyme. Although it is not stated outright, this story hints the father is not living at home with its front and end piece illustrations of the father driving up and then hugging the child at home. While this shows that a close relationship with a child does not have to end when the mother and father's marriage ends, it is nevertheless a concern that so many more books are coming out which show that divorce is such a dominant factor of children's lives. While it might have simply been an understated reassurance that fathers are still there for children although they live in separate homes it would be even more reassuring that art not have to imitate life so much in pointing out the stark realities of our culture. Nonetheless, overall, *Razzamadaddy* taken at face value is a book that young children will be drawn to, and parents, especially dads, will appreciate.

Pam Webb, BA. Freelance Writer, Sandpoint, Idaho.

Don't let the pigeon drive the bus / words and pictures by Mo Willems. LCCN 2004296657. New York : Hyperion, 2003.

HBB, 078681988X, list cost: \$12.99.

E. Pigeons—Juvenile fiction; Bus drivers—Juvenile fiction; Pigeons—Fiction; Bus drivers—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades PS-K. Rating : 5.

First time author/illustrator Mo Willems won a Caldecott Honor Award in 2004 for this title. The bus driver tells the reader, or bus riders, or passers-by that he needs to leave for a while and wants you to watch the bus and definitely, "Don't let the pigeon drive the bus!" The pigeon, however, has been waiting and pleads in every-which-way to drive the bus. He uses words, he pleads, he rationalizes, he simmers, he acts-out driving, he pouts, he screams. In other words he uses every tactic a child might to get his way. When the driver returns, the driver thanks the reader for not allowing the pigeon to drive the bus; the pigeon dejectedly stands along the curb, when a semi comes by, and the reader is left to wonder if another story is coming. Speech bubbles provide white areas for thoughts and comments. Willems uses pastel backgrounds for his simple cartoon sketches of the driver, the bus, and the pigeon. Blue is the major color for the characters until the red semi arrives.

The more often one reads this spare book, the more one sees. Willems is able to give his pigeon more moods and actions simply with body positions. If the speech bubbles weren't sharing words and thoughts, the body language reminiscent of mimes could tell the pigeon's story. Willems varies the layout of the book from double-page spreads, to full-page to quarter-page. Size of print is also varied to emphasize pigeon's actions and frustrations. When this reviewer read the book to primary children, they soon chimed in with "don't let the pigeon drive the bus" or "no" after each of pigeon's suggestions. A truck story was anticipated for the next book, but instead pigeon meets a duckling that tries to get some of pigeon's hot dog in "The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog." Willems is an insightful new author/illustrator to continue watching and encouraging. He also has a web site that features a new sketch each day. Of the four Caldecott awardees for 2004, Willems' work is the most innovative.

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

Knuffle Bunny / by Mo Willems. LCCN 2004304412. New York : Hyperion Books for Children, 2004.

HBB, 0786818700, list cost: \$15.99.

E. Lost and found possessions—Fiction; Toys—Fiction; Fathers and daughters—Fiction; Self-service laundries—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 32 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

"Before she could even speak words," Trixie and her daddy go down the block, through the park on an errand to the laundromat. They sort and stuff the clothes into the washer, then go home. But Trixie soon realizes something, and in language only babies can say tries to explain the problem. By the time they reach home, Trixie is bawling, playing boneless, and irritating Dad. Trixie's mom immediately recognizes the problem and they all make the jaunt back to the laundromat where Dad looks and looks, and looks again until he finds Knuffle Bunny. "And those were the first words Trixie ever said." Mo Willems blends hand-drawn ink sketches in cartoon style with digital photographs of his neighborhood on pale olive-green paper.

Mo Willems won a 2005 Caldecott Honor Award for this humorous, simple family story about a toddler's first words. Willems uses the cartoon style as he did in the Pigeon/Bus book, but takes the book design one step further by superimposing the colorful characters on top of photographs of his Brooklyn, NY, neighborhood expunged of litter, garbage cans, and air conditioners. Willems begins his story on the title page with framed "photos" of Trixie's mom and dad's marriage, her birth, and a family outing. The endpages show Knuffle Bunny going round and round in the washer. With a few facial feature lines, Willems is able to portray numerous emotions on Trixie and her daddy as well as people they meet both coming and going on their errand. Children howl at the page where Trixie is sorting the clothes including underwear. Speech bubbles are used for Trixie speech. The book concludes with the same-framed picture of Trixie hugging Knuffle Bunny as it begins with on the title page. The reviewer wondered whether primary children would relate to this toddler, but should not have, for they saw younger siblings or themselves doing what Trixie did. Mo Willems knows young children, their actions and interests, and it shows in his creative humorous books.

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

Coming on home soon / by Jacqueline Woodson ; illustrated by E.B. Lewis. LCCN 2003021949. New York : Putnam, 2004.

HBB, 0399237488, list cost: \$16.99.

E. Separation (Psychology)—Fiction; Mother and child—Fiction; Grandmothers—Fiction; African Americans—Fiction; World War, 1939-1945—United States—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

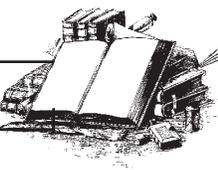
Grades 1-3. Rating : 4.

In this World War II story Ada Ruth's mother has gone to Chicago where black women are being hired for work. Mother promises she'll be

"coming on home soon," and that she loves Ada Ruth more than rain or snow. Ada Ruth stays in the south with her sensitive comforting grandmother, but misses her mother immensely. She writes regular letters and waits and waits for a letter from her mother. Intermingled with the main plot is a subplot of a stray kitten that seems to want to stay, who Ada Ruth wants to stay, but Grandma doesn't. Finally the letter including some money arrives. E. B. Lewis uses watercolors for the illustrations.

Jacqueline Woodson's writing is poetic, soft, loving, comforting, and sensitive. E. B. Lewis' paintings depict the same sentiments. Lewis won a 2005 Caldecott Honor Award for his full-color full-page realistic paintings of black southern home life during WWII. Shades of blues and browns convey warmth, comfort, and love between grandmother and granddaughter yet separation. Hugs and caresses abound on the pages as Ada Ruth's lonesomeness is portrayed. On several pages, including a two-page spread, Ada Ruth is shown all alone with the stray kitten or pensively looking out the window. On three text pages Lewis has painted oval framed photographic style pictures of the mother or mother with Ada Ruth. On other text pages watercolor sketches of Ada Ruth or objects from everyday life enhance the page. The watercolors are reminiscent of Jerry Pinkney's paintings of southern black life, but Lewis' are less detailed and less colorful. Woodson and Lewis' depiction of loneliness transcends ethnicity.

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



Destiny, valor, and a lizard named Louie / by Michael Ambrosio ; illustrated by Bob Langan. Folsom, Calif. : LionX Publishing, 2004.

PAP, 0971608539, list cost: \$5.95.

Fic. Orphans—Fiction; Courage—Fiction. 128 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : 4.

Harry Potter mixed with Disney characters! This children's chapter book is about an orphaned lizard who grapples with self-identity and issues of good and disguised evil. Ambrosio is a former surfer who loves to live and write adventures. His sense of exuberance adds bounce to the story as he mixes real life themes with fictional characters. Langan turns to shaded pencil drawings to create a captivating visual of the characters in the life of the lizard, Louie. The crafty chameleons have plans for Louie. At first he is insecure and without direction, but gradually figures out the schemes. Children will likely delight in seeing whether Louie can discover courage, find true love, and answer the call of his destiny. The action packed scenes speak to the warrior side of boys and the intriguing characters will keep girls involved.

Some hard vocabulary is immediately defined in a footnote on the page. A study guide in the back of the book offer questions relating to each chapter, along with bold-faced vocabulary words to find the definitions or a thesaurus for synonyms. School and public libraries can include this title in their adventure offerings.

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

Young patriots : inspiring stories of the American Revolution / by Marcella Fisher Anderson and Elizabeth Weiss Vollstadt. LCCN 2003115295. Honesdale, Penn. : Boyd's Mills, 2004.

HBB, 1597082410, list cost: \$16.95.

Fic. United States—History—Revolution, 1775-1783—Fiction. 141 p. ; 24 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 2.

Joint authors Anderson and Vollstadt have created stories about fictional children living in the Revolutionary War period. The text is organized into five sections (The Road to War, Hostilities Begin, The Revolution in the North, The Revolution in the South, and A New Country is Born) and presented chronologically. Historical background is introduced at the beginning of each story. Interspersed among the pages are maps, definitions, and "Did you know..." sidebars. Black and gray pencil sketches are also included.

The supplementary materials: story sidebars, bibliography, web sites, and historical background to each story are far more valuable than the stories themselves. The stories tend to be didactic and contrived, lacking strong conflict and dialogue. A teacher might use some of the stories as read-alouds while studying the Revolutionary War. Few students would select this book for free independent reading. Even the format is dull. In a small library with limited funds, this title should not be purchased.

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

Peter Pan and Wendy / original text by J.M. Barrie ; illustrated by Robert Ingpen. LCCN 2004002579. New York : Scholastic, 2004.

HBB, 0439672570, list cost: \$17.95.

Fic. Fantasy. 216 p. : ill. ; 25 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 4.

Ingpen, awarded the Hans Christian Andersen Media for his contribution to children's literature, offers illustrations to this work that convey both depth and feeling. The colorful renditions and quality paper used give both the appearance and feel of a luscious, special edition. This new edition of a classic first performed in 1904 as a play and in novel form in 1911 continues to offer both adventure and a sense of fantasy.

Librarians seeking an edition of *Peter Pan* for display and sharing a visual treat along with the worded story would do well to add this edition. Those having *Peter Pan* (Henry Holt & Co, 2003) or *Peter Pan and Wendy* (Chrysalis, 2003) need not replace. Children librarians can use illustrations to accompany parts of the story they might include in their story hours.

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

Starfall : Phaeton and the chariot of the sun / Michael Cadnum. LCCN 2004058328. New York : Orchard Books, 2004.

HBB, 0439545331, list cost: \$16.95.

Fic. Phaethon (Greek mythology)—Juvenile fiction; Apollo (Greek deity)—Juvenile fiction; Mythology, Greek—Juvenile fiction; Phaethon (Greek mythology)—Fiction; Apollo (Greek deity)—Fiction; Mythology, Greek—Fiction. 124 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 8-10. Rating : 3.

A Griffin attacks the village sheep; Phaeton throws rocks at it and runs for help. Upon Phaeton's return, the village gossip's son taunts

him about his lineage. Phaeton's mother has always told him that he is the son of Apollo, the sun god. When he questions her further, determined to know the truth, she reassures and encourages him to find his father and obtain proof. Phaeton leaves the comfort of home and village to seek out the truth concerning his ancestry. After trekking across the world, Phaeton finally meets Apollo, who immediately grants him a wish. Phaeton desires to prove himself to his father, so he asks to be able to drive his sun chariot drawn by the god's wild horses.

Starfall: Phaeton and the Chariot of the Sun by Michael Cadnum is the first volume in a trilogy based on Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Cadnum is a seasoned author of books for both adults and teens. Much of his work is focused on legends and mythology. In this re-telling of the Greek myth, Cadnum has divided the story into three segments: family, journey, and outcome. Although dialogue is somewhat stiff, the formal atmosphere adds a genuine quality to the myth. Characters and backdrop are reminiscent of pictograph on a Greek urn that has suddenly come to life. A basic understanding of Greek mythology is helpful to the reader. Recommended as a second purchase.

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

Tales from Silver Lands / by Charles J. Finger, woodcuts by Paul Honoré. LCCN 24026940. Garden City, N.Y : Doubleday, 1924.

Out of print; buy used.

Fic. Indians of South America—Folklore—Juvenile literature; Newbery Medal. 225 p. : col. front., illus., col. plates ; 24 cm.

Grades 3-7. Rating : 3.

Tales From Silver Lands relates the stories of fair maidens, brave boys, ugly ogres, mean witches, kindly grandmothers, and terrible step mothers. The tales occur in various countries of South America. Lands where summer is so hot that "...because of the heat, when you are inside, you wish that you were out, and when you are outside, you wish that you were in." Silvery, shimmery lands where boys meet star maidens, children slaughter giants, and wooden manikins evolve into monkeys. Lands where the residents learn to be nice, that unified peoples can accomplish great feats, and that hard work will achieve a good life.

Tales From Silver Lands contains nineteen fairy tales. As with most fairy tales, magical elements play a major role in most of the stories. Most

witches in these tales create havoc and are easily recognized as evil. However, "he went on to tell of other witches that he knew, saying that there were many who were not all bad." The tales move slowly, often bogged down in lengthy description, slow plot development, and frequent use of "be" verbs. The South American setting is at times hard to imagine. Sparse dialogue exists in the tales. These tales have many good morals from which one can learn.

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

Mei Li / Thomas Handforth. LCCN 64006607. Garden City, N.Y : Doubleday, 1955, 1928.

HBB, 0385074018, out of print; buy used.

Fic. China—Fiction; Caldecott Medal. [48] p.: ill.; 32 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 3.

The Wang family, especially Mei Li, is getting ready for the Chinese New Year celebration in North China near the Great Wall. Uncle Wang and San Yu, Mei Li's brother, are heading to the big city to participate in the New Year Fair which Mei Li would like to attend, too. But she is a girl, and girls stay at home in traditional old China. Mei Li bribes her brother with a lapis-blue marble to take her to the city gate. He agrees. Wide-eyed Mei Li sees donkeys, ponies, camels, fancy clothes, firecrackers, sweet treats, kites, stilt-walkers, a circus troupe, dancing bears, and is finally frightened by a flying hawk kite. She crawls under a basket only to find that San Yu was teasing her. A tired Mei Li is reunited with her uncle and brother. The three manage to get through the city gate before it closes because Mei Li had been kind to a beggar girl earlier in the day. They arrive home just in time for the New Year feast and midnight when the Kitchen God would appear. The illustrations are black and white lithograph.

Thomas Handforth was presented the Caldecott Award for *Mei Li* in 1939, becoming the second recipient. The story is long and didactic for 21st century children's tastes. However, children the reviewer has known, as young as second grade, are fascinated by a new cultural view of old China, a New Year Fair, and the Kitchen God. Although the illustrations are black and white, there is so much action and detail that there is much for the eye to feast upon. And it is the illustrations that receive the award, not the story, although they should be integrated. Would the book receive the award today? Probably not without significant revision of the story. Probably not because the illustrations stereotype the Chinese people and their lifestyle even though the quality is outstanding. Should this title be included in a library collection? Only as a representative in a complete Caldecott collection for historical study. In a Christian school the title could be used to start a conversation about Buddhism and the Kitchen God.

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

*

The cats in Krasinski Square / by Karen Hesse ; illustrated by Wendy Watson. LCCN 2003027775. New York : Scholastic, 2004.

HBB, 0439435404, list cost: \$16.95.

Fic. Jews—Persecutions—Poland—Warsaw—Juvenile fiction; Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)—Poland—Warsaw—Juvenile fiction; Jews—Persecutions—Poland—Warsaw—Fiction; Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)—Poland—Warsaw—Fiction; Sisters—Fiction; Heroes—Fiction; Cats—Fiction; Warsaw (Poland)—History—Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, 1943—Juvenile fiction; Warsaw (Poland)—History—Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, 1943—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 x 31 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : *5.

Both a gripping historical novel and a pretty picture book, *The Cats in Krasinski Square* tells a little known chapter from World War II. The Jews are imprisoned and starving behind Warsaw's ghetto walls. One young Jewish girl lives outside the walls, keeping her nationality a secret. In a successful ploy to get food into the ghetto under the very eyes of the Gestapo, she and her stray cat friends distract the ferocious guard dogs while others slip food into the ghetto.

Award winning children's author Karen Hesse ferreted out as many facts as possible for this story, then added the bridging details from her imagination. Written in a simple, compelling style which grabs the interest immediately, *The Cats in Krasinski Square* will enthrall young, and older, readers. The narrative sits within Wendy Watson's luminous yet muted-toned pencil, ink, and watercolor full-page illustrations. Illustrations and narrative enhance each other. Concluding Author's Note and Historical Note add interesting detail.

With a subject reflecting today's dilemmas, this book is recommended for all libraries, schools, and families interested in learning together.

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

The stranger next door / Peg Kehret and Pete the Cat. LCCN 2001040396. New York : Dutton Children's Books, 2002.

HBB, 0525468293, list cost: \$15.99.

Fic. Witness protection programs—Fiction; Cats—Fiction; Arson—Fiction; Moving, Household—Fiction; Friendship—Fiction; Hilltop (Wash.)—Fiction. 162 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : 4.

Pete the Cat figures quite extensively in *The Stranger Next Door*, a mystery written for young readers. Pete understands English clearly although it is impossible for him to get that across to his humans. His constant meowing is usually met with more food rather than good dialogue, resulting in a rather large cat and lots of missed conversation.

Alex and his family live in a new subdivision and Pete is really Alex's only friend. Bullies at school make his life miserable and when a new boy moves in, Alex, of course, is hoping to make a friend. What he doesn't know is that Rocky's entire life is a secret, one he will not and cannot reveal. When mysterious events begin happening in the neighborhood and arson fires destroy two homes, rumors fly. Who is responsible? Bullies or the new boy, Rocky, who certainly seems to have a chip on his shoulder.

Told in part by Pete the Cat, *The Stranger Next Door* is a fun mystery for younger readers with humor and suspense. Learning how important friends are—both human and feline—is a lesson everyone learns in the end.

Peg Kehret writes in a way that draws her readers into the story and keeps their attention through to the end. A wonderful book for elementary school or library shelves.

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

The Gammage Cup : a novel of the Millipins / Carol Kendall ; illustrated by Erik Blegvad. LCCN 99055279. San Diego : Harcourt Brace, 2000.

PAP, 015202493X, list cost: \$6.00.

Fic. Fantasy. 283 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 5.

This book earned a Newbery Honor Award, and an ALA Notable Children's Book. Its publication in paperback provides another opportunity for new readers and for earlier ones to reread *The Gammage Cup*. Five outcasts from the conformist society of Slipper-on-the-Water appeal to children (and to many adults too): Curley Green (the artist), Gummy (the poet), Mingy (the curmudgeon), Walter the Earl (the scholar) and Muggles (the average Minnipin). These turn out to be the only defenders of the Land between the Mountains from an impending attack by the cannibalistic Mushrooms. Children can relate to these sympathetic characters for they struggle with their lives, and have a curiosity for things not on the straight and narrow, much as preteens are doing in their search for individuality.

School and public libraries without this timeless title can add at minimal cost. It is also an adventure book that makes a gift with richness of ideas and delight in words for preteens.

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

One sky above us / by E. Cody Kimmel ; illustrated by Scott Snow. (Adventures of young Buffalo Bill ; 2.) LCCN 54344. New York : HarperCollins, 2002.

LIB, 0060291206, list cost: \$17.89.

Fic. Buffalo Bill, 1846-1917—Childhood and youth—Juvenile fiction; Buffalo Bill, 1846-1917—Childhood and youth—Fiction; Abolitionists—Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life—Kansas—Fiction; Kansas—History—1854-1861—Fiction. 177 p. : ill., map ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : 3.

E. Cody Kimmel claims to be a descendent of Buffalo Bill Cody, the protagonist in this middle book in "The Adventures of Young Buffalo Bill" trilogy. The title is set in 1850s pioneer Kansas during year following the Cody family's move from Iowa. Kansas is in the center of the slavery battle, and Mr. Cody is a strong Free-Soiler whereas many other area settlers are pro-slavery. Mr. Cody is stabbed, and Bill becomes the "man of the family" while his father recuperates in Missouri. Bill must outwit his father's enemies as well as protect his mother and sisters. The story concludes with the father moving westward again. In a subplot, Bill and his father develop a positive relationship with the Kickapoo Indians and invite them to a barbecue. Partial page pencil sketches begin each chapter. An afterword delineates which events in this western adventure story are factual.

A very unevenly written story: several chapters are laugh out loud hilarious; others are didactic and dull. Bill is far too wise and capable for his age—the legend of his future has been written into his childhood. As an eight year old he is portrayed way beyond his years. Conversation is stilted, and in other segments very natural. Little has been written about the Bloody Kansas period in US history that is adventuresome and child centered. This title fits that bill.

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

Fables / written and illustrated by Arnold Lobel. LCCN 79002004. New York : HarperCollins, 1980.

HBB, 0060239735, list cost: \$15.99.

Fic. Fables, American; Children's stories, American; Animals—Fiction; Fables. 40 p. : col. ill. ; 30 cm.

Grades 2-6. Rating : 5.

Arnold Lobel received the 1981 Caldecott Medal for *Fables*. He writes twenty original fables in the style of Aesop's fables: animal characters acting like humans and a brief story concluding with a moral. He has used a different animal in each one page story. Several unusual animals seldom found in traditional fables include a lobster, baboon, ostrich, camel, rhinoceros, kangaroo, and hippopotamus. On the opposite page of each fable is a full-page watercolor illustration with pen and ink detail.

Fables is a more substantial work than Lobel's Frog and Toad books or other beginning to read titles. First, it is not a controlled vocabulary reader; second the stories are more condensed yet more challenging to read; and third the morals all give the reader or listener something to ponder. The morals often have a twist on the traditional morals, thus making them a bit more

contemporary. This title should be paired with a variety of Aesop collections and then compared. LaFontaine fables could also be introduced to the reader. After reading a number of fable collections, readers could be tempted to try to write their own based on proverbs. The illustrations, like the text, are more substantial than other Lobel work. Each page is a completely composed, often humorous, framed painting filled with many details, which enhance the fable, or help the young reader understand the fable. By definition this is a picture book, but it is one for older readers. The reader or teacher would be well served to read one fable a sitting, digest it, and later talk about its relationship to everyday living. Include this in your collection with Aesop's fables and books of illustrated Proverbs.

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

*

When dad's at sea / by Mindy L. Pelton ; illustrated by Robert G. Steele. LCCN 2003016772. Morton Grove, Ill. : Albert Whitman, 2004.

HBB, 0807563390, list cost: \$15.95.

Fic. Fathers and daughters—Fiction; Separation (Psychology)—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : *5.

A fiction picture book firmly embedded in the needs of today's world, *When Dad's at Sea* relates how Emily and her mom learn to cope well with the challenges and heartaches caused by Dad's months-long deployments to sea. Associated themes include mutually helpful friendships, the growth of legitimate sorrow, useful coping stratagems which the reader can easily emulate, and family love triumphing over difficulties and distance.

With enough reality to enhance the narrative, and a dreamlike quality which draws the reader into the story, Robert Steele's soft watercolors ably amplify *When Dad's at Sea*. Dedicating this book to her daughters and other U.S. Armed Forces children, Mindy Pelton's direct and sympathetic narration resonates with authenticity. While written for the younger elementary school age child, the very contemporary problems addressed will be recognized by other ages, and by mothers. Sadness and helplessness may begin this story, but triumph and love dominate it. *When Dad's at Sea* is recommended for all libraries, secular and religious, all schools, public, private, and home, and for all families, military and civilian. Grandparents and friends will also be interested in this one.

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

Tales from the manger / by Chonda and David Pierce ; illustrated by Matt LeBarre. LCCN 2004000191. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2004.

PAP, 0310708494, list cost: \$9.99.

Fic. Jesus Christ—Nativity—Fiction; Domestic animals—Fiction; Animals—Fiction; Conduct of life—Fiction. 93 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 4.

In *Tales from the Manger*, Chonda and David Pierce tell the nativity story from the perspective of several barn animals. When two mice realize something "humongous" has occurred in the stable, they run to each of the other animals and invite them to a special birthday party. But the ornery ox, the lazy rooster, the baaaaa sheep and the scaredy cat all ignore the invitation until one-by-one, they realize that the baby in the manger is the Son of God, the one who created them. This knowledge changes their attitudes toward others and themselves. "They became friendlier, happier and more helpful." This story parallels how knowing Jesus Christ transforms the lives of children and adults and is a unique way of teaching the reason for Jesus' birth. When read aloud, children will enjoy the repetition and lyrical prose. One difficulty with this story is that younger children may be confused by the time sequence of the first chapter in relation to the following chapters.

The authors have combined talents with illustrator Matt LeBarre for many stories including *Tales from the Ark*, with the same loveable animals in *Tales from the Manger*. LeBarre has created exciting characters in brilliant colors and rich textures. His paintings will enthrall his four- to eight-year-old audience as well as the adults who read to them.

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

Sophie's world / Nancy Rue. (Faithgirlz ; 1.) LCCN 2004008751. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2004.

PAP, 0310707560, list cost: \$3.99.

Fic. Friendship—Fiction; Imagination—Fiction; Christian life—Fiction. 122 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Sophie's secret / Nancy Rue. (Faithgirlz ; 2.) LCCN 2004014635. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2004.

PAP, 0310707579, list cost: \$3.99.

Fic. Imagination—Fiction; Christian life—Fiction; Psychotherapy—Fiction; Archaeology—Fiction; Friendship—Fiction. 115 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-7. Rating : 4.

The Sophie Series by Nancy Rue gives eight to twelve year olds a creative approach to learning history through the imagination of sixth grade Sophie. Unfortunately, her playacting often gets her in trouble with her family, teachers, and peers who don't understand why Sophie is "different." At the heart of her conflict is the desire to be accepted for who she is and not be compared with her jock sister or the popular girls at school whom Sophie dubs "the Corn Pops." In addition to learning about history,

Sophie experiences both joy and sorrow through the changing dynamics in relationships with the colorful, diverse characters Nancy Rue creates.

The first books in the series begin with 2 Corinthians 4:18 – fixing our eyes on the unseen, eternal things. Through counseling with Dr. Peter, who wants to help Sophie have “the best life possible,” she learns to talk to Jesus and obey his command to honor her father even though he doesn’t understand her.

In book one, *Sophie's World*, Sophie is whisked away to eighteenth century France as Antoinette. With friends Henriette and Magdalene, they assist Lafayette in daring escapades of valor. Henriette, aka Fiona Bunting, is a kindred spirit who becomes Sophie’s best friend. With the help of a hard-earned video camera, the girls make a movie of their adventures to entertain their families.

Book two, *Sophie's Secret*, introduces Aunt Baily who adds a new type of conflict into Sophie’s life—that of physical changes or lack of change in Sophie’s case. It causes self-consciousness and embarrassment at home and at school. A family trip to see archaeologists’ excavations at Jamestown brings both a new learning experience and more trouble into Sophie’s life. During an attic “dig” Sophie comes across something that convinces her that she is adopted, explaining why her father treats her so differently than her sister Lacie. Sophie sees God at work in her life through answers to prayer and her greatest desire being fulfilled as her dad finally comes through for her.

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

Becoming Naomi León / Pam Muñoz Ryan. LCCN 2004000346. New York : Scholastic, 2004.

HBB, 0439269695, list cost: \$16.95.

Fic. Great-grandmothers—Fiction; Brothers and sisters—Fiction; Family problems—Fiction; Mexican Americans—Fiction; Mexico—Fiction. 246 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Naomi Outlaw’s real name is Naomi Soledad León Outlaw. She is being raised by her Gram whose last name happens to be Outlaw, but her father was a León and Soledad was a patron saint of his town. Thus her rather long, involved name. Feeling quite settled with Gram and her little brother, Owen, life at Avocado Acres Trailer Rancho in Lemon Tree, California, is happy and peaceful. Then after seven years of absence, Naomi’s mother, Terry Lynn, returns. Only she’s not Terry Lynn anymore but now is called Skyla. And she’s brought her boyfriend Clive who’s a tattoo artist. They want Naomi, but not Owen, to come to Vegas with them!

Thus begins Naomi’s journey to Mexico to find her father and in doing so, find out who she really is! *Becoming Naomi León* is an unforgettable story written by Pam Munoz

Ryan, author of the award winning *Esperanza Rising!* Young readers will connect with Naomi and her wonderful circle of friends. The author’s writing mirrors her own Mexican heritage and her love for that country, its people and their culture.

Becoming Naomi León is written for older elementary school students as well as early middle schoolers. Although over two hundred pages, it is a quick read with the reader easily being swept up into the story.

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

The donkey and the golden light : peace, goodwill, and a new beginning for all / by John and Gill Speirs. LCCN 2003022517. New York : Harry N. Abrams, 2004.

HBB, 0810948125, list cost: \$16.95.

Fic. Jesus Christ—Fiction; Donkeys—Fiction; Spirituality—Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 x 29 cm.

Grades 2-5. Rating : 5.

A little donkey was born in Bethlehem in a stable alongside a human child and travels with his mother as she carries the mother and child to Egypt to escape persecution later. Little Bethlehem soon grows up and has many owners throughout his lifetime. Eventually he is sold to drovers, who are convinced by a group of men to give him to them to carry someone into Bethlehem. The man oddly seems familiar to him, but only after Bethlehem’s death does he understand who this important person is—Jesus.

The Donkey and the Golden Light is a beautifully illustrated and inspiring story about Bethlehem the donkey and the life of Jesus interwoven in the story’s pages. The day Bethlehem is born, so too is baby Jesus, and we are taken on through both their lives until each passes away and Bethlehem finally understands what the golden light stands for. The illustrations are detailed paintings by John Speirs and are inspired by the works of Pieter Bruegel, a Flemish artist from the 1500’s. Gill Speirs has written the story, which is for children with a good understanding of larger words. This book is one which young children will enjoy and parents will enjoy reading to them. Highly recommended as a high quality addition to any library.

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

The shadows of Ghadames / by Joelle Stolz. LCCN 2003021656. New York : Delacorte, 2004.

HBB, 0385731043, list cost: \$15.95.

Fic. Libya—History—19th century—Fiction; Literacy—Fiction; Muslims—Fiction; Sex role—Fiction. 119 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

Malika, an eleven-year-old Muslim girl who lives in early 19th century Libya, is about to turn the marriageable age of twelve. She speaks of

the daily routines of her society, where, separate from men, the women interact and do household chores on the rooftops of the ancient city of Ghadames. Malika struggles with the desire to escape her life. She is jealous of her brother’s freedom to read, write, and travel with their father. When her father leaves on business, his second wife disregards customs and brings an injured man into their home. While helping to nurse him back to health, Malika gains a new respect for these women and begins to awaken to the sights and sounds of her future life among them.

The Shadows of Ghadames by Joelle Stolz, translated from the French by Catherine Temerson, is the Mildred L. Batchelder Award winner for best children’s book published in a foreign language, then translated into English. Protagonist is fully developed. Dialogue is believable. Setting is well-designed to allow the reader a birds-eye view of an otherwise unimaginable world. Stolz’s sensitivity to the Libyan traditions adds a three-dimensional quality to this fictional autobiography. Stolz is a French journalist and radio broadcaster. Recommended for both school and public libraries. Good resource for better understanding of Middle Eastern culture.

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

Rosetta, Rosetta, sit by me! / by Linda Walvoord ; illustrated by Eric Velasquez. LCCN 2004003522. New York : Marshall Cavendish, 2004.

HBB, 0761451714, list cost: \$14.95.

Fic. Sprague, Rosetta Douglass—Juvenile fiction; Sprague, Rosetta Douglass—Fiction; Douglass, Frederick, 1818-1895—Fiction; Segregation in education—Fiction; Race relations—Fiction; Schools—Fiction; African Americans—Fiction; New York (State)—History—1775-1865—Fiction. 96 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 3.

Walvoord, a writing and literature college instructor, did her dissertation on Frederick Douglass’s writings. These writings form the foundation for this juvenile fiction story. Rosetta, the daughter of Douglass, shows up at age nine for class as the only black student at an all-white Quaker school. Racially divisive 1880s New York state serves as the setting; the story follows her separation from the other students, and her father’s strong reaction when he learns of what is happening.

After the 60 page story, pages are devoted to factual details about Frederick and Rosetta Douglass and important dates in both of their lives. The black and white pencil illustrations by Velasquez add to the story.

School and public library juvenile collections needing titles on the role and experience of African Americans in American history can add this title both for its underlying use of primary

sources in creating the fiction story, and for presenting history in story fashion.

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

Rescue in the Mayan jungle / written by Karla Warkentin ; illustrated by Ron Adair. (Time stone travelers ; 1.) LCCN 2003020396. Colorado Springs, Colo. : Faith Kidz, 2004.

PAP, 0781440270, list cost: \$6.99.

Fic. Time travel—Fiction; Brothers and sisters—Fiction; Mayas—Fiction; Christian life—Fiction. 144 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 3.

Imagine life under the power of an evil shaman and a false god. This is the culture that twin brothers and sister Josh, Will, and Ellen Mackenzie stumble upon when Josh uncovers a strange stone. It mysteriously transports them to the past and the village of Quinaroo in a South American jungle. They make friends with siblings Puma and Luna and make an enemy out of the Shaman Onamee. Soon, the three set out to rescue Luna from a seemingly impossible situation and must decide whether to rely on themselves ... or God.

Rescue in the Mayan Jungle is the first book in a Christian series which is very similar to The Magic Tree House books by Mary Pope Osborne. The secular series uses magic to explain time travel; however, this book attributes it to God. The Shaman appears to have magical powers, but his tricks are explained at the conclusion of the book.

The most disappointing part of this book is the stereotypical nature of the main characters. All of the characters have this problem; however, it is depiction of Will that is the most distressing. He is portrayed as being smart but weak and wimpy. Readers may get the misconception that a person who enjoys learning is automatically pathetic.

A classic it is not; however, the book is enjoyable and worth reading. Even though life in Quinaroo is very different from anything children have encountered, they learn to value and respect the cultural differences. Also, the book is wrapped up with a useful "Faith Building Guide" that discusses life issues and spiritual building blocks.

Christine Horn, Church Librarian, Holland, Michigan.

Fruitlands : Louisa May Alcott made perfect / Gloria Whelan. LCCN 2002001467. New York : HarperCollins, 2002.

HBB, 0066238161, list cost: \$17.89.

Fic. Alcott, Louisa May, 1832-1888 —Family—Juvenile fiction; Alcott, Louisa May, 1832-1888 —Family—Fiction; Utopias—Fiction; Family life—Massachusetts—Fiction; Diaries; Massachusetts—History—1775-1865—Fiction. 117, [2] p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : 3.

Author Gloria Whelan organizes this fictionalized biography slice of Louisa May Alcott via two journals, one for Louisa's parents and another secret one for herself. Eight months of the Alcott family's life are chronicled, the eight months the family lived at Fruitlands, a utopian community. Ideologue, Mr. Alcott's goal was to develop a perfect, self-sufficient life-style on a fruit farm in Massachusetts. The year is 1843; Louisa is ten years old, and Bronson Alcott tries to gather like-minded visionaries around him. Whelan bases the story on nine brief journal entries that remain from that period. The remainder of the story and the secret journal are fiction.

This is an odd book for children. Whelan has used her fine literary skill to write a unique book about the Alcotts. However, the intended audience is elusive. The book is too simple for the older readers; and the concepts too difficult for unguided and unstructured reading for younger readers. Without considerable background about New England's utopian organizations of the mid-1800s, readers will have a difficult time appreciating Mr. Alcott's unusual, sometimes maudlin, sometimes abusive treatment of the people living at the commune. The reader will know how spunky Louisa was, but little else of her personality is developed. *Fruitlands* is far more readable than the old Newbery title, *Invincible Louisa*, but covers only eight months of Louisa's life. *Becoming Little Women* by Atkins contains more detail, but is not as literarily clever.

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

When the circus came to town / Laurence Yep ; drawings by Suling Wang. LCCN 2001039290. New York : HarperCollins, 2002.

HBB, 006029325X, list cost: \$14.99.

Fic. Self-esteem—Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life—Montana—Fiction; Chinese New Year—Fiction; Circus—Fiction; Chinese Americans—Fiction; Smallpox—Fiction; Montana—History—Fiction. 113 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : 4.

Ursula and her family run a stagecoach station in little Whistle, Montana, in the early 1900s. She and her friends enjoy fantasizing about being pirates as they explore the countryside. Then smallpox strikes. Ursula's face is left disfigured. She refuses to show her face and becomes a recluse. The Chinese cook feels as alienated as Ursula, and they gradually become friends. Ah Sam has an idea: invite his cousins to stage a Chinese circus. When a blizzard catches Ah Sam and his cousins in Whistle and prevents them from attending a Chinese New Year celebration in San Francisco, Ursula, in turn, organizes a community Chinese New Year celebration. Based on an historical incident

included in Elliot Paul's memoir, *A Ghost Town on the Yellowstone* (Random, 1948).

Laurence Yep continues to explore his Chinese heritage, but changes location from California to Montana. Lighter fare and for younger readers than most Yep titles. The reader learns about isolated stagecoach station life and Chinese celebrations, but more than factual details, the reader learns about tolerance, compassion, heritage, and the value of inner qualities rather than outer appearance. An interesting and unusual story, which, at times, seems too slick. Time passes very quickly, communications are too fast, racist (against Chinese and Native Americans) attitudes disappear without much discussion. Nonetheless a fascinating absorbing read.

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

Learning Native American Culture Through Myths and Legends

by Jane Mouttet

Legends and myths are part of every culture and the various Native American cultures are no different. They started as part of the oral tradition of the tribes, being passed down from generation to generation by storytellers. In recent years, authors have begun writing these stories down for more people to learn from and enjoy. One way

for non-natives to learn about Native American cultures is to read these stories which in many cases teach about the religion or culture of the tribe. In this column and the next I will look at 30 books which re-tell the myths and legends of Native Americans.

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

PAP, 0879612568, list cost: \$12.95.

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

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

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

Bones in the basket : native stories of the origin of people / C.J. Taylor. LCCN 94061786. Plattsburgh, N.Y. : Tundra Books, 1994.

HBB, 0887763278, list cost: \$17.95.

398.2. Creation—Folklore; Indians of North America—Folklore—Juvenile literature; Indian mythology—United States; Folklore—United States; Indians of North America—Folklore. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 2-4. Rating : 5.

C. J. Taylor, a Mohawk artist, retold Native American origin stories in *Bones in the Basket*. Tribes included are: Zuni, Mandan, Cree, Chuckchee, Osage, Mohawk, and Modoc. The stories in this book would be good ones to compare to the biblical creation story as there are many similarities to it. The brightly colored illustrations have a definite Native American feel to them. The book ends with brief information on each of the represented tribes.

Buffalo dreams / Kim Doner. LCCN 99022577. Portland : WestWinds Press, 1999.

PAP, 155868476X, list cost: \$9.95.

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

Grades 2-4. Rating : 4.

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

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

PAP, 933553013, list cost: \$11.95.

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

Grades 3-5. Rating : 4.

Joe Hayes is a storyteller in the Southwest. He has written these Coyote tales so that they can be read aloud, much like the oral tradition they were created in. Coyote, often referred to as a trickster, tricks others in some of these tales and in others he is himself tricked. The drawings of Lucy Jelinek are done in brown ink. The illustrate portions of the text, but much of the text is left for the listener to imagine as he listens.

The eye of the needle / retold and illustrated by Teri Sloat. LCCN 89049476. New York : Dutton Children's Books, 1990.

PAP, 0525446230, list cost: \$8.95.

398.2/089971. Yupik Eskimos—Folklore; Eskimos—Alaska—Folklore; Folklore—Alaska. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 28 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 4.

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

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

PAP, 0873585003, list cost: \$7.95.

398.2/089972. Apache Indians—Folklore. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 28 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 4.

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

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

PAP, 0882405233, list cost: \$8.95.

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

Grades K-3. Rating : 4.

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

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

PAP, 0873586948, list cost: \$7.95.

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

Grades K-3. Rating : 5.

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

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

HBB, 0208024972, list cost: \$19.50.

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

Grades 3-5. Rating : 5.

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

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

HBB, 0761450580, list cost: \$15.95.

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

Grades K-2. Rating : 4.

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

Pueblo Indian wisdom : Native American legends and mythology / by Teresa Pijoan. LCCN 59516. Santa Fe, N.M. : Sunstone Press, 2000.

PAP, 0865343195, list cost: \$12.95.

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

Grades 912. Rating : 4.

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

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

HBB, 0152656618, list cost: \$16.00.

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

Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

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

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

HBB, 0399221417, list cost: \$16.99.

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

Grades PS-2. Rating : 4.

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

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

PAP, 0938317261, list cost: \$9.95.

398.2/08997. Indians of North America—Folklore; Indians of North America—Southwest, New—Folklore. 62 p. : ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 7-9. Rating : 3.

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

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

LIB, 076131900X, list cost: \$29.90.

398.2/089/97. Indians of North America—Folklore; Weather—Folklore; Weather—Juvenile literature; Folklore—North America; Weather. 80 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 21 x 26 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : 3.

Ms. Vogel was fascinated by the weather as a child. With the help of other book she collected these Native American weather legends from the Chippewa, Papago, Pima, Micmac,

Slavey, Acoma, Penobscot, Pueblo, and Lakota Sioux. Each myth is followed by scientific information on the topic of the myth. The myth on the formation of the earth is followed by information on the evolution of the earth over 25 million years. The book is illustrated with photographs of different aspects of weather. The book ends with an index.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

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

—Do further research on the tribe represented by the myth

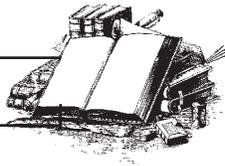
—Have students act out the myth

—Compare the creation and flood myths to the story found in the Bible

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

Weather Legends

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



Scholastic children's encyclopedia. LCCN 2003045591. New York : Scholastic, 2004.

HBB, 0439438160, list cost: \$19.95.
031. Children's encyclopedias and dictionaries; Encyclopedias and dictionaries. ix, 710 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), col. maps ; 27 cm.
Grades 4-7. Rating : 4.

The 600 entries in this all-new general encyclopedia are arranged alphabetically and are illustrated with 2000 plus photographs, diagrams, timelines, and maps. A section 'For Further Reference' at the end of the book contains maps, tables, and diagrams on key topics.

This book is easy for children to follow: entries are marked with an asterisk, headings divide the text into easy-to-read sections, and introductions provide a brief overview of the subject. A letter tab in the upper right corner of the page helps find the letter one is looking for, and 'key facts' boxes give facts and figures about the subject under discussion.

Small libraries having only one set of encyclopedias can add this title, for it covers many areas referenced in the index if not found easily in the A to Z listing. School and public libraries can add for the illustrations, photographs, etc. found on every page make it easy to stay focused. Those having *Children's Illustrated Encyclopedia* (DK Publishing, 2000) or *DK First Encyclopedia* (DK Publishing, 2002) for children ages 4 to 8 will find this a perfect complement for older children. Those having *The Kingfisher Children's Encyclopedia* (Kingfisher, 2004) do not need to update. Teachers and parents may also consider this as a general use encyclopedia for quick reference.

