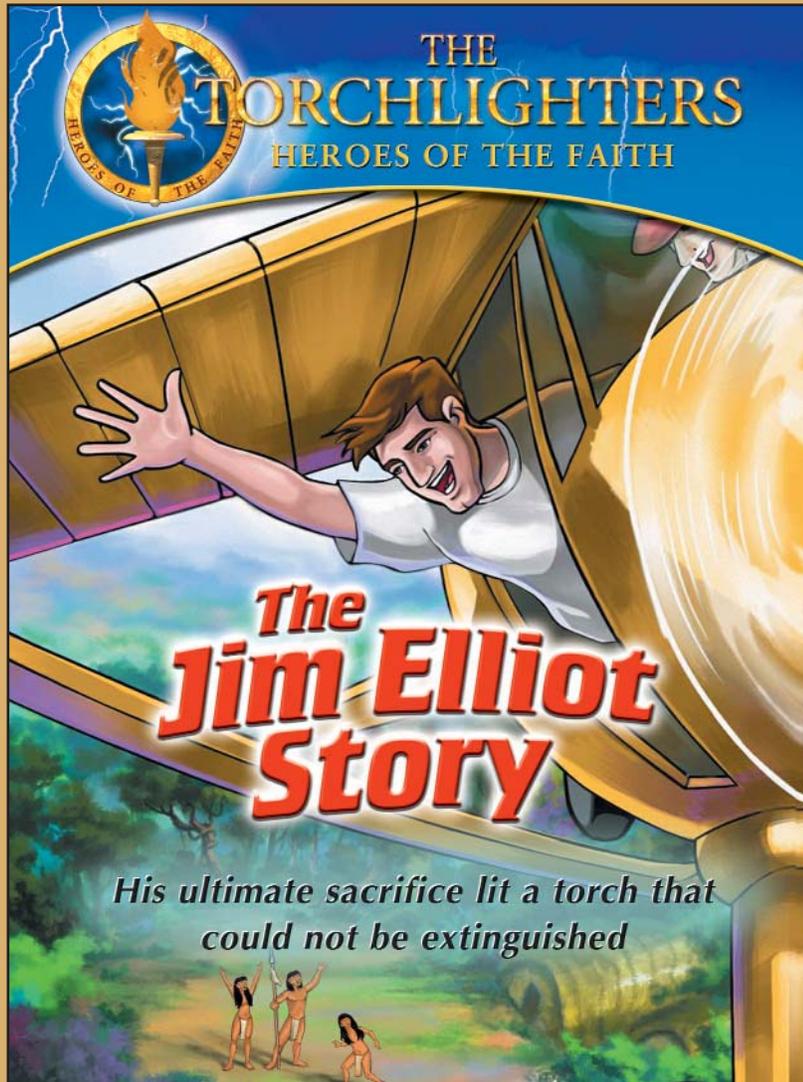


Christian Library

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*.

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

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

Narnia : The Land That Jack Built	Donna Bowling	.....2
Learning Native American Culture	Jane Mouttet	.....6
Key to Reviews		.....9
Picture Book Reviews		.....9
Children's Fiction Reviews		.....13
Children's Nonfiction Reviews		.....17
YA Fiction Reviews		.....23
YA Nonfiction Reviews		.....29
Adult Fiction Reviews		.....31
Adult Nonfiction Reviews		.....37
Index		.....41

Cover: *The Jim Elliot Story* (DVD). Vision Video, 2005. Used with permission.

Published in the U.S.A. ©2004, Christian Library Journal.

Narnia

The Land That Jack Built

by

Donna W. Bowling

In their *100 Christian Books That Changed the Century*, William and Randy Petersen selected only the three children's titles—among them, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, by C. S. Lewis [CLJ 9, 3:8-11 (Nov. 2004)]. (Clive Staples Lewis was known to his friends as Jack.) Now more than fifty years since the series first appeared, a major movie of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, the first book published in the series, is scheduled for release this December. With the anticipated release of the movie, a number of new books about the Narnia series have appeared, each bringing a different and often useful perspective. Other older titles have received new attention.

Most of these books about Narnia are designed to be read by students or adults only after they have finished reading the stories themselves—to be appreciated as stories, and not dissected for hidden meanings. Although after 1994, the Narnia books have been re-ordered in the series according to Narnian chronology, I agree with several scholars listed below, that a first reading should begin with *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, the first Narnia book written by C. S. Lewis. The earlier review of the series in *Christian Library Journal* lists both the date of re-ordering and the dates of original publication of the individual books [CLJ 9, 2:24-25 (Aug. 2004)].

Several scholars have pointed out that there were a few textual variations between the original British editions and the (slightly later) original American editions of the various books in the series. E.g.: the name of the wolf who was the White Witch's Chief of Secret Police was changed from Maugrim in the original British edition to Fenris Ulf for the American edition. Since 1994, the text for new printings world-wide has reverted to that of the original British editions. Americans familiar with the older edition may be puzzled by the unfamiliar name of Maugrim as used in the movie.

*

The complete chronicles of Narnia / C.S. Lewis ; with illustrations hand-colored by the artist, Pauline Baynes. LCCN 2001266506. New York : HarperCollins, 2000.

HBB, 60281375, list price: \$50.00.

Fic. Fantasy. 524 p. : ill. ; 29 cm..

All ages. Rating : *5.

This handsome one-volume edition of *The Chronicles of Narnia* includes a personal introduction by Douglas Gresham, stepson of C. S. Lewis. The titles are arranged in order of Narnian chronology, beginning with *The Magician's Nephew*, rather than in order of original publication. For personal reading, the individual books are more convenient. However, this combined edition, with all but one of her original black and white illustrations now hand-colored by Pauline Baynes, makes a delightful coffee table book, useful for browsing or handy reference. Highly recommended for Narnia fans.

Into the wardrobe : C.S. Lewis and the Narnia chronicles / David C. Downing. LCCN 2005013177. San Francisco : Jossey-Bass, 2005.

HBB, 0787978906, list price: \$19.95.

823/.912. Lewis, C. S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963.

Chronicles of Narnia; Fantasy fiction, English--

History and criticism; Narnia (Imaginary place);

Children's stories, English--History and criticism;

Christian fiction, English--History and criticism.

xvii, 238 p. ; 23 cm..

Adult. Rating : 5.

Dr. Downing is a professor of English at Elizabethtown College and the author of a number of books and articles on C. S. Lewis. This work includes chapters on: The child as father of the man, The life of C. S. Lewis, The genesis of Narnia, The spiritual vision of the Narnia Chronicles, Moral psychology, Classical and medieval elements, What's in a Narnian name?, Lewis's literary artistry, an appendix with definitions, allusions, and textual notes,

followed by bibliography, and index. Downing's expertise about Lewis, and his literary and spiritual insight, make him a widely respected scholar, but this work dealing with all of the Chronicles is accessible to interested high school students and the general reader. Highly recommended for church and public libraries and fans of the works of C. S. Lewis.

Not-a-tame lion : unveil Narnia through the eyes of Lucy, Peter, and other characters created by C. S. Lewis / Bruce L. Edwards. LCCN 2005011083. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2005.

PAP, 1414303815, list price: \$12.99.

823/.912. Lewis, C. S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963.

Chronicles of Narnia; Narnia (Imaginary place);

Fantasy fiction, English--History and criticism;

Christianity and literature--England--History--20th

century; Children's stories, English--History and

criticism; Christian fiction, English--History and

criticism. xx, 252 p. ; 21 cm..

Adult. Rating : 4.

Dr. Edwards is a professor at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, and has spoken at many conferences and written books about C. S. Lewis. His subtitle reveals his approach: Unveil Narnia through the eyes of Lucy, Peter, and other characters created by Lewis. Specific topics in this book about all the Chronicles include: Discerning the spiritual world of Narnia; Inklings of Neverland; C. S. Lewis and the origins of Narnia; Encountering Aslan: the danger of goodness; Valor finds validation: reigning with Aslan; Victory over vanity: transformation and revivals; Villainy meets viciousness: witches, traitors, and betrayers; Vindication and valediction: last battles, last words. The epilogue, After Narnia, includes an amusing but perceptive imaginary dialogue between Edwards and Lewis dealing with burning questions of this century. Following an annotated Suggested reading list is a detailed chapter-by chapter study guide. Accessible to interested high school students as well as the general reader, and definitely recommended for church and public libraries and fans of the works of C. S. Lewis.

The heart of The chronicles of Narnia : knowing God here by finding him there / Thomas Williams. LCCN 2005006154. Nashville : W Pub. Group, 2005.

PAP, 0849904889, list price: \$13.99.

823/.912. Lewis, C. S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963.

Chronicles of Narnia; God in literature; Narnia

(Imaginary place); Spiritual life in literature; Fantasy

fiction, English--History and criticism; Children's

stories, English--History and criticism; Christian

fiction, English--History and criticism. xxii, 199 p. ;

22 cm..

Adult. Rating : 5.

Tom Williams is both an acclaimed author and an illustrator. He approaches the Chronicles, not as a puzzle to be solved, but as a flower to be enjoyed. His subtitle announces his main focus and his chapter titles reveal his emphases.

Part 1: The story of Narnia includes—Not a tame lion: the truth about God; The song of Aslan: the creation of Narnia; Mammals, mountains, and muffins: the pleasures and wonders of creation; Bad magic: the invasion of evil; Turkish delight: temptation and sin; Deep magic before time: the defeat of death; Romping with the lion: fun, happiness, and joy. Part 2: Living like a Narnian includes—Slaying the dragon inside: kicking the sin habit; Follow the signs: knowing God's will and doing it; Asking Aslan: the puzzle of prayer; Aslan on the move: the mystery of providence; Flying your flag: the committed company; The blind dwarfs: faith and sight. Part 3: The end and the beginning includes—Beyond the shadowlands: the supernatural parallel world; Further up and further in: a glimpse into Heaven; Longing for Aslan: the object of all desire. Each chapter closes with pertinent thought-provoking questions for discussion that relate to Christian experience today. The extensive endnotes include many quotations from various works by Lewis and other authors, and many Scripture references. Williams's portrayal of God, as illustrated by Aslan, leaves an inviting fragrance. This work also is accessible to interested high school students as well as the general reader, and is highly recommended for church and public libraries and fans of the works of C. S. Lewis.

The way into Narnia : a reader's guide / Peter J. Schakel. LCCN 2005049830. Grand Rapids : Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2005.

PAP, 0802829848, list price: \$14.00.
 823/.912. Lewis, C. S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963. Chronicles of Narnia; Narnia (Imaginary place); Fantasy fiction, English--History and criticism; Christian fiction, English--History and criticism; Children's stories, English--History and criticism. x, 202 p. ; 23 cm.
 Adult. Rating : 5.

Dr. Schakel is a professor of English at Hope College, and a widely respected student of the works of C. S. Lewis. Using the "man as sub-creator" concept of Lewis's friend J. R. R. Tolkien, Schakel looks at the Chronicles individually, in order of publication. Chapters are: The story-maker and his stories; Controversies over texts and reading order; The storytelling: fairy tale, fantasy, and myth; Magic and meaning in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*; Believing and seeing in *Prince Caspian*; Longing and learning in *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*; Freedom and obedience in *The Silver Chair*; Place and personal identity in *The Horse and His Boy*; Endings and beginnings in *The Magician's Nephew*; Endings and transcendings in *The Last Battle*; The stories told: fairy-land and its effects. A valuable separate section of annotations (more extensive than Downing's above), arranged by books in order of publication, notes differences between the British and American editions, along with definitions of unfamiliar terms and comments

about allusions to other works. The section on sources and endnotes includes the locations of each of the many direct quotations. Includes a lengthy bibliography and index. Again, this work is accessible to interested high school students as well as the general reader, and is highly recommended for church and public libraries and fans of the works of C. S. Lewis.

The world according to Narnia : Christian meaning in C.S. Lewis's beloved chronicles / Jonathan Rogers. LCCN 2005015960. New York : Warner Books, 2005.

PAP, 0446696498, list price: \$14.99.
 823/.912. Lewis, C. S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963. Chronicles of Narnia; Narnia (Imaginary place); Fantasy fiction, English--History and criticism; Christianity and literature--England--History--20th century; Children's stories, English--History and criticism; Christian fiction, English--History and criticism. xix, 182 p. ; 20 cm.
 Adult. Rating : 4.

Dr. Rogers brings a unique perspective as an author of his own fantasy-adventure novel series. He arranges his chapters on the individual books in order of their original publication. Chapter titles are—Imagining reality; Reality you could not have guessed: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*; Myth became fact: *Prince Caspian*; Finding self, forgetting self: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*; Remembering the signs: *The Silver Chair*; Up from slavery: *The Horse and His Boy*; Adventurer and magician: *The Magician's Nephew*; Further up and further in: *The Last Battle*. Includes a short bibliography and endnotes. Less detailed than other books above, this work also is accessible to interested high school students as well as the general reader, and is recommended for church libraries and fans of the works of C. S. Lewis.

Finding God in the land of Narnia / Kurt Bruner, Jim Ware. LCCN 2003024945. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2004.

HBB, 084238104X, list price: \$12.99.
 823/.912. Lewis, C.S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963. Chronicles of Narnia; Lewis, C.S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963--Religion; Christianity and literature--England--History--20th century; Christian fiction, English--History and criticism; Fantasy fiction, English--History and criticism; Narnia (Imaginary place). xix, 185 p. ; 20 cm.
 Adult. Rating : 4.

Kurt Bruner is an executive with Focus on the Family; Jim Ware is a seminary graduate and the author of several books. As in their earlier title, *Finding God in The Lord of the Rings* [CLJ 8, 2:2-4 (Apr. 2003)], Bruner and Ware offer a series of twenty-six meditations on the various *Chronicles of Narnia*, including at least two meditations from each book. Beginning with *The Magician's Nephew*, each meditation begins with a short quotation, followed by a situation from the specific book which illustrates its

theme relating to Christian experience. The discussion of a related scripture concludes with a summary one-sentence "Reflection." Bruner and Ware have occasionally expanded slightly on original text by Lewis, but their book has a smooth, seamless style that reaches the heart. Includes a short bibliography and endnotes. Recommended for Christian school and church libraries, and the personal libraries of Lewis fans.

Aslan's call : finding our way to Narnia / Mark Eddy Smith. LCCN 2004029840. Downer's Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2005.

PAP, 0830832424, list price: \$10.00.
 823/.914. Lewis, C. S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963. Chronicles of Narnia; God in literature; Narnia (Imaginary place); Spiritual life in literature; Fantasy fiction, English--History and criticism; Children's stories, English--History and criticism; Christian fiction, English--History and criticism. 127 p. ; 21 cm.
 Adult. Rating : 3.

Writer-artist Mark Eddy Smith is the author of *Tolkien's Ordinary Virtues* [CLJ 8, 2:2-4 (Apr. 2003)]. In this first-person interaction with the *Chronicles of Narnia*, he looks at each of the seven books, in order of publication. For each book, he takes a few key events to draw applications to our Christian lives, with related references to Scriptural passages or incidents. In his Afterword, Smith adds a short story, "Playing Narnia," about a reluctant grandmother who first encounters Narnia at the recommendation of her grandson and finds it changes her outlook on life. A section on Reflection and discussion questions for each chapter appears at the end of the book. Recommended for Christian school and church libraries, and the personal libraries of Lewis fans.

Inside Narnia : a guide to exploring The lion, the witch, and the wardrobe / Devin Brown. LCCN 2005013043. Grand Rapids : Baker Books, 2005.

PAP, 0801065992, list price: \$12.99.
 823/.912. Lewis, C. S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963. The lion, the witch, and the wardrobe; Narnia (Imaginary place); Fantasy fiction, English--History and criticism; Christian fiction, English--History and criticism; Children's stories, English--History and criticism. 255 p. ; 22 cm.
 Adult. Rating : 4.

Dr. Brown is a professor of English at Asbury College, where he teaches a course on the fiction of C. S. Lewis. Using all the chapter titles from *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* [LWW], Brown discusses each chapter in detail, going through the chapter from beginning to end. Brown comments on foreshadowing and references within LWW, relevant connections to other books in the series, related other writings by C. S. Lewis or other authors, observations about specific illustrations by Pauline Baynes.

He also occasionally addresses theological or spiritual issues suggested by some analogies to Christian truth found in the story. The closing bibliography includes titles by many other Lewis scholars. Although highly detailed, this work is accessible to the interested general reader, and is recommended for church and public libraries and fans of the works of C. S. Lewis.

A readers' guide through the wardrobe : exploring C.S. Lewis's classic story / Leland Ryken and Marjorie Lamp Mead. LCCN 2005012002. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity, 2005.

PAP, 0830832890, list price: \$13.00.

823/.912. Lewis, C. S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963. Lion, the witch, and the wardrobe; Narnia (Imaginary place); Fantasy fiction, English--History and criticism; Christian fiction, English--History and criticism; Children's stories, English--History and criticism. 192 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Dr. Ryken is professor of English at Wheaton College in Illinois. Wheaton is the home of the Marion E. Wade Center which houses a major research collection of materials related to C. S. Lewis and other related British authors. Co-author Marjorie Lamp Mead is associate director of the Wade Center. Part one of this book could serve as a course in literary analysis, using LWW as the example text to be studied. Chapter titles correspond to the individual chapters in LWW, each with a subtitle that reveals the literary focus for that study—How the story began; Discovering more about a strange world; Characterization; Archetypes; How real is Narnia?; Worldmaking and the storyteller's art; The good place motif; Images of good; Images of evil; What readers like best in a story; The dynamics of the plot; The romance genre; The uses of magic; Parallels to the Passion story; The genre of fairy tale; The role of myth; The happy ending as narrative pattern and spiritual reality; Retrospective: Putting it all together. Following a photo section with pictures from Lewis's life, part two includes—How the Narnian books came to be; Reception history of LWW; The Christian vision of LWW; A brief biography of C. S. Lewis; and an Appendix: What is the correct order in which to read the *Chronicles of Narnia*? Most chapters include one or more boxed sections with thoughts for reflection or discussion. Other boxed sections include relevant quotations by Lewis or other writers, or special information that adds light on something in the chapter. This unique and valuable book closes with a list of recommended reading titles, endnotes, and an index. It is highly recommended for church and public libraries and fans of the works of C. S. Lewis.

The soul of The lion, the witch, and the wardrobe / Gene Edward Veith. LCCN 2005015803. Colorado Springs : Victor Books, 2005.

HBB, 0781442125, list price: \$19.99.

823/.912. Lewis, C. S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963. Lion, the witch, and the wardrobe; Narnia (Imaginary place); Fantasy fiction, English--History and criticism; Christian fiction, English--History and criticism; Children's stories, English--History and criticism. 240 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Dr. Veith is a former professor of English and the author of a number of books. Part one: The story is basically a commentary on LWW with reference to other books in the series and related Scripture passages. Chapter titles and subtitles reveal Veith's focus—Narnia: Creation and sub-creation; Sons of Adam and daughters of Eve: Human nature in two worlds; The White Witch; The reign of the Devil; Aslan: The Lion of Judah; The stone table: Atonement, redemption, justification; The battle: Sanctification and the Holy Spirit; Coming back home: The spiritual journey.