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

Scholastic kid's almanac : facts, figures, and stats / written by Elaine Pascoe, Deborah Kops, and Jenifer Morse ; illustrated by Bob Italiano and David C. Bell. Rev. ed. LCCN 2004275989. New York : Scholastic Reference, 2004.

PAP, 0439560780, list cost: \$12.95.
031.02. Almanacs, Children's. 352 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 23 cm.
Grades 4-7. Rating : 5.

This inexpensive colorfully illustrated almanac has a wealth of material sure to keep young readers lingering in its pages. An index makes it easy to find particular points, as does the contents page arranging subjects in alphabetical order.

The many illustrations, charts, inserts, and photographs approach subjects from many different angles, e.g. p. 35 offers the top 10 largest bodies in the solar system illustrated and ranked by size in diameter, while p. 150 notes that the height of Mount Everest is 6 feet higher than previously thought due to new satellite technology.

All school and public libraries should consider purchasing, as this title is likely to see much use. Families can purchase as both children and adults will find the ready illustrations and easy explanation illuminating. It will probably not be unusual to find older youth and adults skimming its pages. Those having *The World Almanac for Kids* (World Almanac, 2004) need not update.

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

The Moses basket / written by Jenny Koralek ; illustrated by Pauline Baynes. LCCN 2002010478. Grand Rapids : Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2003.

HBB, 0802852513, list cost: \$15.00.
222/.1109505. Moses (biblical leader)—Juvenile literature; Moses (biblical leader)—Childhood and youth; Bible. O.T.—Biography—Juvenile literature; Bible stories, English—O.T. Exodus; Exodus, The—Juvenile literature; Bible stories—O.T. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm.
Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

In simple text, with minor deviations from scripture, Koralek relates the story of the baby, Moses. One difference in the text states that the baby's sister and mother waded together into the waters to watch after the child. Another notable detail uses the reference to Miriam as a prophetess in Exodus 15:20. Using that information, Koralek allows that Moses' sister assured her mother that she "knew" that Pharaoh's daughter would not harm the baby, but save him. Although these additions do not detract from the story, they should be noted. Otherwise the story follows scripture closely and does not conflict in other interpretations.

Pauline Baynes supplies striking illustrations for the text. In both brilliant and pastel palettes, the illustrations are an exceptional complement to the story. In a style almost reminiscent of Patricia Polacco's work in *Luba and the Wren*, Baynes conveys the emotion and intensity of the story. The beautiful borders and details embellish skillfully the scenes. Recommended.

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

Gideon blows the trumpet / by Cor Van Rijswijk ; illustrated by Rino Visser. (Word of the King.) LCCN 2002156699. Pella, Iowa : Inheritance Publications, 2003.

HBB, 1894666224, list cost: \$7.90.
222/.3209505. Gideon (biblical judge)—Juvenile literature; Gideon (biblical judge); Bible stories—O.T. 43 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.
Grades PS-2. Rating : 4.

Gideon the Israelite was a farmer when he was called by God to lead his people against the Midianites in battle. The Midianites wanted to enslave the Israelites and take over their land. Gideon assembled a large army, but God sent most of them home so that He could show it was His victory and not Gideon's army alone who won the battle. With only trumpets and jugs and torches as their weapons, Gideon leads his men to victory with God as their commander.

Gideon Blows the Trumpet is one of three volumes in The Word of the King Series written by Cor Van Rijswijk. Perfect for reading to young children as a bedtime story, or as an introduction to reading on their own for the somewhat older child. *Gideon Blows the Trumpet* is a Bible story not as commonly told as some, but is one that is very important for our children to hear. With seventeen two-page chapters, this book is perfect for young children with short attention spans. The author's use of Bible verses and their references throughout the story is a terrific addition not often seen in children's stories and adds depth to the story. The black and white illustrations are real to life and are a perfect fit for the reading on each page. A CD is also available with all three stories together, narrated by Theresa Janssen.

Sherri Myers. Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

Follow me : Peter lays down his net / written by Erik J. Rottmann. LCCN 2005295064. St. Louis, Mo. : Concordia, 2004.

HBB, 0758606311, list cost: \$12.99.
225.9/24. Peter, the Apostle, Saint—Juvenile literature; Easter—Juvenile literature. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.
Grades 4-6. Rating : 5.

Follow Me : Peter Lays Down His Net by Erik Rottmann is a beautifully illustrated children's book written as seen through the eyes of the disciple Peter. A fisherman by trade, Peter lays down his nets when he is called by Jesus to follow Him. His brother Andrew also is asked to join them and they set off spreading the gospel throughout the land. This wonderful

Bible story book will take the reader on a journey through the time of Peter's calling to the time of Jesus' resurrection and Peter's reaction to it. With the use of thick black lines and bright colors, *Follow Me* depicts the story through pictures that greatly complement the well-written story of God's love and grace for all mankind. This book would be a terrific addition to any library, whether personal or public, and is an affordable price for such a quality book.

Sherri Myers. Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

Safe in the fold / written by Mary Rice Hopkins ; illustrated by Denna Davis. (Parable praise party.) LCCN 2003014775. Colorado Springs, Colo. : Faith Kidz, 2004.

HBB, 0781439892, list cost: \$15.99.

226.8/09505. Lost sheep (Parable)—Juvenile literature; Bible stories, English—N.T. Gospels; Lost sheep (Parable); Parables; Bible stories—N.T.. 36 p. : col. ill. ; 21 cm. + 1 sound disc (digital ; 4 3/4 in.).

Grades PS-2. Rating : 4.

Told in rhyme, *Safe in the Fold* follows a farmer who keeps on calling for a sheep that is missing. Even though he has 99, he keeps looking until the lost one is found. This quietly told story is related at the end to Jesus' words in Matthew 18:12-14 about sheep and not one of the little ones being lost. The story is reinforced through use of "Farmer and the Sheep," an original song on the accompanying CD. The closing pages offer a faith parenting guide in terms of reading the story, how to relate, and use of the songs, as Christian recording artist Hopkins has included five other songs.

The colorful illustrations give a modern feel to the story. Parents will find the faith parenting guide easy to use as full directions and suggestions are given to make this a sight, sound, and touch experience for children.

Parents will find the book makes it easy to retell this parable. Public libraries can include to give families an opportunity to respond to the religious needs of their family.

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

Special families / Stephen Elkins, author ; Tim O'Connor, illustrations. (Word & song audio book ; The greatest Bible stories ever told.) LCCN 2004296169. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2001.

HBB, 0805424679, list cost: \$9.99.

229.95. Bible stories; Sacred songs; Songs. 30 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm. + 1 compact disc.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 4.

Special Families tells ten Bible stories about families: Adam and Eve; Abraham, Sarah and their baby; King Solomon's love song to his bride; Jesus and John's families; and the Christian family. Each story starts with a pertinent Bible verse, simply and interestingly

gives the account, and ends with an affirmation, eg. what a wonderful God we serve! The CD narrates all the stories and has ten easy songs suitable to the stories.

The popular series *The Greatest Bible Stories Ever Told* provides a variety of the best stories from the original Word and Song Bible. *Special Families* is the tenth in this series. Stephen Elkin fills the stories with child-aimed words and basic Bible teachings. Tim O'Connor's bright, happy acrylic illustrations enlarge on each subject. Steve Green, Twila Paris, Joni Eareckson Tada, Steve & Annie Chapman, and Lloyd Ogilvie provide the voice talents on the CD.

Useful as a read-to book, for beginning readers, in child care situations, and, with the CD, as a game, *Special Families* is recommended for all libraries, pre and elementary schools, families, and church situations.

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

Twos the night : the nativity story / Melody Carlson ; illustrations by Susan Reagan. LCCN 2004304157. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2004.

HBB, 0805426833, list cost: \$12.99.

232.92. Jesus Christ—Nativity—Juvenile literature; Christmas—Juvenile literature; Stories in rhyme. 28 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades PS-4. Rating : 5.

The popular poem "The Night Before Christmas" stresses Santa Claus. Melody Carlson borrows this well-known story to tell about the birth of Jesus Christ. 'Twos the Night—the Nativity Story begins:

'Twos the night before Christmas when all through the stable,

Not a creature was stirring, though plenty were able.

The ox and the cow and the goat and the sheep

All comfy and cozy, had drifted to sleep.

Susan Reagan's colorful illustrations include sleeping animals, surprised animals, and animals fascinated by the baby in their manger. The chorus of child-like angels, a multi-ethnic mix, sing:

Peace on the whole earth and goodwill to us all

For God's only Son has been born in a stall.

Shepherds and three learned men appear. The shepherds "wept and they worshiped and fell on their knees, praying and praising as long as they pleased." The learned men brought "great gifts of incredible worth."

Twos the Night includes a presentation page. Luke 2:7, from the NIV, completes the story. Consider this book as an excellent read-aloud selection for small children, or beginning and middle readers. Are you wondering about a gift? Buy *'Twos the Night*. Don't wait for Christmas. The birth of Jesus is good news in any month. Find a child, and a rocking chair. You'll be set for a wonderful time!

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Volunteer, Church Children's Library, Dexter, Kentucky.

Angels & all children : a nativity story in words, music, and art / Walter Wangerin, Jr. ; illustrated by Tim Ladwig ; music by Randy Courts. LCCN 2002020053. Minneapolis : Augsburg Fortress, 2002.

HBB, 0806637129, list cost: \$18.99.

232.92. Jesus Christ—Nativity; Christmas. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm. 1 sound disc (digital ; 4 3/4 in.).

Grades PS up. Rating : 4.

A picture book and a play script, *Angels and All Children* retells the story of Christ's Nativity from the viewpoint of the children affected by it. It is night. Both soul and sunlight are darkened. All the children sleep and cannot be woken. God looks down, sees that it is time, and sends Gabriel to a woman named Mary. And so, little by little the darkness begins to lift and the children to awaken.

Noted author and speaker Walter Wangerin Jr., writing in his own inimitable, poetic, mystical manner, presents an intriguing, embroidered retelling of the birth of Christ. His characters are warm, living personalities. Mary is once referred to as 'heaven's queen.' Tim Ladwig's acrylic, luminous illustrations are an integral part of this story. The CD accompanying this book presents the story in play form, providing music for all the poems. Theater composer Randy Courts' music blends with the narrative and illustrations. The closing pages of *Angels and All Children* give suggestions for producing this book as a play, reading to an audience, and listening intelligently to the CD. Wangerin presents this book as suitable for everyone, grandparents to college students to children; and useful to 'Sunday Schools, congregations, schools, college drama, and music programs.'

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

What's inside a police station? / Sharon Gordon. (Bookworms : what's inside?) LCCN 2003005160. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761415661, list cost: \$21.36.

363.2. Police—Juvenile literature; Police stations—Juvenile literature; Police—Equipment and supplies—Juvenile literature; Police; Police stations. 31 p. : col. ill. ; 19 cm.

What's inside a hospital? / Sharon Gordon. (Bookworms : what's inside?) LCCN 2003006191. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761415645, list cost: \$21.36.

362.1/1. Hospitals—Juvenile literature; Hospitals. 31 p. ; col. ill. ; 19 cm.

What's inside a police car? / Sharon Gordon. (Bookworms : what's inside?.) LCCN 2003006188. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761415653, list cost: \$21.36.

363.2/32. Police vehicles—Juvenile literature; Police vehicles; Police. 31 p. ; col. ill. ; 19 cm.

What's inside an ambulance? / Sharon Gordon. (Bookworms : what's inside?.) LCCN 2003005158. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761415610, list cost: \$21.36.

616.02/5. Ambulance service—Juvenile literature; Ambulances—Juvenile literature; Ambulance service; Ambulances. 31 p. ; col. ill. ; 19 cm.

What's inside a firehouse? / Sharon Gordon. (Bookworms : what's inside?.) LCCN 2003006190. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761415629, list cost: \$21.36.

628.9/25. Fire stations—Juvenile literature; Fire departments. 31 p. ; col. ill. ; 19 cm.

What's inside a fire truck? / Sharon Gordon. (Bookworms : what's inside?.) LCCN 2003005338. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761415637, list cost: \$21.36.

628.9/259. Fire engines—Juvenile literature; Fire extinction—Juvenile literature; Fire engines; Fire extinction. 31 p. ; col. ill. ; 19 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 5.

What's Inside Series is a reading program designed to reinforce the skills of fluent young readers. Each title has two pages devoted to the essentials of the service place or vehicle under discussion—this is well-done and makes it easy to understand the scope of the book as well as introduction to new words. There are many full page color photographs and partial page photographs that relate well to the text, and offer an interesting and informative reading.

The books 7x7 inch format makes it easy to hold. Each title gives an introduction to life at a fire department, police station, or hospital, along with descriptions of the equipment, the staff, and what happens there. Vehicle titles describe how the equipment on the vehicle is used.

Public and school libraries can add for providing an informative title on the subject as well as one providing a visual tour of this place or vehicle. The focus on reinforcing reading skills makes this a priority title for addition.

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

The people could fly : the picture book / Virginia Hamilton ; illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. LCCN 2003025579. New York : Alfred A. Knopf, 2004.

HBB, 0375824057, list cost: \$16.95.

398.2/089/96073. Slavery—Folklore; African Americans—Folklore; Folklore—United States. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 32 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 3.

Husband and wife team Leo and Diane Dillon received a 2005 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Award for the picture book version of the title story in Virginia Hamilton's 1985 anthology of the same name. According to editor Janet Schulman, "People Could Fly" is "one of the mythical old tales in the tradition of 'things that never were,' as opposed to characters and events that were once actual." In this edited version, the magical flying powers of the people in Africa have been lost. The oppression and cruelty of American slave masters have resulted in starvation and sadness. An old black man named Toby calls upon the African magic, which allows the slaves to fly away. The Dillons use muted color illustrations featuring African patterns and designs to retell the story. The end pages feature embossed shimmery feathers on black. There is also an appended author note.

Leo and Diane Dillon have created a feast for the eyes reminiscent of their artwork in Caldecott winner, *Ashanti to Zulu*. The elegant illustrations are framed with a gradient colored frame. Pictures portraying shackled slaves and the fierce overseer are frightening, but the flight pictures say "Free-dom" again and again. This is a story which can be read on many levels: a literal reading of cruel mythology, or an allegorical reading of slaves being lead to freedom by a freed slave such as Harriet Tubman. Either way, much discussion or instruction will need to be done for even older children to understand and appreciate the story.

From a Christian perspective, the whole concept of human bondage may need to be discussed. Also from a Christian perspective, some of the elements of magic, if read from a literal perspective, may be objectionable. This is a disquieting story which should be read with adult guidance.

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

The hunterman and the crocodile : a West African folktale / retold and illustrated by Baba Wagué Diakité. LCCN 95025975. New York : Scholastic, 1997.

HBB, 0590898280, list cost: \$15.95.

398.2/0966/02 or E. Folklore—Africa, West. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 3.

A 1998 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Award was presented to Baba Wagué Diakité for his first book, *The Hunterman and the Crocodile*. Diakité, who was born in Mali, West Africa, retells a West African trickster tale. When Bamba the crocodile and his family make a pilgrimage to Mecca, they run out of food and water. They seek help from Donso, the hunterman, who finally agrees to carry the four

crocodiles bound-up on his head to their water. Of course, once water is reached, crocodile has a trick up his sleeve, a fine meal, for Bamba has had little to eat. An argument ensues, and Donso asks for help from a cow, a horse, a hen, and a tree, but none of them will help because man has harmed each of them in some way. Finally, rabbit, a trickster himself, questions whether Donso can carry the crocodiles. Once the crocs are retied, rabbit laughs and hops off, and Donso goes home only to find his wife is ill and the medicine man says crocodile tears will save her. The crocodiles cry tears, the wife is saved, and Donso promises to always live in harmony with nature, not above nature.

This is a familiar tale found in many variants around the world, even in Aesop's fables and Uncle Remus stories. In an author's note Diakité explains the value of storytelling for entertainment, encouragement, good morals, and education in African villages. He points out the relationship between the environment and man and nature, which is basic to African education. The author uses sound words to represent movement of the animals, which is a common practice in African tales. Diakité uses ceramic tiles for the base of his paintings. He adds sunset brilliant colors for the background, then black primitivistic silhouettes outlined and detailed in white for the characters. The effect is similar to East Indian shadow puppets. Surrounding each picture is a patterned border. The pilgrimage to Mecca and the passage, "placing Man among—not above—all living things," espouses non-Christian theology. Choose this title if a wide range of African tales is needed for an African heritage study.

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

My teacher likes to say / by Denise Brennan-Nelson ; illustrated by Jane Monroe Donovan. LCCN 2003025872. Chelsea, Mich. : Sleeping Bear Press, 2004.

HBB, 1585362123, list cost: \$15.95.

428.1. English language—Idioms—Juvenile literature; Figures of speech—Juvenile literature; English language—Idioms; Figures of speech. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades PS-5. Rating : 4.

Just what do those odd sayings like "Please Button Your Lip" and "The Early Bird Gets the Worm" really mean? Author Denise Brennan-Nelson has compiled a delightful array of old maxims, adages, idioms, and proverbs for primary and middle grade readers, and provides a sidenote explanation for each of the selected sayings next to the chipper little verse she has devised for each featured expression. Jane Monroe Donovan contributes to the frocklissome nature of the book with realistic renderings of a classroom of students experiencing the possible literal meaning of each cliché and maxim mentioned. The result is playful look at some of

the oddities of the English language, one both teachers and students can share.

The author and illustrator have put together a learning tool with more than a healthy pinch of fun, creating an amusing, as well as educational way to take a quick look at some of the odd phrases of the English language. Although this title is in picture book form, it is one of those crossover books that older students will want to read as well, providing a readership audience of kindergarten through at least fifth grade. Basing the models on actual children lends a nice realistic touch, along with the running motif of including animals throughout the book to keep readers smiling as they learn what it means to put on their thinking caps and getting their early bird worms.

Pam Webb, BA. Freelance Writer, Sandpoint, Idaho.

A Greek alphabetarion : a primer for teaching how read, write, & pronounce ancient & biblical Greek / by Harvey Bluedorn. 5th ed. Muscatine, Ia. : Trivium Pursuit, 2004.

PAP, 0974361690, list cost: \$25.00.

487/.4. Greek language, biblical. 158 p. ; 23 cm. CR-ROM included.

Grades 3-Adult. Rating : 4.

Do you wonder if learning Greek is worthwhile? Harvey Bluedorn answers, "Yes, Greek is worthwhile." Greek sharpens the mind, the language is useful for serving the Lord, and studying Greek is a preparation for revival. The next question: Can you learn Greek? Bluedorn answers once again, "Yes!" He describes *A Greek Alphabetarion* as "an easy start with Greek." Students of all ages will study each Greek letter, in both the book and the accompanying CD. Then, they will transliterate words, and read selected biblical passages.

Part three, the Greek Phonetic system for advanced students (who are at least ten years old), includes mutes, semi-vowels, and a chart of Greek phonetics. An appendix, "The History of Languages," includes Japhetic languages, Hellenistic Greek, and biblical Greek.

Bluedorn believes typical Greek grammars "devote very little time or space to teaching Greek literacy. Instead, they expect students to master Greek literacy while they are studying Greek grammar." This is possibly true, in some instances. I did not note that problem, however, as I enjoyed Greek in seminary. *A Greek Alphabetarion* could smooth the way. I recommend this book as the first step to serious study...especially for anyone overwhelmed by languages.

A Greek Alphabetarion can be followed by *Homeschool Greek—a Thorough Self-Teaching Grammar of biblical Greek* (Trivium Pursuit, 1998). Homeschooling is a major focus of the

Bluedorns. You'll enjoy meeting the family—and pets—at www.triviumpursuit.com.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Volunteer, Church Children's Library, Dexter, Kentucky.

ABC science riddles / by Barbara Saffer ; illustrated by Jennifer Johnson Haywood. LCCN 00068107. Columbus, N.C. : Peel Productions, 2001.

HBB, 0939217554, list cost: \$13.95.

500. Science—Miscellanea—Juvenile literature; Riddles, Juvenile; Science—Miscellanea; Riddles; Alphabet. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 22 x 26 cm.

ABC math riddles / by Janelle Martin ; illustrated by Freddie Levin. LCCN 2003001750. Columbus, N.C. : Peel Productions, 2003.

HBB, 0939217570, list cost: \$13.95.

510/.1/4. Mathematics—Terminology—Juvenile literature; Riddles—Juvenile literature; Riddles. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades 1-5. Rating : 4.

Just looking at the brightly colored dust jackets of *ABC Science Riddles* and *ABC Math Riddles* suggests exciting times. Quality paper, good binding, neat riddles, and fascinating illustrations make a quality product.

Barbara Saffer wrote *ABC Science Riddles*. Each page includes wonderful drawings by Jennifer Johnson Haywood. Riddles, in rhyme form, are superimposed on the illustrations. Each letter of the alphabet merits one page. D is represented by diamond, a "tough hard substance that can cut through steel and bone." Y is represented by yeast that "can turn corn into beer and change grapes into wine." The answer to the letter "M" riddle is meteorite. The riddle beings:

The letter M begins my name.

From outer space I hail.

I cross the sky with streams of light,

As down to earth I sail....

Janelle Martin wrote *ABC Math Riddles*. Freddie Levin illustrated the book with cute drawings. Advertising for *ABC Math Riddles* correctly suggested the riddles will "challenge you to match letters and sounds, think logically, and expand your knowledge of math...and they're fun!" Two squirrels on the B page are clearly sharing acorns. The top of the page reads b___w. The rhyme begins, "B is my beginning and W is my end. Useful in subtracting, I'm the opposite of lend."

These selections are recommended for grade school math and science students. Even after the answers are well memorized, the books will provide a good time. Both selections offer great opportunities for adult and child interactions. Other titles in the ABC series include *ABC Animal Riddles*, *ABC Nature Riddles*, *ABC*

School Riddles, *ABC All-American Riddles*, and *Alphabet Riddles*.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Volunteer, Church Children's Library, Dexter, Kentucky.

Scholastic atlas of oceans. LCCN 2004056636. New York : Scholastic, 2004.

HBB, 0439561280, list cost: \$18.95.

551.46. Ocean—Juvenile literature; Oceanography—Juvenile literature. 96 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 28 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 4.

With bold colors and full page 9"x11" illustrations, young readers are invited to explore the ocean. Pages offer a look at the five geographical separations of the world's oceans: Pacific, Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, Southern, along with what is to be found at the bottom of the ocean and how the ocean is changing. Close to 30 pages are devote to the inhabitants of these waters. A closing section covers great navigators, underwater discoveries, technology, pollution, and endangered species. An index and glossary serve to deepen awareness of oceanic facts and terms.

Fact boxes offer cool trivia to encourage children to keep reading. This title deserves a place in all public and school libraries and is sure to be enjoyed and used. Those having *The Atlas of the Oceans* (Cooper Beech, 2001) can update with confidence.

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

What do you do with a tail like this? / Steve Jenkins & Robin Page. LCCN 2002011673. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2003.

HBB, 0618256288, list cost: \$15.00.

573.8/7. Sense organs—Juvenile literature; Animals—Physiology; Animals—Miscellanea; Questions and answers. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades K-2. Rating : 4.

In *What Do You Do with a Tail Like This*, Steve Jenkins & Robin Page repeat the title question about not only tails, but also noses, ears, eyes, feet, and mouths of animals. The introductory page for each question contains close up views of the animals featured body part. On each page, following the question, the answer is given for five animals from insects to mammals that live around the world. This time the animal's complete body is portrayed. Thirty animals are included. Additional information about each animal such as habitat, size, and food is appended. Cut and torn paper collage create the illustrations.

Jenkins was presented a Caldecott Honor Award in 2004 for this title. Jenkins uses a wide variety of papers: tissue, fuzzy, construction, marbled for parts and pieces of the animals and their appendages. The details and layers create realistic animals. Amazing. Although

beautifully illustrated, the useful place of the book in a library or classroom or home collection is questioned, especially for a small collection. There is too much appended information for the young, and too little information for research. Even the information after each question is too lengthy for the young and too skimpy for older children. A teacher or storyteller could use this title as part of a thematic presentation. Check other titles illustrated by Jenkins: *Actual Size* and *Next Stop, Neptune* (both Houghton Mifflin, 2004, for example). Jenkins has developed a distinct style worth watching. The paper layering collage is similar to David Wisniewski's, but with less detail and more interesting papers.

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

The case of the monkeys that fell from the trees and other mysteries in tropical nature / by Susan E. Quinlan. LCCN 2002108914. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyds Mills, 2003.

HBB, 1563979020, list cost: \$15.95.

577.34. Forest ecology—Tropics—Juvenile literature; Rain forest ecology; Ecology; Tropics. 171 p. : ill., map ; 25 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 4.

In *The Case of the Monkeys That Fell from the Tree*, author illustrator Susan Quinlan has written a multi-faceted book: one about tropical rainforests of the Americas, one about how field scientists work and think, and one about ecology and conservation. The first two and last two chapters generally reference the tropical forest, while the remaining chapters describe scientific mysteries and how they were solved. Scientists pose questions, make observations, study clues, set up experiments, and find new and surprising answers to such questions as why did monkeys fall from trees, how do ants protect plants, and where do poison-dart frogs get their poison. A chapter-by-chapter bibliography is appended, as is an extensive index. Ms. Quinlan also did the drawings, which are reproduced in grays and blacks.

Ms. Quinlan has written a very readable nonfiction book. The writing is clear and precise yet filled with interesting data. This book would make an excellent read aloud to introduce students to the tropical forest or to give students a snippet of how scientists work and think. A student considering a career in field biology should find each mystery and careful solution another reason to become a scientist—it's exciting work in Ms. Quinlan's eyes. Readers may also want to try Ms. Quinlan's earlier scientific mystery title, *The Case of the Mummified Pig and Other Mysteries in Nature* (Boyds Mills, 1995). *The Case of the Monkeys...* is a unique natural history read, but not a book for easy student research.

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

Tooth and claw : animal adventures in the world / Ted Lewin. LCCN 2002004588. New York : HarperCollins, 2003.

HBB, 0688141056, list cost: \$15.99.

590. Lewin, Ted—Travel—Juvenile literature; Lewin, Ted; Wildlife watching—Juvenile literature; Dangerous animals—Juvenile literature; Wildlife watching; Dangerous animals; Animals—Habits and behavior; Voyages and travels. xi, 97 p. : ill., maps ; 24 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : 4.

In *Tooth and Claw*, Ted Lewin selects fourteen encounters he, his wife, and friends have had with wild animals on their many travels around the world. Each animal segment includes a map locating where the encounter occurred, a personal narrative about the encounter, plus an author's note in which factual details about the animal are enunciated. Animals included are: sea lions, grizzlies, red howler monkeys, black bears, tigers, chimps, polar bears, bison, timber rattlesnakes, raccoons, dung beetles, bull sharks, African elephants, and puff adders. Mr. Lewin encountered these animals while traveling in South America, several U.S. states, Canada, Africa, and India. The book is illustrated with gray tone reproductions of his drawings and watercolors and photos. A map of his travels and a glossary are included.

Fascinating, lively first-person writing that would be fun to read aloud when students are studying a particular animal or country. Mr. Lewin's writing draws the reader into a "you are there" situation. Just enough facts are shared in each author's note to pique the reader's interest in finding out more about the unusual animals. In spite of all of its favorable traits, the title is another one of those difficult to sell anthologies. Few students pick up anthologies: they're too thick, yet don't give sufficient information for research. Or, students want to use one chapter for a book report, and teachers refuse a report from one chapter. Perhaps most successfully used as a read aloud. Not an essential purchase.

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

Arctic lights, Arctic nights / Debbie S. Miller ; illustrations by Jon Van Zyle. LCCN 2002191047. New York : Walker & Co., 2003.

HBB, 0802788564, list cost: \$16.95.

591.4/0911/3. Zoology—Arctic regions—Juvenile literature; Zoology—Arctic regions; Arctic regions—Climate—Juvenile literature; Arctic regions. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill., col. map ; 27 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Debbie Miller and Jon Van Zyle, Alaska residents, collaborate again. The twenty-first of each month is represented in twelve double-page spreads of word and picture. An animal native and its habitat represent each month. Miller describes what the animals would be doing during that month and how the extent of light and dark would affect that wildlife. Across the top of each page in a three-quarter inch strip,

Mr. Van Zyle graphically portrays the amount of light and dark through the year. Also, across the top of each page are the date, hours of daylight, times of sunrise and sunset, and the average high and low temperatures. Jon Van Zyle created his two-page pictures using acrylic-on-Masonite. A glossary with thorough definitions is appended. Ms. Miller explains how she was inspired to write the book in the introduction that also includes a map of Alaska.

Miller and Van Zyle have created an informative and visually stimulating text. Ms. Miller writes about seasons, daylight and darkness, the Arctic, and Arctic wildlife in well-organized, informative, and lyrical prose. Van Zyle is the official artist of the Iditarod. His illustrations, especially the skies, are so detailed and vividly colored that they almost glow. The scenes for November, December, and January are especially effective. The result is a book in which the text and illustration are in perfect synchrony. Another book, which this team has written and is equally well, done, is *The Great Serum Race* (Walker, 2002). Teachers will want to include the title in units about the arctic, Iditarod, and seasons. Librarians will want to read this nonfiction book aloud which the reviewer did with a group of third graders. They were spellbound and watched the lines of daylight and details about sunrise and sunset and temperatures with fascination. A must have.

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

Spinning spiders / by Melvin Berger ; illustrated by S.D. Schindler. (Let's-read-and-find-out science. Stage 2.) LCCN 2001039507. New York : HarperCollins, 2003.

HBB, 0060286962, list cost: \$15.99.

595.4/4. Spiders—Juvenile literature; Spiders. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 21 x 27 cm.

Grades K-2. Rating : 5.

Melvin Berger succinctly and clearly explains the differences between spiders and insects with which spiders are often confused. He continues by pointing out that spiders are the only arachnids that spin webs, and then describes in detail how the spinnerets work, how the webs help catch insects for spiders' food, and other uses for webs. Finally he discusses the types of webs spiders create: funnel, platform, orb, and the unique webs of the ogre-faced and bola spiders. He concludes the book by mentioning spiders, which don't spin webs like the tarantula and the importance of spiders in the world. The book is part of the Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science, Level 2 series. Recommendations for further study via websites and directions for creating your own web craft are appended. S. D. Schindler has drawn full-color detailed illustrations.

Berger and Schindler have combined to create a thorough yet easy-to-read book about a high

interest topic for primary students. The text is lucid and very well organized. Schindler's close-up, often double page spreads include details of specific spiders. The quality of artwork in this book surpasses most in this series. The best easy-to-read spider book I have recently read.

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

The world of insect life / Gerald Legg. (An inside look.) LCCN 2002019064. Milwaukee, Wis. : Gareth Stevens, 2002.

HBB, 08368231799, list cost: \$23.93.
595.7. Insects—Juvenile literature; Insects. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 31 cm.
Grades 4-7. Rating : 4.

The World of Insect Life, by Gerald Legg, includes colorful cutaway illustrations. Special groupings help budding entomologists compare insect mouthparts, wing types, and methods of defense. Four drawings nicely illustrate embryo development. Bees and ants rate special sections. In addition, certain niche habitats are highlighted: rain forest life, insects in water, woodland life, and desert insects.

Many helpful features make this book a good choice for home schoolers, libraries, and families. Easy-to-read print, meshed with bright pictures, would attract people with vision problems. A glossary defines exoskeleton, rhabdom, and other relevant words. Readers will be encouraged to find other resources in the book list, video list, and suggested web sites. This introductory book is a fine springboard to jump into the fascinating world of buzzing and crawling creatures.

A vivid drawing shows the mating of two bright green and yellow longhorn beetles. The text mentions sperm, ovary, and uterus.

The author simply writes about everything from grasshoppers to bombardier beetles. *The World of Insects* is from the series, *An Inside Look*. Other titles include *Discovering Prehistory*, *The World of Flight*, and *Inside the Human Body*.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. *Volunteer, Church Children's Library, Dexter, Kentucky.*

Everything bug : what kids really want to know about insects and spiders / by Cherie Winner. (Kids' FAQs series.) LCCN 2003048761. Chanhassen, Minn. : NorthWord, 2004.

HBB, 1559718900, list cost: \$10.95.
595.7. Insects—Miscellanea—Juvenile literature; Spiders—Miscellanea—Juvenile literature; Insects—Miscellanea; Spiders—Miscellanea; Questions and answers. 63 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 4-8. Rating : 4.

In an excellent installment of the new Kids' FAQs series, Cherie Winner relates information about insects and spiders in a question-and-

answer style. Winner answers 28 questions, includes print and electronic resources for more information, and even relates "tall tales about bugs." The text and presentation will engage readers of many levels and for a variety of reasons. Students using the book for reports or specific information will use the explicit table of contents to access information, while others may just read straight through.

The photographs are engrossing and should fascinate even early readers. Although contributed by many photographers, the flow of text and photo is excellent. This title will appeal to many users and be read often! Recommended.

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

Fabulous fluttering tropical butterflies / Dorothy Hinshaw Patent ; illustrations by Kendahl Jan Jubb. LCCN 2002024982. New York : Walker & Co., 2003.

HBB, 0802788386, list cost: \$16.95.
595.78/9/0913. Butterflies—Tropics—Juvenile literature; Rain forest animals—Juvenile literature; Butterflies; Rain forest animals. 1 v. (unpaged) ; col. ill. ; 24 x 26 cm.
Grades 1-3. Rating : 3.

This colorfully illustrated butterfly book may be divided into three segments: general butterfly characteristics including the lifecycle and wing pigmentation or lack of, five categories of tropical butterflies, and butterfly houses. The reader will find general information about morphos, longwings, swallowtails, birdwings, and owl butterflies. Endpapers include a world map superimposed with selected tropical butterflies. Appended is an index of butterflies illustrated in the book plus their scientific names. Fellow Montanan Kendahl Jan Jubb uses bright watercolor paintings to represent the listed butterflies.

Ms. Patent and Ms. Jubb attempted much in this slim book. The title hints that the major topic is tropical butterflies, yet one third of the book is just generalities about butterflies: lifecycle, pigmentation, and food. Since little about tropical butterflies is available for this age group, and the children are fascinated with the unusual coloration and markings of the tropical butterflies, more information in this area is desired. The information about butterfly houses seems to be an add-on, but provides information not readily found for the target age. The illustrations are gloriously vibrant, but the butterfly depiction only representational, not realistic. Just as they would be in the tropical rainforest, some butterflies are almost camouflaged in the background. More was expected from this author. Added purchase where needed.

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

Wild horses / Julia Vogel ; illustrations by Mike Rowe. (Our wild world.) LCCN 2003059973. Chanhassen, Minn. : NorthWord Press, 2004.

HBB, 1559718811, list cost: \$10.95.
599.665/5. Wild horses—Juvenile literature; Wild horses; Horses. 47 p. : col. ill. ; 23 cm.
Grades 4-8. Rating : 5.

As part of the series, *Our Wild World*, *Wild Horses* addresses a much-loved subject for primary readers. As one of only a few texts on non-domestic horses, this text fills a void that is often not addressed for younger readers. This well-written title will prove useful with photographs of horses in action, diagrams of the skull and hoof, FunFacts, internet sites, and a detailed index.

Rowe's photographs communicate motion, varied terrain, expressions, various ages, coat textures, and other activities of wild horses. Excellent in scope and description, the text and photographs will engage readers of many ages and for recreational and instructional purposes. Recommended.

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

Eyes and ears / Seymour Simon. LCCN 2002019060. New York : HarperCollins, 2003.

HBB, 0688153038, list cost: \$15.99.
612.8/4. Eye—Juvenile literature.; Ear—Juvenile literature.; Eye; Ear; Vision; Hearing; Senses and sensation. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.
Grades 3-5. Rating : 5.

Two of our sensory organs, eyes and ears, are described in this visual nonfiction title. Both anatomy and physiology are included. Roughly two-thirds of the book is devoted to the eye, and the remainder to the ear. Mr. Seymour begins with an overview of how our brain receives light and sound signals, then continues with the specific anatomy of each organ, adds details about how each organ works, and summarizes with a paragraph about how the brain puts all the information received from eyes and ears together in order to see and hear. Full color photographs and digitized computer images give the reader an inside and outside view of each organ. Labeled diagrams enhance the discussion of the anatomy. Several interactive experiments are included in the eye segment.

Seymour Simon has developed a signature style for his nonfiction books for intermediate elementary grades: one full-page photo matched with text on the opposite page. Even the square shape indicates a Simon book. He has a knack for using correct scientific terms and defining those terms within the sentence. Readers will be fascinated with the activities explaining the blind spot, how the eye sees color, and optical illusions. Lack of an index and or glossary is a minor criticism of this text as it is with his other titles. Credits are given for the photos and diagrams on the verso of the title page, but credit

on the page where the illustration is located would be useful. Another clear, interesting science book from prolific Mr. Simon. Definitely the best book on this topic for this age level.

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

Flying over the USA : airplanes in American life / Martin W. Sandler. (American transportation.) LCCN 2003017876. New York : Oxford, 2004.

LIB, 0195132319, list cost: \$19.95.

629.13/0973. Aeronautics—United States—History—Juvenile literature; Airplanes—History—Juvenile literature; Air travel—United States—History—Juvenile literature; Aeronautics; Airplanes—History; Air travel. 61 p. : ill. (some col.), map ; 21 x 27 cm.

Grades 3-7. Rating : 5.

The Transportation in America series reveals how the horse, trolley, ship, railroad, automobile, and airplane transformed the United States. Each volume is illustrated with full color or black and white photographs, paintings, drawings, posters, timetables, sheet music covers, and original works. Manuscripts include fascinating sidebars on the initiatives of each of these travel technology transport fields. This is a library-bound six volume series that covers topics of water, air, and land travel across this nation.

Flying was once sport for thrill seekers and adventurers, but today it is an essential part of everyday life. Beginning with the late 1890's and the first American "would-be aviators," to the fighter planes of today, Martin Sandler traces a nation's history in conquering the illusive sport of flight. The author is an accomplished author and teacher of junior high and high school American studies.

Over thirty beautiful full-color or black and white illustrations give readers an extensive look at pioneers, genius inventors, early aviation disappointments, daring pilots, and an evolution of an industry that was to change modern life forever. The text outlines heroes of aviation and how air travel impacted the visions of our country and our world. The "Airplane at Work" is a section that reveals how aviation has exerted an effort to improve the quality of our lives with everything from parcel delivery to storm watching. Looking towards future challenges, this book is filled with sidebars and illustration captions that add points of interest to the text. There is a timeline, recommendations for "Places to Visit," and a bibliography for "Further Reading." Recommend this book for American studies teachers and elementary social study students interested in learning the fundamentals of aviation history.

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

Top secret: a handbook of codes, ciphers, and secret writing / Paul B. Janeczko ; illustrated by Jenna LaReau. LCCN 2002034758. Cambridge, Ma. : Candlewick Press, 2004.

HBB, 0763609714, list cost: \$16.99.

652/.8. Cryptography—Juvenile literature; Ciphers—Juvenile literature; Cryptography; Ciphers. 136 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 4.

Should you accept this mission... For your eyes only... Classified Information... These and other espionage images immediately get readers in the ready for the world of spies and secret agents. Paul Janeczko, a longtime recognized poet and editor of anthologies for young people, turns his attention and talents to the ongoing interest young readers have for the language of secret agents: codes. Readers will not only learn how to crack a code, they will learn how to create their own codes, and will discover the long and fascinating history of many famous codes throughout time. Jenna LaReau's sketchy penciled illustrations add humor to the text, helping to convey both a sense of fun and seriousness to the subject at hand.

Janeczko, respected writer and teacher, provides a well-written handbook about codes. Combining history lessons, along with a variety of code puzzles to try, readers will gain not only more knowledge about writing encoded secrets, but will have fun in the process. There are many interesting code history tidbits in the book ranging from how our founding fathers kept vital knowledge out of enemy hands to how literary greats Edgar Allan Poe and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle used them in their stories.

Pam Webb, BA. *Freelance Writer, Sandpoint, Idaho.*

*

Silent night, holy night / written by Myrna Strasser ; illustrated by Guy Porfirio. (Traditions of faith.) LCCN 2004000318. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2004.

HBB, 0310706726, list cost: \$15.99.

782.28/1723. Gruber, Franz Xaver, 1787-1863. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht—Juvenile literature; Carols—History and criticism—Juvenile literature. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades K-2. Rating : *5.

Providing Grandpa Strasser with hot cocoa and a rocking chair by the warm fire, the Strasser children perform a play for him, ending in his favorite song, "Silent Night." Grandpa is pleased and begins to relate the history of this song and how another set of Strasser children, relatives from long ago, made it famous. A poor pastor from a small Austrian village is given a poem, later put to music, on the way home from blessing one of his partitioners' newborn babies. The poem becomes the song "Silent Night," is memorized by the Strasser children, and sung far and wide, even before the King of Prussia.

Silent Night, Holy Night, from Traditions of Faith series, written by Myrna Strasser and illustrated by Guy Porfirio, is a cozy Christmas tale with a European flavor that adds to the traditional feel of the holiday. Each full-page illustration is infused with light, color, and family appeal. Myrna Strasser, a descendant of the original singing Strassers, adds the passion of a very personal tale to the professionalism of her background as a teacher and broadcast announcer at WDLM, through the Moody Bible Institute. Guy Porfirio is known for his colorful, full-page, greeting-card-style oil painting, illustrations that add pleasing visual aides to beloved tales like *Happy Birthday, America!* by Marsha Wilson Chall (HarperCollins, 2000) and *The Littlest Angel*, an updated version of Charles Tazewell's 1946 account of a small angel with a big heart (Ideals Publications, 2004). Also added are caroling activity ideas and a graphic of the original music piece. Highly recommended for all Christmas picture book collections. Reading this title aloud could be a nice addition to family traditions.

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

The great serum race : blazing the Iditarod Trail / Debbie S. Miller ; illustrations by Jon Van Zyle. LCCN 2001056777. New York : Walker & Co., 2002.

HBB, 0802788114, list cost: \$17.95.

798.8/3/09798. Iditarod (Race)—Juvenile literature; Iditarod (Race); Sled dogs—Alaska—Juvenile literature; Musher—Alaska—Juvenile literature; Diphtheria—Alaska—Nome—Juvenile literature; Diphtheria antitoxin—Juvenile literature; Togo (Dog); Balto (Dog); Sled dogs; Siberian husky; Dogs; Iditarod National Historic Trail (Alaska)—History—Juvenile literature; Alaska—History—1867-1959. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. (chiefly col.), col. maps ; 23 x 29 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 4.

In the winter of 1925 Nome, Alaska, was struck by an outbreak of diphtheria. The doctor recommended the entire town be quarantined to help stop the spread of the infectious disease. However, the only way to completely stop the spread was the use of an antitoxin serum; the only available supply was 1,000 treacherous snowy, icy miles away. A relay of dogsleds and train was arranged to deliver the necessary serum.

In *The Great Serum Race* Jon Van Zyle creates two-page acrylic-on-Masonite spreads. The endpapers feature a map of the route taken by the dogsleds. Appendices include a list of the serum run mushers, their segment and distance; stories about featured dogs; Iditarod race background; and a bibliography.

Debbie Miller and Jon Van Zyle have combined to create an informative and visually stimulating text. Both author and illustrator live in Alaska and have immediate experience with the Alaskan culture. In fact, Van Zyle is the official artist of the Iditarod. His illustrations are so

detailed, so vividly colored using cold blues and whites, that one shivers when reading the text. Ms. Miller has written a lengthy complete picture book for older children. The presentation of the story is exciting and compelling. However, the chronology of each dog and each sled becomes methodical. Books about individual dogs, Balto and Togo, are available, but *The Great Serum Race* provides a more comprehensive picture. Many students study the Iditarod in conjunction with reading Gardiner's *Stone Fox* (Crowell, 1980). For them, this title will be a valuable resource.

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

Hello sunshine, good night moonlight / illustrated by John Wallace. LCCN 2003014243. New York : Harry N. Abrams, 2004.

HBB, 0810948346, list cost: \$14.95.

811.008/09282. Children's poetry, American; Children's poetry, English; Children's poetry—Translations into English; American poetry—Collections; English poetry—Collections. 32 p. : ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 4.

This delightful collection of rousing rhymes to soothing lullabies celebrates a child's day. Its positive adventure highlights the possibilities each day presents featuring a variety of poems by Margaret Wise Brown, Robert Louis Stevenson, Eleanor Farjeon, and at least 18 other poets. Each of the 8 by 10.5 inch format pages is illustrated with figures and images that relate to the poem and day's activity.

The 31 poems creatively follow a day from waking up to sleep. The poems enhance the time a child and parent spend together as the poems chosen make a masterful journey in poetic sound (and are all the better for being read aloud) and logical celebration of what transpires in a day. Humorous topics are followed by more reflective ones. Makes a wonderful companion title to *The Sky Is Full of Song* by Lee Bennett Hopkins (Harper Collins, 1983).

Recommended for public and school library children collections. Homeschooling families and parents seeking a title to enjoy with young ones will find this enriching and enjoyable.

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

Harlem : a poem / by Walter Dean Myers ; pictures by Christopher Myers. LCCN 96008108. New York : Scholastic, 1997.

HBB, 0590543407, list cost: \$16.95.

811.54. African Americans—Juvenile poetry; Children's poetry, American; African Americans—Poetry; American poetry; Harlem (New York, N.Y.)—Juvenile poetry; Harlem (New York, N.Y.)—Poetry. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 32 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

From the shores of Africa, to the plantations of the South, via the Underground Railroad, north they came seeking liberty. Harlem promises a better life to those with broken dreams and hearts sore from holding onto hope. In this place, crowded with bold sights, scents, and sounds, no apology is needed for the color of a man's skin. Gospel combines with street music, children play in water spraying from a fire hydrant, a young couple rides the "A" train. Life spills forth from pages filled with people reaching for freedom behind chain fences, on asphalt streets, among high-rise buildings.

Harlem : A Poem, written by Walter Dean Myers and illustrated by Christopher Myers, is a 1998 Caldecott Honor Book. The oversized book with bold text and images emphasizes the complexity of a culture with unlimited potential and creativity, soaked in social limitations. Walter Dean Myers expresses the depth and breadth of African-American history in brief, poetic rhythm. Christopher Myers' illustrations, disjointed like the journey they represent, are a combination of ink, gouache, and collage. Although some of the key personalities and places mentioned will escape the youngest of readers' focus, the dimensions of poem merge with the layers of graphics to create a pleasing read for a variety of ages. Recommended for all libraries.

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

We are the many : a picture book of American Indians / by Doreen Rappaport ; illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu. LCCN 2001039820. New York : HarperCollins, 2002.

HBB, 0688165591, list cost: \$15.99.

970.004/97/00922. Indians of North America—Biography—Juvenile literature; Indians of North America—History—Juvenile literature; Indians of North America—Biography; Indians of North America—History. 28 p. : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : 3.

Doreen Rappaport selects sixteen Native Americans to feature in this collected biography. Native Americans represented are arranged chronologically from Tisquantum (Squanto) to Sherman Alexie, a current writer. Rappaport has chosen people from a variety of groups and occupations such as: Omaha and Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte, Wyandot and the Conley sisters one of whom was a lawyer, Shoshone and guide Sacajawea. Several, like Jim Thorpe and Sacajawea, are well known, but most are little known. Each biography is one page long and recreates one moment in that person's life. A bibliography of "Research Sources" and "Books for Young Readers" plus websites is appended, as is a pronunciation guide. An introduction and afterward provide valuable insight into Ms. Rappaport's and Mr. Van Wright's and Ms. Hu's thinking about the people and their times. Van Wright and Hu, a husband and wife team,

Painted one full-color watercolor per biographee, making this an illustrated book.

This title, like many other collected biographies and anthologies, is schizophrenic. Experience has told me this is a title that will be missed during library browsing and not suitable for research. It may, however, provide inspiration for further study or a quick read aloud when studying an individual Native American or group. In fact, Rappaport suggests that we "think of this book as the start of your journey to learning about American Indians." The illustrations are beautiful, well researched watercolors similar to Jerry Pinkney's. Consider individual biographies, or have your students use a paper or online encyclopedia for any research.

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

Pennsylvania / by Joyce Hart. (It's my state!) LCCN 2003020341. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761416919, list cost: \$27.97.

974.8. Pennsylvania—Juvenile literature; Pennsylvania. 80 p. : ill., maps ; 26 cm.

South Carolina / by Debra Hess. (It's my state!) LCCN 2003020350. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761416900, list cost: \$27.97.

975.7. South Carolina—Juvenile literature; South Carolina. 80 p. : ill., maps ; 26 cm.

Kansas / by David C. King. (It's my state!) LCCN 2003020342. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761416889, list cost: \$27.97.

978.1. Kansas—Juvenile literature; Kansas. 80 p. : ill., maps ; 26 cm.

North Dakota / by Doug Sanders. (It's my state!) LCCN 2003020343. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761416870, list cost: \$27.97.

978.4. North Dakota—Juvenile literature; North Dakota. 80 p. : ill., maps ; 26 cm.

Arizona / by Kathleen Derzipilski. (It's my state!) LCCN 2003020349. New York : Benchmark, 2003.

HBB, 0761416862, list cost: \$27.97.

979.1. Arizona—Juvenile literature; Arizona. 80 p. : ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 4.

Titles in the It's My State! series survey the history, geography, government, economy, and diverse ways of life among the people of a state. Each title opens with a quick glance at the state with photo of the state's tree, bird, flower, and other features unique to that state. Chapters deal with the state plants and animals, important dates, its people, how government works, and unique aspects of the state. Libraries having the Celebrate the States Series (Marshall Cavendish, 2001) will find this series having more detail and written with some language more inviting to 11 and 12 year olds.

The historic photos used, and the color illustrations and inserts lend easy pacing for the reading. An index and bibliography are included. Children are included in many of the photos and these photos add to the text rather than just accompany it.

School libraries may find English and social studies teachers benefiting from its addition to the collection. Public libraries can add for its attractive layout, providing an interesting approach, and wealth of material covered in 80 pages. The variety of author contributing lends spice to the series overall.

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

Projects about the plains Indians / Marian Broida. (Hands-on history.) LCCN 2002155873. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761416013, list cost: \$27.07.

978.004/9752. Handicraft; Indians of North America—Great Plains—Juvenile literature; Indian craft—Juvenile literature; Indians of North America—Great Plains; Indian craft; Indian craft. 48 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 24 cm.

Projects about Indians of the southwest / Marian Broida. (Hands-on history.) LCCN 2002155874. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761416021, list cost: \$27.07.

979.004/97. Handicraft; Indians of North America—Southwest, New—Juvenile literature; Indian craft—Juvenile literature; Indians of North America—Southwest, New; Indian craft. 48 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 24 cm.

Projects about westward expansion / Marian Broida. (Hands-on history.) LCCN 2003001934. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761416048, list cost: \$27.07.

979.5/03. Handicraft; Frontier and pioneer life—United States—Study and teaching—Activity programs—Juvenile literature; Frontier and pioneer life—West (U.S.)—Study and teaching—Activity programs—Juvenile literature; Activity programs—Juvenile literature; Frontier and pioneer life; United States—Territorial expansion—Study and teaching—Activity programs—Juvenile literature; West (U.S.)—History—Study and teaching—Activity programs—Juvenile literature; United States—Territorial expansion; West (U.S.)—History. 48 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 24 cm.

Projects about colonial life / Marian Broida. (Hands-on history.) LCCN 2003001939. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 076141603X, list cost: \$27.07.

973.2. Handicraft; United States—Social life and customs—To 1775—Study and teaching—Activity programs—Juvenile literature; United States—History—Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775—Study and teaching—Activity programs—Juvenile literature; United States—Social life and customs—To 1775; United States—History—Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775. 48 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 24 cm.

Projects about plantation life / Marian Broida. (Hands-on history.) LCCN 2003003822. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761416056, list cost: \$27.07.

975/03. Handicraft; Plantation life—Southern States—History—18th century—Study and teaching—Activity programs—Juvenile literature; Plantation life—Southern States—History—19th century—Study and teaching—Activity programs—Juvenile literature; Slaves—Southern States—Social life and customs—Study and teaching—Activity programs—Juvenile literature; Plantation owners—Southern States—Social life and customs—Study and teaching—Activity programs—Juvenile literature; Plantation life—Southern States; Southern States—Social life and customs—1775-1865—Study and teaching—Activity programs—Juvenile literature; Southern States—Social life and customs—1775-1865. 48 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 24 cm.

Grades 2-4. Rating : 4.

Part of the Hands-on History series, these books provide activities to supplement the school curriculum in each of the title areas. The books all use a "you-are-there" approach, treating the reader as if he is visiting the time period being discussed. After a short introduction in this fashion, Marian Broida gives numerous activities which attempt to replicate something from the time period. The books are illustrated with historical paintings, drawings, maps, and figures to go with the activities. Each book ends with a glossary of terms which may be unfamiliar; a metric conversion chart; web sites, fiction and nonfiction books to consult for more information; and an index.

In *Projects About The Plains Indians*, the reader will have a chance to discover more about the Cheyenne, the Lakota, and the Hidatsa. Some of the activities include a matching game on the uses of buffalo parts, constructing a model tipi, cooking pemmican, and growing a sunflower. There are ten activities in all. One problem with this book is that text explaining a map and the map do not match in their color designations.

Marian Broida introduces the reader to Ancient Pueblo People, the Navajo, and the Hopi and the Zuni in *Projects About American Indians of the Southwest*. This book has nine activities including: Navajo weaving, rock painting, Hopi pottery, and a Zuni garden. Living in this part of the country, I found several minor errors in the book which suggest research was not as thorough as it should have been.

Projects About Westward Expansion has nine activities which help bring the period to life for the reader. Activities include: Johnnycake, a covered wagon, and growing beans.

Readers will be introduced to colonial life in *Projects About Colonial Life*. Marian Broida divided the book into Northern Colonies, Middle Colonies, and Southern Colonies with three or four activities for each section of colonies. Activities here include: candle making, cooking hasty pudding, and money.

In *Projects About Plantation Life* students will learn more of the life of slaves who lived on plantations in the late 1700's and the 1800's until the Civil War. Readers are introduced to a 1770 Virginia plantation, a 1850 South Carolina plantations, and a 1860 Mississippi plantation

with three activities for each. Activities include a recipe, a cold remedy, a game boys played, and a game girls played. The author includes subtle criticism of our nation's founders for their slave holdings.

The series would be a helpful one for teachers to have for providing hands-on activities for their students when studying each of these areas. Because of the incorrect information I found in one book, I do wonder how carefully the entire series was researched. However, I would not hesitate to purchase this series if it fit a curricular need in my library.

Jane Mouttet, BA. Missionary School Librarian, Mesilla Park, New Mexico.

Lass / by Roland Gebauer ; illustrated by Cheri Bladholm. LCCN 97009997. Grand Rapids : Kregel Kidzone, 1997, 2004.

HBB, 0825426944, list cost: \$12.99.

B or 248/.092. Keller, W. Phillip (Weldon Phillip), 1920-; Border collie—British Columbia—Vancouver Island—Biography—Juvenile literature; Sheep ranchers—British Columbia—Vancouver—Biography—Juvenile literature; Christian life—Juvenile literature; Dogs; Christian life. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 2-5. Rating : 5.

From Philip Keller's *Lessons From a Sheep Dog* (W Pub Group, 2002), Roland Gebauer has extracted the essence to write *Lass*, a picture book about a real border collie and his master. Keller adopted Lass as a puppy, and found he was wild and extremely untrusting. Wisely, he allowed Lass to develop trust gradually, then trained him as a sheepdog for his Vancouver Island Fairwinds sheep ranch.

As a children's storybook, *Lass* is a charming tale of trust and loyalty. Gebauer skillfully crafts the story so that older children and adults can see the spiritual parallels. The six short chapters allow for short reading sessions accompanied by guided discussion questions and life applications included on the last two pages. Artist Cheri Bladholm's colored pencil illustrations realistically and charmingly depict Gebauer's storyline. Children from age six through elementary age will enjoy this book; its analogical aspect will appeal to animal lovers of any age.

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

*

Augustine : the farmer's boy of Tagaste / P. de Zeeuw. LCCN 98037869. Neerlandia, Alb. : Inheritance Publications, 1998.

PAP, 0921100051, list cost: \$6.90.

B or 270.2'092. Augustine, Saint, Bishop of Hippo—Juvenile literature; Christian saints—Algeria—Hippo (Extinct city)—Biography. 93 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-9. Rating : *5.

An interesting, historically embedded biography originally written in Dutch for older children, *Augustine: The Farmer's Boy of Tagaste* begins as the self-absorbed, rebellious, intelligent young teenager Augustine (A.D. 354-430) moves explosively from prank to petty crime. His early life cycles around selfish desire, punishment, and his great intellect. For worrisome years Augustine's mother, Monica, prays for him, through his boyhood escapades into adult heresy, until one day Augustine learns he is nothing and God is all—and the really exciting part of the story begins.

Augustine, written by noted and prolific protestant Dutch author, P de Zeeuw, will appeal to all readers, juvenile through adult. Amply researched, clearly presented with humor and empathy, this book presents a very human protagonist. In the introduction, de Zeeuw asks the reader not to think of Augustine as a Roman Catholic (he lived before any divisions) but as one of the great teachers of the Christian Church. The reader will easily identify with fallible, self-absorbed, winsome Augustine, his redemption, and useful Christian life.

Of particular interest to Christian schools and libraries, *Augustine* will be a welcome addition to secular institutions as well. Families, study groups, and history inquirers will welcome this volume.

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

George Mueller : a father to the fatherless / Rebecca Davis. LCCN 2004010119. Greenville, S.C. : JourneyForth, 2004.

PAP, 1591662559, list cost: \$7.49.

B or 284.1/092. Mueller, George, 1806?-1898 — Juvenile literature; Evangelists—Great Britain—Biography—Juvenile literature; Faith—Fiction. 135 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 2-5. Rating : *5.

George Mueller : A Father to the Fatherless, by Rebecca Davis, offers good value for the price. Twenty-five short chapters include "Kneeling in Prayer," "Cholera," "A Thousand Orphans," and "Sixty Years of Service." Mueller, born in Prussia, started early adulthood by gambling and stealing. Then he became a dedicated servant of the Lord. With evangelistic fervor, he told everyone about "complete forgiveness of sins through Jesus' blood."

In England, Mueller, his wife, and daughter cared for Bristol's orphans. The Muellers gave away most of their possessions—telling only the Lord of the family's and orphanage needs. At times, the orphanage had resources for only a few days ahead. In 1838, however, he confessed the "little children ate their meals one prayer at a time." During the last years of Mueller's life, he and his second wife traveled to 42 countries to publicize the orphanage and to encourage other faithful servants of the Lord.

This inexpensive paperback offers few frills, but that also provides a certain appeal. The book is affordable, and the story reads well. Good dialogue encourages young readers to eagerly turn pages and learn about Mueller's orphans, his donations for Spanish Bible tracts, and his friendship with Hudson Taylor. The printing is clear, with plenty of white space. Kyle Henry's gray tone illustrations highlight important events in Mueller's life. This artwork helps anyone grasp a sense of being in the story. The excitement of Mueller's life is condensed in this useful book.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Volunteer, Church Children's Library, Dexter, Kentucky.

*

Martin Luther : a man who changed the world / written by Paul L. Maier ; illustrated by Greg Copeland. LCCN 2004303754. St. Louis, Mo. : Concordia, 2004.

HBB, 0758606265, list cost: \$12.99.

B or 284.1/092. Luther, Martin, 1483-1546 — Juvenile literature; Luther, Martin, 1483-1546.; Reformation—Germany—Biography—Juvenile literature; Lutheran Church—Germany—Clergy—Biography—Juvenile literature; Reformers. [26] p. : col. ill. ; 27 x 29 cm.

Grades 1-4. Rating : *5.

Volumes of information have been written about Martin Luther, the 16th century German who figured prominently in the Protestant Reformation. Yet Paul Maier's *Martin Luther : A Man Who Changed the World* adds wonderful insights for children. The beautiful book cover shows Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg. Gold lettering on the dust jacket and quality paper correctly suggest this is an important book, on an important topic.

Historical people such as Cardinal Cajetan, Philip Melancthon, and Johann von Staupitz are not usually foremost in the minds of young readers. In this book, boys and girls are presented a skeletal outline of the Reformation. They'll gain knowledge of real names and places. Children will see the famous reformer as a monk, feeling far away from God, and thrill as Luther is "kidnapped" by friends.

The brief theological summary includes: "The Bible showed him that God had already done it all for him by sending Christ, whose suffering and death paid the penalty for sin and whose resurrection would be shared by all who had faith in Him."

Martin Luther : A Man Who Changed the World is highly recommended for churches, family libraries, Christian schools, as a gift book, and for homeschoolers. I'm a storyteller with several groups of children. The large, colorful pictures by Greg Copeland are ideal for turning pages, and allowing each child to see the

illustrations. I can hardly wait to share this book with my young friends!

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Volunteer, Church Children's Library, Dexter, Kentucky.

The flower hunter : William Bartram, America's first naturalist / Deborah Kogan Ray. LCCN 2002023186. New York : Farrar Straus Giroux, 2004.

HBB, 0374345899, list cost: \$17.00.

B or 580/.92. Bartram, William, 1739-1823 — Juvenile literature; Bartram, John, 1699-1777 — Juvenile literature; Bartram, William, 1739-1823; Bartram, John, 1699-1777; Botanists—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature; Naturalists—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature; Botanists; Naturalists; Scientists. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades 2-5. Rating : 4.

Author-illustrator Deborah Kogan Ray introduces readers to an early American scientific family and also to life in colonial America. William Bartram and his father John were botanists and farmers in the colony of Pennsylvania. John was fascinated with his father's studies and notes, loved nature, and was eager to go on botanical expeditions with his father. Eventually, young John follows his father to New Jersey, New York's Catskills, North and South Carolina, and Florida. William continued his travels alone in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida, and west 2,400 miles to the Mississippi. The Bartrams documented numerous American plant species, some previously unknown and some now extinct. Additional biographical information is appended, as is a brief listing of documented plants, a photo of Bartram's rendering of the *Franklinia alatamaha*, and a bibliography. Ms Ray used watercolor, gouache, and colored pencil for the illustrations. Period maps have been incorporated into the end pages.

Fictional journal entries bring life to the Bartrams explorations. Events and people of the era, the French and Indian War, the Revolution, and Benjamin Franklin are briefly mentioned. The pages are designed to look like fragile 18th century logbooks with sketches of locales and plants intermixed with the entries. On opposite pages or panels, Ms Ray illustrates a highlight from that journal entry.

This title is really a family biography, for John was America's first official botanist, while William understood and promoted the balance of nature as America's first naturalist. William's father certainly was the impetus for William. Even though this is a thin biography, it fills a niche: little has been written about Bartram for children, and Ray explains what a scientist does on a daily basis. New science standards in many states include concepts about "the nature of science" i.e. how a scientist works, which this biography provides. Middle grade teachers should consider reading this title aloud when beginning a study of plants. The National Science Teachers Association named *The*

Flower Hunter an "Outstanding Science Trade Book for Students K-12" published in 2004.

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

The boy who drew birds : a story of John James Audubon / by Jacqueline Davies ; illustrated by Melissa Sweet. LCCN 2004000971. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2004.

HBB, 0618243437, list cost: \$15.00.

B or 598/.092. Audubon, John James, 1785-1851 — Juvenile literature; Ornithologists—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature; Animal painters—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill., col. map ; 26 cm.

Grades 2-4. Rating : 4.

Jacqueline Davies selects a thin one-year slice of John James Audubon's life for this picture book biography. John James is eighteen and his father sends him from France to America "to live in a farmhouse...to learn English, to learn commerce, to learn how to make money...but mostly...to not have to fight in Napoleon's war." John James, however, is passionate only about nature, especially birds. He observes, listens, draws, and keeps a museum in his attic room. While he watches a pair of "pewees" he wonders about an age-old question, and develops a hypothesis that some birds return to the same place in spring. To test the theory, he devises a banding scheme, which is new to American bird study. In the spring, he has his answer, "Yes." Some birds have a homing behavior. Melissa Sweet uses a mixture of media, watercolors and gouache, pen and ink, pencil, and collage, to create her drawings. Appended are author's and illustrator's source notes, an adult bibliography, brief additional biographical information, and a reproduction of one of his later paintings of the Pewee Flycatcher, now called Eastern Phoebe.

Davies has managed in this slim book to say more about how scientists work to solve nature's mysteries than tell about Audubon. She also tempts the reader to want more. Sweet's drawings complement the text and style of collection, and have just enough French country look to remind the reader of Audubon's heritage. Middle grade teachers should consider reading this title aloud when discussing how scientists work or when preparing for a science fair. Students will be interested in discovering the passion of a scientist, want to read more about Audubon, and find out about his bird paintings. The National Science Teachers Association named *The Boy Who Drew Birds* an "Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12" published in 2004.

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

Robert Fulton : the steamboat man / Carin T. Ford. (Famous inventors.) LCCN 2003010141. Berkeley Heights, N.J. : Enslow Publishers, 2004.

LIB, 076602248X, list cost: \$22.60.

B or 623.8/24.092. Fulton, Robert, 1765-1815 — Juvenile literature; Fulton, Robert, 1765-1815; Marine engineers—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature; Inventors—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature; Steamboats—United States—History—19th century—Juvenile literature; Inventors; Steamboats—History. 32 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), map ; 24 cm.

Grades 2-5. Rating : 5.

Carin T. Ford wrote *Robert Fulton : The Steamboat Man* as part of the Famous Inventors series. Fulton, born in 1765, worked as a jeweler's apprentice and designed an unsuccessful underwater bomb. Then curious townspeople watched Fulton build a steamboat. They called it "Fulton's Folly."

As the steamboat traveled from New York to Albany, a frightened farmer "ran into his house and locked the doors and windows." Yet the steamboat arrived at Albany a day and half later. Men and women remained skeptical. Only two brave men rode along on the next trip. Suddenly, Fulton's boat, the North River Steam Boat (later renamed the Clermont), became popular. One hundred forty people enjoyed a trip, complete with watermelon and chicken!

The sturdy cover and binding of *Robert Fulton : The Steamboat Man* will withstand popularity in a children's library, or sharing among a home school group. Illustrations are from the Carnegie Library of Pittsburg, Collection of the New-York Historical Society, National Portrait Gallery, and many others sources. These diverse colored graphics present an interesting mixture of images. Readers will enjoy the Timeline, Words to Know, and Learn More sections

The Famous Inventors series, from Enslow Publishers, offers selections about Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Charles Drew, and others. For more information, see the webpage www.enslow.com.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Volunteer, Church Children's Library, Dexter, Kentucky.

The voice that challenged a nation : Marian Anderson and the struggle for equal rights / by Russell Freedman. LCCN 2003019558. New York : Clarion Books, 2004.

HBB, 0618159762, list cost: \$18.00.

B or 782.1/092. Anderson, Marian, 1897-1993 — Juvenile literature; Anderson, Marian, 1897-1993; Contraltos—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature; African American singers—Biography—Juvenile literature; African Americans—Civil rights—Juvenile literature; Singers; African Americans—Biography; Women—Biography. 114 p. : ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 2-6. Rating : 5.

Marian Anderson was born to sing and her singing was most important in her life. Her rich contralto voice thrilled audiences the world over

and made her famous. She was never by nature a crusader or even a spokesperson for a cause, but when she was denied the right, because of her race, to sing in Carnegie Hall, her response catapulted her into the center of the race controversy of her day. She came to represent Americans of color, with aid from noted personages of the times such as Eleanor Roosevelt, helped to end some of the racial barriers for black artists.

Award winning author Russell Freedman has filled this book with photographs that, along with the text, give the reader a wonderful sense of the life of this amazing and inspiring singer. She left her mark on the world of song and on the social climate of this country. Miss Anderson is an important figure in several arenas of American life and her biography should be an inspiration for young readers.

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

The man who walked between the towers / Mordicai Gerstein. LCCN 2003009040. Brookfield, Conn. : Roaring Brook Press, 2003.

HBB, 0761317910, list cost: \$17.95.

B or 791.3/4/092. Petit, Philippe, 1949- — Juvenile literature; Petit, Philippe, 1949-; World Trade Center (New York, N.Y.); Tightrope walking—Juvenile literature; Aerialists—France—Juvenile literature; Aerialists; Tightrope walking; Caldecott Medal. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 2-6. Rating : 4.

On August 7, 1974, when the World Trade Center Twin Towers were being constructed in New York City, aerialist Philippe Petit strung a wire between the towers, and walked the wire. Mordicai Gerstein uses detailed pen and ink cross-hatched sketches washed with a wide range of color to detail the events of Petit's adventure: his wishes, his thoughts, his plans, and the execution of walking between New York City's tallest buildings. Two foldout pages give the perspective from the top of the wire and from ground level. Illustrations vary in size from the foldouts to one-third of a page. The setting portrayed includes both day and night visuals. The story begins with "once there were..." and ends with "in memory...the towers are still there."

If this reviewer had been on the 2004 Caldecott committee, she probably would not have selected this title as the winner, for several reasons. First, the work seems to take advantage of the celebrity of the September 11th tower disaster. Secondly, there are questionable activities within the book such as sneaking into the towers at night and breaking trespassing laws. Yes, he was arrested and punished, but... Thirdly, the artistic style is similar to Geisert's cross-hatch pen and ink, and has been confused with his. The multiple perspectives of the artwork: high/low, large/small, day/night are a strong and unique feature, however. Fourthly, the reviewer had doubts about the interest to

children. On the last point, the reviewer was wrong, for children are fascinated with the suspenseful story and the foldout artwork. At the reviewer's Christian school, there were many questions about whether Petit was right to break the law. This opened the discussion door to talk about the commandments and Christian behavior.

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

Walt Whitman : words for America / by Barbara Kerley ; illustrated by Brian Selznick. LCCN 2003020085. New York : Scholastic, 2004.

HBB, 0439357918, list cost: \$16.95.

B or 811/.3. Whitman, Walt, 1819-1892—Juvenile literature; Whitman, Walt, 1819-1892: Poets, American—19th century—Biography—Juvenile literature; Nurses—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature; Poets, American; Nurses; United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Medical care—Juvenile literature; United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 31 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

A 2005 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor Award was presented to Kerley and Selznick for this picture biography of Walt Whitman. Kerley leaves no doubt that Whitman, from a young age, was fascinated with words and putting words together, whether as a typesetter, poet, newspaper journalist, or letter writer for the troops. His devotion to his brother George leads him to the Civil War battlefields, and it is there that Walt Whitman finds another calling, assisting the wounded soldiers in any way he can. Interspersed with events from Whitman's life are phrases and verses from his poetry. Selznick has created detailed realistic full-color drawings based on historical research and actual Civil War daguerreotypes of the soldiers. Appended are numerous author and illustrator notes and mini biographies of Whitman and Lincoln. Also, appended are longer excerpts of the poems found within the body of the book.

From the cover, which features a cutout revealing a young Walt Whitman, to the appendices, this is a thoughtfully and beautifully designed and written book. Selznick and David Saylor designed the book, even using the same text type as was used in *Leaves of Grass* (Self-published, 1855). Text is arranged in great variety on the pages: large size title font, words in frames across the bottom, centered squarely in the middle, or in a column along one side. The artwork is placed with as much care and variety. For the first time, in this reviewer's experience, Walt Whitman has become a living, breathing, compassionate human being. At just the right places, Kerley has added Whitman's own words and poems, thus further enlivening his personage. This is the second picture biography on which the two have collaborated, the first *The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins* (Scholastic, 2001), winning a Caldecott Honor.

Any elementary or middle school in which American history or literature is taught should add this to the collection. Any fan of Walt Whitman's poetry will enjoy this title in his personal collection.

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

Beverly Cleary / Susan Ring. (My favorite writer.) LCCN 2002005588. Mankato, Minn. : Weigl Publishers, 2003.

HBB, 1590360303, list cost: \$26.00.

B or 813/.54. Cleary, Beverly—Juvenile literature; Cleary, Beverly; Authors, American—20th century—Biography—Juvenile literature; Children's stories—Authorship—Juvenile literature; Authors, American; Women—Biography; Authorship. 32 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), col. map ; 27 cm.

E. B. White / Rennay Cratts. (My favorite writer.) LCCN 2002005585. Mankato, Minn. : Weigl Publishers, 2003.

HBB, 1590360265, list cost: \$26.00.

B or 818/.5209. White, E. B. (Elwyn Brooks), 1899—Juvenile literature; White, E. B. (Elwyn Brooks), 1899-; Authors, American—20th century—Biography—Juvenile literature; Children's stories—Authorship—Juvenile literature; Authors, American; Authorship. 32 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), col. map ; 27 cm.

Grades 2-5. Rating : 3.

The *Beverly Cleary* and *E.B. White* titles represent two of the six authors in Weigl Publisher's My Favorite Writer series. Each title covers the same topics: early childhood, growing up, learning the craft, getting published, the writer today, and popular books. Additional information, not always exclusive to a particular writer, is appended. Extra topics include creative writing tips, writing a biography review, fan information, and a quiz. Synopses of representatives of the Ramona books, Henry Huggins books, Mouse and the Motorcycle books and *Dear Mr. Henshaw* are included in the "Popular Books" section for Mrs. Cleary. E. B. White's three children's books are included in that segment of his biography.

The authors featured in the series: Judy Blume, Beverly Cleary, Roald Dahl, Dr. Seuss, E. B. White, and Laura Ingalls Wilder are truly My Favorite Writer for many young readers. The series, however, does not share the fun, humor, adventure, or excitement of the writers. The books could be a helpful introductory research teaching tool, for each is formatted in exactly the same way. However, the writing lacks excitement.

Special research features include milestones, sidebars, and maps, plus favorite authors of the authors. One segment is exactly alike in each book: writing a biography review. Web sites, movie reviews, and the quiz attempt to get the reader actively involved. The front cover has a reverse or negative photo of the authors, which is not attractive. As a librarian, I would guide students to Cleary's autobiography *A Girl from*

Yanhill (Morrow, 1988) and other biographies about E. B. White.

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

Christopher Columbus : adventurer of faith and courage / Bennie Rhodes ; illustrated by A. G. Smith Jr. ; edited by Norman Cournow Camp. (The Sowers.) LCCN 76005788. Milford, Mich. : Mott Media, 1976.

PAP, 0915134268, list cost: \$7.99.

B or 970/.01/50924. Columbus, Christopher—Juvenile literature; Columbus, Christopher; Explorers; America—Discovery and exploration. 146 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 22 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 4.

An historical novel based on Columbus's own journal and other biographies, Christopher Columbus narrates his life from the age of ten through all of his voyages. Columbus's hope for the natives he met in the New World is summed up in his closing thought, "The Gospel is for all those people...and there will have to be many Christ-Bearers to tell them the message of Christ."

First published in 1976, *Christopher Columbus* was written by evangelist, pastor, author, and history student Bennie Rhodes. He states his aim that "...young readers will be inspired by the great man Columbus to become Christ-Bearers themselves." Full of adventure, written in an attention catching style, this interesting interpretation of history includes two maps, a useful index, and an interest catching bibliography.

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

Vasco Nunez de Balboa : explorer to the Pacific Ocean / Arlene Bourgeois Molzahn. (Explorers!) LCCN 2002155205. Berkeley Heights, N.J. : Enslow, 2004.

HBB, 0766021424, list cost: \$18.95.

B or 972.8/02/092. Balboa, Vasco Núñez de, 1475-1519—Juvenile literature; Balboa, Vasco Núñez de, 1475-1519.; Explorers—America—Biography—Juvenile literature; Explorers—Spain—Biography—Juvenile literature; Explorers; America—Discovery and exploration—Spanish—Juvenile literature; Pacific Ocean—Discovery and exploration—Spanish—Juvenile literature; America—Discovery and exploration—Spanish. 48 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 24 cm.

Grades 2-5. Rating : 4.

Children will be fascinated as they read *Vasco Nunez de Balboa : Explorer to the Pacific Ocean*, written by Arlene Bourgeois Molzahn. Colored and one-tone illustrations show the excitement of Balboa's life. The explorer hid in a barrel to escape Hispaniola, polished armor for a rich nobleman, and met San Sebastian Indians with their poison arrows. He suffered hunger, and was eventually killed by a man who was jealous of the land and riches Balboa had discovered.

Balboa is especially known for discovering what we now call the Pacific Ocean. He climbed a mountain peak on the Isthmus of Panama. The explorer "quickly fell to his knees. He was thankful God had let him be the first European man to see this ocean. His men built an altar with rocks and placed a cross in the middle of it."

I suspect young readers will use this book as a staring place to study more about Balboa. The format contains sidebars, maps, a timeline, and a list of useful words. Boys and girls can easily use the short list of books and websites for additional information. Reinforced library binding and the sturdy cover appear capable of withstanding many years of use.

The Explorers! series includes books about Christopher Columbus, Ponce de Leon, Henry Hudson, and Ferdinand Magellan. For more information, check the publishers website, www.enslow.com.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Volunteer, Church Children's Library, Dexter, Kentucky.

Paul Revere's midnight ride / by Stephen Krensky ; illustrations by Greg Harlin. LCCN 66220. New York : HarperCollins, 2002.

HBB, 0688164099, list cost: \$15.99.

B or 973.3/311/092. Revere, Paul, 1735-1818 — Juvenile literature; Revere, Paul, 1735-1818; Lexington, Battle of, Lexington, Mass., 1775— Juvenile literature; Concord, Battle of, Concord, Mass., 1775—Juvenile literature; Massachusetts—History—Revolution, 1775-1783—Juvenile literature; Massachusetts—History—Revolution, 1775-1783; United States—History—Revolution, 1775-1783. (32 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 23 cm.

Grades 2-5. Rating : 4.

It is that famous night in April, 1775, when Paul Revere heads out on his gallop through the Boston suburbs to warn the colonists that the British troops are coming to capture some of the military supplies the colonists have been collecting. Krensky puts Longfellow's poem into prose, and Harlin supplies half-page, full-page, and double-page watercolor illustrations. The pages alternate presentation from the British activity to Revere's activities. Harlin has included a map of the route taken by Revere. Appended is a brief bit of background information that puts the ride into the context of colonial history.

Krensky and Harlin have created a visually beautiful slice of American Revolutionary history. In simple prose, both the British and American activities are presented. Some of Mrs. Revere's doubts are explored. In crisp text the reader learns about the dapperness of the redcoats: "...spattering their scarlet coats and white breeches with mud." Krensky mentions that other riders were involved, but does not name them, instead focusing on the title's namesake.

Krensky twisted the title of Longfellow's poem just enough to avoid confusion with that classic. Even though there are illustrated picture book versions of the classic poem, this title is more accessible and understandable by the younger reader. Greg Harlin's illustrations capture colonial times with his attention to detail: buttons on uniforms, Revere style tankards. Much of the action occurs at night. Harlin's horses racing through the dimly lit woods are almost silhouettes. Read this aloud to young children; compare the poem and text with older children.

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

Thomas Jefferson / written & illustrated by Cheryl Harness. LCCN 2003005853. Washington, D.C. : National Geographic, 2004.

HB, 0792264967, list cost: \$17.95.

B or 973.4/6/092. Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826 — Juvenile literature; Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826; Presidents—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature; Presidents. 43 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 29 cm.

Grades 3-7. Rating : 5.

Harness combines lively narrative and colorful, detailed illustrations to bring this extraordinary Founding Father to life. The reader hikes with Jefferson to the top of "Tom's Mountain," follows him as he plays fiddle with Patrick Henry, listens to arguments against the King in Virginia's House of Burgesses, and gains insights as he writes the Declaration of Independence. In addition to his active life, the reader shares Jefferson's final year at Monticello.

The 38 full-color illustrations enable students to see events in their own timeframe. Each page provides another aspect of Jefferson or an activity in which he played an influential role. By balancing anecdotes with key events in Jefferson's life, the reader is treated to a credible, personal glimpse into the person and life of this "Sage of Monticello."

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

Abraham Lincoln / Jane A. Schott. (History maker bios.) LCCN 2001003273. Minneapolis : Lerner Publications, 2002.

LIB, 0822501961, list cost: \$25.26.

B or 973.7/092. Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865 — Juvenile literature; Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865; Presidents—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature; Presidents. 48 p. : ill. (some col.), col. map ; 23 cm.

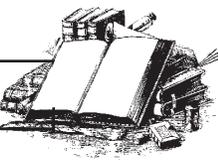
Grades 2-4. Rating : 3.

In Jane Schott's biography *Abraham Lincoln*, Lincoln's life is reviewed in five brief chapters: Growing Up, Honest Abe, Arguing over Slavery, The Country at War, and The End of the War. Appended are a timeline, information about the Lincoln Memorial, further reading,

websites, and a sources bibliography. Photographs and lithographs from the period are scattered liberally throughout the text. Some are labeled with "speech bubbles" to add graphic interest. Also included are several colored line drawings and a map. Each chapter contains one boxed special interest item such as "Skinny but Strong," and "In love with a Blockhead."

This is a run of the mill biography, part of Lerner's History Maker Bios series. The information can easily be found online or in print encyclopedias; the text is dry. Only the boxed special interest features make Mr. Lincoln human. The readability level is a positive for the book, making the content readily decodable for average third graders. More interesting information, however, can be found in the "further reading" segment and recommended websites.

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



Chasing Vermeer / by Blue Balliett ; illustrated by Brett Helquist. LCCN 2002152106. New York : Scholastic, 2004.

HBB, 0439372941, list cost: \$16.95.

Fic. Vermeer, Johannes, 1632-1675—Fiction; Art—Fiction; Mystery and detective stories. 254 p. : ill., map ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : 3.

On a warm October night, three letters are delivered to three people. Each asks for help in solving a centuries-old crime. Each also warns that any attempts to contact the police will place the recipient's life in danger.

So opens *Chasing Vermeer*, a middle-grade mystery by Blue Balliett. It's an intriguing beginning to a slick, multi-plotted tale, but one that's a bit misleading. The book will fascinate readers who stick with it, but it's best for the oldest end of its eight-to-twelve age group, or for highly literate youngsters, for several reasons.

Readers, for instance, must solve two codes to fully appreciate the mystery's resolution. One is a word code, one involves Brett Helquist's illustrations, but both require a certain level of ability to solve. Also, early chapters are more concerned with establishing protagonists' Calder and Petra's daily school routine and budding friendship than in following up on the letter subplot; the actual mystery (who stole a famous Vermeer painting? Are Calder and Petra's friends involved?) doesn't begin until halfway through the book. Other quibbles: the adults play as important a role as the kids; and the villain, when revealed, is a minor character who never really appears in the book.

Although Calder and Petra are clever, using their wits to solve things, coincidence plays a huge part in their adventure; they often dream or "sense" where to find clues. This is sometimes taken to nearly supernatural levels, as when it's implied the pentominoes Calder is fascinated with can predict what will happen.

On the positive side: the book is well written, thought provoking and intelligent, it makes classic art seem fascinating, and the characters act with honesty, integrity, and compassion. On the other hand, they lie to their parents and break into a school building when trying to find clues.

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

*

The Crow-girl : the children of Crow Cove / Bodil Bredsdorff ; translated from the Danish by Faith Ingwersen. LCCN 2003049310. New York : Farrar Straus Giroux, 2004.

HBB, 0374312478, list cost: \$16.00.

Fic. Conduct of life—Fiction; Family life—Fiction; Grandmothers—Fiction; Orphans—Fiction. 155 p. : map ; 21 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : *5.

Crow-girl lives with her grandmother in a tiny shanty, on a cove in Denmark. She collects mussels for soup and driftwood to keep the fire going. When Crow-girl's grandmother dies, she walks along the cove, listening to the crows for direction. She arrives at a village, briefly finds food and shelter with a mean-spirited woman, who seeks to take all of Crow-girl's worldly possessions, and continues on her adventures. Still listening to the crows, she is soon joined by a hungry toddler and a young girl and her stepmother fleeing an abusive father/husband. They spend the winter with a grandfatherly shepherd; then, head for Crow-girl's home in the cove. As an unconventional family begins to form, the Crow-girl takes on the independent, outdoor roles of shepherd, hunter, and fisherperson, rather than the more traditional female roles involving cooking, spinning wool, and cleaning.