Part two addresses the issue of The fantasy wars. Chapter titles are—Christianity and fantasy; The lion and the muggles; The anti-Lewis and the anti-Narnia series; The lion and the senile old man; Conclusion: The gospel through stories. Although Veith expresses some concerns about the popular Harry Potter series, he focuses mainly on the His Dark Materials series by Philip Pullman. Widely acclaimed in some circles, Pullman openly expresses his distaste for both Christianity and Narnia, and pictures God as a senile old man. Veith alerts his readers to both the special values fantasy can offer, and the dangers fantasy can present, depending on the authors. A reader's guide section at the end of the volume provides questions for reflection or group discussion. Includes detailed endnotes, bibliography, and index. This contribution also is accessible to interested high school students as well as the general reader, and is recommended for church libraries, fans of the works of C. S. Lewis, and those interested in fantasy issues.

Walking through the wardrobe : a devotional quest into The lion, the witch, and the wardrobe / Sarah Arthur. LCCN 2005015901. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House, 2005.

PAP, 1414307667, list price: \$9.99.

823/.912. Lewis, C. S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963. The lion, the witch, and the wardrobe; Children's stories, English--History and criticism; Christian fiction, English--History and criticism; Fantasy fiction, English--History and criticism; Quests (Expeditions) in literature; Narnia (Imaginary place). xxiii, 189 p. ; 20 cm.

Grades 7-12. Rating : 3.

Sarah Arthur has written other works for young adults, including *Walking with Frodo* and *Walking with Bilbo*. In this devotional book she offers a pair of meditations relating to each of

nine persons for "Walking with"—Lucy: Never too old, and Come and see; The Professor: The master teacher, and The trilemma; Susan: Uncommon sense, and Safety first?; Edmund: Seeing is not believing, and The breaking point; Peter: Heart's desire, and The weight of kingship; Narnians: To the rescue, and Good news; The White Witch (or not?); True hunger, and Deep "Magic;" Aslan: The great thaw, and Deeper "Magic;" Lewis: The open door, and Further in. Also included are—Glossary of terms & fun facts, Guide to other works by C. S. Lewis, and endnotes. Appropriate for church or Christian school libraries or fans of the works of C. S. Lewis.

Knowing Aslan / Thomas Williams. LCCN 2005015816. Nashville : W Pub. Group, 2005.

PAP, 0849904943, list price: \$2.99.

823/.912. Lewis, C.S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963. Chronicles of Narnia; Fantasy fiction, English--History and criticism; Narnia (Imaginary place); God in literature; Children's stories, English--History and criticism; Christian fiction, English--History and criticism. iii, 59 p. ; 18 cm.

Grades 7-Adult. Rating : 3.

This little booklet by Tom Williams uses events in the story or movie of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* as an opportunity to challenge some common unflattering misconceptions about the person of God. Designed to be purchased in bulk and given away as an evangelistic tool, it lacks the special values for Christians offered by Williams's more extensive work listed above. Although beneficial for individual use with young people or adults, its primary use for libraries is as an example of evangelistic literature or for personal outreach.

Narnia beckons : C.S. Lewis's The lion, the witch and the wardrobe and beyond / Ted Baehr, James Baehr ; with illustrations by Angela West. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2005.

HBB, 0805440429, list price: \$24.99.

823/.912. Lewis, C. S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963. Chronicles of Narnia; Narnia (Imaginary place); Fantasy fiction, English--History and criticism; Christianity and literature--England--History--20th century; Children's stories, English--History and criticism; Christian fiction, English--History and criticism. 184 p. : ill. ; 212 x 26 cm.

All ages. Rating : 4.

Dr. Ted Baehr is a media expert [CLJ 5 2/3:90-01 (Winter/Spg. 1999)] who participated in the production of the 1980 CBS animated TV version of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. James Baehr is a graduate of Dartmouth College who has studied the literary works of C. S. Lewis at Oxford University. The Baehrs bring together contributions from several students of the works of Lewis, both in the original print forms and later in other media, in this special coffee table book. It includes many photographs from the life of C. S. Lewis,

supplemented by lush original black-and-white drawings by Angela West that appear on every page or two. (Some drawings reappear in the book from time to time as they relate to the text.) Contributors discuss characters and incidents from other books in the series, work on the life of C. S. Lewis, and recent development of the major movie. This elegant book is accessible to interested readers of all ages, and is definitely recommended for all libraries and fans of the works of C. S. Lewis

Roar! : a Christian family guide to the Chronicles of Narnia / by Heather Kopp with David Kopp ; illustrations by Martin French. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2005.

PAP, 1590525361, list price: \$19.99.

823/.912. Lewis, C. S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963. Lion, the witch, and the wardrobe; Narnia (Imaginary place); Children's stories, English--History and criticism; Christian fiction, English--History and criticism; Fantasy fiction, English--History and criticism. 447 p. : ill. ; 23 cm..

All ages. Rating : 5.

As writers and editors, the Koppes have written widely for Christian parents and their children. Their *Roar!* is designed as an interactive tool for Christian parents to use with their children. Christian school teachers also may find valuable ideas for classroom use. Beginning with *The Magician's Nephew*, the authors take two pages for each chapter of each book in the *Chronicles of Narnia*, where they provide: a one sentence summary of the chapter, vocabulary of unfamiliar terms, a paragraph of "grown-up thoughts," and a series of "let's talk about it" discussion questions and related Scriptures to use with children. Occasional "Kid's tests" and two-page inserts with suggestions for hands-on activities maintain involvement for the whole family. (Although these activities are primarily designed for children, their content remains relevant for all ages.) After dealing in this brief fashion with all seven books, a section of "final exams" for adults and little ones is followed by a section with ten essays by various noted contributors for "help & inspiration for parents" with potentially problematic issues. The final "fact files" section includes—Guide to what happened when in Narnia, Glossary of difficult & unfamiliar words, Index of characters & creatures (and creatures who are characters!), Index of places in Narnia, Index of Bible allusions & parallels, All the answers to all the questions, plus bibliography. (The quiz sections here provide more, and sometimes more reflective, questions than in Lindskoog's excellent *Journey into Narnia* [CLJ 5, 4:87 (Fall 2000)]. The biblical allusions here do not duplicate those in Ditchfield's *A Family Guide to Narnia* [CLJ 9, 1:60-61 (Apr.2004)].) The vigorous full-color illustrations by French make much use of shadow and vividly convey motion, although the "extraneous" decorations in certain backgrounds may be confusing to some children. The Koppes also provide additional

resources in <<http://www.roarofNarnia.com>>. This unique book is highly recommended for Christian school, church, and public libraries and fans of the works of C. S. Lewis.

Step into Narnia : a journey through The lion, the witch, and the wardrobe / by E.J. Kirk. (Narnia.) LCCN 2005002656. New York : HarperCollins, 2005.

HBB, 0060572132, list price: \$19.99.

823/.92. Lewis, C. S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963. Lion, the witch, and the wardrobe--Juvenile literature--Juvenile literature; Children's stories, English--History and criticism--Juvenile literature; Fantasy fiction, English--History and criticism--Juvenile literature; Narnia (Imaginary place)--Juvenile literature. 63 p. : col. ill., col. Maps ; 26 cm..

Grades 1-6. Rating : 4.

Author E. J. Kirk has collaborated with graphic designers from "jacob packaged goods LLC" (Ellen Jacobs, et al) who have used computer illustration and composition to combine art and photography from various sources, and a variety of type, to produce this dramatic full-color picture-book introduction to *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. More of a reference guide than a storybook, it uses two or more pages when needed as it proceeds through the story by topics—What happens when; Heroes; Aslan; Friends and helpers; Wanted: White Witch; Creature features; Caves to castles; Battles; Powerful magic. Even in this unusual format, the main elements of the plot of LWW manage to come through. The final pages include a few photos from the upcoming movie. Perceptive children will note that the illustrations of characters used in most of the book sometimes differ with those from the movie. Given the unique approach in this striking book, it is recommended for Christian school and public libraries and fans of the works of C. S. Lewis

The world of Narnia collection / adapted from C.S. Lewis ; illustrated by Deborah Maze. New York : HarperCollins, 2004.

HBB,0060732741, list price: \$9.99 CBC; out of print.

E. Fantasy. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm..

Grades K-4. Rating : 3.

An attractive full-color picture-book adaptation of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* that was originally published as four separate picture books: *Lucy Steps Through the Wardrobe*, *Edmund and the White Witch*, *Aslan*, and *Aslan's Triumph*. Each of the later sections of this combined edition begins at the beginning of the story, briefly brings the story up-to-date, and proceeds with the next episodes of the longer story. The last section provides a conclusion that is faithful to the original. While this version, adapted by an unidentified author, is much shorter than Lewis's original, but it retains much of the text by Lewis, and it includes the major elements of the plot consistent with his original story. Pleasant full-color illustrations

by Deborah Maze are realistic in style and compatible with the illustrations by Pauline Baynes in the original book. Framed text boxes appear within each two-page spread.

Many children as young as five can understand and appreciate the full story as originally written by Lewis. Some younger children may find that the shorter sections in this picture book, read at separate times, fit their attention spans better. Children who know and love the longer story may enjoy refreshing their memories by leafing through the pictures in this attractive book. Appropriate for church and some school libraries that also have the original book available. (Although the publisher no longer lists this title in print, it is available through Christian Book Distributors and other outlets—at an inviting price for the fine quality of this book.)

Additional books about Narnia scheduled for a later issue. In the meantime, enjoy!

References:

Arthur, Sarah. *Walking with Frodo*. Tyndale House, 2003.

Arthur, Sarah. *Walking with Bilbo*. Tyndale House, 2005.

Baehr, Ted. *The Media-Wise Family*. ChariotVictor, 1998.

Ditchfield, Christin. *A Family Guide to Narnia : Biblical Truths in C. S. Lewis's The Chronicles of Narnia*. Crossway, 2003.

Lindskoog, Kathryn. *Journey into Narnia*. Hope Publishing House, 1998.

Petersen, William J. & Petersen, Randy. *100 Christian Books That Changed the Century*. Revell, 2000.

Learning Native American Culture Through Series Books

by Jane Mouttet

The next section looks at non fiction series about Native American people groups. It is my hope that this section will guide you as you

make purchasing decisions for your library. I included starred reviews for the series I would purchase first.

*

The Cherokee : an independent nation / by Anne M. Todd. (American Indian nations.) LCCN 2002002653. Mankato, Minn. : Bridgestone Books, 2003.

HBB, 0736813551, list price: \$17.95.

975.004/9755. Indians of North America--Southern States; Cherokee Indians. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm..

The Cheyenne : hunter-gatherers of the northern plains / by Mary Englar. (American Indian nations.) LCCN 2002156006. Mankato, Minn. : Bridgestone Books, 2004.

HBB, 0736821783, list price: \$17.95.

978.004/973. Indians of North America--Southern States; Cherokee Indians. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm..

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

HBB, 0736821791, list price: \$17.95.

979.4004/9757. Indians of North America--California; Chumash Indians. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm..

The Comanche : nomads of the southern plains / by Mary Englar. (American Indian nations.) LCCN 2002156008. Mankato, Minn. : Bridgestone Books, 2004.

HBB, 0736821805, list price: \$17.95.

978.004/9745. Indians of North America--Great Plains; Indians of North America--Southwest, New; Comanche Indians. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm..

The Iroquois : the Six Nations Confederacy / by Mary Englar. (American Indian nations.) LCCN 2002000965. Mankato, Minn. : Bridgestone Books, 2003.

HBB, 0736821353, list price: \$17.95.

974.004/9755. Indians of North America--Canada, Eastern; Indians of North America--New York (State); Iroquois Indians. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm..

The Ojibwa : people of the Great Lakes / by Anne M. Todd. (American Indian nations.) LCCN 2002002654. Mankato, Minn. : Bridgestone Books, 2003.

HBB, 0073681356X, list price: \$17.95.

977.004/973. Indians of North America--Great Lakes (North America); Ojibwa Indians. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm..

The Pawnee : farmers and hunters of the central plains / by Karen Bush Gibson. (American Indian nations.) LCCN 2002156009. Mankato, Minn. : Bridgestone Books, 2004.

HBB, 0736821813, list price: \$17.95.

978.004/979. Indians of North America--Southwest, New; Pawnee Indians. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm..

The Pueblo : farmers of the Southwest / by Mary Englar. (American Indian nations.) LCCN 2001008429. Mankato, Minn. : Bridgestone Books, 2003.

HBB, 0736813578, list price: \$17.95.

978.9004/974. Indians of North America--Great Plains; Pueblo Indians. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm..

The Seminole : the first people of Florida / by Mary Englar. (American Indian nations.) LCCN 2002000011. Mankato, Minn. : Bridgestone Books, 2003.

HBB, 0736813586, list price: \$17.95.

975.9004/973. Seminole Indians--Juvenile literature; Seminole Indians; Indians of North America--Southern states. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm..

The Sioux : people of the great plains / by Anne Todd. (American Indian nations.) LCCN 2002002655. Mankato, Minn. : Bridgestone Books, 2003.

HBB, 0736813543, list price: \$17.95.

978.004/9752. Dakota Indians--History--Juvenile literature; Dakota Indians--Social life and customs--Juvenile literature; Dakota Indians; Indians of North America--Great Plains. 48 p. : ill. (some col.), col. map ; 24 cm..

Grades 3-8. Rating : *5.

There are sixteen titles in the American Indian Nations series. Each book contains five chapters on the tribe as well as extra features such as: maps, timelines, and recipes. A glossary, reading list, places to visit, internet sites, and an index add to the usefulness of this series as research. The chapters describe the tribe's traditions, history, culture, religion, relationship to other tribes and non-natives, and what life is like today for the tribe. The books are illustrated with art work and photographs. Each book lists at least one consultant who is knowledgeable about the tribe. The series seems to provide accurate information.

*

The Cherokee : native basket weavers / by Therese DeAngelis. (America's first peoples.) LCCN 2002012534. Mankato, Minn. : Blue Earth Books, 2003.

HBB, 0073681535X, list price: \$22.60

978.004/973. Cherokee Indians--Juvenile literature; Cherokee baskets--Juvenile literature; Cherokee Indians; Indians of North America; Indian baskets. 32 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 21 cm..

The Choctaw : stickball players of the south / by Rachel A. Koestler-Grack. (America's first peoples.) LCCN 2003000059. Mankato, Minn. : Blue Earth Books, 2004.

HBB, 0736821708, list price: \$22.60

976.004/973. Choctaw Indians--Juvenile literature; Choctaw Indians; Indians of North America--Southern States; Ball games. 32 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 21 cm..

The Inuit : ivory carvers of the Far North / by Rachel A. Koestler-Grack. (America's first peoples.) LCCN 2003000058. Mankato, Minn. : Blue Earth Books, 2004.

HBB, 0736821716, list price: \$22.60

971.9004/9712. Inuit--Juvenile literature; Ivory carving--Juvenile literature; Inuit; Eskimos; Ivory carving. 32 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 21 cm..

The Iroquois : longhouse builders / by Rachel A. Koestler-Grack. (America's first peoples.) LCCN 2002014679. Mankato, Minn. : Blue Earth Books, 2003.

HBB, 0736815368, list price: \$22.60

974.7004/9755. Iroquois Indians--Juvenile literature; Longhouses--Juvenile literature; Indians of North America--Northeastern States; Indians of North America--Canada, Eastern; Longhouses; Dwellings. 32 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 21 cm..

The Navajo : weavers of the Southwest / by Therese DeAngelis. (America's first peoples.) LCCN 2003001471. Mankato, Minn. : Blue Earth Books, 2004.

HBB, 0736821724, list price: \$22.60

979.1004/972. Navajo Indians--Juvenile literature; Navajo textile fabrics--Juvenile literature; Navajo Indians; Indians of North America--Southwest, New. 32 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 21 cm..

The Ojibwa : wild rice gatherers / by Therese DeAngelis. (America's first peoples.) LCCN 2002012535. Mankato, Minn. : Blue Earth Books, 2003.

HBB, 0736815376, list price: \$22.60

977/.004973. Ojibwa Indians--Juvenile literature; Wild rice--Juvenile literature; Ojibwa Indians; Indians of North America; Wild rice. 32 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 21 cm..

The Pueblo : southwestern potters / by Mary Englar. (America's first peoples.) LCCN 2002012536. Mankato, Minn. : Blue Earth Books, 2003.

HBB, 0736815384, list price: \$22.60

978/9.004974. Pueblo Indians--Juvenile literature; Pueblo pottery--Juvenile literature; Pueblo Indians; Indians of North America--Southwest, New; Pueblo pottery; Indian pottery. 32 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 21 cm..

The Seminole : patchworkers of the Everglades / by Rachel A. Koestler-Grack. (America's first peoples.) LCCN 2002012537. Mankato, Minn. : Blue Earth Books, 2003.

HBB, 0736815392, list price: \$22.60

975.9004/973. Seminole Indians--Juvenile literature; Patchwork--Juvenile literature; Seminole Indians; Indians of North America--Southern States; Patchwork. 32 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 21 cm..

The Shoshone : pine nut harvesters of the Great Basin / by Kristin Thoennes Keller. (America's first peoples.) LCCN 2003001470. Mankato, Minn. : Blue Earth Books, 2004.

HBB, 0736821732, list price: \$22.60

978.004/9745. Shoshoni Indians--Food--Juvenile literature; Shoshoni Indians--Social life and customs--Juvenile literature; Pine nuts--Juvenile literature; Shoshoni Indians; Indians of North America--Great Basin. 32 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 21 cm..

The Sioux : nomadic buffalo hunters / by Rachel A. Koestler-Grack. (America's first peoples.) LCCN 2002012540. Mankato, Minn. : Blue Earth Books, 2003.

HBB, 0736815406, list price: \$22.60

978.004/9752. Dakota Indians--Juvenile literature; Dakota Indians--Hunting--Juvenile literature; American bison--Juvenile literature; Dakota Indians; Teton Indians; Indians of North America--Great Plains; American bison. 32 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 21 cm..

Grades 2-5. Rating : *5.

America's First Peoples is a set of ten books about some of the most well-known native American tribes. While the books focus on one aspect of the tribal culture; several aspects are touched on. Each book contains eight short chapters about the tribe, its history, culture, traditions, and life today. Each book contains a legend or folktale of the tribe. The books also contain recipes, activities, and games. A glossary, reference list, places to visit, internet sites and an index make this series useful for research. The book is illustrated with current and historic photographs. Each book in the series had a consultant and seems to be accurate.

The Algonquin / by Natalie M. Rosinsky. (First reports.) LCCN 2004000589. Minneapolis : Compass Point Books, 2005.

HBB, 0756506425, list price: \$22.60

971.3004/9733. Algonquin Indians--Social life and customs; Algonquin Indians--History. 48 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 22 cm..

The Hopi / by Natalie M. Rosinsky. (First reports.) LCCN 2004000590. Minneapolis : Compass Point Books, 2005.

HBB, 0756506417, list price: \$22.60

979.1004/97458. Hopi Indians--Social life and customs; Hopi Indians--History. 48 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 22 cm..

The Inuit / by Natalie M. Rosinsky. (First reports.) LCCN 2004000591. Minneapolis : Compass Point Books, 2005.

HBB, 0756506409, list price: \$22.60

971.9004/9712. Inuit--Social life and customs; Inuit--History. 48 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 22 cm..