The Crow-Girl : The Children of Crow Cove, a 2005 Mildred L. Batchelder Honor Book, by Bodil Bredsdorff, translated from Danish by Faith Ingwersen, is a fireside tale about a young girl who endures in the face of hardships, yet is still willing and able to help others in need. The poetic folktale technique used is problem-to-solution, rather than plot-driven, with a rhythm that emulates waves splashing on the shore. Background is watermark-style to lend a subtle flavor of enchantment. Characters are sketched to bring out protagonist's persona. Dialogue is strong and well-spun. The reader is presented with a rare treat in literary quality and content. Highly recommended for all public, school, and home school libraries.

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

*

Regina Silsby's secret war / by Thomas J. Brodeur. LCCN 2004001319. Greenville, S.C. : JourneyForth, 2004.

PAP, 1591662354, list cost: \$7.49.

Fic. Ghosts—Fiction; Superstition—Fiction; Boston Tea Party, 1773—Fiction; Boston (Mass.)—History—Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775—Juvenile fiction; Boston (Mass.)—History—Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775—Fiction. 248 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 6-9. Rating : *5.

Rachel Winslow didn't start out to be a patriot. Caught out during the Boston Tea Party, she flees the redcoats who are chasing anyone they see. Taking refuge in a cemetery, Rachel loses her cloak and hits her head on a stone. Just managing to hide in time, she watches the soldiers as they discover the cloak and blood, and jump to the conclusion that they've been chasing a ghost. Seeing their superstitious reaction to the circumstances, a plan is born in Rachel's mind to stop just sympathizing with the cause of liberty, but to do something about it. As Boston suffers the ever-tightening grip of the King's soldiers, Rachel's father is forced to quarter British troops, and one of her friends is taken by the press gangs. These occurrences prompt Rachel to don her alter-ego and go out to right the wrongs.

Regina Silsby's Secret War is an excellent Christ-centered novel for young fans of historical fiction. Rachel is an admirable heroine, full of daring but remembering who is her Protector. With a strong family surrounding her, loyalty of good friends, and a sweet loving grandfather, Rachel grows from a girl who simply lives in Boston in exciting times to someone who is willing to risk her own safety for the good of others. Author Thomas J. Brodeur brilliantly uses the exciting times to develop his character's strong sense of justice into a passion to do the right thing. Because the reader knows that Rachel is masquerading as Regina there is a sense of an inside joke. Yet, there are other mysteries. Who is the dark figure who enhances Rachel's work? Who was Regina Silsby and why is her "ghost" feared? This is so much better than the Dear America series. I hope this is the first of many for the author.

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

The tale of Despereaux : being the story of a mouse, a princess, some soup, and a spool of thread / Kate DiCamillo ; illustrated by Timothy Basil Ering. LCCN 2002034760. Cambridge, Mass. : Candlewick Press, 2003.

HBB, 0763617229, list cost: \$17.99.

Fic. Fairy tales; Mice—Fiction; Newbery Medal. 267 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : 5.

Kate DiCamillo received the 2004 Newbery Medal for *The Tale of Despereaux*, a fantasy written in four books: one about the small, big eared mouse named Despereaux the hero; another about a rat named Chiaroscuro who needed to see light; the third about an abandoned peasant maid named Miggery Sow who wanted to be a princess; and the fourth which ties all the pieces together. Additionally there is Princess Pea whom Despereaux desperately loves.

A friend's son gave DiCamillo the idea to write a story about an unlikely large eared hero. With the help of a grant from the McKnight Foundation, Despereaux is the unlikely hero. Timothy Basil Ering drew the gray toned illustrations and book borders throughout the title. Near the end of the book (p.237), Despereaux tells himself a story while rolling the red thread spool down the dungeon stairs: "Once upon a time, there was a mouse who was very, very small. Exceptionally small. And there was a beautiful princess whose name was Pea. And it so happened that this mouse was the one who was selected by fate to serve the princess, to honor her, and to save her from the darkness of a terrible dungeon...whispering to himself the tale of a devious rat and a fat serving girl and a beautiful princess and a brave mouse and some soup and a spool of red thread. It was a story, in fact, very similar to the one you are reading right now, and the telling of it gave Despereaux strength." Despereaux's tale summarizes the gist of the fantasy, but there is so much more entwined together.

DiCamillo has written a storyteller's story, for the text flows as from a storyteller's lips. She frequently pulls the reader into the story with asides directed at the reader, including suggestions to look up words like "perfidy" in the dictionary, making the book interactive. DiCamillo has written a fairy tale in the tradition of fairy tales with princesses, castles, dungeons, and motifs (youngest and smallest conquering all, obstacles in the path, quests, and poor scullery maids). DiCamillo has written an allegory of light and dark, good and evil. DiCamillo has written a tale to be read at multiple levels: the intertwined plot only; the concepts of love, hope, repentance, and forgiveness; the book as story. DiCamillo has written a literary tour de force where ultimately stories are light. Even though no date is given, one assumes medieval times, but "cigarettes" then become an oddity.

This title is a wonderful read aloud and discussion starter for fourth grade through early middle school. Creative writing classes could well use the book as a model in high school and college. Despereaux is unique and creative as well, becoming a bibliophile's standard. Huzzah!!

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

The shadow of the bear : Snow White and Rose Red retold / by Regina Doman. LCCN 2002107700. Bathgate, N.D. : Bethelhem Books, 2002.

PAP, 1883937760, list cost: \$11.95.

Fic. Sisters—Fiction; Interpersonal relations—Fiction; Catholics—Fiction; Christian life—Fiction; High schools—Fiction; Schools—Fiction; Mystery and detective stories; New York (N.Y.)—Fiction. 265 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

Black as night : a fairy tale retold / by Regina Doman. LCCN 2004104011. Bathgate, N.D. : Bethelhem Books, 2004.

PAP, 1883937884, list cost: \$11.95.

Fic. Fantasy. 429 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

Blanche and Rose have recently lost their dad to the ravages of cancer. Their mother, who works in an emergency room at a hospital, goes out one evening for groceries and returns with a dangerous looking, frostbitten vagrant from off the streets of New York City. While Mom and Rose insist upon helping him, Blanche tries to warn them of the disreputable character she knows the young man, who calls himself Bear, to be. Unfortunately, they are not listening, and in order to help Bear, the three women are drawn into the self-same sinister streets from which they have tried to previously protect themselves.

The Shadow of the Bear by Regina Doman is the modern day retelling of the fairy tale "Snow White and Rose Red." Doman adds her unique twist to these classics by combining the imagination of the Brothers Grimm with the age old wisdom of G.K. Chesterton, presenting the tale in present day language, characters, and situations.

In the sequel, *Black as Night*, retold by Regina Doman, Blanche begins a summer job, meets an elderly declining gentleman who reminds her of her deceased father, agrees to regular visits with him. When his family falsely accuses her of being a criminal, Blanche knows she must hide until she finds a way to clear her name. While friends and family search concernedly for Blanche, she finds safety within an order of Franciscan Friars.

Predominately rendered in Catholic overtones, this pleasant series about the beauty of the heart reminds the reader that neither evil, nor good are always blatantly apparent, that there are often subtle undertones that can cause us to question even our most deep-set beliefs. Although some of the dialogue is a bit stiff, the overall affect is cozy. Recommended for ages high school through adult and as a possible resource for a home school reading list.

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

Under the sun / Arthur Dorros. LCCN 2004011183. New York : Amulet, 2004.

HBB, 0810949334, list cost: \$16.95.

Fic. Prejudices—Fiction; Yugoslav War, 1991-1995—Fiction; Bosnia and Hercegovina—History—1992—Fiction. 224 p. : map ; 22 cm.

Grades 6-9. Rating : 4.

Ehmet's formerly civilized country has blown apart into ethnic divisions largely meaningless to him. His parents are from different ethnic and religious backgrounds, as are most of his friends. But Sarajevo has become too dangerous, so his father sends Ehmet and his mother to the countryside for safety. Failing to find safety for long, they begin a trek across Bosnia to his grandparents' home in Croatia while trying to avoid various groups of thugs running around with weapons. Because his mother is ill, it is up to Ehmet to take care of both of them. All of his ingenuity and remembered skills come to the forefront as he frantically tries to care for her and move them forward. Along the way his encounters with a Muslim family and later an older mixed-religion couple who lived through WWII in Bosnia teach Ehmet that what is in the heart overrides any labels people place on themselves or others.

Arthur Dorros has written a thought-provoking story that could be only too real. A disturbing depiction of what happened in Bosnia, *Under the Sun* is an excellent book to personalize the conflict for similarly aged readers. Rather than pointing fingers of blame, it chronicles the utter chaos that ensues when the institutions that hold a society together are removed. Not for the fainthearted, this book implies that Ehmet's mother is brutally raped although the author makes it clear that Ehmet does not understand the extent of what happened. Further in the journey, his mother dies and eventually Ehmet is locked up in a refugee camp. There is a happy ending, but this is a book for mature readers.

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

Bull Run / Paul Fleischman ; woodcuts by David Frampton. LCCN 92014745. New York : HarperCollins, 1993.

HBB, 0060214473, list cost: \$16.73.

Fic. Bull Run, 1st Battle of, Va., 1861—Juvenile fiction; Bull Run, 1st Battle of, Va., 1861—Fiction; United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Campaigns—Fiction. 104 p. : maps ; 24 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : 5.

Bull Run gives the account of the Civil War's first great battle. It is told in sixteen different voices, from a war-fevered boy to a black man determined to shoulder a gun. Each entry takes up only a page or two as the hopes, fears, and horror of the war are related by those who lived it. This is historical fiction but gives a true picture of this time in history through the eyes of actual participants.

Award winning author Paul Fleischman writes these first person stories in a rather matter of fact way, which makes them all the more compelling. This is a story rich in fact and

emotion and will make history come alive to middle school readers. *Bull Run* could also be used very effectively in reader's theater.

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

I walk in dread : the diary of Deliverance Trembley, witness to the Salem witch trials / by Lisa Rowe Fraustino. (Dear America.) LCCN 2004005606. New York : Scholastic, 2004.

HBB, 0439249732, list cost: \$10.95.

Fic. Trials (Witchcraft)—Massachusetts—Salem—Juvenile fiction; Trials (Witchcraft)—Fiction; Witchcraft—Fiction; Puritans—Fiction; Prejudices—Fiction; Sisters—Fiction; Diaries—Fiction; Salem (Mass.)—History—Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775—Fiction. 203 p. : ill., map ; 20 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 4.

Although a fictionalized account of a witness to the Salem witch trials, this author also weaves historical fact within the journal. Author Lisa Rowe Fraustino takes you into the life of a young girl who is torn between distinguishing truth from lie. She fights within herself to understand what God wants. Are the accused really witches or are the girls faking their visions and "fits"?

She watches as more and more people are charged as witches. Trial after trial the town must endure. Trials are not to separate the innocent from the guilty, only to pronounce guilt. Soon she discovers, "There are those who would rather lie and live than tell the truth and die."

At home she questions the truthfulness of those pointing fingers, and soon fears her sister will be pointing a finger at her. A good book and one I would recommend.

The Dear America series offers readers more than just a story. Following the epilogue each writer includes a "Historical Note" and pictures of the times depicted. Readers can see for themselves that a fire detailed in a "journal" actually happened in history, that some of the characters written about actually existed, or details about an event are correctly portrayed.

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

Rambunctious rattler / Walter G. Fremont [and] Susan W. Young. LCCN 99023179. Greenville, S.C. : Journey Books, 1999.

PAP, 1579242626, list cost: \$6.49.

Fic. Horses—Fiction; Christian fiction. 138 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 2-4. Rating : 3.

Twelve year old Gil's dream is coming true: he is buying a horse. However, Rattler comes with a price. Since his grandfather advanced him part of the money, Gil has to work to pay that loan back. He also has to pay for the upkeep of the horse and has to take care of the horse himself. When Rattler gets loose and causes trouble in

town, Gil has to work to pay for those damages as well. Through the next several months Gil's adventures with Rattler are varied as Gil helps his best friend Billy come to know Christ, catches some horse thieves, and even helps his grandfather teach the value of hard work to some local trouble makers.

Rambunctious Rattler is a sweet story of a boy blessed with the kind of family we would all love our children to have. He has kindly grandparents firmly committed to the Lord, wonderful supportive trusting parents who lead by example, and lives in a country setting where a boy and his horse can grow up together. Further, he has a gift for evangelism and a best friend who needs to find Christ! Evoking times past, Fremont and Young have written a nice story that will appeal to parents and teachers although it may be too saccharine for some students. Gil's personality is way too good to be true. He always makes the right decision, he is always respectful to adults, and the one time he gets angry it is righteous anger that he keeps in check. There is no real angst or edginess to this book which may keep it from being a page-turner.

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

Hard times for Jake Smith / Aileen Kilgore Henderson. LCCN 2003020508. Minneapolis : Milkweed Editions, 2004.

HBB, 1571316485, list cost: \$16.95.

Fic. Family—Fiction; Identity—Fiction; Abandoned children—Fiction; Depressions—History—Fiction; Disguise—Fiction; Alabama—History—20th century—Fiction. 192, [13] p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 5-9. Rating : 4.

The Great Depression brought hard times to Alabama. Aileen Kilgore Henderson helps us identify with the spunky girl in *Hard Times for Jake Smith*. Twelve-year-old MaryJake Wildsmith is abandoned by her family. They give her mysterious instructions to follow a road to a castle. Instead, the forlorn girl disguises herself as a boy. The new Jake Smith meets and lives with a kind widow.

Jake tries to hide her identity. Eventually, she meets an unknown older brother, and rescues two younger brothers from poverty. Add bootleggers, medical emergencies, cleaning a graveyard, and a traveling preacher named Miss Celestine. A horse named Dink, and a boy named Poe who "can't see diddle in daylight" round out the list of characters. I especially enjoyed Henderson's Afterword, the description of her life in the 1930's. I hope the author writes an autobiography!

Dialogue is appropriate for the times, and the fast-paced plot will keep youngsters turning pages. Children who are abandoned by their parents will rejoice at the conclusion. MaryJake "...was unafraid, content to be where she was, smelling the freshness of the rain..."

Milkweed Editions is a nonprofit press with the goal to make "a humane impact on society...to convey the essential experiences of the human heart and spirit." Their website is www.milkweed.org. Other titles by Henderson are *The Monkey Thief*, *The Summer of the Bonepile Monster*, and *Treasure of Panther Peak*.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. *Volunteer, Church Children's Library, Dexter, Kentucky.*

Summer secrets / by Patricia Hermes. LCCN 2003017669. Tarrytown, N.Y. : Marshall Cavendish, 2004.

HBB, 0761450742, list cost: \$15.95.

Fic. Mental illness—Fiction; Friendship—Fiction; Family problems—Fiction; Race relations—Fiction; World War, 1939-1945—United States—Fiction; Mississippi—History—20th century—Fiction. 141 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : 2.

Missy is twelve years old living in Mississippi at the end of WWII. Her two best friends are Almay and Vanessa. Almay is the daughter of Missy's family's black housekeeper, Geneva. Vanessa, like Missy is white. Missy's mother is showing increasing signs of mental illness which Missy writes about in her secret notebook. She is trying to figure out what's wrong with her mother, as well as with her friends. Vanessa and Almay have discovered boys. Shut out of this by lack of interest, Missy is drawn more into her mother's problems. At the same time, she is trying to figure out why white neighbors include Vanessa but not Almay in their social structure.

Are there any coming of age novels set in the south that don't feature someone with mental illness, a really hot summer and a conflict of race? Isn't there anything else to write about in the South other than these things? *Summer Secrets* is not a bad story, or poorly written. It is just difficult to find anything new to say about a story that has been told in many ways by many authors. Patricia Hermes is a prolific popular author so students may gravitate to this book. However, if your students in grades 5-8 really want to grapple with these issues, they're much better off reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

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

Hound heaven / Linda Oatman High. LCCN 2003112910. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyds Mills, 2004, 1995.

PAP, 1590782445, list cost: \$9.95.

Fic. Grandfathers—Fiction; Mountain life—West Virginia—Fiction; Dogs—Fiction; Money-making projects—Fiction; West Virginia—Fiction. 174 p. ; 22 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.*

Hear my sorrow : the diary of Angela Denoto, a shirtwaist worker / by Deborah Hopkinson. (Dear America.) LCCN 2003021454. New York : Scholastic, 2004.

HBB, 0439221617, list cost: \$10.95.

Fic. Factories—Fiction; Labor disputes—Fiction; Immigrants—Fiction; Italian Americans—Fiction; Diaries—Fiction; New York (N.Y.)—History—1898-1951—Fiction. 188 p. : 20 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 5.

Hear My Sorrow is a fictional account of Angela Denoto, a shirtwaist worker, in 1909. Although the character of Angela is fictionalized, the author weaves within the story many historical facts. The story is set in New York when workers had no rights and unions were first making their stand. The story in this book is so strong that the reader will be amazed that when they read the final word and shut the book that they have learned so much.

In this story, journal writer, Angela, although a bright student, leaves school at the age of

fourteen to help support her family. She enters the workforce in a shirtwaist factory where she is expected to work six days a week, many times for ten hours or more a day. She is paid very low wages and is even charged for the sewing needles that break. The conditions of these workshops, as well as being appalling, place workers in danger.

Finally, the women take a stand and 20,000 girls from various shirtwaist factories go on strike. Angela is forced to take a stand which could leave her family hungry as well as having to endure the mistreatment by others. Rights of workers versus family duty becomes a strong issue as well as the struggle to understand ones true potential.

A great book and one I certainly recommend.

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

The trouble with Skye / Marsha Hubler. (Keystone Stables ; 1.) LCCN 2003018869. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2004.

PAP, 031070572X, list cost: \$2.99.

Fic. Horses—Fiction; Foster home care—Fiction; Christian life—Fiction. 130 p. ill. ; 18 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 3.

A true test for Skye / Marsha Hubler. (Keystone Stables ; 2.) LCCN 2003018718. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2004.

PAP, 0310705738, list cost: \$4.99.

Fic. Horses—Fiction; Death—Fiction; Friendship—Fiction; Christian life—Fiction; Foster home care—Fiction. 132 p. : ill. ; 18 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 3.

The Trouble with Skye begins with a troubled and angry foster child, Skye, appearing before a judge ready to sentence her to juvenile detention. At thirteen Skye has a record of drug and alcohol abuse, vandalism, and shoplifting in just one year as well as having been in five foster homes. Just as the judge is ready to make a ruling, another foster care couple steps forward pledging to take Skye into their home.

A reluctant and distrustful Skye doesn't understand the Chambers dedication to God. Through the grace of God and the care of the Chambers and their horses, Skye finally decides not to give up on herself and to accept God into her life.

Although this is a good book, throughout I kept hoping for much more from the writer than she delivered. It left me wishing she had fleshed out the emotions in the characters much more.

A True Test for Skye continues the story of Skye as her rebellious former "partner in crime" moves into the Chambers' home with Skye and another foster girl. Skye sees in her friend the person she used to be and urges her friend,

Sooze, to look at life in another way and not to discount God.

Sooze (Susan) is angry, feels betrayed and unloved by her mother, and is not so easily swayed that God can make a difference in her life. She is further untrusting of the Chambers. The only thing that attracts her to stay are Skye and the horses. Maybe through drugs she can escape? Sooze discovers why her mother is the way she is and embraces Skye, the Chambers, and God.

Again, I thought this book was good, but kept hoping for much more from the writer than she delivered. It seemed more like a story with a beginning and ending without much in the middle to sustain it. Yet, it does show how calmness surrounds one if they have faith.

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

William of Orange : the silent prince / by W.G. Van de Hulst. LCCN 92020246. Pella, Ia. : Inheritance Publications, 1992.

PAP, 0921100159, list cost: \$7.90.

Fic. William I, Prince of Orange, 1533-1584—Juvenile literature; Netherlands—Kings and rulers—Biography—Juvenile literature. 142 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 2.

William of Nassau was also known as the Silent Prince. Inheriting his principality of Orange at an early age, William grew up in the service of the King of Spain as a loyal Roman Catholic. Observing the excesses of the Inquisition, William became disaffected first with Catholicism and finally with Spain's rule of the Netherlands. Like Martin Luther, William first tried to change the system from within, but was quickly seen as a threat to the established order. Hounded from his position and lands, William became a hero of the Reformation as well as the Netherlands.

This story of William of Orange as written by W.G. Van de Hulst is unsurprisingly biased. One would expect a Dutch writer to paint his country's George Washington as sympathetic, but this rendition portrays a faultless man. That is not the only problem with this book. Stylistically, this book is written as if the story is being narrated around a campfire. As a result, the tone is pedantic and condescending as well as choppy. It is unlikely that students will be able to stay the course to finish the book and if they do, they will learn only one dimension of this important historical character.

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

Smoky the cowhorse / by Will James ; illustrated by the author. LCCN 99058659. Missoula, Mont. : Mountain Press, 1926, 1999.

PAP,0878424148, list cost: \$16.00.

Fic. Horses—Juvenile fiction; Horses—Fiction; West (U.S.)—Fiction; Newbery Medal. xi, 245 p. : ill. : 23 cm.

Grades 6-8. Rating : 5.

A colt is born one spring up in the mountains carrying within his genes his mama's wildness and his papa's strength. Adding his own great heart and uncanny knack for understanding his surroundings, the pony is a prize if someone can tame him. Clint, a broncobuster for the Rocking R, recognizes the potential in the young colt and takes great pains with the pony's training. By the time he is finished, Clint and Smoky are on the same wavelength, the perfect partnership of man and horse. After years of working for the ranch, Smoky is stolen and savagely abused. Escaping his abuser, Smoky ends up as a bucking bronco on the rodeo circuit. Now named Cougar, the horse spends several years working out a hatred for men. Mellowed, he is of no use as a bronco and becomes a rental horse. His excellence at that leads to a break down in his health and what seems like the end for the mouse-colored pony.

Anyone who has spent time around horses will enjoy this reprint of the 1927 Newbery winner, *Smoky the Cowhorse*. Written in Will James' loquacious Western style, the grammar and attitudes are of the period and are not politically correct. The cowboy-flavored writing makes this a challenging book to read aloud but it is such a great story that with some judicious editing, it is worth the attempt. This book is most appropriate for older readers, secure in their knowledge of proper grammar and uninfluenced by stereotypes and remarks made in the context of the time. Reproductions of James' original pencil drawings scattered throughout the story punctuate it nicely.

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

A corner of the universe / Ann M. Martin. LCCN 2001057611. New York : Scholastic Press, 2002.

HBB, 0439388805, list cost: \$15.95.

Fic. Family life—Fiction; Uncles—Fiction; People with mental disabilities—Fiction; Friendship—Fiction. 189 p. : 22 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : 5.

Hattie Owen leads a pretty simple life and is perfectly content with that life. Mom and Dad own a large boarding house where Hattie is very comfortable and feels like the boarders are her extended family. She has a best friend, Betsy, loves to read, and really loves her town, Millerton. But one day Hattie learns startling news. She has a secret uncle, one she has never been told about and he is coming home for the summer. Adam is 21 and has gone to a special school most of his life, but that school is closing and he will be spending the summer with Nana and Papa, his parents, (Hattie's grandparents, of course) until another school can be located for him. Adam is mentally ill!

Hattie experiences a summer like one she has never known. Getting to know Adam, finding out how much alike they are in many ways, making a new friend out of her comfort zone and then a disastrous end to many, many things.

A Corner of the Universe is an interesting book in that the reader is lulled into thinking this is sweet and fluffy when the beginning of the story is told. But this is a serious story about a serious issue. Not just the issue of mental illness but also keeping that illness from children in the family as a way of protecting them.

Written for middle school age readers, *A Corner of the Universe* has a message for older readers, as well. It is written in the easily readable style of well known author, Ann M. Martin, who writes out of her own experience. She, too, had an uncle she did not know existed, an uncle with a mental illness, and that lends credibility to her writing. Although nothing in this book is inappropriate for children, the subject of mental illness and suicide makes its target audience middle school and above.

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

Look to the hills : the diary of Lozette Moreau, a French slave girl / by Patricia C. McKissack. (Dear America.) LCCN 2003050435. New York : Scholastic, 2004.

HBB, 0439210380, list cost: \$10.95.

Fic. Slavery—Fiction; Identity—Fiction; African Americans—Fiction; Diaries—Fiction; United States—History—French and Indian War, 1755-1763—Fiction. 188 p. : ill., maps ; 20 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 5.

Look to the Hills, although a fictionalized account, offers readers insight into life as a slave. As in all the Dear America books, this journal is craftily interwoven with historical facts.

Young Lozette shows readers what it feels like to be a companion slave to someone she has grown to love. The author through words truly captures what one can imagine is in the mind of someone who yearns simply to be "free." In the diary she writes of her owner, "I didn't want to be free of (her)... I wanted to be free from her." She also states, "I am a slave. And saying it is like vomiting up rotten meat."

Throughout the book the author leads you to see the viewpoints of many. But the issue always returns to the fight for one young girl to simply be able to go wherever she wishes without permission from another, to rest her head in a place that she chooses, and to be a friend who wants to do something for another versus being forced to do so.

The author writes toward the end of the book, "What is given from the heart reaches the heart," and that is what this book does—reaches the heart. I strongly recommend this book.

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

The red house mystery / A.A. Milne. LCCN 2001004430. Greenville, S.C. : JourneyForth, 2001.

PAP, 1579247024, list cost: \$6.49.

Fic. Mystery and detective stories; England—Fiction. 202 p. : 22 cm.

Grades 9-Adult. Rating : 4.

The name A.A.Milne might conjure up images of Winnie the Pooh and the gang, but author Milne wrote for adults as well. In *The Red House Mystery*, jack-of-all-trades Tony Gillingham happens upon a murder at a country estate. Venturing to the house with the intent of visiting a friend who is staying there, Gillingham arrives in time to help discover a body. The estate house, filled with guests, soon becomes the hub of a mystery. Who killed the dead man and where is the dead man's brother, the main suspect in the murder? Gillingham, fashioning himself after Sherlock Holmes, enlists the aid of his friend Bill Beverley. With the astuteness of Miss Marple, Gillingham discovers clues, secret passageways, and eventually the murderer, as well as the true fate of the estate owner Mark Ablett.

Milne writes an engaging mystery, rich in English tradition. For Anglophiles, this book is a must read. The tone, setting, and pace are characteristically English, with a tinge of British humor added as well. The red herrings and twists given offer pages of deception. This is a charming English "who-dun-it" that will bring enjoyment to the reader.

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

Private Peaceful / by Michael Morpurgo. LCCN 2003065347. New York : Scholastic, 2004.

HBB, 0439636485, list cost: \$16.95.

Fic. Single-parent families—Fiction; Poverty—Fiction; Soldiers—Fiction; People with mental disabilities—Fiction; World War, 1914-1918—England—Fiction; Great Britain—History—George V, 1910-1936—Fiction. 202 p. : 22 cm.

Grades 7-10. Rating : 5.

Private Thomas Peaceful faces the longest night of his life. He stands watch, knowing that, in the morning, everything he lives for will change forever. He recalls when he and his brother Charlie were in school, and how Charlie took care of and looked out for him. He remembers his first love, Molly, whose adventurous and caring nature gained her immediate acceptance into the family. He feels responsible for his father's death and the heartache his mother faced to keep the family together. He recalls "Grandma Wolfwoman," the great aunt who made life miserable when Mom had to go off to work, and Big Joe, his mentally slow older brother, who rescued animals. He remembers how, to the Peacefuls, World War I is just a horrible event taking place far away from home and loved ones; until Charlie decides to join the fighting. Then, for sixteen-year-old Thomas

Peaceful, who follows his brother off to war, the relative safety of the English countryside is exchanged for the constant upheaval of the war in France.

Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo is a novel about the tragedies and losses of war. Written in the first person, Morpurgo skillfully shows the ravages of battle through the eyes of the young protagonist. Story is well-organized and easy to follow. Although there is mild use of obscene language, dialogue is believable and adds depth. Background contributes to the realistic picture painted by the author. Plot is well-devised; foreshadows but gives nothing away of the end twist. Recommended for public libraries.

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

The journal of Brian Doyle : a greenhorn on an Alaskan whaling ship / by Jim Murphy. (My name is America.) LCCN 2002044578. New York : Scholastic, 2004.

HBB, 0439078148, list cost: \$10.95.

Fic. Whaling—Fiction; Ocean travel—Fiction; Survival—Fiction; Diaries—Fiction. 188 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 5.

This wonderfully written story begins with young Brian aboard a whaling ship, having left his abusive home at the age of fourteen. His enjoyment of freedom away from home is short lived as he discovers life on board is not any easier. The Captain is incompetent, some crew members are quick to anger, and young Brian finds killing whales not to his liking. When the boat becomes encased in ice, he must make the decision to stay with the Captain and the boat or forge ahead on foot on the ice to seek rescue.

This is a fabulous story of a compassionate young man who during his struggle to survive also struggles with his inner turmoil. The author, Jim Murphy, carefully leads readers along with Brian as he strives to understand his father, fellow crew members, and what is important in life.

Brian's journal is set in the late 1800s when whaling was legal, popular, and profitable. Although Brian Doyle and his diary are fictionalized by the author, Jim Murphy, he masterfully weaves within his story historical facts. I would strongly recommend this book to any reader.

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

Eragon / Christopher Paolini. LCCN 2003047481. New York : Alfred A. Knopf, 2003.

HBB, 0375826688, list cost: \$18.95.

Fic. Fantasy; Dragons—Fiction; Youths' writings. 509 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 3.

Eragon, a young teenage boy living in the Palancar Valley in the far north of the land of Alagaësia, has an uncertain past. No one has told him—or seems to know—the identity of his father, and he never knew his mother. His future becomes uncertain, too, when he finds a magical gem that hatches into a real dragon! Dragons grow quickly, and Eragon finds he cannot hide her (“Saphira,” he names her, is a female dragon)—especially when evil seems to be spreading throughout his land. When emissaries from that evil come through Eragon's farm and kill his uncle, the only father he's known, he decides to chase after those murderers. But Brom, the old storyteller of his village insists on accompanying him. Brom seems to know much about dragons.

The two wicked beings which Brom and Eragon begin chasing always seem a step ahead of the boy and the old man, so Brom takes advantage of their time on the trail to teach Eragon about dragons and magic, and about the past of Eragon's own special class: the Dragon Riders. As Eragon's power with magic and sword grow under Brom's tutelage, he discovers that his newfound identity gives him some choices. Will he fight the long-living and evil king Galbatorix or capitulate and give up his integrity? If he fights, which of Galbatorix's enemies will he ally with? Or will he stay aloof from those politics?

Christopher Paolini's small dig at organized religion and his views of evil and of fate tend toward the simplistic, and his heroes are not above an occasional lie. But *Eragon* is a fantastic effort considering that its author was about Eragon's age! Paolini seems to draw heavily from Tolkien, but his work breathes some imaginative authenticity.

Mark L. Ward, Jr. *PhD candidate. Research Assistant/National Newsletter Editor, Bob Jones University's*

The teacher's funeral : a comedy in three parts / Richard Peck. LCCN 2004004361. New York : Dial, 2004.

HBB, 0803727364, list cost: \$16.99.

Fic. Education—Fiction; Teachers—Fiction; Country life—Indiana—Fiction; Humorous stories; Indiana—History—20th century—Fiction. 190 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : 5.

Award winning author, Richard Peck, has done it again with *The Teacher's Funeral*. He's produced a wonderful, warm story of the past filled with humor and always a few lessons to be learned, too.

When Miss Myrt dies just prior to school starting, Russell Culver is sure it is much too late to get another teacher and that school will be cancelled. Who needs it anyway? In the year of 1904, Russell has dreams of the Dakotas with his best friend, Charlie, and is merely waiting for the right time to run off and join a team of harvesters there.

No such luck. Not only do the townspeople dredge up a teacher but it is none other than Russell's sister, Tansy—his big sister in more ways than simply age. He can't imagine a worse replacement for Miss Myrt and what does his sister know anyway! But in the weeks and months to come, Russell finds out just what Tansy is made of.

Each of Richard Peck's books for young people is set in a historical period and filled with interesting and unusual characters. They are generally humorous and always appropriate for all ages. Peck admits to preferring young adult works for his own reading because of the clear cut stories and lack of profanity. He himself adheres to these guideline producing in his stories, and of course including this one, memorable tales and characters that will leave you smiling and hoping for more.

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

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster boy / by Gary D. Schmidt. LCCN 2003020967. New York : Clarion Books, 2004.

HBB, 0618439293, list cost: \$15.00.

Fic. Progress—Fiction; Race relations—Fiction; Moving, Household—Fiction; Clergy—Fiction; Maine—History—20th century—Fiction; Newbery Honor Book. 219 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : 4.

Gary D. Schmidt received a 2005 Newbery Honor Award for this slice of historical fiction story set in coastal Maine at the turn of the 20th century. Reverend Buckminster, with his wife and son Turner, has just arrived from Boston to become the minister for the local Congregational church. The church fathers have plans for the minister to support them in a project to develop an island tourist resort. The problem is a colony of former slaves who have taken up residence on Malaga Island, whom the locals claim are squatters and have no rights to the land. This is the historical slice. Another problem is Turner, who doesn't fit into the small town youth culture. In fact, he hates Phippsburg and wants to “light out for the Territories.” Yet another problem is Turner's friendship with one of the island youngsters, Lizzie Bright. Lizzie teaches Turner the ways of rural coastal Maine (Maine baseball, clamming, rowing a boat, appreciating whales), and the two attempt to save the residents on the island, which leads to numerous adventures and disasters. Lizzie gets injured, Turner needs to paddle to the island in a storm, and the minister is hurt and dies. And mixed in with live-action are the underlying politics within the Buckminster family, within the church, and within the town.

It is tough to be a minister's child at any time, but even tougher in a closed provincial society such as 1911 Maine. It is even tougher when the church fathers have plans for the family; “The congregation, Minister, will tell you what it thinks, and what it wants you to think.” Schmidt

has created a clutch of strong unique main characters: Reverend Buckminster, Turner, Lizzie Bright, plus equally eccentric secondary characters: Deacon Hurd, old grandmother Hurd, and Mrs. Cobb for whom Turner plays the pump organ regularly for punishment. Initially, Reverend Buckminster is a negative, not nurturing positive pastor, and one whose Christian values are questionable. Consequently, this reviewer wondered about the suitability of the title in a Christian setting. He never becomes my kind of pastor, too stiff and intellectual, but true to the times and denomination, and eventually stands for principles.

Schmidt has wound, unwound and rewound a complicated story to be read and discussed on many levels and around many themes. Even though adventure abounds, it is Schmidt's poetic descriptive language that makes the book beautiful. Nature is personified and comes alive as the weather, changing seasons, and the environment pass before the reader's eyes. The title would make a wonderful class study in a Christian school. The reviewer wonders, however, if it will be widely read or appreciated by the intended audience without that guidance.

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

The Welkening : a three dimensional tale / Gregory Spencer. LCCN 2004052362. West Monroe, La. : Howard, 2004.

PAP, 1582293554, list cost: \$12.99.

Fic. Friendship—Fiction; Marginality, Social—Fiction; Christian fiction; Fantasy fiction. 398 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

Teens Lizbeth, a stocky jock; her brother, Benu of the long, hooked nose; Len, geeky master of violent video games; and his sister, Angie, with looks, brains and a ditzzy demeanor form "The Commiseration of Misfits." The group sets out one afternoon to explore an old hermit's dwelling, and are caught and beaten by the town bullies, the McKenzie Butte Boys. When all seems lost, there is a sudden dimensional change, the McKenzies disappear, and some odd looking, cloaked characters rescue the Misfits. A deadly beast called Morphane, able to devour both body and soul, seems ever-present. While simultaneously attempting to find their own route home, the Misfits decide to join the strange, brave little band in their battle to free their homeland of Welken from the carnage taking place.

The Welkening by Gregory Spencer is a Christian fantasy adventure. Characters are believable. Pace slows down in spots, but is worth continuing to read. Dialogue is well seasoned with humor, as well as drama. Plot is clear. Some graphic violence expressed. Writing style touches on many of the classics: C.S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia* and J.R.R.

Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* series', as well as shades of *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and Philip Pullman's *The Golden Compass* (Knopf Books for Young Readers, 1996). Dr. Gregory Spencer, a professor at Southern California's Westmont College, specializes in, among other subjects, rhetorical theory and media ethics. Recommended for fans of fantasy with Christian, rather than occult overtones, and larger sci-fi fantasy collections.

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

Really, truly, everything's fine / Linda Leopold Strauss. LCCN 2003017217. New York : Marshall Cavendish, 2004.

HBB, 0761451633, list cost: \$15.95.

Fic. Family problems—Fiction; Criminals—Fiction; Fathers—Fiction; Schools—Fiction. 149 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 7-10. Rating : 4.

Leopold draws an incisive portrait of a bright and complex teen in the challenges of family life as fourteen-year-old Jill deals with her disrupted family life. Her father is accused of a crime where he could face up to ten years in prison, and her mother who kicks Dad out of the house doesn't want others to know what has happened. The family crisis precipitates a search for the truth. The interesting twists in the story end up forcing her family out of denial. Many roads are crossed: Jill has to figure out the truth about her father, whom she has always adored; the truth about her mother, who buries herself in work; the truth about her little brother, Markie; and the truth about the kids at school who treat her differently when they read about her father in the newspaper.

School and public library juvenile collections can add this title with confidence. The writing style is fluid and vibrant, the pace moving, and offers a storyline that touches upon feelings youth can relate to. The language is realistic for youth and reflective of what Christian youth are encouraged to develop, and conveys a range of heartrendingly real emotions.

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

The passage / Sarah Sumpolec. (Becoming Beka ; 3.) LCCN 2004018140. Chicago : Moody Publishers, 2005.

PAP, 080246453X, list cost: \$12.99.

Fic. Dating (Social customs)—Fiction; High schools—Fiction; Schools—Fiction; Fathers and daughters—Fiction; Christian life—Fiction. 250 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 5.

The Passage, third in the *Becoming Beka* series by Sarah Anne Sumpolec, finds Beka nearing the end of her tumultuous junior year. One of her biggest frustrations is not having a boyfriend. Fellow junior Mark comes closest to filling that role, but Beka's dad is strict about dating. Beka follows her heart and disobeys her

dad's rules on more than one occasion. The result is familiar to many teens—a loss of trust between her and her father. However, Beka is also interested in a homeschooled guy as well. The two go to a dance together and end up going to Beka's school prom as well. Fighting through her relationship with her dad only adds to Beka's anxiety. Mix in her concerns about potential retaliation by her former friend and once again, Beka seems to have her hands, head, and heart full of confusion and indecision.

Once again Sarah Anne Sumpolec captures the voice of today's teens. She creates not only believable characters but flawed ones as well. Yes, Beka is a Christian, but she makes many conscious choices to sin and go against her father's wishes. Modern teens will relate to and root for Beka who seems mired in difficulty. Although she has a relationship with God, it's not always alive and real. *The Passage* portrays in honest terms teens struggles to find a balance in their relationship with God.

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

Sun slower sun faster / Meriol Trevor ; illustrated by Edward Ardizzone. (Living history library.) LCCN 2004101830. Bathgate, N.D. : Bethlehem Books, 2004, 1955.

PAP, 1883937418, list cost: \$12.95.

Fic. England—History—Fiction; Church history—Fiction. 290 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : 4.

Rickie and Cecilia (who goes by Cecil) are second cousins who have met for the first time by both being marooned at the ancestral home in the care of an aged uncle. Cecil's parents have gone to West Africa and her boarding school is closed due to polio. Rickie is an orphan who has failed his entrance exams for school but his guardians are traveling so he's been sent to Welston to study. Set outside Bath, England, Welston is full of surprises including a priest hole, disused chapel, secret room, and Roman well. Rickie has discovered a family history written in 1850 which intrigues both of the children. Cecil finds an old seal with an Agnus Dei. Both of those have some magical power that transports the children, and occasionally the tutor, Dominic, to different periods in history.

The British have been blessed with many old houses, much interesting history and several writers who combine those two in order to make history interesting to present and future generations. The children begin the story without any sort of religious affiliation, but through their time travel come to understand the part the house and their ancestors in Bath played in history. Reflecting Meriol Trevor's devout beliefs, the children learn their ancestors sympathized with the Roman Catholic side of British history. In the end, Rickie discovers he was baptized Catholic and gains a new family.

Cecil has learned to use a Rosary, and both express an interest in learning more about these new ideas. The great uncle is rude and caustic to both Dominic and Rickie although he repents at the end and Rickie's guardians are particularly odious. Theologically, *Sun Slower Sun Faster* will be most at home in a Catholic school library.

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

**Sister to the wolf / by Maxine Trottier.
LCCN 2004463392. Toronto : KidsCan,
2004.**

HBB, 155337519X, list cost: \$16.95.

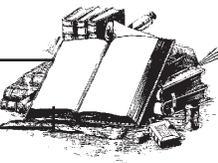
Fic. Indians of North America—Fiction; Shawnee
Indians—Fiction. 348 p. ; 20 cm.

Grades 7-8. Rating : 4.

Cécile, a young lady growing up in late 17th century Canada, is independent and headstrong. Her father is a fur trader, and her mother is dead. Rather than placing her in a convent, Robert has raised her to know her own mind. In the market one day, Cécile cannot stand the cruelty of slavery any longer and purchases a young Indian man out of bondage. Although she immediately frees him, Lesharo is grafted to her through gratitude and stays with Cécile and her father as they make their way from Quebec to the new Fort Detroit. When a large wolf shadows them Lesharo is comforted by its presence because he is Pawnee and they are "People of the Wolf." Mystified by Cécile's fear of the wolf he tries to explain his culture through the stories of his youth. In the final confrontation between the world of the French and the world of the Indians, Cécile understands the connection between Lesharo and the wolf, and realizes she has become more one of the Indians than the French.

Drawing on scant historical resources of the founding of Detroit, Maxine Trottier has crafted an interesting story interweaving the worlds of the "civilized" French, the fur traders, and the Indians. Cécile is a strong heroine, compassionate, and unprejudiced. She is also headstrong and naïve so the growing hostility between Lesharo and French officers who would like to court her completely escapes her. The romance is resolved in a "G" rated fashion with the father blessing the girl's choice of the unconventional path. Violence, prejudice, and romance make this story more appropriate for older students. The contrasts between Cécile's Roman Catholic faith and Lesharo's religion provide interesting discussion points.