Grades 2-4. Rating : 5.

The Navajo / by Natalie M. Rosinsky. (First reports.) LCCN 2004000592. Minneapolis : Compass Point Books, 2005.

HBB, 075656433, list price: \$22.60

979.1004/9726. Navajo Indians--Social life and customs; Navajo Indians--History. 48 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 22 cm..

Grades 2-4. Rating : 5. There are a total of sixteen books in this series. The books are illustrated with full color photographs, historic photographs and artwork, and maps. The books seem to be accurate and understandable. Consultants were used in the writing of this series. Not all the books have the same type of chapter headings. Most books contain information on who the tribe is, their history, influences from outside the tribe, and what life is like today. Other chapters which appear in some of the books deal with some important historical event, the religious myths of the tribe, the work of missionaries, and information on how the tribe has changed over the years. The books close with a glossary, interesting facts, important dates, sources of further information, and an index. The series would be useful for beginning research projects.

Igloos / by June Preszler. (Native American life.) LCCN 2004011213. Mankato, Minn. : Capstone Press, 2005.

HBB, 073683723X, list price: \$21.26

690/.8/08997. Igloos; Indians of North America--Dwellings; Inuit dwellings; Igloos--Design and construction. 24 p. : ill. (chiefly col.) ; 21 cm..

Longhouses / by Karen Bush Gibson. (Native American life.) LCCN 2004011214. Mankato, Minn. : Capstone Press, 2005.

HBB, 0736837248, list price: \$21.26

690/.8/08997. Longhouses; Indians of North America--Dwellings; Longhouses--Design and construction. 24 p. : ill. (chiefly col.) ; 21 cm..

Plank houses / by Karen Bush Gibson. (Native American life.) LCCN 2004011215. Mankato, Minn. : Capstone Press, 2005.

HBB, 0736837256, list price: \$21.26

690/.8/08997. Indians of North America--Dwellings. 24 p. : ill. (chiefly col.) ; 21 cm..

Pueblos / by June Preszler. (Native American life.) LCCN 2004012402. Mankato, Minn. : Capstone Press, 2005.

HBB, 0736837264, list price: \$21.26

690/.8/089974. Pueblos; Indians of North America--Dwellings; Pueblos--Design and construction. 24 p. : ill. (chiefly col.) ; 21 cm..

Tepees / by June Preszler. (Native American life.) LCCN 2004011426. Mankato, Minn. : Capstone Press, 2005.

HBB, 0736837272, list price: \$21.26

690/.8/08997. Tipis; Indians of North America--Dwellings; Tipis--Design and construction. 24 p. : ill. (chiefly col.) ; 21 cm..

Wickiups / by June Preszler. (Native American life.) LCCN 2004012403. Mankato, Minn. : Capstone Press, 2005.

HBB, 0736837280, list price: \$21.26

690/.8/08997. Wickiups; Indians of North America--Dwellings; Wickiups--Design and construction. 24 p. : ill. (chiefly col.) ; 21 cm..

Grades 2-5. Rating : 5.

Native American Life is a new set of easy-to-read nonfiction books about the homes of Native Americans. Experts were consulted in the writing of these books. The books share similar chapter headings. Chapters address: what is [the type of dwelling]? who lived in [this dwelling]? gathering materials, preparing the materials, building [the dwelling], inside [the dwelling], villages, special [dwellings]. Each chapter is one page of text with one page of illustrations. The illustrations are full color or historic photographs or artwork. The topics are discussed in a way that lower elementary students will be able to understand. The series would be good for beginning research projects as it has a glossary, further resources, and an index in each book.

Chumash / Barbara A. Gray-Kanatiioh. (Native Americans.) LCCN 2003044374. Edina, Minn. : Abdo Publishing, 2004.

HBB, 1577659333, list price: \$22.78

979.4004/9757. Chumash Indians--History--Juvenile literature; Chumash Indians--Social life and customs--Juvenile literature; Chumash Indians; Indians of North America--California. 32 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 21 cm..

Gabrielino / Barbara A. Gray-Kanatiioh. (Native Americans.) LCCN 2003048133. Edina, Minn. : Abdo Publishing, 2004.

HBB, 1577659341, list price: \$22.78

979.4004/9745. Gabrielino Indians--Juvenile literature; Gabrielino Indians; Indians of North America--California. 32 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 21 cm..

Huron / Barbara A. Gray-Kanatiosh.
(Native Americans.) LCCN 2002027799.
Edina, Minn. : Abdo Publishing, 2004.

HBB, 157765935X, list price: \$22.78
977.004/9755. Wyandot Indians--Juvenile literature;
Wyandot Indians--Social life and customs--Juvenile
literature; Indians of North America. 32 p. : col. ill.,
col. maps ; 21 cm..

Mojave / Barbara A. Gray-Kanatiosh.
(Native Americans.) LCCN 2003044318.
Edina, Minn. : Abdo Publishing, 2004.

HBB, 1577659368, list price: \$22.78
979.1004/9757. Mohave Indians--History--Juvenile
literature; Mohave Indians--Social life and customs--
Juvenile literature; Mohave Indians; Indians of North
America--Arizona; Indians of North America--
California. 32 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 21 cm..

Salinan / Barbara A. Gray-Kanatiosh.
(Native Americans.) LCCN 2003051838.
Edina, Minn. : Abdo Publishing, 2004.

HBB, 1577659376, list price: \$22.78
979.4/70049757. Salinan Indians--History--Juvenile
literature; Salinan Indians--Social life and customs--
Juvenile literature; Salinan Indians; Indians of North
America--California. 32 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 21
cm..

Shawnee / Barbara A. Gray-Kanatiosh.
(Native Americans.) LCCN 2002033000.
Edina, Minn. : Abdo Publishing, 2004.

HBB, 1577659384, list price: \$22.78
974.004/973. Shawnee Indians--History--Juvenile
literature; Shawnee Indians--Social life and customs--
Juvenile literature; Shawnee Indians; Indians of North
America--East (U.S.). 32 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 21
cm..

Shoshone / Barbara A. Gray-Kanatiosh.
(Native Americans.) LCCN 2003042586.
Edina, Minn. : Abdo Publishing, 2003.

HBB, 1577659392, list price: \$22.78
978.004/9745. Shoshoni Indians--History--Juvenile
literature; Shoshoni Indians--Social life and customs--
Juvenile literature; Shoshoni Indians; Indians of North
America--West (U.S.). 32 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 21
cm..

Ute / Barbara A. Gray-Kanatiosh.
(Native Americans.) LCCN 2003040338.
Edina, Minn. : Abdo Publishing, 2004.

HBB, 1577659406, list price: \$22.78
979.004/9745. Ute Indians--History--Juvenile
literature; Ute Indians--Social life and customs--
Juvenile literature; Ute Indians; Indians of North
America--Colorado; Indians of North America--New
Mexico. 32 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 21 cm..

Wampanoag / Barbara A. Gray-
Kanatiosh. (Native Americans.) LCCN
2003040339. Edina, Minn. : Abdo
Publishing, 2004.

HBB, 1577659414, list price: \$22.78
974.4004/973. Wampanoag Indians--History--
Juvenile literature; Wampanoag Indians--Social life
and customs--Juvenile literature; Wampanoag Indians;
Indians of North America--New England. 32 p. : col.
ill., col. maps ; 21 cm..

Yokut / Barbara A. Gray-Kanatiosh.
(Native Americans.) LCCN 2003045396.
Edina, Minn. : Abdo Publishing, 2004.

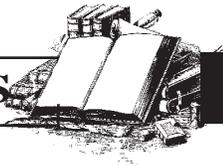
HBB, 1577659422, list price: \$22.78
979.4004/9741. Yokuts Indians--History--Juvenile
literature; Yokuts Indians--Social life and customs--
Juvenile literature; Yokuts Indians; Indians of North
America--California. 32 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 21
cm..

Grades K-5. Rating : 4.

This series of books is written and illustrated by members of the Akwesasne Mohawk tribe. The series includes some little-known tribes. Each book has similar layout and chapter titles: Where they lived, Society, Food, Homes, Clothing, Crafts, Family, Children, Myths, War, Contact with Europeans, an important member of the tribe, and tribal life today. Each book ends with a glossary and index. Each chapter is two pages in length. Abdo publishing also has links on their web site to more information about the tribe. Photographs and flat drawings illustrate the text.

Jane Mouttet worked for twenty years as a school librarian on the Navajo Reservation. She would enjoy hearing from you on how these columns have helped you and on how you use children's literature to teach Native American Culture.

*Jane can be reached at
jane@nativeamericanchildrenslit.com.*



An angel came to Nazareth / by Anthony Knott ; illustrated by Maggie Kneen. LCCN 2004023258. San Francisco : Chronicle Books, 2005.

HBB, 0811847985, list price: \$15.95.

E. Jesus Christ--Nativity--Fiction; Donkeys--Fiction; Stories in rhyme. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades PS-4. Rating : 4.

An angel came to Nazareth
 Upon a winter's day
 And there she spied four animals
 At breakfast on the hay.
 Camel, donkey, horse, and ox,
 Just one beast from the stall
 Will carry into Bethlehem
 The greatest of them all.

So begins *An Angel Came to Nazareth*, written by Anthony Knott. This beautiful and sweet book promotes Jesus Christ as the world's greatest gift. The details differ from the traditional Christmas story, as the book introduces the soldier, the wiseman, the Samaritan, and Mary, all needing a transport for their various journeys. Four animals ponder which person might be the most important; they select riders, with the donkey choosing last. The reader learns that the donkey

carried Mary gently
 and brought her to this stall
 where Jesus Christ her child is born
 the greatest of them all.

When we see the shepherds, it is as Mary quietly approaches Bethlehem, and they help point the

way to the city. There is no heavenly host proclaiming a message to the shepherds, we don't see them around the manger.

Illustrations by Maggie Kneen are rendered in watercolor and gouache (a method of painting in which opaque watercolors are mixed with gum). Most pages include gold highlights and slightly embossed key features. For instance, the angel wears a gold halo and has embossed wings. These attractive features suggest a gift book. Each sturdy page is actually made of two rather stiff pieces of paper.

The flowing verse and striking illustrations complement each other beautifully offering this unique perspective. The foreshadowing presents a neat opportunity to talk about the "other" journeys. Who is the soldier? the Samaritan? the

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

* Outstanding quality

5 Excellent quality

4 Very good quality

3 Good quality

Recommended with caution - note reservations within the review

Not recommended - note problems stated within the review

Commonly Used Abbreviations in CLJ Reviews

LCCN Library of Congress

Cataloging Number

C Canadian Library Cataloging
 Number

ISBN International Standard Book
 Number

HBB Hardbound book

PAP Paperbound book

LIB Library edition

LGP Large print book

PBB Paper board book

CAS Audiocassette

CDR CD-ROM

DVD Videodisc

VID Videocassette

LLB Loose-leaf binding

wiseman? Here they are, side by side with the soon-to-be mother of Jesus. It is interesting that the wiseman appears at the beginning, being chosen by the camel. Where is he going? He won't visit Jesus for quite some time. Teachers could have students write the stories of the other travelers, based on the facts they know from the Bible, and using imagination to fill in the blanks.

Some may be troubled at the speculation in this story, or what has been left out, yet there doesn't seem to be any wrong information that goes against the Biblical story. It would be a nice addition to any home, school or library Christmas collection.

More details about the book are available at www.chroniclekids.com.

Karen Brehmer, B.A. Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School, Bremerton, Washington

Bearcub and Mama / written by Sharon Jennings ; illustrated by Melanie Watt. C20049024779. Toronto : Kids Can, 2005.

HBB, 1553375661, list price: \$15.95.
E. Bear cubs--Fiction; Bears--Fiction; Mother and child--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 26 cm.
Grades 1-3. Rating : 5.

Bearcub and Mama by Sharon Jennings is a reassuring story about growing up and the bond between mother and child. Story themes include feelings, being alone, relying on oneself, and the importance of relationships.

Rich, luminous, full color illustrations by Melanie Watt are sure to captivate. Many children will linger as they enjoy the quality artwork, rendered in acrylics on canvas.

This Smyth sewn casebound book will stand up to many circulations in public libraries. Preschoolers will page through *Bearcub and Mama* for the colors, and primary grade students will delight in the art and storyline. Older children will enjoy reading it to siblings. This book deserves a place in every child's library experience.

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

*

Brave dogs, gentle dogs : how they guard sheep / by Cat Urbigkit. LCCN 2004016855. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyds Mills, 2005.

HBB, 1590783174, list price: \$15.95.
636.737. Sheep dogs--Juvenile literature. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.
Grades K-4. Rating : *5.

Chock full of excellent information, *Brave Dog, Gentle Dog* uses capacious colored photos and informative, interesting narrative to present the history, breeding, and training of the large sheep guardian dogs of the American Rocky

Mountains. Set in the author's home state, Wyoming, this book introduces the dogs and their puppies, and the people and sheep who train them. Facets of a dog's job include total identification with its particular herd, protecting, and lamb-sitting. A closing chapter lists the main breeds of guardian dogs, all large, lovable, and professional.

Reporter, rancher, and accomplished photographer, Cat Urbigkit works with the dogs she describes in *Brave Dog, Gentle Dog*. The engaging photographs tell the story with verve and empathy—what a winning combination—dogs and sheep, puppies and lambs. Urbigkit's narrative is simple, informing, straight to the point, and engrossing. Listed for grades K-2, readers through fourth grade would benefit from the important information.

All schools and libraries will benefit from *Brave Dogs, Gentle Dogs*. It is suitable for both independent and group reading. Consider it for a gift, not only for children but also for invalids and nursing home residents.

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

Franklin's pond phantom / Sharon Jennings ; illustrated by Sasha McIntyre, Robert Penman, Shelley Southern. C20049047116. Toronto : Kids Can, 2005.

HBB, 1553377184, list price: \$14.95.
E. Friendship--Fiction; Turtles--Fiction; Animals--Fiction; Ghosts--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 cm.
Grades PS-2. Rating : 4.

Franklin and the tin flute / Sharon Jennings ; illustrated by Celeste Gagnon. C20049047234. Toronto : Kids Can, 2005.

HBB, 1553378088, list price: \$14.95.
E. Friendship--Fiction; Turtles--Fiction; Animals--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 cm.
Grades PS-2. Rating : 4.

Franklin's library book / Sharon Jennings ; illustrated by Celeste Gagnon. C20049036513. Toronto : Kids Can, 2005.

HBB, 1553377125, list price: \$14.95.
E. Friendship--Fiction; Turtles--Fiction; Animals--Fiction; Books--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 cm.
Grades PS-2. Rating : 4.

Franklin and the cookies / Sharon Jennings ; illustrated by Celeste Gagnon. C20049033158. Toronto : Kids Can, 2005.

HBB, 1553377168, list price: \$14.95.
E. Friendship--Fiction; Turtles--Fiction; Bears--Fiction; Cookies--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 cm.
Grades PS-2. Rating : 4.

Franklin and the Pond Phantom is a story about Franklin the turtle and his discovery of who or what the Pond Phantom really is. Does a big white monster really live in the pond?

Franklin and the Tin Flute tells the story of how Franklin found an old tin flute in a box in the

basement. Not being able to play the flute himself, Franklin trades it to a friend of his for a green marble. When Franklin's father tells the family that he saw Rabbit playing a tin flute like the one his father once had, Franklin knows he's in trouble—father is going to look for that flute! Can Franklin get the flute back before his dad discovers he traded it to Rabbit?

In *Franklin's Library Book*, Franklin borrows a library book on how to make a kite. When Franklin realizes he has lost the book, he first tries to find it, and then disguises himself, hoping to escape getting in trouble for losing it. Will Franklin ever find the lost library book?

Franklin and the Cookies tells a silly story of Franklin and Bear baking. They are told to share with their sisters, but they eat all of the cookies themselves. How will they fix this problem?

Kids know and love Franklin the green turtle from his TV show on PBS. Sharon Jennings authors this series. Categorized as Level 2 readers, these can be read with help from adults by children with basic reading skills. Longer stories and bigger words are a bit more challenging than in Level 1 books. Lessons taught in the stories range from responsibility, to sharing, to not taking what isn't yours. Recommended for children ages 4-7.

Sherri Myers. Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

Just add one Chinese sister / by Patricia McMahon and Cono Clarke McCarthy ; illustrated by Karen A. Jerome. LCCN 2005297922. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyds Mills, 2005.

HBB, 1563979896, list price: \$16.95.
E. Adopted children--Fiction; Chinese American children--Fiction; Intercountry adoption--United States--Juvenile fiction; Intercountry adoption--China--Juvenile fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 30 cm.
Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

In *Just Add One Chinese Sister*, the reader takes a personal look into one family's quest to adopt a little girl from China. Told from the viewpoint of mother and son authors, Patricia McMahon recounts the details of how the adoption took place while Connor Clarke McCarthy journals his thoughts, feelings, and fears of how his life will change with the addition of a new sibling. By looking through the family scrapbook and Connor's journal, they reminisce and share the adoption process with Claire Guan Yu, showing how she became a special part of their family.

Karen Jerome's watercolor illustrations complement the story as they vibrantly depict family snapshots and souvenirs from the family's trip to China. This is a refreshing book, stressing the importance of family and acceptance of intercultural families.

This story is ideal for children who face questions about adoption. It would be especially

helpful for older siblings with varying emotions as they inquire about a new addition to the family. This book is appropriate for beginning and intermediate readers and would also be wonderful for family story-time.

Sarah Jo Burkhead, BM. Freelance Writer, Saint Clair, Missouri.

Legend of the Christmas stocking : an inspirational story of a wish come true / written by Rick Osborne ; illustrated by Jim Griffin. LCCN 2004000339. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2004.

HBB, 0310708982, list price: \$15.99.

E. Christmas--Fiction; Family life--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 29 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 5.

In New York during the early 1800s a little boy named Peter is saving his money for a model ship that he wants. He and his sisters are anxiously waiting for their father, a sailor, to return from sea in time for Christmas. Peter is motivated to buy gifts for his sisters instead of himself when he goes to church and learns about a godly man named Nicholas. Long ago, Nicholas secretly gave money to three sisters who were too poor to afford dowries so they could get married. The generous deeds of Nicholas inspired the current tradition of putting gifts in stockings. Today he is known as Saint Nicholas or Santa Claus.

This is a moving story. The full color illustrations by Jim Griffin are in a realistic style and help make this a fantastic picture book. *The Legend of the Christmas Stocking* by Rick Osborne does more than just tell the Nicholas legend. Peter's sacrifice for his mother and sisters and his reunion with his father are touching. Reading this book every Christmas season would make a great tradition. The last page gives a brief historical note about Nicholas and the stocking and Santa Claus traditions.

David Rainey, MLIS. State Library of Louisiana, Baton Rouge.

The legend of the sand dollar / by Chris Auer ; illustrated by Rick Johnson. LCCN 2004000188. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2005.

HBB, 03107078031, list price: \$15.99.

E. Wetlands--Fiction; Cousins--Fiction; Sand dollars--Fiction; Easter--Fiction; Atlantic Coast (U.S.)--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 28 cm.

Grades PS-5. Rating : 4.

Kerry and Jack take a motorboat to a small island in the ocean. The children find a sand dollar. Jack tells Kerry, "Sand dollars tell the greatest story of all." The young lad explains each part of the sand dollar, "...the Easter lily on that side...It's like a trumpet saying 'Jesus is alive!' There's the star from the East that led wise men to Christ." Also, "Both sides of the sand dollar tell the Easter story. See the four nail holes—and a fifth hole made by a spear? These remind us that Jesus died for us."

Chris Auer's *The Legend of the Sand Dollar: An Inspirational Story of Hope for Easter* is a pleasant story stressing God's natural world and good family relationships. The artwork by Rick Johnson is beautiful—heavy in blue, purple, green and tan. It is worthy to note that some pictures imply a lack of safety. Two children roar away in a small motorboat, without adult supervision. Neither Jack nor Kerry wear life jackets. In one picture, Kerry stands up in the boat.

As a minor problem, Kerry describes a sand dollar as "a starfish that used to live in the ocean." Although closely related, sand dollars and starfish are separate animals.

You should find a sand dollar to accompany this book! Then, promote *The Legend of the Sand Dollar* among children who need to understand Jesus Christ as Creator. Do not limit this book to Easter. It is a fine story, anytime!

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

The live bale of hay : a real Maine adventure / by Carol Dean ; illustrated by Sandy Dunn. LCCN 2004116483. Camden, Me. : Down East Books, 2004.

HBB, 0892726741, list price: \$15.95.

E. Maine--Fiction.; Bears--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 x 24 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 3.

Carol Shorey Dean's second book is a winsome account of the excitement she experienced as a girl growing up in the farmlands of Maine. *The Live Bale of Hay* relates, in vivid detail, the breathtaking encounter Dean and a friend had with a black bear on a night intended simply for chasing fireflies. Dean does a fine job recreating the rural New England atmosphere in which she spent her childhood. Her use of specific detail helps the reader appreciate and gain insight into the life of a farming community.

The Live Bale of Hay combines simplicity of plot and specificity of detail, helpful for children making the move from picture books to chapter books. The book introduces vocabulary and concepts that are not too difficult for the early independent reader, yet the author keeps the story moving at a pace that holds the reader's interest. Sandra Dunn's watercolor illustrations add to the book's warmth, and are appealing to children both young and old.

The Live Bale of Hay discusses topics of interest to kids (adventure, family, animal life) in a way that will hold their interest, without talking down to them. This may be a simple feat but it is one sometimes overlooked by showier books..

Aarik Danielsen, BS/BM. Free-lance journalist and worship leader, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Molly & the Good Shepherd / by Chris Auer ; illustrated by Amy Wummer. LCCN 2004000192. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2005.

HBB, 0310708265, list price: \$12.99.

E. Jesus Christ--Art--Fiction; Lost children--Fiction; School field trips--Fiction; Museums--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 28 cm.

Grades PS-4. Rating : 5.

Molly and the Good Shepherd, by Chris Auer, opens with Molly reading John 10:14, "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and my sheep know me." The little girl is on a school field trip to a museum. Molly wanders among the statues and paintings, and she becomes lost! She remembers the words from her teacher, "If you're lost, find an adult in uniform and ask for help." The kind guard calls on his walkie-talkie, and announces a lost child. As Molly and the guard wait, they look at a famous painting of Jesus and sheep (painted in 1855 by Jasper F. Cropsey.) Molly remembers the story the museum guard tells about Jesus, even after she is reunited with her teacher.

Prayer and trust in God are common themes in *Molly and the Good Shepherd*. The teacher misses Molly, and says, "a quick prayer asking God to protect Molly." The teacher thinks of her students, "and every one belonged to the Good Shepherd."

Multiethnic pictures, by Amy Wummer, resemble real boys and girls. Some children wear glasses, others have freckles, and each student wears a bright red school shirt. A minor message involves the school mascot—a rabbit. Rabbits have ears. So do children. Those ears are for listening, and Molly needs to learn that lesson.

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

My book of thanks / B.G. Hennessy ; illustrated by Hiroe Nakata. LCCN 2001025438. Cambridge, Mass. : Candlewick Press, 2002.

HBB, 0763628646, list price: \$6.99.

E or 242/.62. Gratitude; Children--Prayer books and devotions. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

With direct language and color illustrations, *My Book of Thanks* is a universal prayer that shows even the youngest of children that they have much to be thankful for. A sweet, simple reminder to kids that they can be thankful for things in their everyday lives. Almost six inches square, it gives the impression of gift book. Beginning with "Dear God..." and closing with "Thank you for everything," each prayer is balanced by a petition for help. For instance, one prayer gives thanks for people "who teach me about your world", the petition "help me to listen".

The watercolor and ink illustrations by Hiroe Nakata convey the content of each aspect of life one can be thankful for, e.g. family, travel, body-soul-mind. Each idea appears on a page on white paper, opposite the other page with watercolor vignettes. This reinforced trade cover will protect the book from wear and tear. A positive aspect of the book is awareness of God throughout all the prayers.

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

Oh, look! / Patricia Polacco. LCCN 2003012098. New York : , 2004.

HBB, 0399242236, list price: \$16.99.

E. Goats--Fiction; Fairs--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 5.

Oh, Look! will be a great choice for story times—preschoolers will love it! Filled with repetition and fun words, such as um-pah-pahs and wiggles and wobbles, little ones will enjoy “reading” along with parents or teachers as they are entranced by Polacco’s story.

A wonderful adventure begins when three little goats find their gate unlocked one day and stray from their home. The click, click, click of the bridge, squish, squish, squish of the mud, and um-pah-pah, um-pah-pah of the carousel delight them, but when they encounter an angry ogre (who most likely won’t scare our readers in the least), they can’t return to their home fast enough.

Patricia Polacco’s familiar, vibrantly colored illustrations are beautiful, the characters resembling peasants of a foreign land, drawn in a folk art style. This is written for the very young, preschoolers ages 3-5, and will be a sure hit for them and their parents.

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

A parade for Sam / written by Mary Labatt ; illustrated by Marisol Sarrazin. C20049072379. Toronto : Kids Can, 2005.

HBB, 1553377877, list price: \$14.95.

E. Dogs--Fiction; Parades--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 cm.

Sam's snowy day / written by Mary Labatt ; illustrated by Marisol Sarrazin. C20049065688. Toronto : Kids Can, 2005.

HBB, 1553377893, list price: \$14.95.

E. Dogs--Fiction; Snow--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

A Parade for Sam is the story of Puppy Sam, a female puppy with bundles of energy she uses to explore the world around her. When Sam hears a parade going by her house, she excitedly wants to join in on the fun, but will her owners allow her to watch the parade? Will Sam be allowed to march in the parade with the jugglers, dancers, and clowns?

Sam’s Snowy Day finds Puppy Sam on yet another adventure, this time on a snowy winter day. Sam’s owners, Joan and Bob, take Sam to the park to play in the snow. Sam’s many misadventures are sure to have kids laughing out loud.

Mary Labatt has added two new stories to her “Puppy Sam” series of Kids Can Read titles. With simple beginning-reader words, Ms. Labatt enables even the youngest reader to enjoy her funny stories about Sam the puppy. Full-color drawings by Marisol Sarrazin are absolutely adorable, and will capture the attention of each child with their vibrant colors. Youngsters who can’t read will beg for these two books to be read over and over, and ones who can read themselves will certainly pick these up more than once to enjoy.

Sherri Myers. Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

Pup and Hound in trouble / by Susan Hood ; illustrated by Linda Hendry. C20049026143. Toronto : Kids Can, 2005.

HBB, 1553376765, list price: \$14.95.

E. Stories in rhyme; Friendship--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades PS-1. Rating : 5.

Pup and Hound stay up late / by Susan Hood ; illustrated by Linda Hendry. C20049026135. Toronto : Kids Can, 2005.

HBB, 1553376781, list price: \$14.95.

E. Stories in rhyme; Friendship--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 cm.

Grades PS-1. Rating : 4.

Kids Can Press offers the Kids Can Read series. Level one includes “short stories, simple sentences, easy vocabulary, lots of repetition and visual clues for kids just beginning to read.” Susan Hood’s *Pup and Hound* books are among the selections in level one.

In *Pup and Hound in Trouble*, faithful Hound follows Pup through misadventures in a pond, with a cat, and spilling animal feed. In *Pup and Hound Stay Up Late*, Pup wanders around at night. Eventually, the little doggie encourages Hound to join the nighttime fun.

The artist, Linda Hendry, offers winsome animal characters drawn in pencil crayon on sienna colored pastel paper. Hound truly looks horrified when Pup falls into the pigs’ mud puddle. Pup always appears innocent, but mischievous. Little hands will anxiously turn pages...just to see Pup’s next antic.

Fiction, of course, has great leeway in characters and conversation between animals. Still, I wondered about Otto the opossum in *Pup and Hound Stay Up Late*. Opossums are not known as friendly animals, yet we read,

Otto, the opossum,
Was fuzzy and round,
He scooted over

And nuzzled Hound.
“Play with us Hound!
Let’s stay up!”
So Hound hung out
With Otto and Pup.

The Kids Can Read series also contains more advanced books. Level two has longer, varied sentences and increased vocabulary. Stories in level three include more challenging vocabulary with less repetition. For more information, see www.kidscanpress.com. Choose these books for beginning readers and as read-aloud selections for younger children. Pup and Hound will entertain everyone!

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

*

What color is love : a parable of God's gifts / by Nan Gurley ; illustrated by Bill Farnsworth. LCCN 2004000529. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2005.

HBB, 0310708885, list price: \$14.99.

E. Grandmothers--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Dressmakers--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades PS-4. Rating : *5.

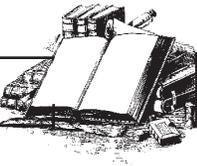
Emma’s Grammy is a seamstress. Although she sews for paying customers, Grammy’s finest creation is Emma’s coat of five colors. Yellow, gray, red, white, and green each tell their story about how to receive Jesus as Savior. In this garment, Grammy wrapped Emma in “all the colors of love.” Children can learn about salvation in Christ from Nan Gurley’s *What Color Is Love: A Parable of God’s Gifts*.

Readers are not told how much time Emma and Grammy spend together. This story is possibly part of a summer visit. Perhaps the grandmother and granddaughter are a family unit. Because we lack these details, *What Color Is Love* will resonate with children whose primary caretakers are grandparents. Regardless of these details, Grammy listens to Emma’s prayers at night and helps her “snuggle deep into the covers.”

Bill Farnsworth’s artwork resembles life in the 1950s. Women wear dresses. Grammy’s sewing machine is a plain, black model. The furniture and curtains in Grammy’s house are neat and clean, but with an older appearance.

A Note to Parents mentions several scriptures, explaining why the author chose the various colors. Red refers to Hebrews 9:22, because “...without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness of sin.” Scripture quotations are from the New International Reader’s Version of the Bible. The author wrote, “I pray this story will inspire you to help the children in your life give their hearts to Jesus.”

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



Arby Jenkins meets his match / Sharon Hambrick ; illustrated by Del Thompson. (Arby Jenkins series ; 5.) LCCN 00051871. Greenville, S.C. : Journey Books, 2001.

PAP, 1579244610, list price: \$7.49.

Fic. Grandmothers--Fiction; Home schooling--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 120 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

Twelve-year-old Arby Jenkins is a seventh grade student who has his plans for the future already figured out. He knows where he will be going to school and even who he's going to marry. We all know what they say about the best laid plans of mice and men, though, don't we? According to Scottish poet Robert Burns, they often go awry, and that is indeed what happens to poor Arby.

When his school burns down, his parents decide homeschooling is the best choice for Arby, and it doesn't help matters any when a teacher he dislikes is asked to give him English lessons. Then he learns his beloved grandmother has fallen in love with his next-door neighbor, a man who lost an arm during WWII, and who calls Arby by his real name, Rutherford. Can the things in life that Arby sees as problems really be blessings in disguise?

Arby Jenkins Meets His Match is the fifth book in the Arby Jenkins Series, which is for children ages aged nine to twelve. While Arby thinks he has life all figured out, he comes to realize that life is full of uncertainties and changes he can't control and he must rely on God to help him deal with them. Arby tends to jump quickly to conclusions which are often wrong, making for some silly situations. With fairly short chapters, this book by Sharon Hambrick is perfect for bedtime reading.

Sherri Myers. Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

Dangerous crossing : the revolutionary voyage of John Quincy Adams / by Stephen Krensky ; illustrated by Greg Harlin. LCCN 2003040852. New York : Dutton's Children's Books, 2005.

HBB, 0525469664, list price: \$16.99.

Fic. Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848 --Childhood and youth--Juvenile fiction; Adams, John, 1735-1826 --Juvenile fiction; Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848 --Childhood and youth; Adams, John, 1735-1826 --Fiction; Voyages and travels--Fiction; United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Juvenile fiction; United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 29 cm.

Grades 2-5. Rating : 5.

The year is 1778, and colonial leader John Adams and his son Johnny cross the Atlantic from Massachusetts colony to Paris on a dangerous mid-winter voyage. Their goal is to gain support for the colonies from the French during the American Revolution. While making the crossing, their ship, the Boston, is chased by the British. The ship is further damaged by lightning, veers off-course, and its crew engages a British merchant ship before they finally arrive in France.

A map of the voyage may be found at the front of the book. An author's note is appended, providing information about later contributions to the U.S. of this father and son team.

Stephen Krensky and Greg Harlin have again teamed up to write a picture book account of an event in American Revolutionary War history. Their previous collaboration was *Paul Revere's Midnight Ride* (HarperCollins, 2002). *Dangerous Crossing* depicts a little known story in American history, but the results of this journey had significant bearing on America's future, for France became an ally in our war for independence.

The text is fast-paced, the action lively, and the watercolor illustrations vivid with details of life onboard ship in the 18th century. Harlin uses many hues of blue and grey for the ocean scenes. This pair needs to be encouraged to continue its collaborative exploration of American history for younger readers.

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

*

The door in the wall / by Marguerite de Angeli. LCCN 88031291. New York : Doubleday, 1989, 1949.

HBB, 038507283X, list price: \$16.95.

Fic. Middle Ages--Fiction; People with disabilities--Fiction; Great Britain--History--Edward III, 1327-1377--Fiction. 120 p. : ill. ; 25 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : *5.

His father, Sir John de Bureford, is with the king in the Scottish wars and his mother, Lady Maud is away from home serving the ailing queen when ten-year-old Robin is struck by an illness that paralyzes his legs. When all the household servants succumb to the Black Death in London, Brother Luke arrives to take Robin to care for him in nearby St. Mark's. The friar assures Robin that every wall has a door in it somewhere. With Brother Luke's wise therapy and encouragement, Robin recovers his health

and learns to make and master the use of his crutches. When the plague subsides, Brother Luke and a minstrel, John-go-in-the-Wynd, escort Robin through various adventures to the castle of Sir Peter de Lindsay, who has agreed to foster him. During a siege by nearby Welsh fighters, Robin returns Sir Peter's kindness by pursuing his scheme to send for rescue. The king and queen arrive for Christmas, accompanied by his parents, bringing joy and honor for Robin.

Marguerite de Angeli, the author of a number of other historical fiction books, has set *The Door in the Wall* in the Middle Ages. She brings to life fourteenth century England, with its sights, sounds, and smells. Her use of a few archaic expressions in the dialogue conveys a sense of past time without loss in intelligibility. She portrays her characters with sympathy. Robin develops from a spoiled and desperate child into a thoughtful, courageous youth who achieves success in spite of his disability. The metaphor of the "door in the wall" reappears at appropriate points within the well-constructed plot. The friar's faith and his confident use of scripture and prayer are consistently positive. The author also illustrates her book with soft black-and-white drawings, both full-page and half-size, enhancing the sense of time and story. This 1950 Newbery Medal winner is highly recommended for home and Christian school libraries.

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

Fleabiscuit sings! / Marlene Fanta Shyer. LCCN 2004019454. New York : Marshall Cavendish, 2005.

HBB, 0761452133, list price: \$15.95.

Fic. Family life--New York (State)--New York--Fiction; City and town life--New York (State)--New York--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction; New York (N.Y.)--Fiction. 150 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 4.

Mr. Muffin, a retired baker, not only bakes the most wonderful Hope cookies, he needs someone to walk his dog, Fleabiscuit, every day. Between the cookies and the dog, twelve-year-old Nicky's boring summer suddenly takes a turn for the better. Due to his father's death, Nicky is crammed into a tiny apartment with his mother, little sister, grandmother, and eccentric uncle, so walking the dog is a joyful escape. Once he discovers that the dog can really sing, he starts making plans for fame and fortune. But Mr. Muffin's health takes a turn for the worse and he goes to the hospital. Fleabiscuit goes to stay with Mr. Muffin's daughter outside the city and then ends up in the pound. Nicky spends the

rest of the summer trying to get the dog back, but when they finally get to the pound, Fleabiscuit has been adopted. Brokenhearted, Nicky realizes it is more than the dog's money-making potential that he loves. There are a couple of additional twists before the happy ending, but in the end, Nicky and Fleabiscuit get to make beautiful music together.

Firmly rooted in the city of New York, Nicky is an appealing character. Marlene Shyer has developed a young boy's love for a dog into a poignant search for the important things in life. The family relationship in this book, while unconventional, is very loving. The book has a couple of interwoven themes. The Hope cookies are important, as is the relationship with Mr. Muffin, but neither of those sustain the story; only Nicky's love for the dog does that. That the happy ending is believable, and not a Disney-esque invention, will make *Fleabiscuit Sings!* even more appealing to both boys and girls. The recipe for Hope cookies is included at the end of the book.

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

Hitty : her first hundred years / Rachel Field ; with illustrations by Dorothy P. Lathrop. LCCN 98073305. New York : Simon & Schuster/Aladdin Books, 1998, 1929.

PAP, 0689822847, list price: \$5.99.

Fic. Dolls--Fiction; Newbery Medal. 235 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 5.

During a harsh Maine winter in 1829, a peddler carved a doll for little Phoebe Preble. He used his prized possession: a small piece of mountain ash brought from Kilkenny, Ireland, a wood said to bring luck to the possessor and to have "power against mischief." Phoebe named the doll Mahitable.

One hundred years later, from a New York antique shop on 8th Street, "Hitty" writes her memoirs, captivating the reader with her delightful narration.

Her travels start when Phoebe's family puts out to sea on her father's whaling ship. As is often the way with children's books, most adults are removed from the story early on. In this case, Hitty becomes separated from the Prebles when she endures a shipwreck in the South Seas. She resides for a time with a snake charmer, and meets President Abraham Lincoln, using her inherent powers and good fortune to survive.

Her adventures are a delightful way for pre-teens to absorb history. Some of the characteristics of this early-century book, however, may seem boring to slow readers. Rachel Field won a Newbery Medal in 1929 for *Hitty : Her First Hundred Years*. The pen and ink illustrations are by Dorothy P. Lathrop.

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

Horrible Harry and the locked closet / by Suzy Kline ; [pictures by Frank Remkiewicz]. LCCN 2003026332. New York : Penguin/Viking, 2004.

HBB, 0670059447, list price: \$13.99.

Fic. Schools--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories. 68 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-5. Rating : 4.