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



How to help your hurting friend : clear guidance for messy problems / by Susie Shellenberger. Grand Rapids : Youth Specialities, 2004.

PAP, 031025308X, list cost: \$9.99.

248.8/3. Youth—Religious life; Problem youth—Religious life; Friendship—Religious aspects—Christianity; Christian life; Conduct of life. 166 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 8-12. Rating : 5.

Susie Shellenberger, editor of *Brio* magazine, has written 25 books for teens. In her latest, *How to Help Your Hurting Friend*, author Shellenberger gives systematic advice for teen girls on making friends, being a friend, and specific issues in friendship where a friend may need help. She covers these issues in Section Two, addressing eating disorders, depression, the Internet, coping with an illness, self-destruction, and sexual abuse. Each of these chapters is filled with personal incidents, a definition of the problem itself, and ways in which one friend can help another. The author talks straight to the reader, never suggests an avenue that is not appropriate for teens and always gives a Christian perspective. The first section covers friendship and the third section is Letters to Susie, 55 pages of correspondence sent to Susie followed by her answers to those letters.

Although of course not all inclusive, *How to Help Your Hurting Friend* is an excellent resource for Christian teens. It deals with many of the problems facing young people today whether the readers are searching for answers for friends—or for themselves.

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

A young man after God's own heart / Jim George. LCCN 2004021733. Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House, 2005.

PAP, 0736914781, list cost: \$8.99.

248.8/32. Young men—Religious life; Christian life; Spiritual exercises. 207 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 7-12. Rating : 3.

Using the example of David, who sinned greatly but was still a man after God's own heart (because of his desire to do God's will), Jim George has written a book to help teen and young adult males live for God in every aspect of their lives. Geared mostly to young men who already have a Christian faith and need just a bit of encouragement to embrace it more fully, *A Young Man After God's Own Heart* encourages its readers to commit to a genuine relationship

with God while getting a firm grounding in His Word.

Included are anecdotes and stories from George's life (George is an author and speaker who's been active in Christian ministry for twenty-five years); practical tips on how to study the Bible, and a one-year Bible reading plan. Each chapter ends with questions based on a Bible reading. Each chapter also has a "Yes, but how?" section with examples on implementing that chapter's lessons.

While *Young Man* will be valuable for readers looking to grow in their faith and is written in a simple, easy to understand language suitable for early junior high students, most likely only high school or college-aged readers would have the maturity to commit to George's program. This isn't a book that can be quickly skimmed, then put on a shelf; actually putting its principles into use will take work, a fact George does not gloss over.

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

A young woman's call to prayer / Elizabeth George. LCCN 2004020516. Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House, 2005.

PAP, 0736914633, list cost: \$9.99.

248.8/33. Teenage girls—Religious life—Juvenile literature; Girls—Religious life—Juvenile literature; Prayer—Juvenile literature. 197 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 7-12. Rating : 3.

Elizabeth George has written *A Young Woman's Call to Prayer* to help girls become dynamic women of prayer. George also hopes to help girls revolutionize their world. "As prayer becomes more a part of your life," she writes, "God will become your closest friend."

Using examples from Bible characters and her own experiences (George is an author, teacher, and speaker at Christian women's events, with a national radio ministry), George offers readers twelve practical ways to become women of prayer, including what to do (and not to do), and why prayer can be difficult. There's also a Prayer Calendar (where readers can check off which days they've prayed), a "Things to Do" section at the end of each chapter (with, among other things, Bible verses to look up), and a "Would You Like to Know More?" section presenting additional scriptures and questions.

The book can be used alone, with a friend or mentor, or with a prayer group. As with Jim George's *A Young Man After God's Own Heart*,

it's readable enough for junior high kids, but would be best for older teens (high school and college) since it's written for Christians truly committed to improving their prayer life—a commitment that will take work. George herself stresses this, admitting she's yet to completely understand the mysteries of prayer.

There's a nice chapter on praying for help in desperate situations, but it comes with the implication that God will resoundingly answer yes to every prayer. Similarly, a chapter on praying for God's will implies a persistent person will easily discern it.

George's book is helpful, and fills an important need, but it will be best for girls seriously looking to improve their prayer lives rather than girls that concerned adults hope can be influenced to improve their prayer lives.

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

Soul sister / Beth Redman. LCCN 2003021965. Ventura, Calif. : Regal Books, 2004.

PAP, 0830732128, list cost: \$9.99.

248.8/33. Teenage girls—Religious life; Teenage girls—Conduct of life. 108 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 6-9. Rating : 4.

Distraction is a word that comes to mind when thinking of young teen girls trying to grow up in today's world. Distractions such as loud voices clamoring for their attention: how to dress, how to talk, who to listen to, who to hang out with. It's even more difficult when trying to live for the Lord. What voices to listen to? Is it possible to be a "normal" girl and live for the Lord? These are some of the issues Beth Redman addresses in *Soul Sister*. Her book is not really a devotional; it's not even an instructional—it's more like a heart-to-heart conversation with a big sister, or a mentor. Short and to the point on topics girls of today have questions about, and maybe no answers for, is what Redman's book offers to her audience. Topics such truth, identity, relationships are frankly addressed. Deeper, spiritual issues such as evangelism, quiet time, and destiny are also discussed. Redman writes with humor, honesty, wisdom, and a "I've-been-there" attitude that young girls needing a role model will appreciate and learn from.

Redman admittedly comes from a less than perfect background, yet she emphasizes how her life took a turn for the far better when she began to focus on the Lord instead on the world. Her

success and her devotion to serving the Lord will certainly be an inspiration for young teen readers. One note is that she writes from a UK point of view so some of the language, terms, and situations will be different for American readers, yet not so much that it will be a problem.

Pam Webb, BA. Freelance Writer, Sandpoint, Idaho.

Cameron Townsend : good news in every language / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Christian heroes : then & now.) LCCN 98030891. Seattle : YWAM Publishing, 1999.

PAP, 1576581365, list cost: \$8.99.

266/.0092 or B. Townsend, William Cameron, 1896-; Wycliffe Bible Translators—Biography; Summer Institute of Linguistics—Biography. 221 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

Cameron Townsend began his career with the Lord selling Bibles in Guatemala. As he traveled around Central America he discovered that a Spanish Bible was of little use to people who were illiterate in any language, even their own. Slowly a plan began to form in his mind. If he could translate the Bible into the Indian languages, he could teach them to read with it, and from it. From that moment, Cameron Townsend was set upon the course God had designed for him, to translate the Word into as many languages as possible. Founding Wycliffe Bible Translators in 1942, Cameron Townsend labored tirelessly his entire life to bring God's word to people in their own language. Because of his vision, today the Bible is available in over 500 languages with more still being translated.

This is an important biography about a man who today is fading from memory but whose work is eternal. Janet and Geoff Benge's writing style is to pack as many facts as possible into their books so it takes perseverance to stick with them. Still, information about heroes of the faith is worth pursuing. The text could have benefited from illustrations and the lack of them may deter some readers. A short bibliography concludes the book.

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

*

Sir Gawain and the green knight / as told by Michael Morpugo ; illustrated by Michael Foreman. LCCN 2003065527. Cambridge, Mass. : Candlewick Press, 2004.

HBB, 0763625191, list cost: \$18.99.

398.2. Arthur, King—Legends; Gawain (Legendary character)—Legends; Arthurian romances—Adaptations; Gawain (Legendary character)—Legends; Folklore—England; Knights and knighthood—Folklore. 114 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : *5.

A classic morality tale first written down during the 14th century, Morpugo's retelling of *Sir*

Gawain and The Green Knight catches the essence of this story. A horrendous, gigantic green knight rides into King Arthur's Christmas dining room and challenges anyone in the assemblage to chop his head off, with the proviso that a year hence The Green Knight will have the return privilege. In proper knightly fashion, Sir Gawain accepts the challenge. The Green Knight survives. A year later Gawain rides off into fear, temptation, and adventure to fulfill his part of the bargain.

Multiple prize winning author, and England's third Children's Laureate, Michael Morpugo brings poetry and sympathetic humor to *Sir Gawain and The Green Knight*. The words sing, making this book a delight to read aloud. Major award winning, noted illustrator Michael Foreman's watercolor and pastel illustrations bring eye-riveting attention to the narrative. His work is reminiscent of the Wyeths, except that Foreman portrays believable, everyday, fallible people. Morpugo has kept the original references to Christ, salvation, and Mary. He has also kept the moral teachings of this book, such as: both Chivalry and Christian honor must undergo attack; law must be taken as deadly serious. Gawain successfully navigates the blatant, sexual advances of his host's wife only to fall to the temptation of lying; he recognizes his sinful weaknesses, such as pride.

A beautifully produced book, *Sir Gawain and The Green Knight* beckons all eyes, child, youth, and adult. Recommended for all libraries, family reading, and as an introduction to the delight of Middle English literature.

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

Clocks / James Lincoln Collier. (Great inventions.) LCCN 2002156288. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761415386, list cost: \$37.07.

681.1/13. Clocks and watches—History—Juvenile literature; Clocks and watches; Time measurements. 127 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 25 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

Cotton gin, The / by Milton Meltzer. (Great inventions.) LCCN 2002015308. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761415378, list cost: \$37.07.

677/.2121. Cotton gins and ginning. 123 p. : ill. (chiefly col.) ; 25 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

Printing press, The / by Milton Meltzer. (Great inventions.) LCCN 2002015307. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 076141536X, list cost: \$37.07.

686.2. Printing—History—Juvenile literature; Printing—History—Origin and antecedents—Juvenile literature; Printing presses—Juvenile literature; Printing—History; Printing presses. 125 p. : ill. (chiefly col.) ; 25 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

Vaccines / James Lincoln Collier. (Great inventions.) LCCN 2002156287. New York : Benchmark, 2004.

HBB, 0761415394, list cost: \$37.07.

615/.372. Vaccines—Juvenile literature.; Vaccines. 127 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 25 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

With clarity and interest, The Great Inventions Series introduces the student to important, history-shaping inventions of previous centuries. Each book follows a similar menu: history leading up to the invention; the development which encouraged the invention and its refinement into today's world; concomitant social changes; web sites, bibliography, and index. Illustrations include photos, historical artwork, diagrams, and relevant memorabilia.

Clocks covers a wide field, from prehistoric times through ancient and recent calendar changes, to the development of navigation and on into the atomic world. Succinct, fascinating cameos of historical eras and their affiliation with time enhance interest.

Involved with American slavery as much as with cotton, *The Cotton Gin* provides an intriguing look into a difficult American era. An important invention, it did not earn its inventor immediate fame or money.

Starting with prehistoric imaging, taking into consideration China's printing, *The Printing Press* knits the strands of history together introducing Guttenberg and moving on through the modern inventions such as the photocopier.

From Bubonic Plague to Smallpox to Polio and beyond, *Vaccines* presents a fascinating (at times horrifying) history of rampant disease and the victory gained by vaccination.

Also available is the fifth book in this series, *Gunpowder and Weaponry*.

Newbery Award-winner James Collier and Laura Ingalls Wilder Award-winner Milton Meltzer collaborate on this beautifully illustrated and fascinating series. All middle and high school libraries and classes will value this series.

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

Great adventurers of the twentieth century / Ron Tagliapietra. LCCN 98012291. Greenville, S.C. : Bob Jones University Press, 1998.

PAP, 1579240739, list cost: \$10.95.

910.4. Adventure and adventurers—History—20th century. xii, 243 p. : ill., maps ; 22 cm.

Grades 10-Adult. Rating : 3.

For those who appreciate the conquests of man against the elements, then *Great Adventurers of the Twentieth Century* by Ron Tagliapietra is a book to put on the reading list. Tagliapietra, an adventurer in his own right, takes a look at more

than twenty explorers. The criterion for his selection of great adventurers was to have successfully achieved a notable goal in the chosen area and be the first to do so. Tagliapietra emphasizes the purpose for this book is to present human achievement made without engines. This is why we read of explorers making their achievements with gliders and balloons versus planes, and use dogsleds and hoses instead of cars and motorcycles. The emphasis is truly man against the elements, and conquering them, or at least trying to do so to the limits of human endurance. The ensuing choices are as various in achievements as they are in inspiration, ranging from safaris to the Appalachian Trail to the ocean floors and up to the world's highest peaks.

Though sparse in the telling, *Great Adventurers* relates the essential details of each mission attempted and achieved. For those desiring a more in-depth, emotional account, this would most likely not be the choice; however, for readers in search of bare bones tales of man's attempts to conquer and achieve personal goals of endurance, strength and conquest against seemingly impossible odds, then this is a book of considerable interest.

While light in length the book is actually broad in the diversity of feats included, and there is certainly an exploit for anyone's choice available. The author writes a thoughtful preface and end chapter on how he hopes Christians reading the book will be stirred to similar feats as missionaries and service for Jesus.

Pam Webb, BA. Freelance Writer, Sandpoint, Idaho.

Desert storm—the first Persian Gulf War in American history / Debra McArthur. (In American history.) LCCN 2003013460. : Enslow, 2004.

HBB, 0766021491, list cost: \$26.60.
956.7044/2. Persian Gulf War, 1991—Juvenile literature; Persian Gulf War, 1991. 128 p. : ill., maps ; 24 cm.
Grades 5 and up. Rating : 4.

Invention of the telegraph and telephone in American history / Anita Louise McCormick. (In American history.) LCCN 2003003707. Berkeley Heights, N.J. : Enslow Publishers, 2004.

HBB, 0766018415, list cost: \$26.60.
384.1/0973. Telegraph—United States—History—Juvenile literature; Telephone—United States—History—Juvenile literature; Telegraph; Telephone; Communication—History. 128 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 5 and up. Rating : 4.

The Revolutionary War and George Washington's army in American history / Tom McGowen. (In American history.) LCCN 2003007221. Berkeley Heights, N.J. : Enslow Publishers, 2004.

LIB, 0766021432, list cost: \$26.60.

973.3/092. Washington, George, 1732-1799; United States. Continental Army—History—Juvenile literature; United States. Continental Army; United States—History—Revolution, 1775-1783—Campaigns—Juvenile literature; United States—History—Revolution, 1775-1783. 128 p. : ill., maps ; 24 cm.

Grades 5 and up. Rating : 4.

In American History is a series of books about events that have occurred, as the title suggests, in American history. The books include sections of source documents which support the information in the text. They also contain end notes (called chapter notes) for information taken from other sources. These notes, a timeline, a further reading list, and the index make the books useful for research projects.

Desert Storm : The First Persian Gulf War starts with the start of the Persian Gulf War on January 17, 1991. It then goes back and covers some of the history of wars in the area and discusses the events leading up to Desert Storm. The air war and the ground war are covered. Debra McArthur ends the book by asking the question "Incomplete Victory?"

The *Invention of the Telegraph and Telephone* opens with the attempt to invention a harmonic telegraph and some biographical information on Alexander Graham Bell. The book continues with a discussion of electricity. Samuel Morse's invention of the telegraph and how the telegraph changed America are discussed, as is the invention of the telephone. Anita McCormick closes the book with a discussion of how the telephone affects our lives today.

The Revolutionary War and George Washington's Army opens with the shot heard 'round the world. Tom McGowen covers many of the important battles of the Revolutionary War and closes the book with the surrender of the British. This book also includes a glossary.

The books seem to be well-researched and the authors provide source documents and chapter notes to back up their text. As much as possible the authors seem to present the facts without including biased information, especially true in the book *Desert Storm*. Most of the information in this series is presented in an engaging and interesting way. However, at times some of the information is presented in such a way that only those truly interested in the topic will continue reading. At times descriptions seemed a bit graphic, but descriptions of war scenes may need to be that way. The books are illustrated with black and white photographs and drawings from the period discussed. This series would be a good addition to your library if your students need to do research in or have expressed an interest in these areas.

Jane Mouttet, BA. Missionary School Librarian, Mesilla Park, New Mexico.

Iraq War / Rodney P. Carlisle ; John S. Bowman, general editor. (America at war.) LCCN 2004005470. New York : Facts on File, 2004.

HBB, 0816056277, list cost: \$35.00.
956.7044/3. Iraq War, 2003.; Iraq. xv, 176 p. : ill., maps ; 24 cm.
Grades 9 and up. Rating : 4.

Iraq War is part of the America at War series. The war is covered in detail and much information is given. While not all events in the Iraq War could be covered in just 174 pages, some things are noticeably absent such as the death of the first Native American women ever killed in combat and the work of the chaplains. The book starts with the "Shock and Awe" campaign at the start of the war. Author Rodney Carlisle then backs up to give background information on the situation in the Middle East, Saddam Hussein, The Persian Gulf War and the events that lead up to the Iraq War of 2003. The book ends with the aftermath situation in mid- to late-2004.

The book is well-written and well-researched. The author mentions in his preface that books written after his may have more accurate information as new information will probably later be made public. Mr. Carlisle has done a good job of presenting the facts without bias. He does give both sides of the story in most cases—the viewpoints of both liberals and conservatives, both those who supported the war and those who opposed it. The book is illustrated with black and white photos and maps. Most, but not all, of the illustrations are placed at an appropriate place in the text. The captions of the photos are helpful in placing the information with the text. The maps were helpful in determining location of the events discussed. Side bars of additional information supplement the text throughout the book. A glossary, bibliography, and index increase the book's usefulness as a reference book. *Iraq War* should prove to be a useful resource for those researching the Iraq War.

Jane Mouttet, BA. Missionary School Librarian, Mesilla Park, New Mexico.

Fight On! : Mary Curch Terrell's battle for integration / Dennis Brindell Fradin & Judith Bloom Fradin. LCCN 2002151356. New York : Clarion Books, 2003.

HBB, 0618133496, list cost: \$17.00.
B or 323/.092. Terrell, Mary Church, 1863-1954; African American women civil rights workers—Biography; Civil rights workers—United States—Biography; African Americans—Biography; African Americans—Civil rights—History; African Americans—Segregation—Washington (D.C.)—History; Washington (D.C.)—Race relations; Washington (D.C.)—Biography. ix, 181 p. : ill. ; 26 cm.
Grades 6-8. Rating : 5.

The biography of an important American, *Fight On!* introduces Mary Church Terrell. Born into slavery, Terrell eventually became the first

African American woman on the Washington D.C. Board of Education, first president of the National Association of Colored Women, co-founder of the NAACP, fighter against lynching and for the vote for women, and a noted writer, teacher, public speaker, wife, and mother. In her late eighties, Terrell successfully led the campaign to end segregation in our nation's capital.

Prestigious award winning authors, the Fradins bring much research and deep interest in American history to *Fight On!* Written with a sense of drama and an eye to interesting detail, including many references to other important black Americans of this era, and liberally illustrated with black and white photos, *Fight On!* provides engrossing reading.

A liberal final section, Notes, Bibliography, Index, plus more, makes this a useful study volume.

All schools and libraries looking to enlarge their American History and Black History sections will be interested in *Fight On!*

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

*

George Washington, spymaster : how America outspied the British and won the Revolutionary War / Thomas B. Allen ; featuring illustrations by Cheryl Harness. LCCN 2003006019. Washington, D.C. : National Geographic, 2004.

HBB, 0792251261, list cost: \$16.95.

B or 973.3/85/092. Washington, George, 1732-1799—Career in espionage—Juvenile literature; Washington, George, 1732-1799; Spies—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature; Generals—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature; Presidents—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature; Spies; Presidents; United States—History—Revolution, 1775-1783—Secret service—Juvenile literature; United States—History—Revolution, 1775-1783—Secret service. 184 p. : ill., maps ; 19 cm.

Grades 7-12 (Adult). Rating : *5.

Designated as a history book, *George Washington, Spymaster* contains a plenitude of information: a code primer with involved ciphers and their appurtenances (including laundry lines and little silver balls); a dashing history of George Washington and an exciting side of the Revolutionary War; the birth of the American spy system including engrossing espionage subjects like moles, double agents, sleepers, male and female spies, and labyrinthine networks. Coded messages for the reader to solve run throughout from dust cover to last page. An integral part, the appendices comprise a full quarter of this book. Text Notes hold as much interest as the main pages. Spy Talk (a dictionary), and The Code will launch readers on a new career. The Index encourages repeat reading.

An award winning author of over thirty books, Thomas Allen fills *George Washington,*

Spymaster with detailed information drawn from painstaking research. Allen embellishes learning with a lot of fun. His web-site (address provided in book) adds further interest. Also an American history author, Cheryl Harness illustrates this volume with eye-catching, era correct pen and ink drawings. The dust cover bears a delightfully sly looking George Washington. Take off the dust cover and you find an antiqued cover with the pleasing feel of an old book. Within are ecru pages, old style typeface, and uneven page edges.

Of interest to any history buff who can read, *George Washington, Spymaster*, will also appeal to younger ones who enjoy listening to books. Recommended for all libraries, schools, and families.

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

The President is shot! : the assassination of Abraham Lincoln / by Harold Holzer. LCCN 2003112909. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyd's Mills, 2004.

HBB, 1563979853, list cost: \$17.95.

B or 973.7/092. Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865—Assassination. 181 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 7-9. Rating : 4.

Harold Holzer writes a parallel history, and in that history the reader learns about the lives of Abraham Lincoln and John Wilkes Booth. Lincoln is initially introduced amidst the background of the Civil War, and then two chapters later the reader meets Booth. The movements of Lincoln and Booth are shared in the next two chapters about the day before the assassination and the day of. The final chapters describe the nation's sorrow and grieving and the hunt for Booth's gang. A postscript tells what happened to each of the principals involved in the events of the assassination. Black and white archival photographs and engravings are liberally interspersed among the text. A bibliography and list of places to visit are appended.

The book reads like a murder mystery, and is a page-turner. It is very evident that Mr. Holzer is completely immersed as a Lincoln expert, for the writing smoothly rolls from the pen, no awkward phrases, but completely integrated conversations (quotations) and description. Both Lincoln and Booth become human, for Mr. Holzer shares their strengths, weaknesses, convictions, idiosyncrasies, and fears. He captures the emotions of Lincoln's supporters and haters. From the introductory chapter, Mr. Holzer meticulously lays out the reasons for "the horrifying murder that ended the life of America's greatest president."

The publisher recommends this book for grades 3 and higher. This is not a book for an elementary school, but for junior high and above, including adults. Some of the details of the assassination are gory, some of Lincoln's

premonitions scary. The cover features one of the many drawings newspapers and magazines prepared of the assassination, and shows Booth holding a gun to Lincoln's head. At my small Christian school this drawing would be offensive sensationalism to sell the book. Mr. Holzer has written readable authentic nonfiction which Civil War and Lincoln buffs will find essential.

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

Theodore Roosevelt : champion of the American spirit / by Betsy Harvey Kraft. LCCN 2002152825. New York : Clarion Books, 2003.

HBB, 0618142649, list cost: \$19.00.

B or 973.91/1/092. Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919—Juvenile literature; Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919; Presidents—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature; Presidents. xi, 180 p. : ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 4-8 and up. Rating : 5.

Kraft introduces the reader to Roosevelt's life as a frail young lad enthralled in the magic of his childhood. She brings us through his life and plays up his last journey, the expedition of an old man, his son, and a team of naturalists from the Museum of Natural History, on a journey into the uncharted River of Doubt in Brazil.

The author covers both of Roosevelt's terms as President of the United States in addition to his two failed attempts to capture the presidency. *Theodore Roosevelt : Champion of the American Spirit* is a panoramic view of America's twenty-sixth president as a son, a husband, a father, and a politician. It is a fair, comprehensive overview of his life and gives the reader a picture of a well-rounded man: an intellect, a man people loved to follow, and an explorer.

Kraft restates the better known facts of Roosevelt's life and expands on them with certified historical data to bring this biography over the top. Her life story of the People's Cowboy President is aimed at the juvenile market although adults as well as high school and junior high school history buffs will appreciate her clear and spirited writing.

Scads of pictures and sketches by the Roosevelt family are placed within the chapters and provide the reader with a closer, more intimate look at their lives. The quality paper and printing make this a great gift book. Source Notes, Bibliography, Websites, Videos, Places to Visit and the Chronology of Events in the Life of Theodore Roosevelt make it a useful tool for even younger grades. This book is recommended for all ages.

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

Sacagawea's son : the life of Jean Baptiste Charbonneau / Marion Tinling. LCCN 2001032609. Missoula, Mont. : Mountain Press, 2001.

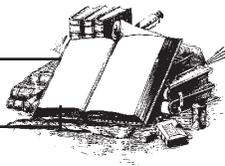
PAP, 0878424326, list cost: \$10.00.

B or 978/.02/092. Charbonneau, Jean-Baptiste, 1805-1866; Sacagawea—Family; Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806)—Biography; Pioneers—West (U.S.)—Biography; Shoshoni Indians—Biography; Trappers—West (U.S.)—Biography; Frontier and pioneer life—West (U.S.). vii, 125 p. : ill., 1 map ; 23 cm.

Grades 6-8. Rating : 4.

Starting with his birth at the beginning of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, *Sacagawea's Son* tells the story of the life of Jean Baptiste Charbonneau. After the expedition, Sacagawea and Toussaint Charbonneau returned to the Indian village to live. When Jean Baptiste was four and a half, his parents took him back to St. Louis to be raised by William Clark. For reasons which are undocumented, Baptiste was sent to boarding school and not raised in the Clark home. He later had opportunity to travel to Europe. Upon his return to America, Baptiste continued in his father's way of life—in the wilderness. His many occupations are included in the story. Much in the book is not direct information about Jean Baptiste; rather it is historical information about the era. At times it seems as though the information is included just to increase the length of the book. In reality, there is not much actually documented about Jean Baptiste's life. It appears Marion Tinling took what little was known and added historical information to flesh out the book. Tinling does include an extensive bibliography. However she makes no mention of the incidents about which there is differing opinions—when Sacagawea died and how Baptiste was treated in Europe.

Jane Mouttet, BA. Missionary School Librarian, Mesilla Park, New Mexico.



Elixir / Davis Bunn. LCCN 2003026211. Nashville : WestBow, 2004.

PAP, 0849944716, list cost: \$14.99.
 Fic. Family-owned business enterprises—Fiction; Inheritance and succession—Fiction; Pharmaceutical industry—Fiction; Missing persons—Fiction; Christian fiction; Suspense fiction. 299 p. ; 22 cm.
 Adult. Rating : 4.

In *Elixir*, a suspense novel by Davis Bunn, Kirra Revell, the daughter of a major pharmaceutical company's founder, disappears and Kirra's sister turns to Taylor Knox, employee of a company just taken over by Revell Pharmaceuticals, to find her. To make matters more complicated, Taylor and Kirra were once romantically involved.

The plot is the non-stop action characteristic of Bunn's work. The pace is so rapid that some sides of characters seem to be left behind. None of the characters are particularly likable in the first few chapters of the book, but farther into the story they seem to gain dimension and positive traits. The setting is varied, exotic, and perfectly suited to the plot and serves to set the atmosphere. Throughout the book, the dialogue is flawless, showing the characters' development and journey to faith. The author's use of very little humor emphasizes the tense, urgent tone of the book.

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

*

The Lazarus trap / Davis Bunn. LCCN 2004021238. Nashville : WestBow, 2005.

PAP, 0849944856, list cost: \$14.99.
 Fic. Attempted murder—Fiction; Embezzlement—Fiction; Amnesia—Fiction; Mystery fiction; Christian fiction. 300 p. ; 22 cm.
 Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : *5.

Val Haines wakes up in a jail cell with a nasty hangover, a bloody knot on his head, and no memory of who he is or why and how he got here. Across town, top executives of Insignia, a multi-billion dollar corporation, Terrance d'Arcy and Don Winslow, congratulate themselves for getting away with blackmail, embezzlement, pyrotechnics, and even murder. Their perfect plan lays the blame at the feet of the victims, a banker, a secretary, and Val Haines. Like shards of a glass puzzle, Val starts to regain his memory. Simultaneously, his enemies begin to suspect that their schemes have gotten out of control, and that Val is still alive. Val must reveal their guilt and prove his innocence before Terrance and Don finish him off...permanently.

The Lazarus Trap by Davis Bunn is a suspense novel full of twists and turns that not only keeps the reader turning the page, but on the edge of his/her chair. Skillfully, Bunn places just enough morsels of details before hungry eyes to entrance a diverse audience. Writing style is similar in intensity and pace to *Life Support* by Robert Whitlow (WestBow, 2003). The plot and theme are believable and action-packed. Dialogue smoothly carries the story along. Bunn, known for his three Christy Awards for quality renderings in both historical and suspense fiction does not disappoint us here. Recommended for the-hard-to-interest reader, as well as public and private suspense collections.

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

Without a trace / Colleen Coble. (Rock Harbor series ; 1.) LCCN 2003010150. Nashville : WestBow, 2003.

PAP, 0849944295, list cost: \$13.99.
 Fic. Missing children—Fiction; Upper Peninsula (Mich.)—Fiction; Christian fiction. x, 289 p. ; 22 cm.
 Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 4.

Beyond a doubt / Colleen Coble. (Rock Harbor series ; 2.) LCCN 2003026100. Nashville : WestBow, 2004.

PAP, 0849944309, list cost: \$13.99.
 Fic. Upper Peninsula (Mich.)—Fiction; Lighthouse keepers—Fiction; Widows—Fiction; Search and rescue operations—Fiction; Christian fiction; Mystery fiction. 293 p. ; 22 cm.
 Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 4.

Into the deep / Colleen Coble. (Rock Harbor series ; 3.) LCCN 2004006639. Nashville : WestBow, 2004.

PAP, 0849944317, list cost: \$13.99.
 Fic. Upper Peninsula (Mich.)—Fiction; Lighthouse keepers—Fiction; Widows—Fiction; Search and rescue operations—Fiction; Christian fiction; Mystery fiction. 293 p. ; 22 cm.
 Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 4.

The Rock Harbor Series by Colleen Coble is set in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and features Bree Nichols and her search-and-rescue dog, Samson. Each book is filled with mystery, intrigue, and fascinating character interaction. In *Without a Trace*, Bree has never given up the search for her missing husband and son who disappeared in a plane crash the year before. Although Bree has accepted the two are dead, she is determined to locate their bodies and bring them home. Is there someone who doesn't want them found? The reader is introduced to several residents of the small town and learns about their pain and complicated relationships.

Beyond a Doubt begins when Bree literally discovers a skeleton in her basement. When she investigates the potential identity, someone is out to stop her by any means necessary. Can Bree keep her family safe and discover the truth?

In *Into the Deep*, a local scientist is found dead in Lake Superior. When it is determined to be murder, Bree joins forces with the rangers and the local police to find out what is happening in their small town. The nightmare hits home once again when Samson disappears. What could be the purpose for taking Bree's search dog?

Ms. Coble has created a likable cast of characters who all must learn to trust and rely on God to help them through difficult times. Unfortunately, the mystery often overshadows the faith message. Plots are kept moving at a rapid pace; readers will want to quickly turn pages to find out what will happen next. Intertwined throughout all three books is the redefinition of family relationships in light of the loss of Bree's husband. This provides a deeper layer. The fact that so many bad things happen in such a small town is quite unbelievable, but Coble seems to find a more even and realistic rhythm by the third book.

Although murders and missing people cause some tense situations, there is no gratuitous violence. Anyone who enjoys good mystery and suspense would do well to choose these books for their collection. There is a reference to an extramarital affair in *Without a Trace*, but it is a very small part of the story and mature high-school students should be able to handle it well.

Melissa Parcel, BS. *Book reviewer, Kelso, Washington.*

Obsessed / Ted Dekker. LCCN 2004015647. Nashville : WestBow, 2005.

HBB, 0849943736, list cost: \$21.99.
 Fic. Suspense fiction; Christian fiction. 400 p. ; 25 cm.
 Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

Ted Dekker's suspense novel *Obsessed* links the horrors of the Holocaust; a legendary treasure; and a real estate agent with big plans, Stephen Friedman, into a profound story of redemption and destiny.

From the first page to the last, the non-stop plot captivates readers. While some plot points seem a bit of a stretch, the author blends them smoothly with the rest. The characters are flesh-and-blood people with struggles, fears, and hopes with which the reader may be able to identify. Flashbacks interject Poland during

World War II into the book's main setting, Los Angeles, 1973, both of which are fully developed. Both also contain the dread associated with the book's nemeses, first- and second-generation Nazis. The dialogue is effective and believable. Throughout the book, the author shows a deep understanding of both humanity and its smiles and tears, and God and his redeeming love, and successfully conveys this in his writing.

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

Bye bye, Bertie / by Rick Dewhurst. (A Joe LaFlam mystery.) Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2005.

PAP, 0805431829, list cost: \$10.99.

Fic. Mystery fiction; Christian fiction. 176 p. : 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 3.

Bye Bye, Bertie, by Rick Dewhurst, is a tongue-in-cheek whimsical detective story, light on detecting. Christian detective Joe LaFlam is confused about many things: his church, to fast or not to fast, why he isn't married, and his continued belief he is living in Seattle. A prospective client contacts Joe to handle a drop in a kidnapping case. Joe eyes the potential wife, er client, and decides to take the case. Ineptitude is the rule with this gumshoe, who fashions himself after the 1940s Bogey-style detective. While trying to maneuver the details of the second money drop in the second kidnapping in the same family, Joe begins to suspect nothing. Soon three people in the same family are "kidnapped" and Joe has managed to botch each case. A subplot evolves involving conspiracy theorists threatening to take over the world and end Joe's life. A swirl of confusion surrounds Joe despite his best efforts to fast and seek God's will for his life.

However, as the book unfolds, Joe isn't the only one confused. So is the reader. Reading about Joe's adventures is like watching endless episodes of *I Love Lucy*. The antics grow worn and the reader grows frustrated, not always understanding the direction the story is taking. There are sarcastic references to various beliefs within Christianity, as well as barbs aimed at the "legalistic" Christians. Some parts of the book were humorous, but the frustration of trying to muddle through, along with Joe, to the end of this book may not be worth it to most readers.

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

*

Calm before the storm / Janice L. Dick. (Crossings of promise ; 1.) LCCN 2001098021. Scottsdale, Pa. : Herald Press, 2002.

PAP, 083619201X, list cost: \$14.99.

Fic. Mennonites—Fiction; Russia—History—Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 365 p. : maps ; 21 cm.

*

Eye of the storm / Janice L. Dick. (Crossings of promise ; 2.) LCCN 2003106489. Scottsdale, Pa. : Herald Press, 2003.

PAP, 0836192532, list cost: \$14.99.

Fic. Mennonites—Fiction; Russia—History—Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 437 p. : map ; 21 cm.

*

Out of the storm / Janice L. Dick. (Crossings of promise ; 3.) LCCN 2004112141. Scottsdale, Pa. : Herald Press, 2004.

PAP, 0836192710, list cost: \$14.99.

Fic. Mennonites—Fiction; Russia—History—Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 437 p. : map ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : *5.

In *Calm Before the Storm* by Janice L. Dick, Johann Sudermann and his friends Susannah and Paul have each been brought up in the Russian Mennonite community of the small village of Lichtfelde. They feel they will always be together, but life draws them in different directions. Johann becomes a teacher to the children of wealthy widower and estate owner, Heinrich Hildebrandt, in the country. Susannah goes into nursing and finds work at the Bethany Psychiatric Institute, in a nearby village. And Paul becomes a newspaperman in Moscow.

Johann is drawn to Heinrich's oldest daughter, Katarina, and soon becomes a part of the Hildebrandt family. When the tsar declares that all property belonging to Mennonites, Lutherans, and Catholics is to be seized and divided among the "true" Russians, the family is divided up, with one brother sent to Bethany Institute, and Katarina and her younger brother and sisters sent to stay with their Oma and friends in the village. Johann and Heinrich take a long and dangerous journey north to speak to political representatives, in hopes of saving their estate.

In *Eye of the Storm*, Heinrich remarries a widow of one of Johann's war friends. Succoth, the Hildebrandt estate, is reclaimed. Johann returns briefly from medical duty in the war, secures Katarina's promise of marriage, then is back to work at a nearby war camp. Despite his non-violent upbringing, Paul becomes heady with political power and soon finds himself active in the Red Army. And, due to the constant attacks of rebels, vagrants, and deserters, Susannah and her co-workers are forced to close the Bethany Psychiatric Institute, sending all of the patients home to their families.

In *Out of the Storm*, Johann and Katarina, now married, face the recent loss of her father, Heinrich, as well as the destruction of their adored Succoth. Paul, now active in the

underground resistance, helps them escape capture by the soldiers. Unfortunately, the Russian Revolution increasingly claims ground, swallowing more and more of their beloved Russia. Through losses of loved ones, the closing of churches, imprisonment of public worshippers, only God can help them keep their faith and lead them out of Russia into Canada, a place they hope they will be able to call "the Promised Land."

Janice L. Dick shows she has a true gift for storytelling at its best. The Storm series, her first, second, and third novels, bear the stamp of thorough research and excellent writing skills. Dialogue is rich and flowing throughout. From plot to scene changes, one novel moves smoothly into the next. Main characters are easy to get to know and want to befriend. Strong in Christian morals and story foundation. Highly recommended for all Christian historical fiction collections.

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

The duet / Robert Elmer. LCCN 2003019785. Colorado Springs, Colo. : WaterBrook, 2004.

PAP, 1578567408, list cost: \$12.99.

Fic. Grandparent and child—Fiction; Women music teachers—Fiction; Dairy farmers—Fiction; Grandfathers—Fiction; Widowers—Fiction; Love stories. 290 p. : 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Gerrit Appeldoorn and Joan Horton seem to have nothing in common, other than the fact that they are both widowed. Joan has moved to the small Dutch-dominated town of Van Dalen, Washington, for a yearlong sabbatical from her teaching job at a prestigious music school in New York. Gerrit is a third generation dairy farmer who has lived his entire life in the small town. Joan attends a Nazarene fellowship, Gerrit a Dutch Reformed church. The two become acquainted when Gerrit brings his granddaughter Mallory to Joan for piano lessons.

Joan and Gerrit eventually become friends, reaching out from their comfort zones to learn more about the other's beliefs and lifestyle. It becomes apparent that, although Mallory is struggling with her piano lessons, Gerrit is the one with the natural talent. He discovers that change isn't necessarily bad, and that even late in life he can learn to love new hobbies and new people.

The Duet is a unique romance novel. Gerrit is a stodgy farmer who has always done things the same way. When he discovers the piano, a whole new world of possibilities is opened up to him. Both Gerrit and Joan have been widowed for a long time, yet neither has risked loving again. Joan carries a great deal of guilt about her husband's depression and her adult son's inability to hold down a job.

Mr. Elmer gets to the heart of each character's motivations and brings them to life in an intimate way. By the end of *The Duet*, the reader will care about each one and will be filled with hope for their outcomes. The author deals with the characters' differences in theology gracefully and never makes judgments about which form of belief is "correct." The positive elements are embraced in a loving way. Highly recommended for adult readers who enjoy charming, character driven stories. Suitable for older high school students, yet may not be appealing due to the age of the characters.

Melissa Parcel, BS. Book reviewer, Kelso, Washington.

Seasons of Bliss / Ruth Glover. (The Saskatchewan saga ; 4.) LCCN 2002000484. Grand Rapids : Fleming H. Revell, 2002.

PAP, 0800757920, out of print; buy used.

Fic. Frontier and pioneer life—Fiction; Women immigrants—Fiction; Scots—Canada—Fiction; Saskatchewan—Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 224 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 3.

Bittersweet Bliss / Ruth Glover. (The Saskatchewan saga ; 5.) LCCN 2002012834. Grand Rapids : Fleming H. Revell, 2003.

PAP, 0800758285, list cost: \$11.99.

Fic. Frontier and pioneer life—Fiction; Scots—Canada—Fiction; Saskatchewan—Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 271 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 3.

Back roads to Bliss / Ruth Glover. (The Saskatchewan saga ; 6.) LCCN 2003009422. Grand Rapids : Fleming H. Revell, 2003.

PAP, 0800758293, list cost: \$11.99.

Fic. Young women—Fiction; Women immigrants—Fiction; Saskatchewan—Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 267 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 3.

Seasons of Bliss continues the stories of two young women begun in the earlier books of the series. Upon her arrival in the tiny bush hamlet of Bliss, Tierney finds herself unexpectedly reunited with the man she never thought she would see again—Robbie Dunbar. Their joy evaporates when Robbie shares his arrangement with a dying widow, which includes marriage and doubling his land. Meanwhile, Molly Morrison struggles with Parker Jones' delay in proposing, while he doubts his call into the ministry and fends off the wiles of a visiting socialite.

Two different women hide secrets that threaten their future happiness in *Bittersweet Bliss*. Ellie Bonney lives alone with her father as guilt more than a decade old keeps her refusing the proposals of her long-time suitor, Tom. Birdie Wharton's lonely, rigid life as a schoolmarm begins to soften when she receives letters from a secret admirer.

In *Back Roads to Bliss*, independent gentlewoman Allison Middleton refuses to be a pawn in her merchant father's ambitions. After a failed elopement, he banishes her to Canada before she can further soil the family name, and Allison's long journey begins. Parker Jones and Molly Morrison face another crisis when Parker's father dies.

The moderately paced and interesting plot suits these pioneer love stories, but the author often deviates from the stories to add historical details. These include page-long poetic rambles on the beauties and horrors of pioneer life and dozens of word-for-word catalog descriptions for various everyday items. While these tidbits are quaint at first, they soon begin to grate on the reader. Many of the secondary characters are distinct, helping the reader keep them straight, but most of the main characters fall a little flat. Thanks to all of the details, the setting is keenly perceived, though the author condescends slightly in several of her descriptions. The dialog suits the tone of the books, and, aside from a few puns, humor is noticeably absent. Recommended for women enthralled with pioneer life.

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

*

Night song : a story of sacrifice : a novel / Tricia Goyer. LCCN 2004010480. Chicago : Moody Publishers, 2004.

PAP, 0802415555, list cost: \$12.99.

Fic. Mauthausen (Concentration camp)—Fiction; World War, 1939-1945—Underground movements—Fiction; Concentration camp inmates—Fiction; Americans—Austria—Fiction; Orchestral musicians—Fiction; Musicians—Fiction; Austria—Fiction; Christian fiction; War stories. 515 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : *5.

Evie, daughter of an Austrian ambassador, and Nick, a budding surgeon, must cut their romance short when Evie's family is sent back to Austria. Hitler's conquests in Europe force the closing of the Austrian Embassy and the deportation of its officials and their families.