Horrible Harry has long been a favorite of young children, and this story is one they will surely want to add to their collections. In this episode of Harry's adventures, it has been raining for four days straight, causing the class to suffer through indoor recess each day. Miss Mackle's class is bored and Harry decides to liven it up with an adventure. When he asks about the locked closet in the classroom, Miss Mackle allows Harry to investigate the reasons why it hasn't been opened for over forty years. With the help of some of the other students, the secret treasures in the locked closet are finally revealed.

You'll have to read the book to find out what they are, though, because it's a secret.

Horrible Harry and the Locked Closet is a fun chapter book for intermediate readers, and a read-aloud book for younger children. Kids love mysteries, and Horrible Harry is one series that will never let them down. Children will excitedly read this story to discover what really is in the closet, and also to find out about the person who owned the items inside. Suzy Kline is an imaginative author and Horrible Harry is a fun series my children have always loved. Frank Remkiewicz adds nicely to the story with his black-and-white ink drawings. I recommend this book and any of the other Horrible Harry mysteries for kids and parents in the mood for some fun, light detective work.

Sherri Myers. Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

The incredible rescues / Ed Dunlop ; [illustrated by Tom Halverson]. (The young refugees : 3.) LCCN 2003021166. Greenville, S.C. : BJUP/JourneyForth, 2004.

PAP, 1591660122, list price: \$7.49.

Fic. Wallenberg, Raoul, 1912-1947 --Juvenile fiction; Wallenberg, Raoul, 1912-1947 --Fiction; World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Rescue--Hungary--Budapest--Juvenile fiction; World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Rescue--Fiction; Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Hungary--Fiction; Righteous Gentiles in the Holocaust--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction, Christian life--Fiction. 166 p. : 22 cm.

Grades 4-7. Rating : 3.

Hans and Gretchen, brother and sister, are Christian Austrian teenagers living in Budapest, Hungary, during the last days of World War II. They befriend a Jewish teenager, Miklos Toth, who escapes from a train heading to one of Hitler's death camps. Miklos is working as a

messenger and deliveryman for Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg. Soon Hans and Gretchen are working for Wallenberg also, delivering food, medicine, and messages to Jewish Council members and families in hiding and in safe houses.

But eventually they encounter the ruthless Hungarian Nyalis, or Arrow Cross youth; Gretchen is captured and placed on a deportation train heading for Auschwitz. Can Wallenberg and his helpers save Gretchen? Can Gretchen save herself?

The Young Refugees belongs to the series *The Incredible Rescues*, by Dunlop. Of the main characters, only Wallenberg and his legation workers are real. There is documentation of his actively saving thousands of Jews from deportation and extermination. By giving young teenagers a main role in the rescue process, Ed Dunlop has created a novel with empathetic impact for the intended readers.

The novel is a page-turner, but the teenagers are too sweet, too perfect. Hans frequently looks for the ideal time to witness, and berates himself for not taking advantage of opportunities. When he does witness, it is done in a heavy-handed, insincere way, denigrating Christians who he claims are just religious and part of a religious system. (While clergy did succumb to Hitler's threats, others worked underground to support the Jews.) The author works too hard to make the conversations sound German or Hungarian. "Gut" is inserted in conversation at an annoyingly frequent tempo, as are "schnell," "ja," and "nein." Dunlop has created an interesting read, but not good literature.

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

Mercy Watson to the rescue / Kate DiCamillo ; illustrated by Chris van Dusen. LCCN 2004051896. Cambridge, Mass. : Candlewick Press, 2005.

HBB, 0763622702, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Fire departments--Fiction; Neighbors--Fiction; Pigs--Fiction; Humorous stories. 68 p. : col. ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 4.

Mercy Watson is a pig. She lives in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Watson and enjoys all the privileges of being their "child." Her favorite food is hot, buttered toast and Mrs. Watson's favorite thing to do is to make it for her.

Being lonely in her own bed one night, Mercy decides to sleep with the Watsons. This precipitates a near disaster as all of them suffer from excess toast consumption. The bed starts to break through the floor below. Mercy jumps off just in time. The Watsons think she is nobly going for help. On the contrary, Mercy has simply decided that she is hungry. But even a hungry pig can alert the fire department,

depending on how she goes about looking for food.

Kate DiCamillo, author of *Because of Winn-Dixie* (Candlewick, 2001) and *The Tale of Despereaux* (Candlewick, 2003), has created a truly unique character in Mercy Watson. She is not as sentient as literary giants Poppleton, Babe, Wilbur, or Olivia. Mercy simply acts like a pig. Even in seeking out the Watsons to sleep with, Mercy is just looking for company—a porcine trait. The clueless, indulgent Watsons infer heroic behavior on the part of their “porcine wonder” while the reader is in on the joke. In fact, the only time Mercy conveys any understanding of what the humans are saying is when Mrs. Watson says the word, “breakfast.” Vivid, painted illustrations by Chris Van Dusen enliven this early reader chapter book.

A pig as entertaining as this deserves her own series, and the author promises the same. In fact, the first chapter of the next book can be found at the end of *Mercy Watson to the Rescue*.

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

One splendid tree / written by Marilyn Helmer ; illustrated by Dianne Eastman. LCCN 20049071874. Toronto : Kids Can, 2005.

HBB, 1553376838, list price: \$15.95.

Fic. Christmas stories, Canadian. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 26 cm.

Grades K-3. Rating : 4.

Hattie fights disappointment every time she thinks of Christmas. With their father away fighting, and their mother working in a factory to support them, Hattie cannot understand why her little brother, Junior, refers to their city apartment as “home” and talks excitedly about Christmas coming. Hattie, older and more practical, knows there is no money for a tree or presents or any of the things that make Christmas special. She wants their father and their farm back. Still, in order to indulge Junior’s childhood a bit longer, Hattie goes along with him when he starts to turn an abandoned potted palm into a Christmas tree. Despite her initial resistance, Hattie finds herself drawn into the spirit of Christmas as people in the apartment house anonymously contribute bits and pieces towards decorating their community tree. By the time they’re finished, a Christmas gathering is planned and Hattie begins to appreciate sacrifice and honor.

Marilyn Helmer’s telling of *One Splendid Tree* evokes the feelings of sadness and loss the children are experiencing in wartime Canada, but not in a threatening way. By having Hattie hold her tongue and indulge Junior, Helmer shows a miracle of the heart occurring not just for Hattie, but for all the people in the building. Dianne Eastman’s Photoshop illustrations come close to giving a 3-D perspective to the story. As a nice touch, her own father’s RCAF photo

graces the pages showing the family’s living room.

There is no mention of Jesus or the reason for Christmas. This is a feel-good story about sacrifice and community, very well done. Instructions for making yarn snowman decorations are provided on the last page. Compared to the many pop-culture and cartoon character Christmas books that are published, this is a much more worthwhile purchase.

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

*

Shen of the Sea / by Arthur Bowie Chrisman ; illustrated by Else Hasselriis. LCCN 68013420. New York : PenguinPutnam/Dutton, 1968, c1925.

HBB, 0525392440, list price: \$16.99.

Fic. Short stories; Newbery Medal. 221 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : *5.

One of those wonderful classics which go on providing enjoyment decade after decade, *Shen of the Sea* presents a delightful collection of Chinese folk and wonder tales for the American audience. Here is just a sprinkling of themes: hen-pecked Cheng Chang, who becomes Emperor and invents chop sticks; lazy Ah-Fun, who nearly kills his father while accidentally inventing gun powder; the little princess who saves the kingdom with her mud pies; the boy who buys a worthless father and ends up King, and the Chinese version of the boy who “cried wolf.”

Wanderer, scholar, raconteur par excellence, Arthur Chrisman loved the Californian Chinese people and their tales. With panache and humor, illumined by his own version of the Chinese style of storytelling, Chrisman delighted, and continues to delight, his multi-generational audiences. Famous Danish silhouettist Else Hasselriis’ intriguing black and white illustrations capture the essence of each tale.

One of our longest-lived publishers, Dutton Children’s Books, provides not-to-be-forgotten classics for today’s reader. 1926 Newbery Medal Winner, *Shen of the Sea* is for all schools, libraries, and readers of all ages. Don’t miss this one!

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

*

The spoon in the stone / by Doug Peterson ; [illustrations by Big Idea Productions]. (VeggieTown values ; 1.) LCCN 2004000462. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2005.

PAP, 0310706262, list price: \$3.99.

Fic. Waiters and waitresses--Fiction; Knights and knighthood--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction; Vegetables--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 21 cm.

Field of beans / by Doug Peterson ; [illustrations by Big Idea Productions]. (VeggieTown values ; 3.) LCCN 2004000232. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2005.

PAP, 0310706289, list price: \$3.99.

Fic. Elijah (Biblical prophet)--Fiction; Luck--Fiction; Charms--Fiction; Faith--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction; Vegetables--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 21 cm.

Lost in place / by Doug Peterson ; [illustrations by Big Idea Productions]. (VeggieTown values ; 4.) LCCN 2004000233. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2005.

PAP, 0310706297, list price: \$3.99.

Fic. Fear--Fiction; Space flight--Fiction; Trust in God--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction; Vegetables--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 21 cm.

Frog wars / by Cindy Kenney and Doug Peterson. (VeggieTown values ; 2.) LCCN 2004000463. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2005.

PAP, 0310706270, list price: \$3.99.

Fic. Perseverance (Ethics)--Fiction; Hope--Fiction; Musical instruments--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction; Vegetables--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades K-2. Rating : *5.

The wacky veggies are back with excellent moral lessons made delicious by being wrapped in humor. VeggieTown Values series books are each a take-off on a popular story or movie that will engage the children as well as the adults who will be reading these over and over ... and over. The full color illustrations by Michael Moore are vivid and engaging.

The Spoon in the Stone is a lesson in serving others. Protesting helping a grumpy neighbor, Junior and Laura are soon drawn into the land of Ham-a-lot where everyone lies around waiting to be served while dishes and messes pile up. When Laura is captured by a Giant, Junior has to quit waiting for someone else to do the hard job, and he finds his servant’s heart.

Field of Beans is a lesson in faith, loosely based on the story of Elijah. Everyone on Junior’s baseball team has a lucky charm or ritual except Junior. He is tempted to get his own lucky charm as he’s having a rough season. Mr. O’Malley’s unique bookshop drops Junior into the story of the Mount Carmel Dodgers vs. the Baal City Relics where despite all their lucky charms and idols, the Relics can’t start their barbecue. When it is Elijah’s turn, his prayer and attitude of submission teach Junior where his own faith should dwell.

Lost in Place is about overcoming fear. After Junior gets lost on the way home from the park, he’s afraid to leave his own house. A journey through space with the crew of the Jitterbug 2 teaches Junior that God watches over all of us, no matter where we are.

Frustrated by trying to learn to play the tuba, in *Frog Wars* Junior goes to Mr. O'Malley. He suddenly finds himself dropped into a very loose version of the story of Exodus, except this version uses Star Wars-type characters, and nobody dies. Your students will laugh at the names. Who wouldn't love Cuke Sandwalker, Dark Visor, Sweet-Pea-3-Oh and Achoo Bless-U? Having to go back to the king over and over again, Junior learns that perseverance is the key to success in anything. Don't be surprised if you hear the funniest lines quoted over and over again.

Authors Cindy Kenney and Doug Peterson fully understand what makes children laugh, and sympathize with parents who will be re-reading these tales often.

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

Tommy's rocket / by Sharon Hambrick ; [illustrations by Maurie J. Manning]. (Fig Street kids ; 2.) LCCN 2003025357. Greenville, S.C. : Journey Books, 2004.

PAP, 1591661862, list price: \$7.49.

Fic. Rockets (Aeronautics)--Fiction; Clubs--Fiction; Neighborhood--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction. 83 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 3.

Tommy's race / by Sharon Hambrick ; [illustrations by Maurie J. Manning]. (Fig Street kids ; 3.) LCCN 2004012060. Greenville, S.C. : Journey Books, 2004.

PAP, 1591662869, list price: \$7.49.

Fic. Clubs--Fiction; People with disabilities--Fiction; Wheelchairs--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Moneymaking projects--Fiction. 95 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 3.

The Fig Street Kids is a pleasantly-written series geared to boys aged six to ten (although girls would like it, too). Each book is narrated by seven-year-old Tommy Jackson (he turns eight in Book #3), who lives on middle class Fig Street in a neighborhood reminiscent of 1960s TV suburbia.

Tommy is all boy, and the lines Sharon Hambrick gives him are slyly humorous—as when Tommy says his clubhouse is painted blue like the sky “except if it’s a cloudy day or snowy, then it doesn’t match the sky anymore.” His friends, however, are not as well-developed; Zack and Howie are completely interchangeable. Sammy, an African American boy, is super-smart... but that’s his only distinctive character trait.

Tommy's Rocket opens with Tommy bragging about how the Spy Guys, the club he and his friends have formed, solve all sorts of mysteries. But the book's plot has very little mystery, and almost nothing to do with the promised rocket of the title. Most of the story concerns Tommy's jealousy of Sammy, who's just moved to town and bests Tommy in everything.

Similarly, *Tommy's Race* doesn't have as much to do with the big Field Day race as it does with the Spy Guys befriending wheelchair-bound William, and doing chores to purchase a wheelchair for an African boy with polio. The story is well-told, the friends loyal, and their kindness to each other admirable, but the story's a bit episodic, and neither book is really about what its cover promises.

One problem with the first book is that Tommy's jealousy towards Sammy is never condemned, and he never realizes it's wrong, although he does, on his own, decide to relinquish his chances of winning the history prize so Sammy—who has the better project—can win.

Fig Street Kids is a cute series, featuring innocent adventures and nothing controversial. Hambrick's writing is appealing. Maurie Manning's line drawings add zest. But the series isn't a necessary purchase for libraries on tight budgets.

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

Two sides to everything / by Deb Brammer. LCCN 2003023194. Greenville, S.C. : JourneyForth, 2004.

PAP, 1591661668, list price: \$7.49.

Fic. Sheep ranches--Fiction; Farm life--New Zealand--Fiction; Uncles--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; New Zealand--Fiction. 151 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

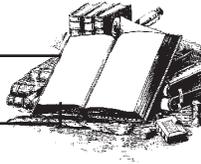
Grades 4-6. Rating : 4.

When Josh's mother is badly injured in a car accident and must spend six months in rehab, Josh is sent to New Zealand to live, temporarily, with his great-uncle Hamish. Josh's parents think this is a good idea. Josh isn't so sure. As an American, he has problems fitting in with the other kids, and has trouble understanding the language—even if New Zealanders also speak English. A bigger problem? Local bully Neville is tormenting the other kids, and Josh decides he's the only one who can help.

Fast-moving and funny, *Two Sides to Everything* will definitely appeal to preteen boys. Josh is delightful character: a little stubborn, always joking around, yet never disrespectful. His awkwardness and attempts to survive rural New Zealand ring true, as does his desire to stop the bullying. Neville has been the town bully for years and no one but Josh will defy him. Unfortunately, Josh's first solution is to be as cruel to Neville as Neville is to others. It's a natural enough reaction, especially as written by author Deb Brammer. Yet Brammer also shows Josh learning—and believing in—the power of loving an enemy. It's done in a convincing way and, in a nice touch, never really reforms Neville, although it does change Josh.

One somewhat graphic scene shows Josh and Neville helping a ewe give birth.

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



A child's garden of Bible stories / by Arthur W. Gross ; illustrated by Marilynn Barr. LCCN 2001268469. St. Louis, Mo. : Concordia, 2001.

HBB, 0758608586, list price: \$9.99.
220. Bible stories. 142 p. : col. ill. ; 20 cm.
Grades PS-2. Rating : 2.

A child's garden of prayer / illustrations by Marilynn Barr. LCCN 2004009899. St. Louis, Mo. : Concordia, 2005.

HBB, 0758607857, list price: \$6.99.
242/.82. Prayers--Juvenile literature. 80 p. : col. ill. ; 21 cm.
Grades PS-2. Rating : 3.

A Child's Garden of Bible Stories by Arthur W. Gross is now available in hardback, making it a more durable library or classroom resource. There are 28 Old Testament stories and 32 New Testament stories. The author's intention is to provide vocabulary and sentence length suitable for the young reader. This would make the book a good one for read-aloud or for working with small children. However, the book leaves much to be desired for anything but a surface brush of Bible stories. Sadly missing are any references or citations to Scripture so that the child can connect the stories with their parents' Bible. More importantly, the author is quite liberal with his paraphrasing the stories—even to the point of inaccuracy. For example, in his story of Abraham's Faith in God, he states that God told Abraham "Someday the Messiah will be born from your children's children." The author also underestimates children's ability to process the bad and the ugly in Bible stories along with the good; thus the story of David omits Bathsheba and the story of Jacob omits his sin in taking Esau's blessing. Marilynn Barr's rich watercolors clearly illustrate each story. Although recommended as a "gift book," I hesitate to agree for fear of giving an inaccurate or incomplete book to a child who might be from an unchurched family.

A Child's Garden of Prayer is a sweet little volume full of short prayers that a parent or caregiver can pray over a child, with a child, and/or teach a child. Although they are divided into categories (morning, evening, holidays, special occasions, etc.), there is no table of contents or index to make them a quick find. About half of them are in King James English, which may make it difficult for the child to connect to Jesus as their personal friend. Many of the prayers are from other publications by Concordia, including Lutheran Worship, so citations are particular to those resources. This would be a nice gift for a young family raising their children within the Lutheran church.

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

*

Veggie Bible dictionary / by Cindy Kenney and Karen Brothers. Brentwood, Tenn. : Integrity Publishing, 2005.

HBB, 159145252X, list price: \$14.99.
220.3. Bible--Dictionaries, Juvenile. 158 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades PS-5. Rating : *5.

The *Veggie Bible Dictionary* is filled with definitions that will help children understand words from the Bible and words having to do with Veggie Tales characters and videos.

This delightful dictionary is packed with Bible words that children will enjoy looking up and learning. Some entries give Bible verse references; for example: choose (chooz) to make a choice or decision. "You did not choose me, but I chose you . . ." See John 15:16. Cindy Kenney and Karen Brothers also include Veggie character names and items from Veggie videos along with simple, full color illustrations and fun examples like: "Larrymobile (LAIR-ee-moh-beel) Created by Larryboy's talented and English butler, Alfred, this super-ride is Larryboy's crime-fighting car with super gadgets so it can turn into a plane or a submarine! But can it make waffles?" This book can be used by Sunday school teachers, homeschooling families, and Christian schools. Because of the fun format, children will memorize easier and retain information better. It is clever and silly, but informative and accurate. Exactly what we've come to expect from Veggie Tales.

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

This is no fairy tale / by Dale Tolmasoff ; illustrations by Corbert Gauthier. LCCN 2005002287. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 2005.

HBB, 1581346441, list price: \$15.99.
232.9. Jesus Christ--Biography--Juvenile literature. 30 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.
Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

This is No Fairy Tale by Dale Tolmasoff is a unique story that compares fairy tales to the true story of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Beginning with Jesus' birth and ending with his return to heaven, this book invites our children to be a part of the greatest story ever told. Children who love reading fairy tales will love this beautifully-illustrated and well-written story.

Exceptionally life-like, detailed watercolor paintings done by award-winning Corbert Gauthier bring the humanity of Jesus to life. A foreword by John Piper is included, explaining what will be read in the upcoming pages. Parents looking for a 'happily-ever-after' bedtime story that isn't a fairy tale will find this book to be everything they have been seeking.

Sherri Myers. Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

One hundred Bible stories in the words of Holy Scripture : based on the New International Version with colored illustrations, scripture passages, questions, and explanatory notes. LCCN 98174387. St. Louis, Mo. : Concordia, 1998.

HBB, 0758608578, list price: \$12.99.
220.9/505. Bible stories. 207 p. : col. ill. ; 23 cm.
Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Concordia has published an updated version of an old classic, *One Hundred Bible Stories*. Available with an activity guide and answer key (neither reviewed), this volume features classic stories of the Old and New Testaments. Each two-page spread features the story on the left page, written in the language of the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible. Footnotes on the same page provide further details or explanations, largely the way the NIV itself does. The facing page has a full color illustration captioned by the central theme of the story. This page also includes three questions for reflection, and Words to Remember: scripture that references a prophecy or event in scripture that parallels the featured story. There are 50 stories from each Testament, beginning with Creation and ending with Paul's shipwreck from Acts 27-28. The book would be a nice starting point for family devotions, or even to help focus Sunday School lessons. It is also a nice book for a mid-level reader who is still intimidated by the whole Bible. The table of contents is particularly useful as it gives the entire reference for the source of each story.

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

GodQuest : dare to live the adventure / Rick Osborne. (2:52 soul gear.) LCCN 2004015763. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2004.

PAP, 0310708680, list price: \$7.99.
248.8/2. Boys--Religious life--Juvenile literature; Christian life--Juvenile literature. 104 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.
Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Based on Luke 2:52 ("one of the only verses that provides a glimpse of Jesus as a young boy"), Zondervan's 2:52 Soul Gear books are designed to help boys aged eight to twelve become "smarter, stronger, deeper, and cooler as they develop into young men of God." *God Quest*, one volume in the series, calls its readers' attention to the cosmic battle raging in the world, then recruits boys to take their part in it. At the same time, it tries to show them that Christianity isn't boring.

Rick Osborne succeeds ably. He mixes together comics panels, mini-quizzes, geometrically-shaped sidebars, and bold fonts as he recounts the fictional adventures of three racially-diverse boys who've joined their church's mysterious new Bible class. Also included is nonfiction commentary on the lessons they learn. The first concept introduced: that God is love. Osborne then deftly discusses Creation, free will, sin, and God's plan for salvation. Other chapters tackle how to know God, and how to pray.

Osborne's vivid writing style will definitely turn boys on to God. The topics covered show he understands how young boys—and new Christians—think. (For instance, he quickly addresses what might be an obvious question: if Jesus defeated sin, why does evil still exist?)

Potential problems: the paper stock is newspaper-like, meaning the book probably won't stand up to heavy use. Also, the "mystery Bible class" is set in a medieval dungeon that (apparently supernaturally) appears and disappears. This is all logically explained by book's end, but it may raise some questions among kid readers as well as adults.

Osborne has a gift for making the basics of Christianity—especially its tough concepts—crystal clear. Despite the 'boys only' theme, *God Quest* would be an excellent choice for all age groups and genders.

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

Bright Easter day / written by Julie Stiegemeyer ; illustrated by Susan Spellman. LCCN 2005277678. St. Louis, Mo. : Concordia, 2005.

HBB, 0758608187, list price: \$9.99.

263/.93. Easter; Jesus Christ--Passion--Juvenile literature; Jesus Christ--Resurrection--Juvenile literature; Holy Week. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 27 cm.

Grades PS-K. Rating : 5.

The story of Easter / Christopher Doyle and John Haysom. St. Louis, Mo. : Concordia, 2005.

HBB, 0758608373, list price: \$12.99.

263/.93. Easter. 29 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Two new Easter books from Concordia present the story for two different age and maturity groups. The first, *Bright Easter Day* by Julie Stiegemeyer, is targeted toward the very young.

The bright chalk illustrations by Susan Spellman and the rhyming prose make this an excellent read-aloud of the most important story in the history of man. Focusing on Jesus, the greatest, becoming the least for our benefit, this book gently takes us through the triumphal entry, the last supper, the Garden, the arrest, trial, and crucifixion. It concludes with a beautiful rhyme, "Conquered death, conquered grave, Jesus died, rose to save, On that bright Easter day as the stone rolled away." The only possible drawback to this book is that a modified cursive font was used for the text. It may prove difficult for some new readers to decipher on their own.

The Story of Easter, by Christopher Doyle, is a much deeper treatment of the final days of Christ's ministry, death and resurrection. The illustrations by John Haysom, a combination of pen and ink and richly detailed water colors, would be suitable for framing in another format. Using all four of the Gospels, the author weaves the accounts to provide as complete a story as possible. He focuses on the actions of this period, rather than the parables Christ was teaching, although he does leave out the incident during the arrest in the Garden when Peter sliced off the servant's ear. A very well done book, it is marred only by a typographical error on page nine (belivers rather than believers).

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

Ebony & ivory : discovering 10 keys to racial harmony / Stephen Elkins ; illustrated by Jesse Reisch, CD narrated by Toby McKeehan and Michael Tait of dc talk. LCCN 2004301665. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2004.

HBB, 0805426744, list price: \$14.99.

270/.089. Race relations--Religious aspects--Juvenile literature; Race awareness--Juvenile literature. 26 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm. + 1 sound disc (digital ; 4 3/4 in.).

Grades PS-3. Rating : 5.

The purpose of this lovely book, song, and CD is to respect diversity, particularly between the black and white races. As a creative endeavor, *Ebony & Ivory: Discovering 10 Keys to Racial Harmony* is successful in promoting the stated Biblical principle of (Romans 12:18) "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." The story is about a multicultural band called the Wonder Beats as they are coming to King's Park in a small town on a warm summer night. Misunderstanding exists between a black and a white youngster in the audience. Through the lyrics of the band's songs and the melody of the music, these two main characters learn quickly that each key, whether it is an 'A' or an 'E' note, is important to a complete composition. The musicians play their some of their music (like Deep and Wide) leaving the 'A's' out in order to illustrate how God's music would sound awful without each musical note. In the end the young men get the message that friendship can end fear, bullying,

and low morale. They learn "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1)

In spite of differences, the emotional intensity of being transformed by music and its message is a powerful benefit of this book. Beautifully illustrated by Jesse Reisch, and excellently narrated by Toby McKeehan and Michael Tait of the Christian music group dc talk. Recommend this for school and church libraries. Includes CD.

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

Remember : the journey to school integration / Toni Morrison. LCCN 2003022884. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2004.

HBB, 061839740X, list price: \$18.00.

379.2/63/0973. African Americans--Education--Pictorial works; Discrimination in education--United States--Pictorial works; School integration--United States--Pictorial works; United States--Race relations--Pictorial works. 78 p. : ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades 3-8. Rating : 4.

Toni Morrison selected over fifty archival black and white photos (here reproduced in sepia) to illustrate the desegregation struggle. She added a fictional prose narrative, which reflects possible emotions and thoughts of the individuals in the pictures. Ms. Morrison's introduction prepares the mind of the reader to understand the importance of remembering historical events. Appended is a timeline in civil rights and integration history beginning with the 1896 Supreme Court decision allowing "separate but equal facilities" to the Congressional gold medal awarded to the Little Rock Nine. Each photo is also documented for place and date in appended thumb nail photos. The 2005 Coretta Scott King Author Award was presented to Toni Morrison for *Remember: the Journey to School Integration*.

Morrison has created a beautifully designed book, almost a coffee table book, about one of the most significant events of the 20th century. But it will be a book which will be difficult to promote for general reading among its intended upper elementary and middle school clientele because it appears so staid. On the other hand, it could be an impact book if shared by parents or grandparents who participated in the civil rights movement, or by a teacher teaching a civil rights unit. Team this title with *Through My Eyes* by Ruby Bridges (Scholastic, 1999), *The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles (Scholastic, 1995), *White Socks Only* by Evelyn Coleman (Whitman, 1999), and *Sister Ann's Hands* by Marybeth Lorbiecki (Dial, 1998) along with Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King biographies for a powerful visual and literary experience.

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

What does a mail carrier do? / Lisa Trumbauer. (What does a community helper do?) LCCN 2004006893. Berkeley Heights, N.J. : Enslow Publishers, 2005.

LIB, 0766025446, list price: \$21.26.
383/.145. Letter carriers--Juvenile literature. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 1-3. Rating : 4.

What does a police officer do? / Felicia Lowenstein. (What does a community helper do?) LCCN 2004006894. Berkeley Heights, N.J. : Enslow Publishers, 2005.

LIB, 0766025411, list price: \$21.26.
363/.2/3. Police--Juvenile literature. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 1-3. Rating : 4.

What does an EMT do? / Anna Louise Jordan. (What does a community helper do?) LCCN 02004006891. Berkeley Heights, N.J. : Enslow Publishers, 2005.

LIB, 766025403, list price: \$21.26.
616.02/5/023. Emergency medical technicians--Juvenile literature. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 1-3. Rating : 4.

What does a firefighter do? / Erin Schmidt. (What does a community helper do?) LCCN 2004006892. Berkeley Heights, N.J. : Enslow Publishers, 2005.

LIB, 076602539X, list price: \$21.26.
628.9/2. Fire fighters--Juvenile literature; Fire extinction--Juvenile literature. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 1-3. Rating : 4.

Color photographs, accompanied by color illustrations and inserts, make this series one a child will remember for aspects of the community worker's job. The text and logical real life photos are ones even beginner readers can have some confidence and enjoyment in reading. More advanced readers can help another child through the book on their own.

Each title opens with a words to know section introducing subject-specific vocabulary, some of which require teacher or parent assistance or an advanced reader. Each ends with a few other titles to consider as well as related Internet addresses. Each title has chapters devoted to what the community worker wears, does, and uses, as well as specific contributions in the community. An index refers young readers back to specific places, equipment, or skills integral to that community worker's tasks in and for the community. Public libraries can add these timeless titles.

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

Merriam-Webster's primary dictionary / Ruth Heller [illustrator]. LCCN 2004028647. Springfield, Mass. : Merriam-Webster, 2005.

HBB, 0877791740, list price: \$16.95.
423. English language--Dictionaries, Juvenile. 12, 436 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.
Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

Meant to be a child's first dictionary, *Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary* introduces students to what a dictionary looks like and how it works. It includes 1,000 main entries that describe more than 2,000 words and introduce 1,000 more. Written in the belief that language is fun, entries often feature jokes, puns, and riddles that are all about words. It also sets out to foster a love for language, and so includes many poems.

Ruth Heller is responsible for the overall design and wrote the pronouncing poems that appear at the beginning of each alphabetical section of the dictionary. She worked with two other artists to create the additional art needed. Intriguing information about how words come to be and sometimes change in meaning enhances a child's understanding of language. This work is more comprehensive than *The Kingfisher First Dictionary* (2004) but compatible to *DK Children's Illustrated Dictionary* (1994). One distinct advantage with *Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary* is that older special education students will feel free to use it because of the bright and playful illustrations. Any school and public library seeking to add a primary dictionary can give this top billing.

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

Merriam-Webster's alphabet book / written and illustrated by Ruth Heller. LCCN 2004029213. Springfield, Mass. : Merriam-Webster, 2005.

HBB, 087779023X, list price: \$12.95.
428.1/3. English language--Alphabet--Juvenile literature. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm.
Grades PS-2. Rating : 5.

I've read many fine alphabet books. None, however, approach *Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book*. Ruth Heller has written and illustrated such a cute selection for little children. The author does not stop with the usual "A is for...and then list "A" objects. Heller also explains the various sounds of letters. For instance,

In skeleton and fussy mess,
we clearly hear one sound for S.
But S's
sound the same as Z's
in music, easy, knees, and peas.
S and H
together make
the sound that's found
in ship and shake.
We clearly hear the S
in smile,
but not the one we see in isle.

As a read-aloud book, the bright pictures and catchy rhymes will interest even younger preschoolers. Older preschoolers will enjoy the interactive possibilities. Encourage little boys

and girls to pronounce words that are given as examples. You'll read, "...We hear two different sounds for A in alligator and Saturday." Young readers will find enough familiar words to feel comfortable, yet there are also challenges such as jamboree, Egypt, and valentine. Most pages hold one object to represent the letter, as jeans for J, koala for k, and parrot for p.

The drawings are attractive and colorful. Slick, quality paper and sturdy binding makes this book a good choice for heavy use. Each copy will withstand many little ones learning about reading, writing, and communication skills. If you're going to buy one alphabet book, make it this one!

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

Discover the planets / written by Cynthia Pratt Nicolson ; illustrated by Bill Slavin. (Kids can read.) C20049068857. Toronto : Kids Can, 2005.

HBB, 1553378253, list price: \$14.95.
523.4. Planets; Planets--Juvenile literature. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 1-3. Rating : 4.

Discover space / written by Cynthia Pratt Nicolson ; illustrated by Bill Slavin. (Kids can read.) C20049068849. Toronto : Kids Can, 2005.

HBB, 1553378237, list price: \$14.95.
520. Astronautics--Juvenile literature; Outer space--Exploration--Juvenile literature. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 1-3. Rating : 4.

Discover the Planets and *Discover Space* were written by Cynthia Pratt Nicolson and illustrated by Bill Slavin as part of the Kids Can Read series. Each of these books is designed especially for beginning readers. These Level 3 titles have longer, more complex stories and sentences, more challenging vocabulary, language play, minimal repetition, and visual clues for kids who are reading by themselves. Chapters cover the solar system in general, and then each of the planets separately or the role of astronauts in space and what goes into exploring other planets in and outside our solar system.

Each page has a colorful photo with appealing typesetting and headings. Schools, public libraries, and parents seeking titles that enable children to read on their own will find *Discover The Planets* and *Discover Space* a helpful addition.

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

Why is it snowing? / Judith Williams. (I like weather!) LCCN 2004016790. Berkeley Heights, N.J. : Enslow Publishers, 2005.

HBB, 0766023192, list price: \$21.26.

551.57/84. Snow--Juvenile literature. 24 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades K-2. Rating : 4.

Judith Williams answers question about the origin of snow, snow shapes, snow crystals, size of snowflakes, blizzards, measuring snow, and the importance of snow. An experiment, which asks, "What takes up more space, snow or water?" is included, as are a vocabulary list, bibliography, web sites, and an index. Full color photographs and one drawing complement and illustrate the concepts.

Why is it Snowing? is part of Enslow's "I Like Weather!" series designed for early primary grades. The book is mainly a supplement for a snow unit, providing factual information in an orderly logical didactic approach. As with many science books for young children, this one is simplistic, and as a result, complete explanations are not found. However, this reviewer's scientist husband verified that what was included is accurate. My first grade teacher will find the book helpful when she teaches her unit on snow which leads into a study of the states of matter.

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

The AIDS epidemic : disaster & survival / Jennifer Bond Reed. (Deadly disasters.) LCCN 2004011699. Berkeley Heights, N.J. : Enslow Publishers, 2005.

HBB, 0766023826, list price: \$23.93.

616.97/92. AIDS (Disease)--Juvenile literature. 48 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 25 cm.

Grades 4-10. Rating : 4.

Earthquakes : disaster & survival / Jennifer Bond Reed. (Deadly disasters.) LCCN 2004011698. Berkeley Heights, N.J. : Enslow Publishers, 2005.

HBB, 0766023818, list price: \$23.93.

363.34/95. Earthquakes--Juvenile literature. 48 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 25 cm.

Grades 4-10. Rating : 4.

Tornadoes : disaster & survival / Bonnie J. Ceban. (Deadly disasters.) LCCN 2004011700. Berkeley Heights, N.J. : Enslow Publishers, 2005.

HBB, 0766023834, list price: \$23.93.

363.34/923. Tornadoes--Juvenile literature. 48 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 25 cm.

Grades 4-10. Rating : 4.

Volcanoes : disaster & survival / Stephanie Buckwalter. (Deadly disasters.) LCCN 2004011928. Berkeley Heights, N.J. : Enslow Publishers, 2005.

HBB, 0766023842, list price: \$23.93.

551.21. Volcanoes--Juvenile literature. 48 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 25 cm.

Grades 4-10. Rating : 4.

A social studies/geography series, Deadly Disasters presents an up-to-date, wide spectrum discussion of each type of disaster. All books within the series follow a similar outline:

explanation of the disaster under discussion; its impact worldwide and within the USA; how it affects the reader and steps for protection; individual disasters in the USA; helpful chapter notes; glossary; book and Internet bibliography; and index. Colored photographs germane to the topic appear on every page of each volume.

As well as discussing the wide picture, *The AIDS Epidemic* by Jennifer Bond Reed, introduces the student to individuals battling this disease and discusses the possibilities of new medicines and research.

Bonnie J. Ceban's *Tornadoes* looks at a weather problem familiar to Americans. This volume considers the anatomy of tornadoes and compares individual tornadoes of recent times.

From Vesuvius to Krakatoa to Mount St. Helens, *Volcanoes*, written by Stephanie Buckwalter, presents both the hazards and benefits of eruptions.

In *Earthquakes*, Reed discusses the hows, whys, and problems arising from this type of disaster. The book features a list of the ten deadliest earthquakes.

An interesting series written on a level appreciated by many ages, including adults, Deadly Disasters will be useful in all school libraries and classrooms not already in possession of textbooks dealing with these subjects.

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

Firefighters / written by Paulette Bourgeois ; illustrated by Kim LaFave. (Kids can read.) C20049019325. Toronto : Kids Can, 2005.

HBB, 1553377508, list price: \$14.95.

628.9/25. Fire fighters; Fire fighters--Juvenile literature; Fire extinction--Juvenile literature; Occupations. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 3.

Postal workers / written by Paulette Bourgeois ; illustrated by Kim LaFave. (Kids can read.) C20049019317. Toronto : Kids Can, 2005.

HBB, 155337746X, list price: \$14.95.

384/.14/02373. Postal service; Postal service--Juvenile literature; Postal employees--Juvenile literature; Occupations. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 3.

Each of these books is written, illustrated, and designed especially for beginning readers. These Level 3 titles have longer, more complex stories and sentences, more challenging vocabulary, language play, minimal repetition, and visual clues for kids who are reading by themselves. Chapters help children learn about the important jobs that people do every day. Both *Firefighters* and *Postal Workers* offer young readers an informative behind-the-scenes look at the lives of community workers.

Each page has a color illustration and some text. Paulette Bourgeois' text is well written but Kim LaFave's illustrations will not hold the attention of some children. Public libraries seeking to supplement their collection with titles children can read on their own can consider adding these books.

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

Transformed : how everyday things are made / written by Bill Slavin with Jim Slavin ; illustrated by Bill Slavin. C20049073737. Toronto : Kids Can, 2005.

HBB, 1553371798, list price: \$24.95.

670. Manufactures--Miscellanea--Juvenile literature. 160 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Grades 4-6. Rating : 5.