When his father is taken away by Nazi storm troopers, Jakob's family is shattered. Their music store is torn apart, in search of a rare violin; then, they are taken from their home, stripped of all earthly possessions and sent, crammed like cattle with other Jews, in a train car to a work camp.

Otto, a German SS Officer, is enticed by the underlying spiritual powers of the inner circle of the Reich. Embittered by the human greed he witnesses in his superiors, he is determined to tap into the "real" power of darkness that represents the true meaning of Hitler's regime.

Night Song : A Story of Sacrifice by Tricia Goyer is a powerful insight into some of the key facets of World War II events. Goyer has

sensitively fleshed out believable characters that draw the reader more deeply into the story with each turn of the page. Although the time period is replete with violence, Goyer is neither graphic nor devoid of the intensity of the crisis. Focus switches from three main character bases but is clearly presented to form a logical delineation of the story. Dialogue is used perceptively to enhance authenticity. Highly recommended, as a first purchase, for all World War II historical fiction collections.

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

Boo who / Rene Gutteridge. (Sequel to Boo.) LCCN 2004008997. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2004.

PAP, 1578569850, list cost: \$12.99.

Fic. Horror tales—Authorship—Fiction; City and town life—Fiction; Indiana—Fiction; Humorous fiction. 344 p. ; 21 cm.

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

Scary, Indiana, is on the brink of bankruptcy. The pastor and others are searching for meaning in their lives. The mayor has checked out of reality while his assistant digs to find the history of Scary in an attempt to save the town and give it purpose. These ingredients, along with healthy doses of humor, add up to mayhem and mischief in *Boo Who*, a second novel by author Rene Gutteridge. After becoming a Christian, horror writer Wolfe "Boo" Boone knows he can't write the same genre anymore. Trying to find his place, Boo attempts to sell cars. When that doesn't work out, he works in a book store choosing romance novels of the month. Filled with a gloom surrounding his future, Boo looks to his fiancé Ainsley Parker to brighten his life. However, Ainsley is distracted, attempting to become the next Martha Stewart. Egged on in this pursuit by Boo's former editor, Ainsley gets caught up in the excitement and glitz of seeing her dream job come true. While planning the reception of the century for her friend Melb, Ainsley becomes sidetracked from her own wedding plans and her own values. Yet despite the turmoil, Scary residents finally find the purpose they were searching for—their own and for their town.

Using quick wit and quirky, likeable characters, Gutteridge once again invites readers into the lives of the residents of Scary, Indiana. Solid character development and deft pacing creates a must-read novel. Without being preachy, Gutteridge delivers a thoughtful message about being satisfied with who you are as a person and content with the purpose you have in Christ. Gutteridge delivers humor and insights in *Boo Who*.

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

A shred of evidence / Kathy Herman. (A Seaport suspense novel ; 1.) LCCN 2004022960. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2005.

PAP, 1590523482, list cost: \$12.99.

Fic. Christian fiction; Suspense fiction. 400 p. ; 21 cm.

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

Former news editor Ellen Jones has retired from journalism and is working on her first novel. While lurching at a popular eatery, she overhears a conversation about a woman, Julie, whom she has recently befriended. Acting on journalistic instinct, Jones researches newspaper stories about Julie and her husband Ross. What she finds alarms her and sets Ellen off on a quest to protect the couple's young child. Soon, though, the child appears abducted and the number one suspect is Ross. Julie, distraught, turns to her only friend for comfort and support. However, Ellen is unsure of Ross's innocence. Listening to comments about others and reading between the lines of circumstantial evidence, cause Ellen to doubt everything Ross has ever said. Rumors give way to lies, growing the problem to gargantuan proportions. Ellen, however, is sidetracked in the whole debacle by accusations levied against her. While fighting to clear her own name, Ellen comes face to face with the reality of rumors and innuendo. After this epiphany, she joins forces with Julie and Ross to find their missing daughter.

Author Kathy Herman adds an interesting twist to a traditional mystery. Focusing on the power of rumors, Herman shows the power words have in destroying the reputation and credibility of people. The main character, Ellen, seems to fall too easily into believing reports without seeing evidence about Ross's guilt in past circumstances. However, the other characters lend a vibrancy and believability to the book that helps the reader to disregard initial feelings that Ellen doesn't appear to be the journalist she claims to be. Most readers will enjoy the dynamics between the characters, subplots, and plot twists to this book.

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

Cadence / by B.J. Hoff. (The American anthem ; 2.) LCCN 2003012403. Nashville : W Publishing, 2003.

PAP, 0849943906, list cost: \$12.99.

Fic. Italian Americans—Fiction; Immigrants—Fiction; Singers—Fiction; Opera—Fiction; Blind—Fiction; New York (N.Y.)—Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 264 p. ; 20 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 3.

Immigrants making their way in early 20th century America didn't strike the right chords every day. In *Cadence*, widower Michael Emmanuel, conductor of a world-renowned orchestra realizes he's falling for Susanna Fallon. And while he realizes his worth in God's eyes, he struggles to think he could be worth

anything to Susanna. Ghosts of insecurity also haunt Susanna's music and feelings for Michael. Their roughly composed life melodies harmonize with many people, touching them with God's grace. Throughout *Cadence*, God's love re-orchestrates the dissonance of human emotions to compose a lovely symphony that glorifies Him.

The well-paced plot of *Cadence* draws the reader through the book. Interesting, well-developed characters balance the somewhat predictable plot. The turn-of-the-century New York City setting contrasts the glitz of the rich with slum tenements. Using this backdrop, Hoff introduces facts from the period that may not be well known. The pertinent dialogue gives glimpses into the minds and hearts of the characters. Also, the humorous situations in this mostly serious book occur in dialogue between Michael and his cousin, Paul. The ups and downs of the characters mirror those of all humanity. The characters learn that life is a gift, given by the Giver of all good gifts, and is to be used for His glory.

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

A form of godliness : a novel / Shane Johnson. LCCN 2004007078. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2004.

PAP, 1578565499, list cost: \$13.99.

Fic. Christian ethics—Fiction; Secret services—Fiction; Presidents—Fiction; Science fiction; Christian fiction. 402 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Nearly a decade after the 9/11 disaster, Secret Service agent Bryson Lawe still struggles to drive past the Twin Towers, where his father died that day. Public Relations expert, Karen Foley, becomes the mouthpiece for a Christian group out to protect children's rights to life and realizes she may have to sacrifice everything to do so. President Matthew Bridger and a select few come to the realization that a number of laws that were set into motion to protect children and families are the very ones that are disposing of them all together.

Meanwhile, Russia's oil reserves have been jeopardized. War has broken out in the Middle East. And Israel is being forced into taking drastic and irreversible measures to protect its people.

A Form of Godliness by Shane Johnson is a futuristic suspense story. Like using a telescopic zoom lens on a satellite from outer space, Johnson peers into countries, cultures, people groups, and even personal lives to portray the selfish degradation the human race has danced with so long and is now being swallowed by. Although Johnson runs the reader a merry race in his plethora of characters, dialogue is believable and successfully contributes to moving the story along. Background of big

cities with predominate focus on overcrowding, poverty, and lack of education concerning political issues is crucial. Many of his characters, though bounced between, still have a fleshed out feel. Johnson is also a graphic artist and spaceflight historian. He is known for his two Christy Award finalists *Ice* (Waterbrook Press, 2002) and *The Last Guardian* (Waterbrook Press, 2001). Recommended for adult Christian fiction collections.

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

A Christmas promise / Thomas Kincaid & Katherine Spencer. (A Cape Light novel ;.) LCCN 2004046878. New York : Berkley Books, 2004.

HBB, 0425198251, list cost: \$19.95.

Fic. Cape Light (Imaginary place)—Fiction; City and town life—Fiction; New England—Fiction; Christmas stories. 298 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

Like a Christmas gift ready to be opened and enjoyed, *A Christmas Promise* is a gift awaiting the reader. Residents of Cape Light are preparing for the holiday season and a special guest is among them. James Cameron, a missionary now stateside due to illness, is working with Reverend Ben and attempting to regain his strength. During the season's first snowstorm, James' car collides with that of Leigh Baxter, a stranger to Cape Light. As she waits for her car to be repaired, she, too, is taken in by the welcoming arms of the townspeople. As days turn into weeks, it is obvious Leigh and James are falling in love but will he still care for her when he discovers her dark secret?

Jessica and Sam Morgan are experiencing difficulties of their own. All they really want for Christmas is an addition to their family but each of them is handling their disappointment in a different way. Only God can guide this young couple and keep their love intact. But God is an expert at relationships and brings about a miracle in their lives.

New reading visitors to Cape Light will delight in its characters while long-time fans of this series will love this Christmas addition. As always, their personalities and lives are real with joys and problems both and they turn to the Lord for answers to their needs.

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

The sacrifice / Beverly Lewis. (Abram's daughters ; 3.) LCCN 2003028149. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2004.

PAP, 0764228722, list cost: \$12.99.

Fic. Amish women—Fiction; Young women—Fiction; Sisters—Fiction; Amish—Fiction; Lancaster County (Pa.)—Fiction; Christian fiction. 347 p. ; 21 cm.

The prodigal / Beverly Lewis. (Abram's daughters ; 4.) LCCN 2004012014. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2004.

PAP, 0764228730, list cost: \$12.99.

Fic. Amish women—Fiction; Sisters—Fiction; Amish—Fiction; Lancaster County (Pa.)—Fiction; Christian fiction. 343 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

The Sacrifice and *The Prodigal* continue the story of Abram's Daughters as told by Beverly Lewis in her family saga set in Pennsylvania, post World War II. The four Amish Ebersole sisters are the main characters of these novels; their families, their loves, their lives, and their relationship with the Lord. *The Sacrifice* targets Leah, loyal and caring, always putting others before herself and truly only wanting a life in Gobbler's Knob, a loving husband, and a family. But when tragedy strikes, Leah must choose between her own happiness and that of her people.

The Prodigal brings to light a devastating secret in the Ebersole family, and a never-expected prodigal returns home. But how can he be accepted back into the Amish fold? And the repercussions of secrets kept for years are causing pain and hardship to Leah's youngest sister, Lydiann, a child she has raised as her own since her mother's death. Deceit, disgrace, and forgiveness are all woven into the tapestry of Lewis' series. God's forgiveness is a critical aspect of the story. Forgiveness for sin that leads to salvation and forgiveness for the rebellion that even Christians cannot seem to avoid.

Is it essential to read the entire series to understand the events in *The Sacrifice* and *The Prodigal*? While not totally necessary, it would certainly make an already convoluted plot and the multi-layers of the story more easily understood by the reader.

All of Lewis' books are easily read, smoothly written with a compassion for the people that she is fictionalizing. She writes of traditional Amish beliefs as well as the truth of having a personal relationship with Christ. Her stories bless the reader and, of course, leave you hoping for more.

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

Shaded light / N.J. Lindquist. (A Manziuk and Ryan mystery.) LCCN 99045744. Markham, Ont. : That's Life, 2004.

PAP, 096854956X, list cost: \$12.95.

Fic. Mystery stories; Christian fiction. 384 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

George, senior partner of his law firm, and his wife Ellen are throwing a weekend house party. The original guest list includes their son, Kendall, his nefarious roommate, Nick; Peter, a partner in the firm, and his young, flirtatious wife, Jillian; Douglass, the final partner in the

firm, and his depressed wife, Anne; and a million dollar client. The party really begins to heat up when three uninvited guests are thrown in with the group: Jillian's shy sister; George's black-sheep nephew; and a neighbor, secretly packing a revolver and damaging information about one of the guests. When Jillian is found dead by the fountain, Detective-Inspector Paul Manziuk, disgruntled about being called in from his vacation, and newly promoted Detective-Constable Jacqueline Ryan reluctantly team up to solve the case.

Shaded Light by N.J. Lindquist is a Christian murder mystery in true Agatha Christie style. Complete with a mansion chock-full of a wide variety of personalities, motives, and red herrings, this tale will test even the most hardened armchair sleuth. Dialogue helps sketch out character personalities, as well as smoothly moving plot along. Background is that of the English cozy, in which the storyline is revealed in morsels, rather than shockwaves. Lindquist's impressive resume includes writing teacher, playwright, publisher, award-winning author, Executive Director of the Word Guild, and member of several mystery and crime associations. Recommended for both public and personal, quality mystery collections.

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

The mill house / Paul McCusker. LCCN 2004010288. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2004.

PAP, 0310253543, list cost: \$12.99.

Fic. Grandparent and child—Fiction; English Americans—Fiction; Women immigrants—Fiction; Grandmothers—Fiction; Older women—Fiction; Secrecy—Fiction; Christian fiction. 320 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

Fifty years ago, a misunderstanding crushed blooming love and charted a new course for Adam Powell and Elaine Holmes. While both lived full lives, they didn't share their past with their families. When Elaine's mind retreats into a silent depression, her granddaughter, Lainey, determines to find out what happened to her irrepressible grandmother. Concurrently, Adam's grandson, Nicholas, preparing for his grandfather's surprise birthday party, happens upon a box with some letters from Elaine to Adam. He does some research and contacts Lainey. Together they try to rescue Elaine from her depression and Adam from his bitterness. In the process, they discover God rescuing much more.

The Mill House blends historical and contemporary fiction. McCusker brilliantly brings the characters to life and shows how their choices affect their futures. The dialogue, both witty and serious, breathes life into the characters. An air of mystery pervades the story as the characters seek to discover what triggered Elaine's depression and Adam's bitter spirit. As

the story of new and old relationships unfolds, McCusker sensitively allows the truth of passions to be told. He presents one brief allusion to a couple that had sex, and gives no details. In another brief passage, he alludes to one couple caught up in passionate kissing, few details, who, when the choice is presented, choose not to have sex. At that point, the character gives two very clear, biblical reasons why he will not. All literary devices point to the theme. "I believe that God never wastes anything. Good experiences or bad, He is at work somehow." This work of fiction beautifully presents the theme of God's redemption, a very non-fiction gift.

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

God's handmaiden / Gilbert Morris. LCCN 2003022152. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2004.

PAP, 0310246997, list cost: \$12.99.

Fic. Nightingale, Florence, 1820-1910—Fiction; Working class women—Fiction; Crimean War, 1853-1856—Fiction; Nurses—Fiction; England—Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 337 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Gervase is orphaned at fifteen. Her aunt and uncle agree to have her come live with them. They are in service to the Wingates, English nobility. The elder son, Davis takes an interest in Gervase, but only as an older brother. Gervase finds herself falling in love with him. Because she is a servant and he is nobility she realizes that nothing can ever come of it. When he marries, Gervase feels she must leave and find other work. She goes to be a maid for the Nightingale's, particularly their daughter Florence. Florence soon leaves to do work as a nurse, leading her eventually to nursing service in the Crimean War. Gervase follows her to the war and becomes a good nurse. Her nursing skills are used on two different occasions to save Davis' life. Gervase truly behaves in a way God's handmaiden would.

As is usual for Gilbert Morris, *God's Handmaiden* is well-written and well-researched. He expertly weaves fact and faith with fiction and draws the reader into the story.

Jane Mouttet, BA. Missionary School Librarian, Mesilla Park, New Mexico.

*

Soul tracker / by Bill Myers. (Soul tracker series ; 1.) LCCN 2004007352. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2004.

PAP, 0310227569, list cost: \$12.99.

Fic. Loss (Psychology)—Fiction; Children—Death—Fiction; Single fathers—Fiction; Teenage girls—Fiction.; Future life—Fiction; Psychological fiction; Christian fiction. 325 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : *5.

After months of extreme depression and multiple suicide attempts, David Kauffman's

daughter, Emily, has committed suicide. Sensing something is just not right, he is overwhelmed with a sense of guilt and determination to find out what really happened to her. David's son, Luke, deals with the emptiness and loss of mother, sister, and Dad's constant preoccupation with Emily's horrible death.

Dr. Gita Patekar loses her parents at an early age. Growing up on the streets of Nepal, Gita does whatever it takes to keep her and her physically impaired brother alive. She is hired by the Orbolitz Corporation, a widespread, philanthropic organization, and uses Bible truths to expose imposters, posing as psychics. Gita meets and is immediately drawn to David through his love for Emily. David persuades Gita to help him unearth the truth about Emily's fate. The deeper they dig into the circumstances surrounding Emily's death, the uglier it gets, even implicating the Orbolitz Corporation.

Soul Tracker by Bill Myers is a suspense-thriller, spiced with fantasy, about afterlife experiences. Bits of poetry and Bible truths generously sprinkled throughout add genuine spiritual appeal to this page-turner. Homelessness; drug abuse; dealing with death and those left behind; and how we personally relate to Jesus are subjects expertly woven into the fabric of this tale. Through dialogue and realistically interaction with their surroundings, Myers sensitively creates his characters. Myers, bestselling author of *Eli* (Zondervan, 2000), a tale about life with Jesus, born in today's society, is also known for *The Bloodstone Chronicles* (Zondervan, 2003), and other greats, as well as for being an award-winning screenwriter and director. Outstanding read! Highly recommended for all collections.

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

The assignment / Mark Andrew Olsen.
LCCN 2004002025. Minneapolis :
Bethany House, 2004.

PAP, 076422817X, list cost: \$12.99.

Fic. Good and evil—Fiction; Immortalism—Fiction; Fantasy fiction; Christian fiction. 462 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

Two thousand years after God gave him the task of working together with the Holy Spirit to restrain the powers of lawlessness, "Andre Lasalle" still struggles to complete his assignment. For the last 50 years, Andre has been locked in a concrete prison near Auschwitz. During that time, an obscure order of Catholic monks relentlessly searches for him. After his release, Andre travels to America to challenge his demonic enemy. In the process Andre rescues a young grad student, Nora McPheran. Andre's activities alarm both the physical and spiritual realms. Both realms collide, impacting the whole world.

Mark Andrew Olson employs good dialogue, quick scene changes, and a well-paced plot to make this an enjoyable read. Flashbacks provided by Andre's memoirs of his 2,000-year life lend an air of historical credibility to his true and unbelievable identity. Over the years of his life, Andre has grown disillusioned with church, both Catholic and Protestant, and how far it has moved from what Christ meant it to be. As a result, he typically attends no church. Andre's true identity takes Hebrews 9:27 and asks "what if." The premise of the story looks at II Thes. 2:7 and asks "what if." The protagonists grow throughout the novel. Nora discovers her need to begin her spiritual journey. Andre, who has considered himself an utter failure for 2,000 years, learns that if he's going to complete his assignment, he must rely on God's strength.

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

Together is all we need / Michael Phillips.
(Shenandoah sisters ; 4.) LCCN
2004001023. Minneapolis : Bethany
House, 2004.

PAP, 0764227033, list cost: \$12.99.

Fic. Female friendship—Fiction; Plantation life—Fiction; Race relations—Fiction; Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)—Fiction; Teenage girls—Fiction; Orphans—Fiction; North Carolina—Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 317 p. ; 22 cm.

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

Together Is All We Need, by Michael Phillips, is a great read for teenage girls with message of an uncommon tale of tragedy, heroism, and redemption. Phillips, author of many Christian novels, has set this book in 1860s Shenandoah, North Carolina, at the Rosewood Cotton Plantation. Katie and Mayme, have found themselves alone and left to run Katie's family plantation. Both of their families had been killed by raiders after the Civil War. As "sisters of the heart" these teenagers are forced, for the sake of their own survival, to take on the responsibility and hard work of adults. With the help of some friends, they work to maintain a productive cotton farm. Fooling everyone from town into thinking that their families are still alive, they manage to forge a friendship that transcends racial lines and defies the social mores of the time. Soon their simulation is over when Katie's greedy uncle, Burchard Clairborne, comes to town to find out for himself what is going on. His insensitive investigation eventually leads him to the truth. But God is faithful and provides for these unlikely cousins and their needs with an unexpected turn of events. This book certainly has its' share of twists and turns—who is an uncle? who is a papa?...and who really can be trusted whether they are blood kin or not? The characters struggle to reconcile any previous prejudices providing a subtle spiritual message with a well developed plot of human kindness, hatred and racism.

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

A nest of sparrows / Deborah Raney.
LCCN 2003027714. Colorado Springs :
WaterBrook, 2004.

PAP, 1578565782, list cost: \$12.99.

Fic. Women social workers—Fiction; Motherless families—Fiction; Custody of children—Fiction; Love stories; Domestic fiction; Christian fiction. 336 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

When Starr Parnell escapes from an abusive marriage in Minnesota to a small town in Kansas, her only dream is to raise her three children in a home filled with love. Starr never dreams she will find romance, but she does when she meets Wade Sullivan. Wade becomes the father her children have never known, and their relationship is strengthened by a mutual love of the Lord and each other. As the wedding day draws closer, everyone's excitement grows with hope for a beautiful future.

Tragedy strikes when Starr dies. Wade is left to stumble through parenting her hurting children in the midst of his own grief. Just when things seem they can't get any more difficult, the children's biological father shows up demanding custody of them. Wade finds himself in the middle of a huge battle. Through it all, he manages to see God's hand and hope in the face of seemingly insurmountable circumstances.

A Nest of Sparrows highlights Deborah Raney's ability to get to the heart and soul of difficult issues facing Christians of the world today. The detailed characterization of Wade, the children, and other supporting characters brings the story to life in a completely realistic way. Readers' hearts will ache for Wade as he faces one legal obstacle after another. The pacing is exactly right; the natural progression of events continues to build tension until the exciting resolution.

A hopeful tone permeates *A Nest of Sparrows*, but often the way child protective service operates drags a depressing mood over the tale. Not knowing the outcome: whether the children will end up with Wade or with their derelict biological father, creates a feeling of anxiety which can draw the reader away from the meaningful story. The power of God is shown and will cause thoughtful contemplation about trust and letting go of our own control.

Melissa Parcel, BS, Book reviewer, Kelso, Washington.

Streams of mercy / Teresa D. Slack. (The
Jenna's Creek novels ; 1.) LCCN
2004010715. Reedley, Calif. : Tsaba
House, 2004.

PAP, 0972548653, list cost: \$15.99.

Fic. City and town life—Fiction; Ohio—Fiction; Mystery fiction; Christian fiction. 301 p. ; 23 cm.

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

Streams of Mercy chronicles the summer of seventeen-year-old Jamie Steele, beginning with the funeral of her physically abusive and alcoholic father. The morning of the funeral, Jamie learns her father was the prime suspect in a twenty-year old murder. He was released only for lack of evidence. Determined to find the truth and dispel lingering doubts about his innocence, Jamie begins a quest to solve the mystery. She enlists the help of the former prosecutor at the time, searching for clues in the case files. Jamie also begins her first job working at the local drugstore stocking shelves. Little does Jamie realize that the drugstore owner, Noel, has secrets of his own.

Author Teresa Slack creates a compelling plot in her debut novel. Jamie has a strong, consistent, and realistic voice throughout the novel as do the other characters. Rather than preachiness, Slack allows flawed characters to suffer the consequence of their sins and come to their own determination of a need for God and a renewal of their relationship with Him. The pacing of the book enhances the read. Instead of dragged out descriptive passages that show rather than tell, Slack creates descriptive movement. The book has red herrings keeping readers guessing until the end. This book would be a good addition to any mystery lover's library.

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

Room of marvels / James Bryan Smith. LCCN 2004298279. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2004.

PAP, 0805427848, list cost: \$9.99.

Fic. Heaven—Fiction; Bereavement—Fiction; Future life—Fiction; Christian fiction. 154 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Room of Marvels is a moving book. In the acknowledgments, Mr. Smith mentions his stars in heaven, Rich Mullins, his daughter, and his mother. While reading the book I recognized Rich Mullins and can only assume the daughter and mother in the book are similar to the author's daughter and mother. Those who are grieving the death of one or more loved one may be helped by reading this book, as may those who are grieving other losses.

The main character, a writer, is in grief after losing three loved ones in three years time. He goes to a monastery offering a silent retreat in an effort to work through the grief. While there he experiences a dream in which he visits heaven. He sees those who influenced his life and those whose life he influenced. He learns to take off his mask, it isn't necessary to be truly loved. He learns to give up control, he was never really in control to begin with. After giving up his mask and his control he is allowed to visit his room of marvel, the mansion created for him in heaven. Seeing those who have died, helps him through the grieving process and gives him something to

share with his wife to help her through her grieving process.

Jane Mouttet, BA. *Missionary School Librarian, Mesilla Park, New Mexico.*

Life support / by Robert Whitlow. LCCN 2003006222. Nashville : W Publishing, 2003.

PAP, 0849943744, list cost: \$14.99.

Fic. South Carolina—Fiction; Legal fiction. 392 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

Alexia Lindale is a lawyer whose expertise is representing women in divorce cases. Her growing success is put on hold when she is fired from her law firm for ruffling the feathers of some very important clients. Alexia decides to strike out on her own business venture and takes her impressive client list with her. She meets and is emotionally drawn to a music minister who plays heavenly classical music and introduces her to a loving God.

Rena Richardson secretly tries to murder her rich husband in a tragic "accident," but only manages to put him into a coma. When Rena is thwarted in her attempts to get her husband taken off life support machines, she hires Alexia to defend her position.

Life Support by Robert Whitlow is book one in The Santee Series of legal suspense thrillers that takes place in Santee, South Carolina. Although, at times slow moving, the dual plots converge to make a worthwhile and intriguing read. Dialogue and character representation are so realistic that the reader is immersed in the outcome as if it were real. Besides learning a bit of legalese, the reader is reminded that the only person one can ever wholly trust is the Lord. Christy-award-winning Whitlow has authored such legal thrillers as *The List* (WestBow Press, 2000), *The Trial* (WestBow Press, 2001), and *The Sacrifice* (WestBow Press, 2002). His style has been compared to both Frank Peretti and John Grisham (CBA Frontline). Highly recommended for all collections of similar genre.

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

The bride of stone / Thomas Williams. LCCN 2004011021. Grand Rapids : Fleming H. Revell, 2004.

PAP, 0800758617, list cost: \$14.99.

Fic. Blind sculptors—Fiction; Princesses—Fiction; Scars—Fiction; Christian fiction; Fantasy fiction; Love stories. 494 p. : map ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 11-12). Rating : 3.

Thomas William's *The Bride of Stone* is third in his series about the Seven Kingdoms. Percivale, an honorable man, succeeds in wresting the Crown of Eden from the hand of the evil witch Morgultha. The lords and knights of Meridian, impressed with such a feat, proclaim Percivale

king—a role he accepts with reluctance. Under his reign, however, the Seven Kingdoms unite and achieve a level of greatness, growth, and prosperity like never before.

The Crown of Eden, however, tantalizes Percivale, who for seven years fought his desire to wear it, fearing what he would become, knowing its power to amplify any hidden bent toward evil that is present even in a good man's heart. When he is pressed to wear the crown as an honor for a special ceremony and then turns to wearing it daily, he begins his downward slide into selfishness, greed, and pride, bringing disaster upon himself, his family, and the prosperity of the Seven Kingdoms.

If readers can get past the first few chapters, which is a rather a slow, detached summary leading up to the real crux of the story, they will appreciate the medieval fantasy Williams creates. Although this book lacks the substance of plot and character development seen in Williams' first two books in the series, *Bride of Stone* is rich with biblical allusions as Percivale's character appears to be drawn from traits found in the Old Testament kings Saul, David, and Solomon.

Christian educators and artists of all kinds will particularly appreciate chapter 20, which details a Christian world view of the role of art as it was intended by the Creator, contrasted with art that reflects man's fallen and sinful nature. Williams is himself an artist, which lends credence to his arguments.

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

The messenger / Tim Woodroof. LCCN 2002004813. Colorado Springs, Colo. : NavPress, 2002.

PAP, 1576833569, list cost: \$14.00.

Fic. Paul, the Apostle, Saint—Fiction; Bible. N.T. Philippians—History of biblical events—Fiction; Church history—Primitive and early church, ca. 30-600—Fiction; Philippi (Extinct city)—Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 302 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

"If you can keep the mind of Christ when you are hurting, if you can stand together and love each other in the hard times, nothing Satan will throw against you can destroy what God is doing in this church;" Paul chose to leave this exhortation with the Philippian church before leaving Philippi. However, when a newcomer insisted that grace plus observation of Jewish law obtains a right position with God, a rift formed among believers. Church leaders couldn't find a worthy solution, so Epaphroditus decided to take the perilous journey to Rome to seek Paul's guidance.

In *The Messenger*, Tim Woodroof's descriptions are as effective as time travel. From descriptions of oil cloth covered windows that let heat out and trap smoke in, to chamber pots

being emptied in the streets while pots clang and people argue, reading *The Messenger* transports the senses of the reader to Bible times. The plot is well constructed and based upon questioning what happened to the Philippian church to earn this letter from Paul. Paul's personality in the book is developed out of his writings. Other people mentioned in Philippians are also developed into characters consistent with their actions in the Bible. The steady pacing of the book balances dialogue and description. Much of the dialogue once Epaphroditus gets to Rome contains quotes from the book of Philippians. Finally, the theme can be summed up with the following quote, "Especially when trouble comes, you've got to hang on to the Lord and to each other."

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

More Book Lists, Part 1

by Donna W. Bowling

Some widely recognized book selection tools designed for the general market suggest many additional recommended titles for consideration by Christian librarians, teachers, and parents. Individual selection criteria vary, so prudent buyers may want to personally preview titles recommended in these sources—and other sources as well. Annotations may not reveal potentially troublesome content. Since many of these selection tools are available for use in local public libraries, a choice to buy them may depend on local access and individual budgets.

Children's catalog / edited by Anne Price and Juliette Yaakov. 18th ed. (Standard catalog series.) LCCN 2001046599. New York : H.W. Wilson, 2001.

HBB, 0824210093, List cost: \$175.00.

011.62. Children's literature—Bibliography; Children's libraries—United States—Book lists; School libraries—United States—Book lists; Children—Books and reading—United States. xiv, 1265 p. ; 26 cm. + 2002 supplement (176 p. ; 26 cm.) + 2003 supplement (171 p. ; 26 cm.) + 2004 supplement (p. ; 26 cm.).

Adult. Rating : 5.

Middle and junior high school library catalog / edited by Anne Price and Juliette Yaakov. 8th ed. (Standard catalog series.) LCCN 00063316. New York : H.W. Wilson, 2000.

HBB, 0824209966, List cost: \$250.00.

011.62/5. Young adult literature—Bibliography; Junior high school libraries—United States—Book lists. xiv, 1021 p. ; 26 cm. + 2001 supplement (164 p. ; 26 cm.) ; 2002 supplement (146 p. ; 26 cm.) ; 2003 supplement (169 p. ; 26 cm.) ; 2004 supplement (167 p. ; 26 cm.).

Adult. Rating : 4.

Senior high school library catalog / edited by Juliette Yaakov. 16th ed. (Standard catalog series.) LCCN 2002033133. New York : H.W. Wilson, 2002.

HBB, 0824210085, List cost: \$210.00.

011.62. Young adult literature—Bibliography; High school libraries—United States—Book lists. xiv, 1243 p. ; 27 cm. + 2003 supplement (157 p. ; 26 cm.) + 2004 supplement (p. ; 26 cm.).

Adult. Rating : 5.

Among the book selection tools for school libraries, the most popular and most useful are the Standard catalog series published by H. W. Wilson Company. For each title, new editions are published every five years, with annual supplements for the intervening years. Each catalog has two main sections. The first is a classified catalog, with entries arranged in order based on the Abridged Dewey Decimal Classification system for non-fiction titles, followed by fiction and story collection titles. Each class number is followed by a short phrase that identifies the subject. Each entry includes author (arranged alphabetically under subject), title, illustrator, publisher, date, pagination, price, grade level, Sears subject headings, ISBN, LCCN, and award. The paragraph-length annotations with description and evaluation are frequently quoted from standard review sources. If part of a series, other titles in the series are listed.

Following the classified catalog is a combined "author, title, subject, and analytical index" with entries interfiled in alphabetical order. For each author, titles are arranged in alphabetical order, with grade levels and classification numbers indicated. Related titles refer to main title listing. For collected works, a contents listing of stories included is appended here. Title entries (including analytical titles within collected works) indicate author and classification. For subject entries, author, title, grade level, and classification are given. Other smaller sections include a directory of publishers and distributors and a list of recommended web resources (both free and by subscription). Annual supplements include newer titles, again arranged in classified catalog format with a combined author, title, subject, and analytical index. The double column format, with appropriate white space is easy to use.

Each standard catalog is designed to represent a core collection of basic, highly recommended

titles for its level. Almost all of the titles were in print at the time of publication, although a few especially significant out-of-print titles have been included if more recent suitable titles were not available. However, the authors do not recommend weeding good titles discontinued from earlier editions unless other more suitable recent titles become available. Although only English language titles are included, some titles that are also available in Spanish are so noted in their annotations, and are listed under the "Spanish language editions" subject heading in the index.

These standard catalogs are selective rather than inclusive. To give a sense of their scope: the latest edition of the *Children's Catalog* [CC] includes 6,738 titles and 6,421 analytical entries; the *Middle and Junior High School Library Catalog* [MJHSLC] includes 4,520 titles and 4,492 analytical entries; the *Senior High School Library Catalog* [SHSLC] includes 5,321 titles and 9,123 analytical entries. The annual paperback supplements vary from fewer than six hundred to more than seven hundred titles, along with from fewer than three hundred to more than five hundred analytical entries. Around 29% of the titles listed in *MJHSLC* also appear in *CC*, and around 19% of the titles in *MJHSLC* also appear in *SHSLC*. In spite of this overlap of almost half of the titles in *MJHSLC*, the overlapping titles are included in this catalog to insure that it represents a core collection for this level. A feature of *CC* not needed by the other catalogs is its section classified as "Easy" books. The earlier *MJHSLC* includes a select list of recommended CD-ROMs which has been superseded in the more recent catalogs by the list of recommended web resources. The analytical access to collected works is a valuable feature. These standard catalogs have multiple uses: as aids to selection for purchase, cataloging, curriculum suggestions for teachers, etc. Other standard catalogs published by H.W. Wilson for public libraries are the *Fiction Catalog* and the reference and non-fiction *Public Library Catalog*. Any, or all, of the titles in the Standard Catalog series are also available online by subscription on WilsonWeb, updated quarterly, with additional searching features. The cost for WilsonWeb varies with the number of professional teachers and librarians served.

Best books for children : preschool through grade 6 / John T. Gillespie. 7th ed. LCCN 2001037971. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2002.

HBB, 0313320683, List cost: \$65.00.

011.62. Best books; Children's literature—Bibliography; Children—Books and reading—United States. xxi, 1617 p. ; 26 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Best books for children : preschool through grade 6 / John T. Gillespie and Catherine Barr. Suppl. to 7th ed. LCCN 2003065949. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2003.

HBB, 159158082X, List cost: \$35.00.

011.62. Best books; Children's literature—Bibliography; Children—Books and reading—United States. xvvi, 507 p. ; 26 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

Best books for middle school and junior high readers : grades 6-9 / John T. Gillespie and Catherine Barr. LCCN 2004041798. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2004.

HBB, 1591580838, List cost: \$75.00.

028.5/35. Middle school students—Books and reading—United States; Junior high school students—Books and reading—United States; Preteens—Books and reading—United States; Teenagers—Books and reading—United States; Children's literature—Bibliography; Young adult literature—Bibliography; Middle school libraries—United States—Book lists; Junior high school libraries—United States—Book lists. xviii, 1172 p. ; 26 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Best books for high school readers, grades 9-12 / John T. Gillespie and Catherine Barr. LCCN 2004303598. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2004.

HBB, 1591580846, List cost: \$75.00.

011.62. Young adult literature—Bibliography; High school libraries—United States—Book lists; Teenagers—Books and reading—United States. xix, 1182 p. ; 26 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

The books in the Best Books series by John Gillespie, and more recently with Catherine Barr, are the most comprehensive of the selective children's book selection tools. Titles selected for inclusion were in print at the time of publication. These titles have received favorable reviews from one or more (usually at least two) widely accepted review sources. Their double-column formats are similar. Main entries are arranged alphabetically by author within subjects (sometimes divided into smaller subdivisions). Entries include: entry number, author, title, grade levels, illustrations and illustrator, series if non-fiction, date, publisher, ISBN (hardbound and paper), price, sentence-length annotation, review citations, and Dewey Decimal number. Some annotations contain additional recommended titles by the author. Indexes include: an author/illustrator index that provides main entry titles with entry numbers, a title index that lists both main entry titles and additional titles with entry numbers, and a subject/grade level index that provides more detailed and specific subject access citing entry numbers only, without titles or authors.

Best Books for Children (2002) includes 23,429 titles within 22,319 numbered entries. Its

hardbound supplement (2003) provides an additional 6,112 titles within 5,682 entries. *Best Books for Middle School and Junior High Readers* (2004) includes 14,196 titles within 13,523 entries. *Best Books for High School Readers* (2004) includes 14,198 titles within 13,457 entries. Although the books with the greater number of titles have correspondingly less white space on the pages, that does not detract from their usefulness. Since the detailed subject information does not appear with the main entries, these books are less useful as cataloging aids. However with the grade levels applied to that detailed subject information, this feature may be helpful for selection purposes. The brevity of the individual annotations provides less useful information for selection, but the trade-off is the greater number of titles included.

A to zoo : subject access to children's picture books / Carolyn W. Lima, John A. Lima. 6th ed. LCCN 2001037398. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2001.

HBB, 0313320691, List cost: \$75.00.

011.62. Children's literature, English—Indexes; Picture books for children—Indexes. xxvi, 1771 p. ; 26 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

A to Zoo, by Carolyn and John Lima, is a comprehensive guide to nearly 23,000 children's picture books, cataloged under more than 1200 subjects. Following a brief introductory history of the picture book, is the key to the use of this guide—an alphabetical listing of main subject headings, subheadings, and the vital cross-references. The next major section is the subject guide that lists in alphabetical order: first, main subjects with their subheadings; then, specific authors; and then, relevant titles by those authors. The bibliographic guide is arranged alphabetically by author (or by title if the author is unknown). Bibliographic entries include author, title, illustrator, publisher, date, ISBN (for more recent books), and subjects. Cross-references refer from joint author (with title) to main author. Titles in the title index are arranged alphabetically, followed by author within parentheses, and page number of the bibliographic entry. Illustrators in the illustrator index are arranged alphabetically, followed by title, then author within parentheses, and page number of the bibliographic entry.

Although most picture books are written primarily for children preschool through grade two, an increasing number are designed with a broader audience in mind. *A to Zoo* includes many useful out-of-print titles "because school and public library collections consist mostly of out-of-print materials." In spite of the absence of annotations, its greater number of picture-

book titles, including a substantial number of non-fiction titles, provides access to potential resources not available through other tools. Although white space is necessarily limited with its double-column format, the guide terms in the headers of each page make navigating through this large book a simple task. If tight budgets hinder purchase of this useful tool, school librarians, teachers, and homeschooling parents might be able to consult copies in local public libraries.

Beyond picture books : a guide to first readers / Barbara Barstow, Judith Riggle. 2nd ed. LCCN 94049731. Colorado Springs. : Libraries Unlimited, 1995.

HBB, 083523519X, List cost: \$52.50.

011.62. Children—Books and reading—United States; Children's literature—Bibliography; Children's libraries—United States—Book lists. xvii, 501 p. ; 27 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

The first edition of *Beyond Picture Books: A Guide to First Readers*, published in 1989, included 1,610 fiction and non-fiction titles. In this second edition, Barbara Barstow and Judith Riggle, increase that number to 2,495, in spite of a number of deleted titles. They begin with a listing of 200 "Outstanding First Readers" in print at the time of publication, 1995. The annotated bibliography is arranged alphabetically by author. Each entry includes an entry number, title, illustrator, publisher, date, ISBN (if in print), subjects, and reading level, followed by a paragraph-length annotation. Finding some familiar reading level scales less useful, the authors have devised their own A, B, or C scale based on the simplicity and size of text and the relative proportions of text and illustrations per page.

The subject index, arranged alphabetically by major subject with frequent subheadings, includes cross-references. To distinguish fiction from non-fiction titles dealing with specific topics, the subject index uses a "fiction" subheading under the main subject. Entries under each subject heading include author (in alphabetical order), title, and the bibliography entry number. The alphabetical title index lists each title, followed by author in parentheses, and entry number. The illustrator index lists illustrator, title, and entry number. The "readability" index is divided into three levels—A, B, and C, and within each level, alphabetical entries include author, title, and bibliography entry number. An alphabetical series index lists under each series title authors, titles, and entry numbers.

The format is double-column and uncluttered, with a pleasing amount of white space. The relatively short annotations include both descriptive and evaluative elements. The titles

that were out of print at the time of publication have certainly been joined by many others ten years later. Many other worthy titles and series would merit inclusion in a needed updated edition. This tool provides some useful information not easily found elsewhere, but librarians with tight budgets may choose to wait for an updated edition.

From biography to history : best books for children's entertainment and education / edited by Catherine Barr ; foreword by James Cross Giblin ; contributors, Rebecca L. Thomas, Deanna McDaniel. LCCN 98023147. Colorado Springs. : Libraries Unlimited, 1998.

HBB, 0835240126, List cost: \$63.00.
016.92. Biography—Juvenile literature—
Bibliography; History—Juvenile literature—
Bibliography. xv, 508 p. : ill. ; 27 cm.
Adult. Rating : 4.

From Biography to History, edited by Catherine Barr, is a selective bibliography featuring nearly 300 biographies who provide a glimpse into historical periods as early as the fourteenth century B. C. and as recent as the present. Featured biography subjects are presented in alphabetical order. A brief paragraph about each featured subject is followed by one or more bibliographical entries under the headings, as available, of "Biographies for Younger Readers," "Biographies for Older Readers," "Related Books for Younger Readers," and "Related Books for Older Readers." Within each of these headings, entries are arranged alphabetically by author, followed by title, publisher, date, ISBN, pagination, and a descriptive paragraph-length annotation. Most of the over 1,500 titles included are recent and were in print at the time of publication, although a few well-regarded titles are designated as o. p. Criteria for selection included currency, audience, quality of writing, accessibility, special features, and interest. Assigning audience levels is only approximate at best, but "younger readers" are generally children in grades 3 to 5, and "older readers," in grades 6 to 9. "Related books" may lead children "from biography to" broader "history" issues. Some of these additional titles "relate" to more than one of the featured biography subjects.

Single column format with wide exterior margins allows room for occasional black-and-white side bar pictures of biography subjects or illustrative quotations from works cited. Listings in the alphabetical author index indicate author, title, and page or pages where that bibliographic entry is located. Listings in the title index provide title, (author in parentheses if more than one book by that title is included), and page number(s). The subject index groups biographies by "broad category, offering connections between individuals of different

backgrounds and different eras." A "Chronology" lists biographical subjects in chronological order by date of birth (with death dates supplied as well, e.g. "Tutankhamen 1343 B.C.-1325 B.C."). The subject index demonstrates considerable diversity in nationality, ethnicity, gender, and sphere of influence, but no effort to provide "balance" in these issues is evident. This useful tool provides a unique approach for librarians, teachers, parents, and students if budgets are sufficient.

Guide to reference and information sources in the zoological sciences / Diane Schmidt. . (Reference sources in science and technology series.) LCCN 2003054568. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2003.

HBB, 1563089777, List cost: \$75.00.
016.59. Zoology—Bibliography; Zoology—
Reference books—Bibliography; Zoology—
Information services—Directories; Zoology—
Databases—Directories. ix, 352 p. ; 25 cm.
Adult. Rating : 3 (not for purchase in Christian school).

Guide to Reference and Information Sources in the Zoological Sciences, by Diane Schmidt, is a "complete revision of George H. Bell and Diane B. Rhode's *A Guide to the Zoological Literature: The Animal Kingdom* (1994)." Other titles in Libraries Unlimited's series in "Reference Sources in Science and Technology" deal with botanical and physical sciences and engineering. This bibliography of nearly two thousand resources lists both print and electronic sources, including indexes, abstracts, and bibliographies; journals; guides to the literature; biographies and histories; checklists and classification schemes; dictionaries and encyclopedias; handbooks; identification tools; textbooks; and associations. Entries in the first chapter include resources of all of these types that deal with the animal kingdom in general and broader or related sciences. Each of the following chapters deals with a specific animal class or group of classes and is arranged by the type of resource. Within some types of resource, general titles precede "systematic sections" dealing with specific animal class subgroups. Entries within each type of resource are arranged alphabetically by author (if given) or title and provide standard bibliographical information: for monographs—edition, place, publisher, date, pagination, series, price, and ISBN if available; and for periodicals—frequency and ISSN. Descriptive paragraph-length annotations for each entry indicate scope of content, intended audience, and specific use. If available, e-mail addresses and/or web addresses are added. Listings for associations include abbreviations, mailing addresses, phone numbers, and electronic contact points. Although no author or title indexes are included, the subject index provides access for animal

groups, geographical areas, types of resources, names of organizations, and web sites.

This guide is designed for the use of graduate students, professional scientists, and the librarians that serve them, although others interested in animal biology may find some resources useful to them. Author Diane Schmidt is Biology Librarian and Associate Professor at University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign. An associated web page at <http://www.library.uiuc.edu/bix/zoology/> has been set up to monitor all sites and keep URLs up to date. This highly detailed comprehensive guide is appropriate and reasonably priced for its intended audience, but it is too specialized to be recommended for purchase by Christian school or church libraries. Interested individuals may find it in a nearby academic library. Librarians, teachers, parents, and students may also access some useful information through the web page.

Neal-Schuman guide to recommended children's books and media for use with every elementary subject / Kathryn I. Matthew, Joy L. Lowe. LCCN 2001044490. New York : Neal-Schuman, 2002.

PAP, 155570431X, List cost: \$65.00.
011.62. Children's literature—Bibliography;
Children—Books and reading—United States—
Bibliography; Best books—United States; Children's
literature—Study and teaching (Elementary)—United
States; Content area reading—United States; Video
recordings for children—United States—Catalogs;
Children's software—United States—Catalogs. xxvi,
407 p. ; 28 cm.
Adult. Rating : 5.

Curriculum specialist Kathryn Matthew and library science professor Joy Lowe have collaborated to present the *Neal-Schuman Guide to Recommended Children's Books and Media for Use with Every Elementary Subject*. This "guide explores more than 1,200 books, videos, software, CDs, cassettes, and Internet sites." Each of the eight chapters deals with a major elementary school subject area: mathematics; science; English language arts; social studies; health (including safety and families); sports, recreation, and dance; art; and music. Each chapter begins with key areas of concern and national standard topics for that subject and suggests how books and media can be used to foster meaningful learning. Within subtopics of each area, suggested titles are arranged by grade level. Entries include author, title, date, place, publisher, pagination, and grade level, followed by a paragraph-length descriptive annotation with teacher applications. (Video entries indicate running time; software specifies Windows and/or Macintosh platform, etc.) An "Explorations" section at the end of each subtopic suggests several possible classroom activities using some of the listed resources. Each chapter concludes with related teacher

resources, including books, professional organizations, internet sites, and references. Suggested books of related poetry introduce most chapters and are interspersed throughout the guide.

The appendix lists additional teacher resources: journals with mailing addresses, phone numbers, and web sites; professional organizations with contact information and related journals they publish; internet sites for teachers and students; and media sources for video tapes, audio books and software. A subject index is followed by a combined author-illustrator-title index. (Internet sites and professional organizations do not appear in either index.) The uncluttered single-column format with ample white space and font size is inviting. The few typos are not a serious detraction.

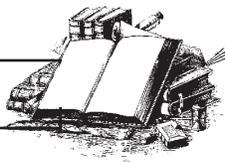
The Neal-Schuman Guide's inclusion of appropriate media along with its books is particularly helpful. (Until it ceased with the 2000 edition, *Brodart's Elementary School Library Collection* had included a variety of media among its nearly 10,000 titles.) The authors have provided a unique resource that encourages the practical use of varied books and media to promote learning. Teachers will find the curriculum-oriented arrangement and suggested classroom projects valuable features, even if the titles suggested are not immediately available. Recommended for Christian school professional libraries. Interested teachers and homeschooling parents should be alerted to its usefulness.

Reference:

Elementary school library collection, 22nd ed. / Linda L. Homa. Brodart, 2000.

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

Purchase of any of these useful titles for Christian schools or teachers depends upon local public access and individual budgets. The Wilson catalogs are quite valuable where funds are available. Those with more limited budgets might combine the Neal-Schuman Guide for non-fiction with more recreational and fiction titles from some of the Christian selection tools discussed in earlier articles [e. g. *CLJ* 7 (2/3):10-12 (2002); *CLJ* 9 (3):8-10 (2004)]. Each of the bibliographies from the Greenwood Publishing Group (including Bowker and Libraries Unlimited) has value and merits consulting by teachers and librarians in local libraries if limited funds hinder purchase. In all cases, discernment is necessary when selecting for Christian young people from among titles recommended by professionals with varying worldviews.



Reaching out to religious youth / L. Kay Carman, editor ; Carol S. Reich, assistant editor. (Libraries Unlimited professional guides for young adult librarians.) LCCN 2003069495. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2004.

PAP, 0313320411, list cost: \$38.00.

027.62/6. Libraries—United States—Special collections—Religious literature; Young adults' libraries—Activity programs—United States; Public libraries—Services to teenagers—United States; Religious literature—Bibliography; Young adult literature—Bibliography. xv, 222 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Reaching Out to Religious Youth provides an overview of potential library service to teens of the major religious groups found in the United States. The chapters fall into two broad categories, Christian and non-Christian faiths, and are then ordered based upon the number of U.S. adherents for each religion: Protestant, Evangelical, Catholic, Latter-day Saint, Orthodox Christianity, Seventh-day Adventist, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu.

The essays provide background information on the history and doctrine of the various faiths and discuss the formative experiences faced by teens, as well as common misconceptions and stereotypes. They address what teens might be looking for in their local library with regard to their own religion. They provide guidance regarding selection criteria, the types of materials available, and their publishers.

Public librarians can gain much from this guide, and it is recommended for all public library professional collections. The lists of pertinent publishers and helpful booklists make this an invaluable guide.

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

Christian writers' market guide / Sally Stuart. LCCN 95642005. Wheaton, Ill. : Shaw Books, 2005.

PAP, 0877882002, list cost: \$24.99.

070.5/2. Christian literature—Publishing—United States—Directories; Theology—Periodicals—Directories. 624 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult (Grades 8-12). Rating : 5.

Most everything a writer needs to successfully market one's writing is found in Sally Stuart's *Christian Writers' Market Guide*. This 20th anniversary edition contains a plethora of publishers of books, print and web publications, and card and gift markets. Abundant resources such as writers' groups listed by state or province, writing-related websites, books and organizations, reference tools and multiples lists provide in depth data for the unpublished

through the veteran professional communicator. Market analyses of book and periodical publishers are freshly updated, as are contests, conferences and a glossary of writing terms.

After 20 years, Stuart has perfected this standard of the Christian writing market guides. Listings of markets are full of details, and tips based on publishers' own input, all aimed at providing the most up-to-date information youth and adults writers. Besides the compendium of details, Stuart offers a valuable introduction on "how to use this book" and her knowledgeable analysis of the material and its implications for communicators. As a reference tool for wannabe and accomplished writers and for those otherwise involved in publishing and communicating, this is a bulky, yet essential volume.

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

Good ideas from questionable Christians and outright pagans : an introduction to key thinkers and philosophies / Steve Wilkens. LCCN 2003020590. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2004.

PAP, 0830827390, list cost: \$18.00.

102/.427. Philosophy and religion; Christianity—Philosophy. 256 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

This book looks at four Christian philosophers (Augustine, Aquinas, Descartes, and Kierkegaard), and six other philosophers (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Nietzsche, Sartre, and Marx) who the author believes have some contribution to make for increased wisdom and insight for day-to-day living. The author achieves this by examining a variety of questions through the lens of a particular philosopher. For instance, he poses the question "Is God responsible for evil?" and then explores the question through the philosophical wisdom of Augustine, but leaves it up to the reader to come up with his or her answer.

The author presents an engaging analysis of questions that Christians and others grapple with in daily life through a cogent presentation of the thoughts and principles of a particular philosopher. The author relies on the philosophers' quotations to reinforce key thoughts and arguments, but also makes useful analogies and illustrations to make them relevant to today.

Even though the book is written for those who have no background in philosophy, some readers may find parts of the book to be difficult reading and some concepts too abstract.

Overall, the book provides a good introduction to philosophy, while at the same time giving opportunities for Christians and others to open their minds "to the examined life."

Shirley Copeland, Ed.D., Education Consultant, Freelance Book Reviewer, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Augustine to Freud : what theologians & psychologists tell us about human nature (and why it matters) / Kenneth Boa. LCCN 2005295221. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2004.

PAP, 0805431462, list cost: \$14.99.

150/.1. Human beings; Christianity—Psychology. vi, 282 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

"People are inherently on a quest to satisfy what they perceive to be their fundamental needs," writes Kenneth Boa in *Augustine to Freud*. The author poses two questions: (1) What are these needs? (2) Where do we seek to fulfill them? Boa quotes from both ancient and modern sources. Augustine, of the 4th and 5th century, is joined by C. G. Jung, who died in 1961. Theological models include Augustine, Aquinas, Jonathan Edwards, Kierkegaard, Tillich, and Rahner. The chapter about the fulfillment model of human needs mentions Abraham Maslow, Carl R. Rogers, Alfred Adler, and Erich Fromm.

A 12 page bibliography and over 50 pages of endnotes encourage serious readers to judge Boa's conclusions. An appendix summarizes human needs in the New Testament. I appreciated the reminder that we first need forgiveness and grace. Then, everyone requires love and community. Third, people need purpose and hope. Learning about human nature helps us understand ourselves, minister to others, and defend the faith with intelligence.

Augustine to Freud is nicely bound, but wider margins would be welcome. Pictures are limited to black and white headshots of modern scholars. Highlighted sentences focus on main thoughts. Read this book slowly. Consider questions that come to your mind. Take notes. Welcome the depth that *Augustine to Freud* will add to your spiritual life.

Kenneth Boa is president of Reflections Ministries (<http://reflections.gospelcom.net>), based in Atlanta, Georgia. He holds a D. Phil from the University of Oxford in England.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Volunteer, Church Children's Library, Dexter, Kentucky.

Where in the world is integrity? : the challenge of doing what is right / Bruce B. Roberts, Craig D. Rice, and Joe E. Smith. LCCN 2004018987. Minneapolis : Augsburg Books, 2004.

PAP, 0806651547, list cost: \$13.99.
179/9. Integrity—Religious aspects—Christianity.
189 p. ; 22 cm.
Adult. Rating : 5.

Professor Roberts and his colleagues, Rice and Smith, through the compelling force of human stories, help the reader understand what integrity is. In addition they probe how integrity is shaped and nurtured in the life of an individual by using the model See-Respect-Act. This latter means, the more you talk about integrity, the more you see integrity. The more you see integrity, the more you respect the different ways people act with integrity. The more you see and respect the integrity around you, the more likely you are to act with integrity yourself. The more you act with integrity yourself, the more likely others are to see, talk about, and act with integrity. Acting with integrity then becomes a habit.

Each story in this book comes from ordinary people, and each is partnered with questions for reflection and discussion. The questions can be used by the readers for thinking, journaling, family or group discussion. The book concludes with an epilogue that reflects on the meaning of integrity and how collecting and reflecting on these stories changed the authors' understanding of integrity.

Public libraries and congregational reading resource centers, by adding this title, can provide inspiration and encouragement to us to continue meeting the challenge of doing what is right.

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

Old Testament today : a journey from original meaning to contemporary significance / John H. Walton, Andrew E. Hill. LCCN 2003017823. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2004.

HBB, 0310238269, list cost: \$49.99.
221.6/1. Bible. O.T.—Textbooks. xx, 412 p. : col. ill., maps ; 25 cm.
Adult. Rating : 4.

Both Walton and Hill hold doctorates, teach Old Testament studies, and have authored or coauthored several books. They seek to acquaint readers (and of course their students) with the purpose and themes of the books of the Old Testament, to equip readers with methodological approaches to the genres of revelation found in these books, and to familiarize one with how the Old Testament plotline merges with that of the New Testament.

Their discussion with most Scripture quotations from the New International Version (with some

from the King James Version, and others from the New Revised Standard Version) follows three interconnected perspectives: the original meaning, bridging contexts, and contemporary significance. Many readers will find the Bible text meaning and significance heightened by tracing it from the original author and audience to our contemporary setting. Each of the five units contains an array of charts, sidebars, illustrations, photo, and supplemental materials to complement the body of the text as well as add to easier comprehension of the literature, theology, and history of the Old Testament.

Finding a natural home in Christian high school and college libraries, *Old Testament Today* can serve public library collections offering quality reflection on the Christian Scriptures. The image-rich full-color design lends itself to high school student use, as well as encourages adults to stay with the discussion longer. Libraries having the authors earlier *Survey of the Old Testament* (Zondervan, 2000) need not update but if funds permit this edition is even more user friendly.

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

Word pictures in the New Testament / A.T. Robertson ; edited by James A. Swanson. LCCN 00025658. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2000.

HBB, 0805490558, list cost: \$19.99.
225.7. Bible. N.T.—Commentaries. vi, 696 p. ; 24 cm.
Adult. Rating : 4.

A.T. Robertson taught at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Before he died in 1934, he wrote a six-volume set, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*. Recently, James A. Swanson edited a concise edition, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*. Now, one book offers Robertson's Greek expertise in a very readable form for laypeople.

Consider John 3:15 (that whosoever believeth may in him have eternal life): "Greek tense translates 'that he may keep on having eternal life.' It is more than endless, for it is sharing in the life of God in Christ... The interview with Nicodemus apparently closes with verse 15..." The notes on I Corinthians 13:1 show Robertson's consistent practical side. Cymbal is identified as a "hollow basin of brass, here ringing for any cause."

The new, concise edition includes an introduction to each New Testament book and explanatory notes. Bible verses and phrases are in bold face, with comments in regular print. Any references to Greek words omit the Greek letters. You'll find only English letters.

Word Pictures in the New Testament (concise edition) shows how anyone can easily benefit from scholarly research, and add spiritual depth

to personal Bible studies. Church libraries should buy this book to promote among church staff and Sunday School teachers. The author's scholarship is useful for today! Just plan ways to introduce Christians to such a wonderful resource.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Volunteer, Church Children's Library, Dexter, Kentucky.

Who made God? : and other things we wonder about / Ravi Zacharias, Norman Geisler, general editors. LCCN 2003008436. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2003.

HBB, 0310247101, list cost: \$12.99.
231. Christianity--Miscellanea; Apologetics. 239 p. ; 21 cm.
Adult. Rating : 5.

Ravi Zacharias and Norman Geisler are general editors of *Who Made God? : And Answers to Over 100 Other Tough Questions of Faith*. Part I answers questions about the Christian faith. Diverse topics include the origin of evil, humans as authors of the Bible, and information about the Jesus Seminar. Lee Strobel contributed a chapter, "Tough Questions About Christ." Strobel explains his journey from "adamant atheist" to receiving Christ as his "forgiver and leader." William Lane Craig tackles tough questions from science. He considers the "Big Bang," "primordial soup," and microevolution.

Part II informs the reader about non-Christian faiths. Many questions are answered: Why Can't the Holy Books of Other Religions Also Be From God? Is the Whole Bible Complete? What Makes Religion "Black"? What is Transcendental Meditation? L. T. Jeyachandran writes about yoga, reincarnation, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

Read *Who Made God?* with a paper and pencil in your hand. Jot down questions. You may want to study other sources, in addition to this useful book. That is good. Select books in the "Resources for Digging Deeper" section and run references in the scripture index. You'll soon be better equipped to defend your faith. Do you wonder if you really need to be prepared to explain your Christian beliefs? Read Colossians 4:6 and I Peter 3:15. Buy a copy of this book for yourself, your church library, and friends who are either agnostic or atheist.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Volunteer, Church Children's Library, Dexter, Kentucky.

Unlocking the mysteries of creation : the explorer's guide to the awesome works of God / Dennis R. Petersen. LCCN 2005276161. El Dorado, Calif. : Creation Resource Publications, 2005.

HBB, 0967271304, list cost: \$34.99.
231.7. Creation—biblical teaching. 239 p. ; 29 cm. + 1 CD-ROM (4 3/4 in.).

Adult (Grades 6-12). Rating : 5.

Dennis Peterson tackles a weighty subject in *Unlocking the Mysteries of Creation*. In bite-sized, two-page segments, he covers dozens of single-issue topics related to creation, evolution, original man, and ancient civilizations. Peterson uses scientific data from respected research studies and authors to prove biblical truths and challenge non-biblical hypotheses. From fossils and cavemen to radiometric dating and the structure of a gecko's feet, he logically demonstrates many fallacies in currently accepted thinking while laying out the veracity of scripture. Many topics are presented as questions, challenging readers to think and analyze the information.

Peterson, a former museum curator, Bible apologetics professor, and pastor, heaps credible sources and facts into *Unlocking the Mysteries of Creation*. He provides plenteous information, some highly scientific but usually in layman's language. Full color art and many sidebars add impact. Footnotes provide an extensive reference appendix along with an index, Recommended Resources, and Websites on Creation and Related Topics. This book is an invaluable addition to home, church and school libraries. Students and teachers will find it invaluable for research and reference; families will appreciate the content for home study and informational reading.

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

Miracles : do they still happen? why we still believe in them / Henry M. Morris. LCCN 2003116025. Green Forest, Ark. : Master Books, 2003.

PAP, 0890514135, list cost: \$9.99.
231.7/3. Miracles. 141 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.
Adult. Rating : 4.

What is a miracle? How do we recognize the difference between techno-magic and the real thing? *Miracles : Do They Still Happen?* by Henry M. Morris addresses these questions from the scientific viewpoint. Using the Laws of Thermodynamics as his foundation, "conservation of quantity" and "decay of quality," begin to unfurl the mystery of the universal truths that have always persisted, and are being constantly discovered and exposed by scientists throughout each successive generation. Morris points out that, though much of the scientific world seems to have been on a mission to disprove the very existence of God, what they have done, instead, is to prove beyond doubt that, in order for any of the various creation theories to work, a single Creator is essential to each.

Henry M. Morris, a scientific creationist, is president of the Institute for Creation Research. He has hosted numerous radio shows and debates, and written a plethora of books and articles for both children and adults on the

subject. Although *Miracles* is short, there is no wasted space in this meaty, scripture laden reminder that everything begins and ends with God. Bibliography for further reading, index of subjects, and index of scriptures included. Recommended for study groups and readers searching for a scientific approach to finding out the truth about their Creator.

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

Is the big bang biblical? / with John Morris. LCCN 2002116472. Green Forest, Ark. : Master Books, 2003.

PAP, 0890513910, list cost: \$12.99.
231.7/652. biblical cosmology; Big bang theory; Creation—biblical teaching. 215 p. ; 22 cm.
Adult (Grades 7-12). Rating : 4.

Is the Big Bang biblical? is a collection of Dr. Morris' columns previously published in the Institute for Creation Research newsletter Acts & Facts. Dr. Morris answers such questions as "Did Jonah really get swallowed by a whale?" and "Does science conflict with the Bible?" As President of the Institute for Creation Research, you can be sure that his answers come from a conservative Christian and biblical point of view. The book is informative and contains many discussion points in the short two-page articles. This book could be used as a reference book or book for personal reading, but it could also be used as discussion starters with middle school or above Sunday School classes or study groups.

Jane Mouttet, BA. Missionary School Librarian, Mesilla Park, New Mexico.

The unfinished soul : happening upon Jesus in the happenstance of life / Calvin Miller. LCCN 2004304260. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2004.

HBB, 0805431837, list cost: \$14.99.
232. Jesus Christ—Meditations; Christian life. 181 p. ; 23cm.
Adult. Rating : 4.

Popular author Calvin Miller offers *The Unfinished Soul : Happening Upon Jesus in the Happenstance of Life*. He declares his "best education came informally wrapped in band-aids." Further, regarding helpful truths, "...I never sat to learn...I always collided with them." With wit and compassion, Miller shares defining moments.

A wide range of topics include Christian loyalty, hypocrisy, faith, sexual sanity, parables for Postmoderns, and focusing on Jesus. Writing forms include poetry, parables, letters, and stories. Each vignette ends with pertinent quotes, especially from the Bible. Other sources include *Publilius Syrus*, the *Book of Common Prayer*, William Shakespeare, and Robert Browning.

Consider this book for anyone facing trials in life. (Of course, all of God's children permanently reside in that category!) Miller thinks about his life, and consoles the reader, "...every apparent tumble is a tutor whose lessons are free but never cheap." The author prods everyone to observe the "shaping of faithfulness in an unfinished soul."

The contents, plus the attractive cover, make *The Unfinished Soul* a good gift book. Further, the mood and atmosphere of *The Unfinished Soul* offer hope for fellow pilgrims who are struggling through life. The struggle is lessened by Calvin Miller's good dialogue, interesting reflections, and willingness to tackle sensitive topics. He is "powerless before a pan of brownies." And, he wishes mothers could be "more understanding" with the awakening sexuality of their sons.

Miller is professor of preaching at Beeson Divinity School, Samford University, in Birmingham, Alabama.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Volunteer, Church Children's Library, Dexter, Kentucky.

Rising above / Wayne Cordeiro. LCCN 2004015913. Ventura, Calif. : Regal Books, 2004.

HBB, 0 830736328, list cost: \$18.99.
248.4. Christian life—Meditations. 152 p. ; 23 cm.
Adult. Rating : 4.

There are various hard times each of us, as humans and Christians, face throughout our lives. Some of these are brief, and some seem to last forever. *Rising Above* by Wayne Cordeiro is a self-help book, written to remind the reader that God uses these struggles to strengthen and draw us into a closer relationship with Him. Although God cares deeply for His children, He does not spare them the trials and tests that prepare them for the real challenges in life. God is more interested in how we come through the challenges, whether "bitter or better," than in how many or how difficult they are. God uses the hard times to mold us into the vessels He desires us to become, to prove our characters, and to remind us of our never-ending need for Him.

Cordeiro encourages the reader to stay true in relationship with God, rather than compromising to the world's standards of success. Don't allow Satan steal your joy. Don't give up the good fight. And remember that you are never alone, because God is always with you. This is an uplifting and encouraging reminder for more mature Christians, as well as a good pep-talk for new Christians, heartening them to stay the course. Wayne Cordeiro is the senior pastor at New Hope Christian Fellowship, Hawaii, and president of New Hope International. Recommended as self-help motivator for both individuals and study groups.

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

Toxic relationships and how to change them : health and holiness in everyday life / Clinton W. McLemore. LCCN 2003008454. San Francisco : Jossey-Bass, 2003.

HBB, 0787968773, list cost: \$19.95.

248.4. Interpersonal relations—Religious aspects—Christianity. xvi, 286 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Mental health is a part of everyday life with sometimes hidden rules for healthy associations. Dr. Clinton McLemore, as a full-time psychology and seminary faculty, has compiled an excellent guide, *Toxic Relationships and How to Change Them*, to navigate what God has planned for us in terms of conventional relations. Negative behaviors are divided into eight basic toxic categories: controlling, drifting, intruding, freeloading, humiliating, scurrying, victimizing, and avoiding. Complicated concepts like that of aggression and dominance are explained in an understandable overview with information about the injurious tactics. Toxic sections unravel the mysteries of each behavior with biblical examples, psychological profiles, benefits of each personality type, payoffs, avoidances, moves, counter-moves, etc. The text covers the magical moments of healthy intimacy, spirituality, moral choices, self-assessment, antidotes, and loving strategies for more productive dealings with each other.

As a leading expert in interpersonal relationships, McLemore applies sound theology to increase interpersonal flexibility in a Christian's stance toward God. This is a preventative mental medicine book which will help Christians steer clear of the detrimental default modes in stressful situations. It concludes with chapters on the myths of behavior change and with nine solid strategies for "Getting Out of Your Own Way." Recommended reading list and index provided. Recommend for any pastor or Christian counselor and any lay person dealing with toxic relationships in his/her own life.

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

Grace points : growth and guidance in times of change / Jane Rubietta. LCCN 2003020591. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2004.

PAP, 0830819525, list cost: \$12.00.

248.4. Christian women—Prayer-books and devotions—English; Change—Prayer-books and devotions—English. 199 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

A frequent speaker at events around the county and author of *Quiet Places* (Bethany House), and *How to Keep the Pastor You Love* (IVP),

Rubietta encourages the reader to be still, reflect and grow from times of uncertainty. Her weaving of personal stories with biblical truth encourages the reader in a life of change, transition, or crisis. Rather than trying to flee from the changes, *Grace Points* is designed to be a tool to anchor us to God and to our soul. Readers will be struck by Rubietta's cogent observations about the transitions of life.

Incorporated into each chapter is an opening principle thought of stillness in the desert, and throughout each chapter are memory points to take note of what our heart is saying and what God's Spirit is whispering. Each chapter offers a wilderness response including a Scripture selection (usually a Psalm), a desert reading (usually from the Old Testament), and a traditional hymn. The sections lend themselves for use in personal reflection and meditation as well as in small groups.

Added to the religion collection in public libraries, the title serves both as a meditative and self-help resource. Pastors might consider making this readily available on congregation and parish resource shelves.

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

Sacred parenting : how raising children shapes our souls / Gary L. Thomas. LCCN 2003020213. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2004.

HBB, 0310247349, list cost: \$19.99.

248.8/45. Parenting—Religious aspects—Christianity; Parents—Religious life. 231 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

This is not your usual book on parenting. It is not a "how to" book showing how to discipline or how to raise perfect kids, etc. *Sacred Parenting* shows us how God uses parenting to change parents. Thomas states in chapter one that "the process of parenting is one of the most spiritually formative journeys a man and a woman can ever undertake." According to this perspective, the chapters have subtitles like this one for chapter two: "how raising children teaches us to deal with guilt." Chapter four discusses "how raising children teaches us to listen to God." Chapter six is subtitled, "how parenting confronts cowardice and builds courage." Other chapters deal with patience, sacrifice, control, fear, and more. Throughout the book Thomas examines these various aspects of parenting and uses personal stories and historical anecdotes to demonstrate the concept of "sacred parenting."

I found the author's perspective on parenting to be helpful and insightful. The writing style is readable, the personal stories and historical anecdotes interesting. Gary Thomas has written other books with premises similar to this one. For example, his book *Sacred Marriage* asks the question, "What if God designed marriage to

make us holy more than to make us happy?" Thomas' book entitled *Authentic Faith* won the Gold Medallion Award. Thomas is the founder and director of the Center for Evangelical Spirituality in Washington State.

David Rainey, Senior Bibliographer, State Library of Louisiana, Baton Rouge.

Fierce goodbye : living in the shadow of suicide / by G. Lloyd Carr ; with poetry by Gwendolyn C. Carr. LCCN 2003023012. Scottsdale, Pa. : Herald Press, 2004.

PAP, 0836192672, list cost: \$10.99.

248.8/66. Suicide victims—Family relationships—Case studies; Suicide—Case studies; Suicide—Religious aspects—Christianity. 167 p. : col. ill. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

What does the Bible say about suicide? A topic not often embraced because "Christians don't commit suicide," *Fierce Goodbye* takes the reader on a personal and scriptural journey through the Christian issues of suicide. It is an assemblage of Lloyd Carr's scholarly religious survey and of Gwen Carr's private grief poetry. This collaboration of theologian and poet provides a valuable tool for families trying to unravel the mysteries of these suicide circumstances. As survivors left with the emotional aftermath of the violent death of their daughter-in-law, the Carrs share how they reconnected with the world and turned their pain into a ministry for others.

From Old Testament heroes like Samson and Saul to historical holiness thought like that of St. Thomas Aquinas, this Christian deliberation of suicide is thorough. Poems reminiscent of suicidal depression: "To die this once, will bring release, from smaller deaths, that never cease, nor ever bring deliverance," reveal a heartfelt dilemma for the Christian. They communicate their anger, guilt, and grief while providing solid guidance for those who worry about the eternal fate of a lost loved one. Their combined effort provides a steadfast and understandable summary of the Christian perspective on a complicated life crisis.

A video documentary with the same title was also produced and there are color photographs and references to this project in the book. There are chapter notes, a thirty page appendix with scholarly references, and a "Further Reading" bibliography at the end of the book. There is an index to the text and an index to all biblical references. This book is penetrating, poignant, and useful for pastors, counselors, teachers and any Christian who has come through, with God's gracious love, as a suicide survivor. Comprehensive and concise, it is highly recommended.

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

The ten commandments of working in a hostile environment / T.D. Jakes. LCCN 2004059551. New York : Berkley Books, 2005.

HBB, 0425200167, list cost: \$14.95.

248.8/8. Employees—Religious life; Work—Religious aspects—Christianity. 216 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Readers who are dealing with an abusive boss, gossiping coworkers, demanding deadlines, office politics, frayed nerves, the boredom of unfulfilling work, or our values clashing with those around us will find invaluable, timeless advice here. Jakes offers observations and insights built around ten principles drawn from God's Word concerning how we as God's children should think about, learn from, and live our His presence in our places of employment.

These ten principles are called ten commandments because they are similar in their purpose. Jakes hopes, and succeeds in many helpful ways, to show readers realistic ways and a mindset of how to be less afraid and more content, less concerned with job satisfaction and more centered on joyful expectancy regarding what God wants us to do on the job. These ten principles become manna for the reader's journey, nourishment and refreshment.

Recommended for all public libraries in adult collections for self-help, job growth, and career and life improvement. This titles compliments Jakes earlier work, *Maximize The Moment* (Berkley, 2001) perfectly. Church libraries and special libraries offering titles for motivation, inspiration, and restoration would do well to have this title—it transcends cultural and denominational barriers.

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

*

Finding our way home : addictions and divine love / K. Killian Noe. LCCN 2003019792. Scottsdale, Pa. : Herald Press, 2003.

PAP, 0836192621, list cost: \$10.99.

259/.429. Samaritan Inns; Church work with alcoholics—Washington (D.C.); Church work with narcotic addicts—Washington (D.C.); Church work with the homeless—Washington (D.C.). 88 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : *5.

Finding Our Way Home: Addictions and Divine Love by K. Killian Noe emerges from a deep spiritual love for the not-so-beautiful-people in our culture. Ms. Noe, along with David Erickson, co-founder and president of Samaritan Inns, Inc., and a host of godly benefactors, formed a three phase program designed to nurture the homeless and addicts back to everlasting health and hope. Their deep commitment, based on the biblical tale of "The Good Samaritan" (Luke 10: 33-37), has led to the development of Samaritan Inns in

Washington, D.C., New Creation Community, and "Recovery Café" to aide in the recovery and continued care of the homeless, addicts, and their families. In this short, yet comprehensive book, Noe gently reminds the reader of the need we all harbor for community, safety, security, and acceptance of our "real" selves. Noe shows a heart for the homeless and addicted that is rarely seen in today's society, and without being didactic, conveys the need for each of us to get and stay involved in sharing our unique, God-given gifts with others. True vignettes about members of the community add authenticity. Noe presents key ways to identify needs, the power of prayer, and the healing of communities working together toward life in Jesus.

K. Killian Noe has been named one of Yale Divinity School's Distinguished Alumni. She and David Erickson founded Samaritan Inns in 1985, and have worked together toward meeting the growing and changing needs of the community, as the Lord directs. Highly recommended for those with a heart for the hurting, as well as those who have addicts in their families.

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

The religions next door : what we need to know about Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam—and what reporters are missing / Marvin Olasky. LCCN 2004295442. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2004.

PAP, 0805431438, list cost: \$14.99.

261.2. Christianity and other religions; Judaism; Hinduism; Buddhism; Islam. 245 p. ; 22cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

A comparative religion text, *The Religions Next Door* carries through with the explanation given on the front cover: what we need to know about Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam—and what reporters are missing. The plan of this book is simple. The introduction explains the stance of the journalist author. Next, each religion is discussed in two chapters; one to emphasize belief and practices; and a second to look at crucial points, such as history, social/theological components, personal living, and politics. The last two chapters discuss good and bad examples of U.S. press coverage of contemporary actions within these religions.

Professor of journalism, prolific author and syndicated columnist, raised in Judaism, accepting Christ in his twenties, Marvin Olasky uses his background, personal interviews, and extensive research to enrich *The Religions Next Door*. Primarily a discussion of these religions, Olasky continually brings in relevant scripture and Christian truth. Each section contains a time-line and glossary of terms germane to the religion. Combining echoes of newspaper journalism and a teacher's innate sense of the

students need, this book holds the readers interest throughout.

Useful for Christians honestly seeking to help their non-Christian neighbor, as well as a valuable reference, *The Religions Next Door* is recommended for both lay persons and clerics. Written for adults, high schoolers will also find this book valuable.

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

Understand my Muslim people : by a former Muslim / Abraham Sarker. Newberg, Ore. : Barclay Press, 2004.

PAP, 1594980020, list cost: \$18.00.

261.2. Islam; Christianity and other religions—Islam; Islam—Relations—Christianity. 286 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Dr. Sarker was born and raised a Muslim in Bangladesh, and the disciple of his village's spiritual leader. He came to America to spread the message of Islam and in the journey became a Christian. He serves as an adjunct professor and with his wife, Annie, founded a ministry to bring the Gospel to Muslims. He shares his story, then provides a clear description of the history, beliefs, and practices of Islam. Sarker offers the reader a better understanding of the Muslim mind-set and offers practical strategies Christians can use to engage in productive dialogue with Muslims.

This is important reading for anyone trying to understand and reach Muslim friends. The book's organization and development follow a logical pattern and make for ease of reading. Three sections dealing with Islamic beliefs and four with Islamic practices are especially helpful and enlightening. This titles complements *The Crisis of Islam* by Bernard Lewis (Modern Library, 2003).

Recommended for public library world religion and contemporary events collections. History teachers might consider offering this as reading material for their high school honor students, and college teachers to address questions, concerns, and misunderstandings surrounding Islam.

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

Muslims next door / Shirin Taber. LCCN 2004008351. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2004.

PAP, 0310255643, list cost: \$9.99.

261.2. Islam; Missions to Muslims—United States. 137 p. ; 21 cm.

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

Muslims Next Door is a small group guide with a large ambition. Taking a positive approach, Shirin Taber avoids delving into 100s of years of Muslim animosity towards the West and instead takes the distinct perspective of guiding Christians through points of commonality.

Taber comes from a multicultural background and has lived in Iran, France, and Turkey, and now in the United States. She shares stories of her experiences as well as from interviews with other Muslims. Being raised in a Catholic-Muslim home, Taber is uniquely positioned to provide an insider's point of view on statistical distributions of Muslims with their economic implications for Americans, Islamic religious questions, and cultural traditions involved in establishing friendships that could point towards Christ. After 9-11, public fear and hate crimes against Arab-Americans increased in the United States by 1,700 percent according to Newsweek. Her sincerity is evident when she says, "I want to encourage my readers to identify with their Muslim neighbors in a way that reveals the love and compassion of Christ."

This text is non-threatening and uses parallels between United States and other parts of the world as we all look at the need to treat "good" Muslims with respect. Just as there are Christian fanatics that take Christ's teaching for their own gain, Taber encourages readers to see the difference between radicals of Islam and their valuable American Muslim neighbor living next door. Each chapter contains questions for reflection to use in group discussions. The book also contains a glossary of Islamic terms. Recommended for any American who understands that the love of Christ is not just for a chosen few, but for his diverse creation; teachers, lay and religious leaders of all denominations.

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

*

1001 ways to introduce your child to the Bible / Kathie Reimer. LCCN 2002284625. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2002.

PAP, 080543836X, list cost: \$14.99.
268/.432. Bible—Study and teaching; Bible—Problems, exercises, etc.. 316 p. ; 23 cm.
Adult. Rating : *5.

When Kathie Reimer speaks of introducing children to the Bible, she helps boys and girls learn all of God's word. In *1001 Ways to Introduce Your Child to the Bible*, Reimer offers suggestions from Genesis to Revelation. Each section describes the book, the people, the places, and lessons to be learned.

Devotional thoughts for parents and teachers highlight practical applications for today. In fact, the devotions are well worth the cost of the book. Consider all the other wonderful material merely as a bonus!

Interesting names for activities suggest learning the Bible will be fun. Whee! Wheels! is a spinning experiment from Ezekiel. Children will enjoy Get Down from That Tower, a building project from Obadiah. The author

describes Be Friends as "a sticky situation" from I Corinthians. Run the Race is a family relay from Hebrews.

I liked the format of each activity. A short introduction answers these questions: What do I need? How long will it take? What age child? Will it work in a group? Can it be played in a car? Will it work in a school classroom? Tips from the author prod would-be teachers in the right direction. Reimer writes, "Regardless of the specifics of how you teach, you will be on your way to training a little Bible scholar and helping to indelibly shape his life for time and eternity!" She's right. Introduce the children in your life to the greatest book of all—the Bible.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Volunteer, Church Children's Library, Dexter, Kentucky.

*

The encyclopedia of Bible games for children's ministry / . LCCN 2004010539. Loveland, Colo. : Group Publishing, 2005.

PAP, 0764426966, list cost: \$24.99.
268/.432. Games in Christian education; Church work with children; Bible games and puzzles. 270 p. ; 23 cm.
Adult. Rating : *5.

Vicki L. O. Witte and Mikal Keefer believe games reinforce Bible truths, build relationships, and encourage children to enjoy church. *The Encyclopedia of Bible Games for Children's Ministry* contains noncompetitive games "...for any occasion...any energy level...and nearly any Bible story."

The editors and contributing authors offer icebreaker games, holiday games, group-builder games, and travel games. Teachers will love "10 Total Silence Games to play when kids want to play—and you need a break." On a boisterous note, the Wild 'n' Wacky section includes Mummy Wrestling, Indoor Olympics, Building the House, and Greased Pig.

I admired the Energy-Level Index. Leaders can quickly select a game with low-energy, medium-energy, or high-energy. A helpful Scripture index lists nearly 200 games from Genesis through I Peter. Psalms is represented with 14 games. Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and Amos each offer one appealing activity. John has 19 games. Count two games for Galatians, and seven for Philipians.

Don't worry about complicated supplies. Lists help you find the right items. Actually, several games mention, "none needed" in the supply list. Other activities require only a Bible. The games often use common items such as masking tape, paper, a flashlight, or a bucket.

If you work anyplace with children, consider this fantastic collection of activities. Take *The Encyclopedia of Bible Games* to Sunday School,

mission groups, day camps, and family trips. The book is sure to be used often.

Roberta Lou Jones, MDiv. Volunteer, Church Children's Library, Dexter, Kentucky.

Vision moments : creating lasting truths in the lives of your students / Bo Boshers and Keith Cote. (TruthQuest.) LCCN 2004300091. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2004.

PAP, 0805427252, list cost: \$9.99.
268/.433. Students—Religious life; Christian education of young people. xii, 147 p. ; 22 cm.
Adult. Rating : 3.

Vision Moments includes lessons designed to teach God's truth in creative, interactive, and fun ways. Boshers, with over twenty years of youth ministry experience, and Cote, trainer and consultant in leadership and organization development, bring their experience together to create small-group experiences. Through hands-on, experience-based learning, junior and senior high students discover how they can apply biblical truths to their everyday lives. The activities are best suited for groups of five to thirty students.

The seventeen vision moments are divided into five parts. Each part focuses on a key value of a prevailing student ministry: spiritual growth, community, commitment, evangelism, service. Each part opens with an overview and an assessment.

Some youth ministers will find the outline approach helpful and stimulating for telling stories that paint a practical picture for listeners. A particular strength is Scripture being the reference point for the experiences. Ministers are also challenged to have an authentic relationship with Christ.

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

Nature trails and Gospel tales : stories of grace from the wilds of Mississippi / Ernest Herndon. LCCN 2003026437. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2004.

HBB, 083083236X, list cost: \$12.
277.62/082. Nature—Religious aspects—Christianity—Meditations; Outdoor life—Mississippi. 94 p. ; 19 cm.
Adult. Rating : 5.

Nature Trails and Gospel Tales is a slim volume filled with the homespun wisdom of Ernest Herndon, outdoors and religion editor for a Mississippi newspaper. Herndon explains that the Bible is filled with nature writing, poetry, and adventure. So he combines his love of the outdoors with his love for God and His Word in thirteen short nature adventures, ones that will especially please the hunter and fisherman in our midst. These are stories of grace from the wilds of Mississippi and even readers that are

only armchair adventurers will delight in each chapter. These engaging stories with many Bible references will both entertain and uplift.