What's at the center of a baseball? How are plastic dinosaurs made? What is dental floss made of? How do they measure the strength of plastic wrap? All of these questions and many, many more are answered in Bill and Jim Slavin's new book, *Transformed*. The authors focus on what types of actions are required in the process of making familiar things such as running shoes, ketchup, plastic wrap, and marbles. Each item gets a 2-page spread so the information is spaced nicely. This spacing helps break up the steps for consideration before moving on to the next step. Each item gets a small box on its featured pages which gives an interesting fact about that item. For example, the page on jellybeans says, "chemists have created all kinds of jellybean flavors, including 'dirt' and 'earwax'." These are the kinds of facts that children in the targeted age group will love to know. The pen and ink and watercolor illustrations, also by Bill Slavin, are as detailed as necessary and feature little men shepherding the article through the process. Unlike Macaulay's *The Way Things Work*, this work focuses on the manufacture of familiar articles. The information is also much more basic than Macaulay's book, and the pages are much less busy. Headings include Fun and Games, Around the House, Soup to Nuts, Cover-Ups, and Back to Basics. A good glossary and an adequate index complete the book. The page on where to go for more information is a little light. For those of us who loved Mr. Rogers' factory tours, this book is the paper version of those exciting adventures.

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

Come look with me : discovering African American art for children / James Haywood Rolling, Jr. ; [edited by] Charles Davey. (Come look with me.) LCCN 2004115468. New York : Lickle Publishing, 2005.

HBB, 1890674079, list price: \$15.95.

704.03/96073. African American artists--Biography--Juvenile literature; African American art--Juvenile literature. 31 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Come look with me : discovering women artists for children / Jennifer Tarr Coyne ; [edited by] Charles Davey. (Come look with me.) LCCN 2004115467. New York : Lickle Publishing, 2005.

HBB, 1890674087, list price: \$15.95.

704/.042. Women artists--Biography. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

Come look with me : art in early America / Randy Osofsky ; [edited by] Charles Davey. (Come look with me.) LCCN 2002104202. New York : Lickle Publishing, 2003.

HBB, 1890674125, list price: \$15.95.

709/.73. Art, American; Art, Colonial--United States. 32 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

The Come Look With Me series was created by art teacher and curator Gladys Blizzard to introduce youngsters to art. There are at least 10 books in the series. Each book reproduces 12 works of art. The series is designed for parents and/or teachers to interact with children; therefore, each page of artwork faces a page of text which includes simple questions to stimulate discussion, brief biographical notes concerning the artist, and a few notes regarding the artwork being presented.

In James Haywood Rolling, Jr.'s *Discovering African American Art for Children*, the artists selected a range from self taught folk artist Clementine Hunter to Paris-trained Henry O. Tanner. Children can glimpse urban life in New York during the 1950s or rural life during a Louisiana summer.

Jennifer Tarr Coyne's *Discovering Women Artists for Children* presents 12 works spanning many centuries. Included are Italian painter Artemisia Gentileschi (1593-1652), American impressionist Mary Cassatt (1844-1926), Minimalist painter Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986), sculptor Louise Nevelson (1899-1988), and more.

Besides portrait and landscape paintings, Randy Osofsky's *Art in Early America* includes examples of early American furniture (a painted cupboard from the early 1700s), needlework (a sampler from the early 1800s), and architecture (a Federal house built in 1805).

These are high quality, well designed books. The full color art reproductions are first rate. The text questions and comments are well written and lend themselves to a broad range of ages. Younger children will benefit from the simple questions; older children will gain much from the biographical/explanatory notes. These series should work well in a group setting or one on one. Parents/teachers will learn just as much as the children!

David Rainey, MLIS. State Library of Louisiana, Baton Rouge.

Easy-to-do holiday crafts : from everyday household items / edited by Sharon Dunn Umnik. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyds Mills, 2005.

LLB, 1590783166, list price: \$19.95.

745.594. Handicraft--Juvenile literature; Holiday decorations--Juvenile literature. various pagings : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

Grades PS-3. Rating : 4.

Packaged in a durable spiral binder and edited by Sharon Dunn, *Easy-to-Do Holiday Crafts from Everyday Household Items* is a 6-book-in-1 craft book designed for younger children. Full of simple, easy-to-do crafts, this fantastic book is divided into an everyday craft section and separate ones for each holiday, such as Christmas and Thanksgiving. Most of the materials needed to construct each craft are everyday household items, such as egg cartons and paper plates, while others like pipe cleaners and felt are easily purchased at a wide variety of stores. Full-color photographs represent over 1,000 crafts, and the instructions on how to make each craft are straightforward and easy to follow. Printed on heavy-gauge paper, this book is great for parents, teachers, and caregivers of young children who need some simple creative craft ideas.

Sherrri Myers. Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

The jumbo book of needlecrafts / written by Judy Ann Sadler. [et. al.] ; illustrated by Esperanza Melo, June Bradford, Jane Kurisu. C20049047043. Toronto : Kids Can, 2005.

PAP, 1553377931, list price: \$16.95.

746.4. Needlework--Juvenile literature. 208 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : 5.

The Jumbo Book of Needlecrafts is exactly what its title indicates—it's a jumbo sized book full of needlecraft activities for pre-teen to teenage girls. This large volume includes information on gathering supplies, cutting fabric, and sewing by hand. This excellent how-to guide for needlecrafts teaches young girls the basics of knitting, crocheting, embroidery, quilting, and machine sewing. Judy Ann Sadler's step-by-step instructions and patterns for each project are clear and detailed, including full-color drawings and photographs to aid in making the projects. The projects themselves will certainly appeal to young girls, and even possibly for older women who enjoy needlecrafts themselves. An index is included for easy reference at the end of the book.

Sherrri Myers. Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

*

The orphans of Normandy: a true story of World War II told through drawings by children / Nancy Amis. LCCN 2002027816. New York : Atheneum, 2003.

HBB, 0689841434, list price: \$17.95.

940.53/161. Children's art; Survival; Orphans; World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--France--Normandy; France--History--German occupation, 1940-1945; Normandy (France)--History--20th century. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill., map ; 24 x 29 cm.

Grades 3-6 and up. Rating : *5.

A pictorial history from World War II, *The Orphans of Normandy* tells the saga of the one hundred orphan girls who, led by calmly brave teachers, left their French orphanage to trek to safety. Armed only with little white flags of truce, they trekked for 150 miles, always just one step ahead of the fighting, only the wave of a white flag away from being bombed.

Author Nancy Amis received her story from her great-aunt Aggie who helped send relief packages from the United States to the orphans in their new, barely furnished home. In return, Aggie received the wonderful drawings and essays these French girls made to journal their odyssey. These childish, poignantly real drawings, complete with their French narrations, are the meat of *The Orphans of Normandy*. Amis' delicate translations and explanations illumine the pictures. Seeing history through the eyes of those who experienced it is compelling, piercing, exciting. The reader walks inside these girls. *The Orphans of Normandy* impacts with a message relevant to today's problems. Classified for grades 3-6, all ages will appreciate the chance to learn of this episode. Recommended for all schools, all libraries, for everybody.

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

*

The Jim Elliot story. (The torchlighters : heroes of the faith series.) Worcester, Pa. : Vision Video, 2005.

DVD, list price: \$17.99.

B or 921 or 266/.023/0924. Elliot, Jim, 1927-1956; Missionaries--United States; Missionaries--Ecuador. 1 videodisc (30 min + 83 min.) : sd., col. ; 4 3/4 in.

Grades 3-7 and up. Rating : *5.

In this premiere release of The Torchlighters Christian heroes series, the lives and deaths of Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, Roger Youderian, Ed McCully, and Pete Fleming are described in animated color and lively dialogue. Jim Elliot's life is briefly recounted beginning in his college years, summarizing his passion for God and missions and his first seemingly disastrous experience with the Quechuas. The main focus of the 30-minute film is the effort to locate and share the gospel with the Aucas. An older Aucas man narrates the events that resulted and how the Aucas, now known as Waorani, heard of

Christ through relatives of the murdered missionaries.

The Jim Elliot Story is accurate, succinct, and dramatic. Children, teens, and adults could be inspired and motivated toward missions and becoming more passionate in evangelism as a result. Though the title infers the movie is about Jim Elliot, it also presents a good look at Nate Saint. The spearing segment is straightforward, yet could be too strong for sensitive children. Hearing the Woorani man's narration provides reality and an understanding of the impact the five men had on this tribe. Extra features as just as valuable as the movie: an interview with Nate Saint's son Steve about his father and his growing up as a missionary kid, and a lengthy but captivating interview with the late Marj Saint Van der Puy about her life as a missionary. Both interviews are excellent. A study guide for homeschool or church education is also excellent with downloadable activities, a teacher's guide, and parent letter about the video and curriculum.

Karen Schmidt, BA. Freelance Writer/Editor, Camano Island, Washington.

My brother Martin : a sister remembers growing up with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. / by Christine King Farris ; illustrated by Chris Soentpiet. LCCN 2001044684. New York : Simon & Schuster, 2003.

HBB, 0689843879, list price: \$17.95.

B or 921 or 323/.092. Farris, Christine King; King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968--Childhood and youth. 1 v. (unpaged) : ill. (some col.) ; 27 x 31 cm.

Grades 2-4. Rating : 4.

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s big sister, Christine King Farris (the last surviving member of his immediate family), wanted children to understand that before her brother grew up to be a famous civil rights leader, he was a normal fun-loving little boy with dreams about the future. To that end, she wrote *My Brother Martin*, which includes stories and amusing incidents from his life, as well as glimpses of what made him grow up to be the man he was. (His death is not touched on at all.)

And Farris has her own dream, which she explains in her dedication and afterword: "To my granddaughter, Farris Christine Watkins, and all the other children of the world who will continue my brother's dream of turning the world upside down... Perhaps the information contained in this book will inspire young people to also become leaders of the future."

Chris Soentpiet's colorful watercolors (modeled on actual King family members and friends, listed in the back) show snips of Farris's and King's lives with almost photographic precision and include an incredibly detailed picture of their father preaching a sermon before a packed church as well as several black-and-white

paintings of civil rights newsreel footage. Information on how Soentpiet got involved in this project is included in the back in an illustrator's note.

The book also includes a poem called "You Can Be Like Martin: A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," by Mildred D. Johnson, and photographs of both Farris and King as children. This book would work well as an introduction to Martin Luther King Day, civil rights, southern life in the 30's and 40's, and the importance of individual choice.

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

*

The perfect wizard : Hans Christian Andersen / by Jane Yolen ; illustrated by Dennis Nolan. LCCN 2003055717. New York : Dutton's Children's Books, 2005.

HBB, 0525469559, list price: \$16.99.

B or 921 or 839.8/136. Andersen, H. C. (Hans Christian), 1805-1875 --Juvenile literature; Andersen, H. C. (Hans Christian), 1805-1875; Authors, Danish--19th century--Biography--Juvenile literature; Authors, Danish. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. : 29 cm.

Grades 3-6. Rating : *5.

One of the greatest fairy tale writers of all times, Hans Christian Andersen started life as the homely son of a shoemaker and a washerwoman in Denmark. His mother taught him folklore and superstition, and his father gave him a love for books and writing. Although he was sensitive to the ridicule of his peers, he continued to share his stories with anyone who would listen. When he spoke of his life, he referred to the lies he told about his background as fairy tales. For example, one of the books he wrote was so unsuccessful that its pages were used to wrap blocks of cheese. Consequently, his tale entitled "The Goblin at the Grocer's" is a story about a student who unwrapped his cheese to discover that its wrapper was a torn page from a discarded book. In 1834, he wrote his first collection of fairy tales for children and finally gained the recognition he deserved.

The Perfect Wizard: Hans Christian Andersen by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Dennis Nolan, is a biography written in picture book format. Andersen is lovingly brought to life through Yolen's expert descriptions, excerpts from some of his better known tales, and Nolan's full-page, appropriately captioned illustrations. Yolen, often referred to as America's own version of Hans Christian Andersen, is well-known for her variety of literary contributions to children and teens. A chronological bibliography of quoted works is included. Highly recommended for all children's biography collections.

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

Sequoyah : the Cherokee man who gave his people writing / by James Rumford. LCCN 2004000980. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2004.

HBB, 0618369473, list price: \$16.00.

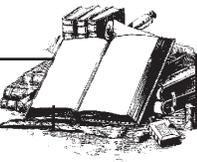
B or 921 or 975.004/97557/0092. Sequoyah, 1770?-1843.; Cherokee language--Alphabet; Cherokee language--Writing; Cherokee Indians--Biography. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 30 cm.

Grades 1-3. Rating : 4.

James Rumford received a 2005 Robert F. Sibert Honor Award for this children's biography. In 1958 the Rumford family saw a sequoia tree, and Rumford wondered about the Cherokee man whose name seems to have been given to the tree. In simple storyteller's prose Rumford relates, in English and Cherokee simultaneously, the Sequoyah's struggles to develop writing for his people. A Cherokee syllabary, author's note about Sequoyah's genius, and a timeline are included in the end materials. Rumford used ink, watercolor, pastel and pencil on paper adhered to a rough board to achieve the textured drawings.

Rumford has become known for his total book design in his titles: *Calabash Cat and His Amazing Journey* (Houghton Mifflin, 2003) and *Traveling Man: the Journey of Ibn Battuta 1325-1354* (Houghton Mifflin, 2001) which feature Arabic, African, Chinese, and Moorish design. In *Sequoyah: the Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing*, the book is tall representing the tree; both Cherokee and English writing are used; and the flavor of Cherokee culture is presented via framed labeled artwork. Other books have been written about Sequoyah, but have not emphasized, in limited words, his genius of creating a written language, something that had not been done by an individual. Use this title, not so much for Sequoyah's biography, but for a celebration of literacy and writing.

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



*

Adam of the road / by Elizabeth Janet Gray, illustrated by Robert Lawson. LCCN 42010681. New York : PenguinPutnam Children's Books/Viking, 1942.

HBB, 0670104353, list price: \$18.99.

Fic. Middle Ages--Fiction; Great Britain--History--Plantagenets, 1154-1399--Fiction; Newbery Medal. 317 p. illus. 24 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : *5.

At St. Alban's school in June 1294, eleven-year-old Adam Quartermayne's father, Roger, finally returns from a minstrels' school in France. Riding Roger's old warhorse Bayard, Roger and Adam, with Adam's red spaniel Nick, head for Sir Edmund de Lisle's manor house outside London. After the wedding festivities for de Lisle's daughter, Roger and Adam begin to travel the country, entertaining as opportunity arises. While Roger and Adam are sleeping at an inn overnight, another minstrel named Jankin steals Nick. As they search for the spaniel, Adam and Roger become separated for several months. Before they are reunited, Adam swims a river, helps in the arrest of robbers, recovers from a fall off a wall, and assists the father of his friend Perkin.

In *Adam of the Road*, Elizabeth Janet Gray (later Elizabeth Gray Vining) provides many details about life in late Thirteenth Century England for nobles and merchants, scholars and peasants, and many types of clergy and minstrels. Through his various adventures, Adam demonstrates his loyalty, courage, resourcefulness, perseverance, creativity, integrity, and sensitivity to the needs and desires of others. Full-page black and white drawings by Robert Lawson at the beginning of each chapter complement beautifully the author's sympathetic and optimistic story. The end papers feature an illustrated map of Adam's travels. Highly recommended for Christian school and home libraries. Newbery Award 1943.

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

Al Capone does my shirts / Gennifer Choldenko. LCCN 2002031766. New York : G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2004.

HBB, 0399238611, list price: \$15.99.

Fic. United States Penitentiary, Alcatraz Island, California--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Family problems--Fiction; Autism--Fiction; Alcatraz Island (Calif.)--History--Fiction. 228 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Grades 6-9. Rating : 4.

The year is 1935, and Matthew, a.k.a. Moose, and his family have just moved to Alcatraz Island where his father works two jobs, electrician and guard. The need for more money precipitated the move as well as the proximity to the Esther P. Marinoff School where the family hopes Moose's older, special needs sister, Natalie, can attend

Moose dislikes the move for several reasons. He's away from his friends, he needs to protect and care for Natalie more, there is a daily trip across the bay to school, only a few children live on the island, his father no longer has time for the family, and there's Piper, the warden's daughter, who is an equal to the prison's con artists.

Moose is torn between family allegiance, his own values, and a new student's need to participate in teen activities. Piper concocts a moneymaking scheme in which students pay to have their laundry done and receive the right to claim that "Al Capone" did their shirts. Amidst the prison background is Natalie, who today would be diagnosed as autistic, her inability to communicate effectively, her mother's drive to find a cure, and the family's needs to be a family. Historical notes about Alcatraz and autism are appended.

Gennifer Choldenko received a 2005 Newbery Honor Medal for this poignant and funny "family in crisis" story. Choldenko has crafted multi-dimensional lively characters in Moose, Natalie, Piper and seven-year-old Theresa Mattaman. Adults are less effective or likable: Mother is aloof, worrisome, fawning; Father is distant and overworked; the warden is dominated by his daughter.

The setting immediately grabs the attention of a middle schooler. But, it is the humor in the dialogue, especially of Theresa, and the tension in the part of the plot revolving around the laundry scheme and Natalie's antics that keep the reader turning pages. Some slight innuendo about what the prisoners may do to naive, but physically developed Natalie appears near the end of the story. The biggest defect is the too quick and smug ending, when Moose and Piper write Al Capone for assistance in getting Natalie into the school, and a shirt comes back from the laundry with the cryptic word, "Done."

This reviewer plans to read the title aloud to 6th graders.

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

The bark of the bog owl / Jonathan Rogers. (The wilderking trilogy ; 1.) LCCN 2005295233. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2004.

HBB, 0805431314, list price: \$15.99.

Fic. Fantasy; Adventure and adventurers. 231 p. : 20 cm.

Grades 4-8. Rating : 5.

The Bark of the Bog Owl is an allegorical retelling of the story of King David. Aiden is a twelve-year-old boy who longs for adventure. His wish is granted when he meets Dobro Turtlebane. That day, he slays a panther and saves Dobro's life. Soon, Aiden finds himself at a banquet honoring a treaty with the greedy and depraved Pyrthen empire. In an elegant speech, Aiden's father convinces King Darrow that signing the peace treaty would cause Corenwald to lose their peace-loving, God-fearing way of life. This is the beginning of Aiden's action-packed journey toward becoming the deliverer, or "Wilderking", which is foretold in prophecy.

Biblically literate youth will find much of the plot familiar as Aiden goes on to slay an unusually large Prythen soldier with his slingshot and lead the empire of Corenwald to victory through an unshakable faith in the one true God. However, he also faces a host of unfamiliar adventures that will delight readers and keep them reading. The pace is quick and the characters are genuine. One of my few concerns with the story is that its length and reading level may discourage young boys who would find it a captivating adventure. Therefore, I suggest this title as a read aloud for both teachers and families. There are many points for discussion about what is most important in life and when, if ever, war is justifiable. It is also good, clean fun.

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

*

Bird / Angela Johnson. LCCN 2003022793. New York : Penguin/Dial, 2004.

HBB, 0803728476, list price: \$15.99.

Fic. Runaways--Fiction; Stepfathers--Fiction; Interpersonal relations--Fiction; African Americans--Fiction; Alabama--Fiction. 133 p. ; 19 cm.

Grades 6-8. Rating : *5.