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

Why the rest hates the West : understanding the roots of global rage / Meic Pearse. LCCN 2004000439. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2004.

PAP, 0830832025, list cost: \$13.00.
303.48/21821. Christianity and culture; East and West. 188 p. ; 21 cm.
Adult. Rating : 3.

Author Meic Pearse, in *Why the Rest Hates the West*, attempts to show the vast division between Western culture and the rest of the world. According to Pearse, many of the assumptions of the civilization of the West are in direct opposition to and contradict the values, cultural and religious, of most other significant groups of people. That having been said, this is a very difficult book for the average layman to wade through. It is of a serious nature, written in an academic style and will most likely appeal to a select group of readers who will pick it up and continue through the entire book. Readers that do persevere will be rewarded by the last two chapters, *Observations in Passing?* and *Conclusions* which are "user friendly" and more easily digested than the previous parts of the book. This is a current and important topic, one that is valuable and of interest to many Christians, but *Why the Rest Hates the West* is not as accessible as one might hope when reading the title.

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

Your money : how to achieve financial freedom and reach your goals / Ralph Moore and Alan Tang. LCCN 2003019116. Ventura, Calif. : Regal Books, 2003.

PAP, 0830732691, list cost: \$9.99.
332.024. Finance, Personal—Religious aspects—Christianity. 143, [1] p. ; 22 cm.
Adult. Rating : 4.

Moore, pastor of a chapel in Hawaii and founder of a chapel in California, and Tang, a marketing consultant and certified financial counselor, team up to offer the reader ways to adjust one's perspective toward money and gain control over one's income and expenses.

Their practical suggestions enable the reader to be freed from external pressures that can manipulate spending habits. Their approach is grounded in the biblical view that we are called to live under God's blessing and as God's blessing in the lives of others. Their solution-oriented discussion offering ways to alter one's viewpoint (e.g. What is money anyway? Working for a new boss, Adjusting your work

mentality, and God's prosperity plan), and then transform habits regarding money.

Public library collections offering ideas to help people get out of their current debts—or even prevent debt before it begins—can add this with confidence. The biblical tools utilized in the discussion complements a biblical approach and strengthens tools for believers needing freedom from the worry of money. One advantage of this work is it combines what is covered in works such as *How to Manage Your Money Workbook* and *The Family Financial Workbook* (both by Moody Press, 2002).

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

Character under attack : & what you can do about it / by Carl Sommer. LCCN 2005008539. Houston : Advance Pub., 2005.

HBB, 1575373505, list cost: \$12.95.
370.11/4. Moral education—United States. 95 p. ; 20 cm.
Adult (Grades 8-12). Rating : 3.

Using his own publishing experiences as a springboard to discuss the lack of value-rich children's books in modern publishing, Carl Sommer, businessman, educator, and author of the Another Sommer-Time Story series of children's books, has written *Character Under Attack and What You Can Do About It* as an expose of the crisis of character facing America today.

What Sommer says will be familiar to readers already interested in the subject. His book is compact (a sturdily-bound, small-sized 5 x 7), succinct, and puts its message together well. Sommer, for instance, effectively shows how books that build character or teach traditional values are dismissed or discouraged by the major book review journals, while books that just as enthusiastically teach non-traditional values are encourage and lauded. Sources such as *Why Johnny Can't Tell Right From Wrong*, *The Humanist Manifesto*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and several columns by John Leo are used.

Character Under Attack is a bit heavy on Sommer's own (unfavorable) experiences getting reviews for his company's books, and he doesn't always provide attribution for the statements he makes. Also, he once claims the same quote for both Teddy and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. But for the most part the book is a slickly-written volume that is clearly articulated.

Sommer closes by offering four ways the United States, and its schools in particular, can counteract a decline in values: return to a culture of discipline (with zero tolerance for misbehavior), impose educational standards for each grade (eliminating social promotion), create race-neutral learning environments where

all children can reach their potential, and reject today's culture of moral relativism. While these solutions may be more hopeful than realistic, and Sommer himself admits implementing such programs will be difficult, he does give examples of schools who've successfully implemented them.

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

Children's book corner : a read-aloud resource with tips, techniques, and plans for teachers, librarians, and parents, grades 1 and 2 / Judy Bradbury ; photographs by Gene Bradbury. LCCN 2005273085. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2004.

PAP, 1591580471, list cost: \$32.00.
372.45/2. Oral reading; Reading (Early childhood); dren—Books and reading; Book selection. 245 p. : ill. ; 28 cm.
Adult. Rating : 4.

Bradbury, author of a children's math series *Christopher Counts* (McGraw Hill/Learning Triangle Press) and with twenty plus years of experience teaching public school, focuses on her love of promoting reading. This resource book contains over fifty read-aloud plans for outstanding books to read with children in first and second grades. Related titles are highlighted relating to each of these plans.

Youth librarians will find this of particular help as it offers Tips and Techniques and an extensive Book Notes section that lists hundreds of titles by subject with a brief summary of each. A subject index, title index, author index, and illustrator index provide additional helpful ways to locate needed books for particular events or plans.

School librarians can make this title available for teachers of grades 1 and 2. Public libraries can use it in their children's programming as well provide access for parents to get ideas for reading aloud to children. Those having *Read-Alouds with Young Children* by Robin Campbell (International Reading Association, 2001) or *Guided Reading* by Irene Fountas (Heinemann, 1991) will find this title a marvelous updated complimentary resource.

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

The Pony Express : a photographic history / Bill and Jan Moeller. LCCN 2002154001. Missoula, Mont. : Mountain Press, 2002.

PAP, 0878424709, list cost: \$22.00.
383/.143/0973. Pony express—History—Pictorial works; Postal service—United States—History—Pictorial works; Stagecoach stations—West (U.S.)—History—Pictorial works. xi, 170 p. : col. ill., maps ; 23 cm.
Grades 6-9. Rating : 4.

Bill and Jan Moeller have combined lavish color photos with carefully-researched text to produce *The Pony Express: a Photographic History*. The book opens with a ten page introduction to the Pony Express, then breaks down, on a state-by-state basis, the stories of each station, its agent, the riders, and any significant adventures they had. Landmarks along the route (Chimney Rock; Scott's Bluff; Church Buttes) are included, with their significance explained. Information is also given on why the Pony Express ceased its service, including data on how much money a successful run could have made, contrasted with how much money the best run actually did make.

Photos make up the bulk of *The Pony Express*, giving it a coffee-table-book look, but the text is highly informative, and detailed enough to be used for a school report. Although few primary sources about the Pony Express are available, the Moellers have carefully sifted through what does exist to provide the most accurate information possible. (An appendix further recounts conflicting versions of several stories). Most of the photos, naturally enough, show the station sites as they look today, but the Moellers include sites where ruins exist, or where reconstructions have been made.

Other nice features of the book: a map of the Pony Express route, a listing of sites the reader can visit or write to to find more information, and a list of all probable stations.

A lively writing style interspersed with interesting facts make *The Pony Express* suitable for older grammar school children as well as adults. Facts are presented delicately, also making the text suitable for child readers. Note, however, that a story is told of a station employee who, seriously wounded in an Indian attack, committed suicide by shooting himself in the head.

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

Ancient scrolls / Michael Avi-Yonah. LCCN 75305572. St. Louis, Mo. : Palphot, reprint of 1973 ed. by Cassell, London.

PAP, 9652801194, list cost: \$9.99.
417/.7. Manuscripts—History; Writing—History; Archaeology. 80 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 7-12. Rating : 4.

If you've ever been asked "How do we know the Bible is true?" *Ancient Scrolls* is a book to have on hand. Showing how earliest written communication has survived via stone, wood, wax tablets, ostraca and papyrus, Michael Avi-Yonah outlines the methods of written communication in ancient times. Interweaving his scholarly approach are illustrations of how extra-biblical accounts of events and facts reinforce its truth. Written in an engaging, interesting manner, the book combines biblical history with archeological artifacts. Not content with just describing archeological finds, Avi-

Yonah details why some types of writing survived and what their meaning is in the broader context of history. Giving due credit to later cultures as well, he describes the survival methods of Greek, Byzantine, and Latin communication, as well as the Dead Sea Scrolls. An excellent index accompanies an adequate bibliography, pointing the serious student to further resources. Beautifully clear well-captioned photographs whet the appetite of those with an interest in the history of man's written communication.

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

The Facts on File dictionary of space technology / Joseph A. Angelo, Jr. LCCN 2003049148. New York : Facts on File, 2004.

HBB, 0816052220, list cost: \$49.50.
629.4/03. Astronautics—Dictionaries. 474 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 9-Adult. Rating : 4.

This revised edition of the earlier 1999 work presents the basic concepts of space technology, its underlying scientific principles, and the technical characteristics that have (or will) be involved in humankind's space missions. The 1,500 cross-referenced entries provide concise definitions and make available nearly every word, concept, and event relating to this branch of science, e.g. abort modes, ballistic missile defense, milstar, robotics.

In addition to 75 line drawings and photographs, the dictionary includes appendixes of International System Units and their equivalents, and a listing of Web sites devoted to selected space organization home pages and space missions.

High school, public, and academic libraries can offer for a comprehensive quick reference tool for those interested in space exploration.

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

The book of fire / William H. Cottrell, Jr. LCCN 2003020773. Missoula, Mont. : Mountain Press, 2004.

PAP, 0878424911, list cost: \$14.00.
634.9/618. Forest fires; Fire. vi, 73 p. : col. ill. ; 23 cm.
Grades 6-9. Rating : 3.

The Book of Fire by William H. Cottrell, Jr. introduces nonscientists to the science of fire. This liberally-illustrated volume covers such topics as how twigs catch fire, how forests burn, and how fire is used to control landscapes. Helpful features include a four page fire glossary, a list of recommended books and internet sites, and a picture diagram of how a campfire burns.

The foreword labels *The Book of Fire* a picture book rather than a word book, and that's basically true. Short paragraphs accompany many colorful diagrams, which clearly show the parts of a fire, how fires spread, how winds effect fires, etc. However, although the book can be a good tool to explain fire basics to older elementary school children, it's not as easy to understand as its picture book look might imply. The text contains many scientific terms and the explanations sometimes seem more geared to the scientist than the layperson. A reader will get a grasp of the chemistry of fire, why fire looks the way it does, and how it works, but the knowledge only comes with a careful reading of the text, and younger readers or reluctant readers might be frustrated.

On the other hand, the illustrations are a definite plus, especially where the text is complex. The book is especially clear in describing the aftermath of a fire, providing fascinating details of how scientists determine a fire's ferocity, whether the trees which burned were already dead, etc.

School libraries will probably get good use out of *The Book of Fire* since it tackles a subject that interests most children. Many of the text-and-illustration sequences will spur science project ideas, and the book as a whole will give readers at least some insight into the workings of fire and the destruction it can cause.

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

A chicken's guide to talking turkey with your kids about sex / Kevin Leman, Kathy Flores Bell. LCCN 2003023109. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2004.

HB, 031025096X, list cost: \$16.99.
649/.65. Sex instruction; Puberty; Sexual ethics; Parenting. 214 p. ; 22 cm.
Adult. Rating : 5.

Many parents feel uncomfortable talking about sex with their children. Christian parents particularly struggle with how to place a Christian perspective on sex in a culture that celebrates individuality over values. Parents who made poor choices in their own teen years wonder just how much to tell their children, and when. Fortunately, *A Chicken's Guide to Talking Turkey With Your Kids About Sex* offers positive steps for all parents, not just Christians, to talk to their children in a way that is meaningful for the children and parents alike.

Eschewing broad generalizations, this new book by master communicator Kevin Leman and sexuality expert Kathy Flores Bell gives practical advice about the language to use, when to start, how to address awkward topics and how to encourage children to embrace God's design for sex. They get right down to the basics such as understanding and confronting the roots of peer pressure and kitchen table sex-ed. Dividing the body into zones, they show parents how to

teach a child how and why to take care of his or her body. Culminating in a discussion about preparing your child to choose abstinence until marriage, this book is invaluable for the parent of a prepubescent child in today's culture. Two appendices give specific advice as to how to work with Sex-Ed teachers at school, and what to do if your child is already sexually active. Pages of notes, recommended resources and an index make this an excellent resource for parents.

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

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 cost: \$15.00.

813/.54. Brown, Dan, 1964- Da Vinci code; Mary Magdalene, Saint—In literature; Jesus Christ—In literature; Christian saints 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.*

A field guide to Narnia / Colin Duriez. LCCN 2004004355. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2004.

PAP, 0830832076, list cost: \$13.00.

823/.912. Lewis, C. S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963. Chronicles of Narnia; Children's stories, English—History and criticism; Christian fiction, English—History and criticism; Fantasy fiction, English—History and criticism; Narnia (Imaginary place). 240 p. : 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

Narnia enthusiasts, this book is like a tour of Aslan's country! It begins with an overview of the life and work of C.S. Lewis by featuring the creation of Narnia. The author then moves on to part two: All about the Chronicles of Narnia. Part three is an A-to-Z coverage of Narnian people, places, things and events ending with an appendix, a brief chronology of the life of C.S. Lewis.

Colin Duriez provides a passionate insight into the life of Lewis and his famed series, *The Chronicles of Narnia*. For those of us who have read and loved Lewis' creation, *A Field Guide to Narnia* gives greater understanding of the author and the books and, of course, makes you want to read them again! For the uninitiated, this book will certainly whet your appetite for *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, as well as the other six books in the series, no matter the age of the reader.

A Field Guide to Narnia is a must read whether you are on your first visit to Narnia or a return trip. Adults and young adults will both enjoy and profit from this guide to the landscape and inhabitants of Narnia.

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

Beyond surrender : one family's quest to bring light to a dark and desperate land / Barbara J. Singerman. LCCN 2003107111. Garland, Tex. : Hannibal Books, 2003.

PAP, 0929292693, list cost: \$12.95.

B or 266. Singerman, Barbara J.; Singerman, Jeff; Missionariens—Benin (Africa). 189 p. : 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

What does it mean to align one's life with His passion and purpose? Readers follow this story as told by Barbara highlighting the journey of her and husband Jeff and their three children, first in their ministry in Memphis, Tennessee, and then as missionaries among the Ayizo people of Benin in West Africa. They are Baptist missionaries serving with the International Mission Board.

Her story illustrates biblical and Christian principles as experiences and efforts are shared in their missionary endeavors. The reader comes to appreciate aspects of these African people not discussed in the media, and perspectives one can achieve only with passion and purpose. The story is frank: daily activities, good or bad, along with the trials and tribulations and joys that a missionary family faces as an overseas missionary. Those who have read *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder (Random House, 2003), or *Jungle Pilot* by Russel Hitt (Discovery House, 1997), or *A Chance to Die* by Elisabeth Elliot (Revell, 1987) will enjoy this current and detailed journey.

Church libraries can add this title for insights of missionary endeavor. Public libraries with an extensive collection on African peoples might include this title for additional views into the lives of some people of Africa. Religion collections in public libraries covering missionary outreach can add this title if any of the above mentioned titles are lacking.

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

*

Joel / Joel Sonnenberg ; with Gregg Lewis. LCCN 2004003206. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2004.

HBB, 0310246938, list cost: \$19.99.

B or 362.197/11/092. People with disabilities—Biography; Burns and scalds—Patients—Biography; Lewis, Gregg, 1951-. 214 p. : 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : *5.

At the tender age of two Joel was a victim of a horrendous car accident. Rescued from the family's burning car, he resembled more a lump of coal strapped to an infant car seat than he did the vibrant baby just minutes prior to the accident. This is his story of how Joel has the distinction of suffering, and surviving the most burns ever experienced by a human. In his words Joel tells of his battle of undergoing over forty corrective surgeries, and what it was like to undergo the adjustment of coming back to live disfigured in a world where people often harshly judge the outer person before getting to know the inner one. Those who have met Joel Sonnenberg are changed. His words alone will leave the reader changed. His story is incredible, and his faith is inspiring.

It is amazing enough to read of a person's accounting of surviving a horrific experience. That story becomes inspirational when the person relates how he or she overcame the circumstances and changed the lives of those around him or her. Anne Frank comes to mind. Joel Sonnenberg also is such a person. Joel's story is difficult to put down, not only because it is so gripping, but mainly because Joel is able to tell his story in such a conversational manner it

would be like leaving midway through a conversation with a good friend.

Joel has the ability to cross over from just being an autobiography to an introduction to a person you have just met and want to know even better. Joel has undergone tremendous pain to be victorious in the battle of physical trial. Spiritually he is warrior and a leader, both as an encourager and a role model of rising above circumstances and making the best, and bettering the situation. Joel has not given up, or given in. His story is one of survival and victory. He has earned numerous awards, lived life fully, gone on to college, and is now sought after speaker. His attitude is summed up in his closing line, "My story is different. It always has been. That's not gonna change. But it's okay. Because I'll still be me. Just Joel."

Pam Webb, BA. Freelance Writer, Sandpoint, Idaho.

Bryson City seasons : more tales of a doctor's practice in the Smoky Mountains / Walt Larimore. LCCN 2004012811. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2004.

HBB, 0310252873, list cost: \$18.99.

B or 610/.92. Larimore, Walter L.; Physicians—North Carolina—Bryson City—Biography; Medicine, Rural—North Carolina—Bryson City. 314 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

Larimore, a medical journalist since 1995, practiced family medicine for over twenty years. While he has written or cowritten a dozen books, including *Alternative Medicine*, and *10 Essentials of Highly Healthy People*, his earlier *Bryson City Tales* followed his experiences as a young doctor settling into rural medical practice. This sequel to that work offers more captivating stories that give meaning and challenge to small town events, customs, perspectives, and faith.

The unexpected risks and rewards of Larimore's journey enables the reader to appreciate the colorful characters found in a North Carolina mountain hamlet as well as feel stimulated with the heart-warming people, attitudes, and happenings that give vibrancy to small town life. Larimore's writing style makes one cover 30 pages and not find it's been an effort to do so. One will delight in the warm moments, e.g. after an interesting medical interaction, he concludes "That day I fell in love with my kids as never before." The reader not only believes it but leaves the pages inspired.

Public library collections offering story-telling accounts, glimpses into the people of rural America, or entertaining reading about people can add this without reservation.

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

- 1001 ways to introduce your child to the Bible 59
- A to zoo : subject access to children's picture books 52
- ABC math riddles 20
- ABC science riddles 20
- Abraham Lincoln 29
- Abram's daughters 46, 47
- Adair, Ron 13
- Advance 61
- Adventures of young Buffalo Bill 10
- Alaska Northwest Books 15
- Albert Whitman 3, 11
- Alfred A. Knopf 3, 19, 35
- Alicia's best friends 5
- Allen, Thomas B. 41
- Ambrosio, Michael 9
- America at war 40
- American anthem 46
- American transportation 23
- Amistad 5
- Amulet 31
- Anasazi legends : songs of the wind dancer 14
- Ancient scrolls 61
- Anderson, Marcella Fisher 9
- Angelo, Joseph A. 62
- Angels & all children : a nativity story in words, music, and art 18
- Arctic lights, Arctic nights 21
- Ardizzone, Edward 36
- Arizona 24
- Assignment 48
- Augsburg Books 56
- Augsburg Fortress 18
- Augustine : the farmer's boy of Tagaste 25
- Augustine to Freud : what theologians & psychologists tell us about human nature (and why it matters) 55
- Avi-Yonah, Michael 61
- Back roads to Bliss 45
- Balliett, Blue 30
- Barclay Press 59
- Barr, Catherine 52, 53
- Barrie, J. M. 9
- Barstow, Barbara 52
- Bay Light 6
- Baylor, Byrd 15
- Baynes, Pauline 17
- Becoming Beka 36
- Becoming Naomi León 12
- Bell, Kathy Flores 62
- Benchmark 18, 19, 24, 25, 39
- Benge, Geoff 39
- Benge, Janet 39
- Berger, Melvin 21
- Berkley Books 46
- Berkley Books 58
- Bernardin, James 15
- Bertrand, Diane Gonzales 2
- Best books for children 52
- Best books for children 51
- Best books for high school readers 52
- Best books for middle school/junior high readers 52
- Bethany House 46, 47, 48
- Bethlehem Books 31, 36
- Beverly Cleary 28
- Beyond a doubt 43
- Beyond picture books 52
- Beyond surrender : one family's quest to bring light to a dark and desperate land 63
- Bierhorst, John 15
- Big snow 4
- Bittersweet Bliss 45
- BJUP/JourneyForth 26, 30, 32, 34, 40
- Black as night : a fairy tale retold 31
- Bladholm, Cheri 25
- Blegvad, Erik 10
- Bluehorn, Harvey 20
- Bluedorn, Johannah 3
- Boa, Kenneth 55
- Bones in the basket : native stories of the origin of people 14
- Boo who 45
- Book of fire 62
- Bookworms : what's inside? 18, 19
- Bosher, Bo 60
- Bowman, John S. 40
- Boy who drew birds 27
- Boyd's Mills 9, 21, 32, 41
- Bradbury, Gene 61
- Bradbury, Judy 61
- Bredsdorff, Bodil 30
- Brennan-Nelson, Denise 19
- Bride of stone 49
- Broadman & Holman 3, 18, 44, 49, 55, 56, 57, 59, 60
- Brodart 54
- Brodeur, Thomas J. 30
- Broida, Marian 25
- Bruchac, Joseph 15
- Bryson City seasons : more tales of a doctor's practice in the Smoky Mountains 63
- Buffalo dreams 14
- Bull Run 31
- Bunn, T. Davis 43
- Bye bye, Bertie 44
- Cadence 46
- Cadnum, Michael 9
- Calm before the storm 44
- Cameron Townsend 39
- Candlewick Press 6, 23, 30, 39
- Cape Light novel 46
- Carlisle, Rodney P. 40
- Carlson, Melody 3, 18
- Carman, L. Kay 55
- Carr, G. Lloyd 58
- Carr, Gwendolyn C. 58
- Case of the monkeys that fell from the trees and other mysteries in tropical nature 21
- Cats in Krasinski Square 10
- Chana, Leonard F. 15
- Chapman, Lee 7
- Character under attack 61
- Chasing Vermeer 30
- Chicken's guide to talking turkey with your kids about sex 62
- Children's book corner : a read-aloud resource with tips, techniques, and plans for teachers, librarians, and parents, grades 1 and 2 61
- Children's catalog 51
- Chodos-Irvine, Margaret 3
- Christian heroes : then & now 39
- Christian writers' market guide 55
- Christmas promise 46
- Christopher Columbus : adventurer of faith and courage 28
- Cinco Puntos Press 15
- Claremont, Heather 6
- Clarion Books 27, 35, 41
- Clocks 39
- Coble, Colleen 43
- Cocca-Leffler, Maryann 3
- Collier, James Lincoln 39
- Coming on home soon 8
- Concordia 17, 26, 61
- Cook/Faith Kidz 13, 18
- Copeland, Greg 26
- Cordeiro, Wayne 57
- Corgiville Christmas 7
- Corner of the universe 34
- Cote, Keith 60
- Cotton gin 39
- Cottrell, William H. 62
- Courts, Randy 18
- Cox, Christine 15
- Coy, John 3
- Coyote & : native American folk tales 14
- Craats, Rennay 28
- Creation Resource Publications 56
- Crossings of promise 44
- Crow-girl 30
- Cuevas, Lou 14
- Cuyler, Margery 4
- Davies, Jacqueline 27
- Davis, Denna 18
- Davis, Rebecca 26
- Dear America 32, 33, 34
- Dekker, Ted 43
- Delacorte 12
- Derzipilski, Kathleen 24
- Desert storm--the first Persian Gulf War in American history 40
- Destiny, valor, and a lizard named Louie 9
- Dewhurst, Rick 44
- Diakit , Baba Wagu  19
- Dial 35
- DiCamillo, Kate 30
- Dick, Janice 44
- Dillon, Diane 19
- Dillon, Leo 19
- Doman, Regina 31
- Doner, Kim 14
- Donkey and the golden light 12
- Donovan, Jane Monroe 19
- Don't let the pigeon drive the bus 8
- Dorros, Arthur 31
- Doubleday 9, 10, 12
- Duet 44
- Duriez, Colin 63
- Dutton 10, 14
- E. B. White 28
- Easterville miracle 3
- Eerdmans Books for Young Readers 17
- Elementary school library collection 5
- Elixir 43
- Elkins, Stephen 18
- Ella Sarah gets dressed 3
- Elmer, Robert 44
- Encyclopedia of Bible games for children's ministry 60
- Enslow 27, 28, 40
- Eragon 35
- Ering, Timothy B. 30
- Everything bug : what kids really want to know about insects and spiders 22
- Explorers! 28
- Eye of the needle 14
- Eye of the storm 44
- Eyes and ears 22
- Fables 11
- Fabulous fluttering tropical butterflies 22
- Facts on File 40, 62
- Facts on File dictionary of space technology 62
- Faithgirlz 11
- Famous inventors 27
- Farrar Straus Giroux 6, 26, 30
- Field guide to Narnia 63
- Fierce goodbye : living in the shadow of suicide 58
- Fight on! : Mary Curch Terrell's battle for integration 41
- Finding our way home : addictions and divine love 58
- Finger, Charles Joseph 9
- Fisher, Carolyn 3
- Fleischman, Paul 31
- Fleming H. Revell 45, 49
- Flower hunter 26
- Flute player 14
- Flying over the USA: airplanes in American life 23
- Follow me : Peter lays down his net 1 7
- Ford, Carin T. 27
- Foreman, Michael 39
- Form of godliness 46
- Fradin, Dennis B. 41
- Fradin, Judith Bloom 41
- Frampton, David 31
- Fraustino, Lisa Rowe 32
- Freedman, Russell 27
- Fremont, Walter 32
- From biography to history 53
- Front Street 7
- Fruitlands : Louisa May Alcott made perfect 13
- Gammage Cup 10
- Gareth Stevens 22
- Gauthier, Corbert 38
- Gebauer, Roland 25
- George Mueller : a father to the fatherless 26
- George Washington, spymaster 41
- George, Elizabeth 38
- George, Jim 38
- Gerstein, Mordicai 27
- Gideon blows the trumpet 17
- Gillespie, John Thomas 51, 52
- Girl who swam with the fish 15
- Glover, Ruth 45
- God bless the child 5
- God's handmaiden 47
- Good ideas from questionable Christians and outright pagans 55
- Gordon, Sharon 18, 19
- Gordon, Sharon 18
- Gospel code 62
- Goyer, Tricia 45
- Grace points : growth and guidance in times of change 58
- Grandmother Spider brings the sun : a Cherokee story 15

INDEX

Great adventurers of the twentieth century	40	Ingpen, Robert	9	Lima, Carolyn W.	52	My pal, Victor	2
Great inventions	39	Ingwerson, Faith	30	Lima, John A.	52	My teacher likes to say	19
Great serum race	23	Inheritance Publications	17, 25, 33	Lindquist, N. J.	47	Myers, Bill	47
Greatest Bible stories ever told	18	Inside look	22	Linnet Books	15	Myers, Christopher	24
Greek alphabetarian	20	InterVarsity Press	55, 58, 60, 62, 63	LionX Publishing	9	Myers, Walter Dean	24
Greenwillow	4	Into the deep	43	Living history library	36	National Geographic	29, 41
Group Publishing	60	Invention of the telegraph and telephone	40	Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster boy	35	Nature trails and gospel tales	60
Guide to reference...zoological sciences	53	Iraq War	40	Lobel, Arnold	11	Naturegraph Publishers	14
Gutteridge, Rene	45	Is the big bang biblical?	57	Locker, Thomas	15	NavPress	49
H.W. Wilson	51	It's my state!	24	London, Jonathan	15	Neal-Schuman	53
Hader, Berta	4	Jahn-Clough, Lisa	5	Look to the hills : the diary of Lozette Moreau, a French slave girl	3	Neal-Schuman Guide to Recommended Children's Books and Media for use with Every Elementary Subject	53
Hader, Elmer	4	Jakes, T. D.	58	Lowe, Joy L.	53	Nest of sparrows	48
Hamilton, Virginia	19	James, Will	33	Lundy, Charlotte	6	New Leaf/Master Books	56, 57
Handforth, Thomas	10	Janezcko, Paul B.	23	Maier, Paul L.	26	Night song : a story of sacrifice : a novel	45
Hands-on history	25	Jazy Miz Mozetta	6	Man who walked between the towers	27	Nine animals and the well	6
Hannibal Books	63	Jelinek, Lucy	14	Manziuk and Ryan mystery	47	Noe, K. Killian	58
Harcourt	3, 10, 15	Jenkins, Steve	20	Mariposa Pub.	14	North Dakota	24
Hard times for Jake Smith	32	Jenna's Creek novels	48	Marshall Cavendish	5, 6, 7, 12, 15, 32, 36	Northland	14, 15
Hardy, Leanne	4	Jeram, Anita	6	Martin Luther : a man who changed the world	26	NorthWord	22
Harlem : a poem	24	Joe LaFlam mystery	44	Martin, Ann M.	34	Obsessed	43
Harlin, Greg	29	Joel	63	Martin, Jannelle	20	O'Connor, Tim	18
Harness, Cheryl	29, 41	Johnson, Shane	46	Matthew, Kathryn I.	53	Olasky, Marvin	59
HarperCollins	4, 5, 10, 11, 13, 21, 22, 24, 29, 31	Jossey-Bass	57	McArthur, Debra	40	Old Testament today : a journey from original meaning to contemporary significance	56
Harry N. Abrams	12, 24, 31	Journal of Brian Doyle	35	McBratney, Sam	6	Olsen, Mark Andrew	48
Hart, Joyce	24	Jubb, Kendahl Jan	22	McCormick, Anita Louise	40	On the trail made of dawn : Native American creation stories	15
Harvest House	38	Kansas	24	McCusker, Paul	47	One sky above us	10
Hayes, Joe	14	Keams, Geri	15	McDaniel, Deanna.	53	Orchard Books	9
Haywood, Jennifer Johnson	20	Kehret, Peg	10	McDermott, Gerald	15	Our wild world	22
Hear my sorrow : the diary of Angela Denoto, a shirtwaist worker	33	Kendall, Carol	10	McGowan, Tom	40	Out of the storm	44
Hello sunshine, good night moonlight	2	Kerley, Barbara	28	McKissack, Pat	34	Oxford	23
Helquist, Brett	30	Keystone Stables	33	McLemore, Clinton W.	57	Page, Robin	20
Henderson, Aileen Kilgore	32	Kids' FAQs series	22	Mei Li	10	Palphot	61
Henkes, Kevin	4	KidsCan	37	Meltzer, Milton	39	Paolini, Christopher	35
Herald Press	44, 58	Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody	10	Messenger	49	Parable praise party	18
Herman, Kathy	46	King, David C.	24	Middle-school catalog	51	Parker, Robert Andrew	15
Hermes, Patricia	32	Kinkade, Thomas	46	Milkweed Editions	32	Pascoe, Elaine	17
Herndon, Ernest	60	Kitten's first full moon	4	Mill house	47	Passage	36
Herzog, Arthur, Jr.	5	Knuffle Bunny	8	Millbrook Press	15, 27	Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw	22
Hess, Debra	24	Kops, Deborah	17	Miller, Calvin	57	Paul Revere's midnight ride	29
Hesse, Karen	10	Koralek, Jenny	17	Miller, Debbie S.	21, 23	Pearse, Meic	60
High, Linda Oatman	32	Kraft, Betsy Harvey	41	Milne, A.A.	34	Peck, Richard	35
High-school catalog	51	Kregel Kidzone	4, 25	Miracles : do they still happen? why we still believe in them	56	Peel Productions	20
Hill, Andrew E.	56	Krensky, Stephen	29	Moeller, Bill	61	Pelton, Mindy L.	11
Hillenbrand, Will	4	Kroll, Steven	5	Moeller, Jan	61	Penguin Children's Books	8, 10, 14, 15, 35
History maker bios	29	Lacapa, Michael	14	Molzahn, Arlene Bourgeois	28	Penguin/Berkley Books	46
Hoff, B.J.	46	Ladwig, Tim	18	Moody Publishers	36, 45	Pennsylvania	24
Holiday, Billie	5	Langan, Bob	9	Moore, Ralph	60	People could fly	19
Holzer, Harold	41	LaReau, Jenna	23	Morpurgo, Michael	34, 39	Peter Pan and Wendy	9
Homa, Linda L.	54	Larimore, Walter L.	63	Morris, Gilbert	47	Petersen, Dennis R.	56
Honoré, Paul	9	Lass	25	Morris, Henry M.	56	Phillips, Michael R.	48
Hopkins, Mary Rice	18	Lazarus trap	43	Morris, John D.	57	Philomel Books	15
Hopkinson, Deborah.	33	Le Barre, Matt	11	Morrison, Frank	6	Pierce, Chonda	11
Houghton Mifflin	5, 6, 20, 27	Legg, Gerald	22	Morse, Jennifer	17	Pierce, David	11
Hound heaven	32	Lehman, Barbara	5	Moses basket	17	Pijoan, Teresa	15
How to help your hurting friend : clear guidance for messy problems	38	Leman, Kevin	62	Mott Media	28	Pinkney, Jerry	5
Howard	36	Lerner Publications	29	Mountain Press	62	Pinkwater, Daniel	6
Hu, Ying-Hwa	24	Let's-read-and-find-out Stage 2	21	Mountain Press	33, 42, 61	Pinkwater, Jill	6
Hubler, Marsha	33	Levin, Freddie	20	Mr. Tanen's tie trouble	3	Please say please! : Penguin's guide to manners	4
Hulst, W. G. van de	33	Lewin, Ted	21	Multnomah	46	Pony Express	61
Hunterman and the crocodile	19	Lewis, Beverly	46, 47	Murphy, Jim	35	Porfirio, Guy	23
Hyperion	8	Lewis, E. B.	8	Muslims next door	59	President is shot!	41
I walk in dread : the diary of Deliverance Trembley, witness to the Salem witch trials	32	Lewis, Gregg	63	My favorite writer	28	Price, Anne	51
In American history	40	Libby, Larry	38	My name is America	35		
		Libraries Unlimited	51, 52, 53, 61				
		Libraries Unlimited professional guides for young adult librarians.	55				
		Life support	49				

- Printing press 39
- Private Peaceful 34
- Prodigal 47
- Projects about colonial life 25
- Projects about Indians of the southwest 25
- Projects about plantation life 25
- Projects about the plains Indians 25
- Projects about westward expansion 25
- Pueblo Indian wisdom : Native American legends and mythology 15
- Putnam 8
- Quinlan, Susan E. 21
- Rambunctious rattler 32
- Raney, Deborah 48
- Rappaport, Doreen 24
- Raven : a trickster tale from the Pacific Northwest 15
- Raven Tree Press 2
- Ray, Deborah Kogan 26
- Razzamadaddy 7
- Reaching out to religious youth 55
- Reagan, Susan 3, 18
- Really, truly, everything's fine 36
- Red book 5
- Red house mystery 34
- Redman, Beth 39
- Reed, Mike 5
- Reference sources in science and technology series 53
- Regal Books 39, 57, 60
- Regina Silsby's secret war 30
- Reich, Carol S. 55
- Reimer, Kathie 59
- Religions next door 59
- Renner, Michelle 15
- Rescue in the Mayan jungle 13
- Revolutionary War and George Washington's army 40
- Rhodes, Bennie 28
- Rice, Craig D. 56
- Riggle, Judith 52
- Rijswijk, Cor van 17
- Ring, Susan 28
- Rising above 57
- Roaring Brook Press 27
- Robert Fulton : the steamboat man 27
- Roberts, Brenda C. 6
- Roberts, Bruce B. 56
- Robertson, A. T. 56
- Rock Harbor series 43
- Room of marvels 49
- Rosetta, Rosetta, sit by me! 12
- Rottmann, Erik 17
- Rowe, Mike 22
- Rubietta, Jane 58
- Rue, Nancy 11
- Rumford, James 6
- Ryan, Pam Muñoz 12
- Sacagawea's son : the life of Jean Baptiste Charbonneau 42
- Sacred parenting 58
- Sacrifice 46
- Safe in the fold 18
- Saffer, Barbara 20
- Sanders, Doug 24
- Sandler, Martin W. 23
- Sarker, Abraham 59
- Saskatchewan saga 45
- Schindler, S. D. 21
- Schmidt, Diane 53
- Schmidt, Gary D. 35
- Scholastic 4, 9, 10, 12, 17, 19, 20, 24, 28, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35
- Scholastic atlas of oceans 20
- Scholastic children's encyclopedia 17
- Scholastic kid's almanac : facts, figures, and stats 17
- Scholastic Press 34
- Scholastic Reference 17
- Schott, Jane A. 29
- Seaport suspense novel 46
- Seasons of Bliss 45
- Seeds! Seeds! Seeds! 7
- Selznick, Brian 28
- Shaded light 47
- Shadow of the bear 31
- Shadows of Ghadames 12
- Shaw Books 55
- Shellenberger, Susie 38
- Shenandoah sisters 48
- Shred of evidence 46
- Silent night, holy night : the story behind our favorite Christmas carol 2
- Simon & Schuster 4
- Simon, Seymour 22
- Singerman, Barbara J. 63
- Sir Gawain and the green knight 39
- Sister to the wolf 37
- Slack, Teresa D. 48
- Sleeping Bear Press 19
- Sloat, Teri 14
- Smith, James Bryan 49
- Smith, Joe E. 56
- Smoky the cowhorse 33
- Snow, Scott 10
- So that's what God is like! 4
- Sommer, Carl 61
- Sonnenberg, Joel 63
- Sophie's Secret 11
- Sophie's World 11
- Soul sister 39
- Soul tracker 47
- Soul tracker series 47
- South Carolina 24
- Sowers 28
- Special families 18
- Speirs, Gill 12
- Speirs, John 12
- Spencer, Gregory H. 36
- Spencer, Katherine 46
- Spinning spiders 21
- Standard catalog series 51
- Starfall : Phaeton and the chariot of the sun 9
- Steele, Robert Gantt 11
- Stevens, Carla 7
- Stolz, Joelle 12
- Story of Mr. Pippin 3
- Stranger next door 10
- Strasser, Myrna 23
- Strauss, Linda Leopold 36
- Streams of mercy 48
- Stuart, Sally E. 55
- Summer secrets 32
- Sumpolec, Sarah Anne 36
- Sun slower sun faster 36
- Sunstone Press 15
- Sweet, Melissa 27
- Sweetland, Robert 2
- Taber, Shirin 59
- Tagliapietra, Ron 40
- Tale of Despereaux 30
- Tale of two dogs 5
- Tales from Silver Lands 9
- Tales from the manger 11
- Tang, Alan 60
- Taylor, C. J. 14
- Teacher's favorite 35
- Ten commandments of working in a hostile environment 58
- Thank you, Jesus 6
- That's Life 47
- The people with five fingers : a native Californian creation tale 15
- Theodore Roosevelt : champion of the American spirit 41
- Thirteen moons on turtle's back : a Native American year of moons 15
- Thomas Jefferson 29
- Thomas, Gary L. 58
- Thomas, Rebecca L. 53
- Time stone travelers 13
- Tinling, Marion 42
- Together is all we need 48
- Tooth and claw : animal adventures in the world 21
- Top secret : a handbook of codes, ciphers, and secret writing 23
- Toxic relationships and how to change them : health and holiness in everyday life 57
- Traditions of faith 23
- Trevor, Meriol 36
- Trivium Pursuit 3, 20
- Trottier, Maxine 37
- Trouble with Skye 33
- True test for Skye 33
- TruthQuest 60
- Tsaba House 48
- Tudor, Tasha 7
- Tundra Books 14
- Twas the night : the nativity story 1
- Two old potatoes and me 3
- Under the sun 31
- Understand my Muslim people : by a former Muslim 59
- Unfinished soul 57
- Unlocking the mysteries of creation 5
- Vaccines 39
- Van Wright, Cornelius 24
- Van Zyle, Jon 21, 23
- Vasco Nunez de Balboa : explorer to the Pacific Ocean 28
- Vega, Eida de la 2
- Velasquez, Eric 12
- Vision moments : creating lasting truths in the lives of your students 60
- Visser, Rino 17
- Vogel, Carole Garbuny 15
- Vogel, Julia 22
- Voice that challenged a nation 27
- Vollstadt, Elizabeth Weiss 9
- W Publishing 46, 49
- Walker & Co. 21, 22, 23
- Wallace, John 24
- Wallace, Nancy Elizabeth 7
- Walt Whitman : words for America 28
- Walton, John H. 56
- Walvoord, Linda 7, 12
- Wang, Suling 13
- Wangerin, Walter 18
- Warkentin, Karla 13
- WaterBrook 44, 45, 46, 48
- Watson, Wendy 10
- Way to make perfect mountains 15
- We are the many : a picture book of American Indians 24
- Weather legends : Native American lore and the science of weather 15
- Webster, M. L. 15
- Weigl Publishers 28
- Welkening 36
- Westbow 43
- WestWinds Press 14
- What do you do with a tail like this? 20
- What's inside a fire truck? 19
- What's inside a firehouse? 19
- What's inside a hospital? 18
- What's inside a police car? 19
- What's inside a police station? 18
- What's inside an ambulance? 19
- Whelan, Gloria 13
- When dad's at sea 11
- When the circus came to town 13
- Where in the world is integrity? : the challenge of doing what is right 56
- Whitlow, Robert 49
- Who made God? 38
- Who's knocking at the door? 7
- Why the rest hates the West : understanding the roots of global rage 60
- Wild horses 22
- Wilkins, Steve 55
- Willems, Mo 8
- William of Orange : the silent prince 33
- Williams, Thomas 49
- Wilson, Janet 4
- Winner, Cherie 22
- Witherington, Ben 62
- Without a trace 43
- Wm. B. Eerdmans 17
- Woodroof, Tim 49
- Woodson, Jacqueline 8
- Word & song audio book 18
- Word of the King 17
- Word pictures in the New Testament 56
- World of insect life 22
- Yaakov, Juliette 51
- Yep, Laurence 13
- Yoshikawa, Sachiko 7
- Young Larry 6
- Young man after God's own heart 38
- Young patriots : inspiring stories of the American Revolution 9
- Young woman's call to prayer 38
- Young, Susan W. 32
- Your money 60
- You're all my favorites 6
- Youth Specialities 38
- YWAM Publishing 39
- Zeeuw, P. de 25
- Zonderkidz 11, 23, 33, 38
- Zondervan 38, 47, 56, 58, 59, 62, 63