Bird is on a quest to find her stepfather, Cecil, after he abandons her and her mother. This resourceful thirteen-year-old travels from Ohio to Alabama and hides on a farm for a few weeks while she observes Cecil and decides how to approach him. Bird is homesick for her mother,

friends, and familiar surroundings, but through her determined mission, she helps healing begin for new friends Ethan who's always been sickly and never experienced a "normal" life, and Jay whose brother has recently died. Jay's heart "is searching for and not finding" the place it used to live. An elderly widow invites Bird to stay in her home until she discovers what she is really looking for and decides it's time to go back where she belongs.

Award-winning author Angela Johnson has created a moving, lyrical story where the characters' lives interweave in surprising ways. Her opening scene describes Bird thinking that she "probably never had been dry or happy anytime in [her] whole life." Johnson uses the theme of running—physically and emotionally—to symbolize Bird and Cecil. Photographs are also symbolic throughout the story. It was a photo that drove Cecil back to Alabama; the farm family's smiling-faces photos that Bird says hello to, as though she knew them personally; and the lack of pictures, as well as lack of smiles, among Bird's "people." Similes such as, "hardwood floors that shine like puddles in the sunshine," and her poignant question to Ethan, "What are you going to do with it [his new heart]?" are examples of Johnson's literary excellence and insight into the soul.

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

*

The bronze bow / Elizabeth George Speare. LCCN 61010640. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1989, 1961.

HBB, 0395877695, list price: \$16.00.

Fic. Jesus Christ--Fiction; Palestine--Fiction; Newbery Medal. 255 p. : 22 cm.

Grades 6-12. Rating : *5.

Eighteen-year-old Daniel bar Jamin has hated the Romans since they crucified his father ten years ago. After years of living and working with a rebel band of Galilean zealots in the mountains, his grandmother's death brings him back to the village to work and support his stricken sister. When Daniel, with his friends Joel and Thacia, vow to stand together "for God's victory," they take the bronze bow (Psa.18:34) as their secret sign. Daniel's concept of the promised Messiah is challenged when he meets Jesus personally. Finally Jesus helps him release his hatred and recognize that "only love could bend the bow of bronze."

The Bronze Bow is the second Newbery award book written by Elizabeth George Speare. She is also the author of the Newbery Medal title, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, (Houghton Mifflin, 1958), as well as the Newbery Honor book, *The Sign of the Beaver*, (Houghton Mifflin, 1983). Speare places her engrossing, well-constructed plot in an accurate Galilean setting at the time of Christ. She develops her

characters skillfully. She brings Daniel through his struggles, both internal and external, until he comes to replace his passion for vengeance with action demonstrating forgiveness. Her inviting portrait of Jesus during His Galilean ministry is particularly insightful. Highly recommended for all libraries, in home, church, Christian school, and public settings. Newbery Medal, 1962.

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

Call it courage / Armstrong Sperry ; illustrations by the author. LCCN 40004229. New York : Macmillan, 1968, c1940.

HBB, 0027860302, list price: \$16.95.

Fic. Folklore--Polynesia; Courage--Folklore; Survival--Folklore. 96 p. : illus. ; 23 cm.

Grades 5-9. Rating : 5.

In the great hurricane, Mafatu's mother held onto her three-year-old son, protecting him from the crashing waves, and dragged him to safety on land with her dying breath. For the next twelve years, Mafatu's awful fear of the sea surrounding his Polynesian island home has branded him a coward. Finally Mafatu decides he must go to another island to prove himself. At night, he puts some coconuts, his spear, and a knife into a canoe, and sails away with his dog, Uri. Things go well until a storm takes his sail and mast, and then his steering paddle. An ocean current crashes the canoe into a barrier reef, leaving Mafatu and Uri to swim ashore onto an uninhabited island. There Mafatu finds food to eat, and materials to make tools, clothing, weapons, and a canoe for his return home. During his time on the island he kills a wild boar (for food and its tusks for a necklace) and a shark (to rescue Uri), and escapes from some eaters-of-men who come to worship on that Forbidden Island. When he arrives back home, he is thin and weak, but proud.

Author Armstrong Sperry based *Call It Courage* on a legend from a time "many years ago, before the traders and missionaries first came into the South Seas." His personal knowledge of culture and language in the South Pacific is reflected in his occasional insertion of Tahitian words and phrases in this gripping story. Sperry wrote other books, both fiction and non-fiction, about this area, as well as other historical settings. His excellent blue ink drawings provide faithful visual context for the narrative. Highly recommended for home and school libraries. Newbery Medal, 1941.

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

Catherine, called Birdy / by Karen Cushman. LCCN 93023333. New York : Clarion Books, 1994.

HBB, 0395681863, list price: \$16.00.

Fic. Diaries--Fiction; Middle Ages--Fiction; England--Fiction. 169 p. : 24 cm.

Grades 7-9. Rating : 5, recommended with caution.

In *Catherine, Called Birdy*, Karen Cushman gives a unique account of life in a small English manor in 1290. Catherine is called Little Bird, or Birdy, because of her love for birds; she keeps a caged collection of different birds in her chamber so she can hear their chirping. Before her fourteenth birthday, her brother Edward encourages her "to write an account of my days." Her mother permits Little Bird, when writing her daily journal, to put off the disagreeable tasks she needs to master as a "lady." Catherine's greedy father arranges a marriage for her that serves his own economic advantage. Since she has no desire to be "sold like a cheese," the high-spirited and rebellious Birdy manages by various strategies to get rid of five undesirable suitors. However, middle-aged Shaggy Beard is not deterred, and Catherine is betrothed against her will. In the months that follow, she begins to become resigned to her unhappy future. But an unexpected twist of fate leaves both Catherine and her parents content.

Author Karen Cushman weaves many details about everyday life in the Middle Ages into her sparkling word picture of a creative teenage girl who is unusually resistant to her place in society. Catherine occasionally paints or writes poems, some showing respect for God and Heaven and Hell. One interesting detail, for each entry, a note about its Saint's Day Feast accompanies the date.

Through the year, Catherine is surprised to find that others have quite different perspectives. In fact, she occasionally observes events that challenge some of her own preconceptions. However, Catherine consistently exhibits a negative attitude toward her father; she occasionally wishes his death, and also Shaggy Beard's. Around fifty times she uses her own invented profanity, "God's thumbs," or other profane terms. She often reveals a pre-Victorian frankness about physical excretory and reproductive activity.

This otherwise excellent book is recommended for contexts where these elements would not be problematic. This title is a Newbery Honor book, 1995. The next year, another Cushman book about the Middle Ages, *The Midwife's Apprentice* (Clarion Books, 1995), received the Newbery Medal.

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

Cody's varsity rush / Todd Hafer. (Spirit of the game series ; 5.) LCCN 2005004292. Grand Rapids, Mich. : Zonderkidz, 2005.

PAP, 0310707943, list price: \$4.99.

Fic. Schools--Fiction; High schools--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction; Football--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 134 p. : ill. ; 18 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 4.

Three-point play / Todd Hafer. (Spirit of the game series ; 6.) LCCN 2005006501. Grand Rapids, Mich. : Zonderkidz, 2005.

PAP, 0310707951, list price: \$4.99.

Fic. Schools--Fiction; High schools--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction; Remarriage--Fiction; Leadership--Fiction; Basketball--Fiction; Football--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 142 p. : ill. : 18 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 4.

Cody's Varsity Rush begins with Cody as a stand-out player on the freshman team, but before the season progresses too far he's pulled up to varsity. The play-by-play descriptions of Cody's practices and games are in such detail that even non-football players will understand the psychology and strategy of the game. There are some off-field dramas as backdrops to Cody's season. He is being stalked by an old foe, his father and Beth are engaged leaving Cody to wonder where he fits in, and his friend Robyn is challenging him to be public with his faith in God. And as always, the pain of his mom's death a couple of years earlier frames Cody's struggles. Because there are so many dramas going on in this story, it is a bit choppy than earlier books, but it is still a good read for this age range.

In *Three-Point-Play*, Cody and Pork Chop move into basketball season. Pork Chop tells him he'll be moving at the end of the school year. They're on different level teams so most of the book revolves around Cody discovering servant leadership while captaining his freshman basketball team. The backdrop is his dad's marriage to Beth. With his world changing rapidly, the only mainstay in his life is God. Fortunately, Robyn and many others who know the Lord pray for Cody and support him. And there's even a moment where it looks like Pork Chop might someday understand this "Jesus thing." The book ends in uncertainty but fortunately, two more books will be published soon.

These two most recent books in the Spirit of the Game series from Zonderkidz have Cody Martin approaching high school sports the way he approaches everything else in life. He's cautiously optimistic and harder on himself than anyone else could ever be. Author Todd Hafer once again captures Cody's insecurities, fears, and triumphs in language believable to the young reader. The tension Cody feels towards his father's marriage is palpable but not harsh. Cody's approach to his faith is also credible for this age group. He feels his conviction deeply, but doesn't want to stand out from the crowd. Although these two volumes are not as smooth in their plot development as are the earlier books, this is a well-written series that a librarian can easily recommend for those boys who only want to read books about sports.

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

Eldest / by Christopher Paolini. (Inheritance ; 2.) LCCN 2005009325. New York : Alfred A. Knopf, 2005.

HBB, 037582670X, list price: \$21.00.

Fic. Fantasy; Dragons--Fiction; Youths' writings. 704 p. : 25 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 3.

In book one of the Inheritance Trilogy, Eragon weathers a long journey and a fierce battle but emerges the surprised victor in a deadly contest of magical and physical power. However, there is little rest for the weary Dragon Rider, for this teenager must now deal with politics among his allies, the foes of the evil ruler Galbatorix. After he threads this labyrinth, having set his alliances in order, Eragon (with his dragon, Saphira) makes for the land of the elves to undergo desperately needed training.

Meanwhile, Eragon's half-brother Roran must deal with the frightening and unreal politics the Dragon Rider's departure has created for the residents of his former home in Palancar Valley.

Christopher Paolini's tale *Eldest* is more satisfyingly adult (in the best sense of that term) and complex than his first offering, with a few interesting characters and situations thrown in along with believable descriptions of unrequited love. His characters have matured noticeably along with their creator. More noticeable, too, however, are Paolini's political views. Preachy lines and digs at organized religion (especially from a few elves to whom Paolini gives a pulpit) punctuate the volume. Yet some of the authors views are thought-provoking and are woven well into his story—especially when he raises the question of the worth of the life of an Urgal, the equivalent of one of Tolkien's orcs.

Eldest has some questionable ethics at points, sketchily depicts a nude elfin dance, and might suffer from a deus ex machina or two, but anyone who enjoyed *Eragon* will enjoy this dragon ride and the surprising twist in its final pages.

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

Enemy brothers / Constance Savery. LCCN 00108548. Bathgate, N.D. : Bethlehem Books, 2001.

PAP, 1883937507, list price: \$13.95.

Fic. World War, 1939-1945--England--Juvenile fiction; World War, 1939-1945--England--Fiction; Missing persons--Fiction; Identity--Fiction; Brothers--Fiction; England--Fiction. 287 p. : 22 cm.

Grades 6-12. Rating : 4.

First published in 1943, *Enemy Brothers* tells the story of Max Eckermann, a boy raised in Nazi Germany who discovers he's really British and named Tony Ingelford; he was kidnapped as a child by the woman he thought was his mother. Brought by the Ingelfords to their English estate, Max/Tony is naturally rebellious, but oldest brother Dym makes a deal: like a cat, Tony's

given nine chances to escape. Dym will forgive each. But if Tony escapes a tenth time, there'll be a "serious row." Of course Tony uses every chance to escape. But each time he's returned to the Ingelfords, the love they show him makes him less eager to leave. Just when he decides to stay, he gets a chance to go home.

Constance Savery does a brilliant job creating realistic dialog and a compelling plot. The characters are terrific. Tony is both wrathful and vulnerable, hating these strangers, yet unable to resist their kindness. And the entire Ingelford family, especially Dym, sister Euphemia, and brother James (who's nearly Tony's age) are vividly portrayed.

The Ingelfords are Christians, but their faith is subtly shown. There's regular church attendance, evening prayer, and most especially, a reliance on God's direction in fighting the war. The crucifixion of Christ, for instance, is labeled part of the "darkness of men's souls" that causes evil.

The language of *Enemy Brothers*, as well as its complexity of plot (the book reads like an adult spy novel), make it best for voracious readers or mid-teens, although the fact that Tony's only twelve might turn off older readers. That Dym finds Tony after years of having no idea where he is a bit coincidental. However, the book is highly entertaining, and will make a nice addition to any library.

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

Here today / Ann M. Martin. LCCN 2004041620. New York : Scholastic, 2004.

HBB, 0439579449, list price: \$16.95.

Fic. Identity--Fiction; Mothers--Fiction; Family life--New York (State)--Fiction; Prejudices--Fiction; Neighborhood--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; New York (State)--History--20th century--Fiction. 308 p. : 21 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : 5.

Her eleventh year is one that turns life topsy-turvy for Eleanor Roosevelt Dingman. That year, 1963, her mother is crowned the Bosetti Beauty of Spectacle, New York, Ellie's classmates begin to treat her as if she is invisible and the President is assassinated. *Here Today* is Ann Martin's story of Ellie's life as she tries to hold her family—and herself—together and realizes she ultimately has little control over what others do, even those closest to her.

Ellie's mother abandons her family to set off for the Big Apple and pursue her dreams of becoming an actress and making her mark on the world. This leaves Ellie in the role of caretaker of her younger siblings while trying to fit in at school. Yet she always believes her mother loves her and longs for her return.

Ellie is a wonderfully rich character that readers will connect with and be rooting for throughout the reading of *Here Today*. The book is written

for upper elementary and middle school students (5-8 grade) and deserves a place on school and library bookshelves.

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

A long way from Welcome : a mystery in Paris / Echo Lewis. LCCN 2002102849. Bathgate, N.D. : Bethlehem Books, 2002.

PAP, 1883937647, list price: \$12.95.

Fic. Self-confidence--Fiction; Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Artists--Fiction; Nuns--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories; Paris (France)--Fiction; France--Fiction. 183 p. : ill., maps ; 21 cm.

Grades 5-8. Rating : 3.

Maggie McGilligan is a short, chunky, bookish thirteen year old who's very fond of the familiar—and very frightened of change. So when a family situation forces her to spend six weeks in Paris in the care of her stepfather's sister (a woman she's never met), Maggie is appalled.

A Long Way from Welcome is a pleasantly-written story. There's light mystery (why does the most powerful man in Maggie's hometown want to banish Maggie's stepfather? Who's stealing famous Parisian artworks?) and strong friendships (Maggie befriends local boy Jean-Louis and tries to help Tanya, her poor little rich girl American friend, get along with her always-busy father). There's also a nice look at a fearful girl who learns to appreciate (if not like) change.

Despite a passing reference to Maggie's being born out of wedlock, the story's an innocent one, more reminiscent of pre-1970s Nancy Drews than today's problem novels. Maggie is likeable, despite her timidity, and her friendships with Jean-Louis and Tanya ring true. She is a bit young for her age, though. The book claims to be for girls twelve and up; it's better suited to eight to twelve year olds.

Maggie's stepfather is Catholic, and his sister, the woman Maggie stays with in Paris, is a nun (she lives in a convent), but there's no real emphasis on religion or doctrine. Some adults might be concerned that Jean-Louis lies to his parents to sneak out and sleuth; similarly, he and Maggie roam Paris at midnight with no consequences. Yes they get captured by villains, but the "good" adults barely scold them when everything's done.

These, however, are quibbles. Echo Lewis has written a richly-detailed, fast-moving adventure with a strong sense of its Parisian setting. Girls, especially mystery fans, will love *A Long Way from Welcome*.

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

Missy Violet & me / by Barbara Hathaway. LCCN 2003017700. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2004.

HBB, 061837163X, list price: \$15.00.

Fic. Midwives--Fiction; Birth--Fiction; African Americans--Fiction. 100 p. ; 19 cm.

Grades 6-9. Rating : 3.

Barbara Hathaway received a 2005 Coretta Scott King/ John Steptoe New Talent Award for this slim book filled with her mother's recollections about a relative who served as a midwife in the early 1900s South. Viney's mother has just had another baby, her seventh, and her father James again cannot pay the midwife Missy Violet. Missy Violet suggests that Viney become her apprentice for the summer. Spunky, sassy Viney is not too thrilled about not being able to play away the summer, until she can use the midwifery experience to thwart the jibes of nasty Margie Poole. At first Viney trails along while Missy Violet collects herbs, then is in attendance at a birth, and finally actually "catches a baby."

The book was fascinating reading for this adult reviewer, but she wonders whether this is really a children's or young adult book or another book honoring, via reminiscences, a loved relative. The protagonist is just eleven; today's eleven year old would find it difficult to conceive being a midwife's apprentice or being used as payment for services. The dialect gets in the way for the general middle school reader, especially if he has had no experience with black southern language. An academic project might involve comparing Karen Cushman's Newbery Award medieval setting title *The Midwife's Apprentice* (Clarion, 1995). Purchase only where and when and if needed.

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

The moves make the man / by Bruce Brooks. LCCN 83049476. New York : HarperCollins, 1984.

LIB, 0060206985, list price: \$16.89.

Fic. African Americans--Fiction; Emotional problems--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Newbery Honor. 280 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 6-9. Rating : 4.

Jerome, the Jayfox, is really a street smart, school smart kid who suddenly finds himself integrated as the token Afro-American student at an all white school. His hopes of playing on the basketball team are left on the gym floor when the coach can't look past his prejudice to see Jerome's natural talent. This letdown takes a backseat to the crisis of having his mother severely hurt in an accident. Jerome is placed in home economics so he can learn to cook for his brothers, and finds himself paired with the only other boy, Bix, who is a talented shortstop. A friendship develops as both boys learn about one another through the moves they teach one another on and off the basketball court. This is Bix's story, as much as it is Jerome's. For Bix will need all the moves it takes in order to win the game that determines if he gets to see his estranged mother.

It is understandable why Bruce Brooks was awarded the Newberry Honor. This stream of

consciousness told story of life through a young Afro-American boy is poignant, humorous, and real. Although there is profanity, it comes late into the story and is mostly uttered by Bix, who is emotionally hurting. It is within character, and gives the storyline more of a realistic edge. Jerome, for the most part, is an upstanding son, friend, and student, yet he knows all about how to survive the disappointments that come his way without folding up. The book is unique in its presentation, as there is no traditional dialogue form, giving the story a rawness that rings true. Though Jerome is portrayed as a middle-schooler, he and the story he tells would also appeal to high school students.

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

No shame, no fear / Ann Turnbull. LCCN 2003065280. Cambridge, Mass. : Candlewick Press, 2004.

HBB, 0763625051, list price: \$15.99.

Fic. Persecution--Fiction; Quakers--Fiction; Social classes--Fiction; Great Britain--History--Charles II, 1660-1685--Fiction. 293 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

Set in England in 1662, *No Shame, No Fear* is a harrowing tale of star-crossed lovers, religious persecution, and social class discrimination. Susanna, a poor Quaker girl, and William, the son of a prominent Anglican wool merchant, meet and fall deeply in love. Shortly after William begins attending Quaker meetings, England passes a law forbidding non-Anglican religious assemblies. As they continue meeting openly, many of Susanna's dearest friends and family are thrown into jail and forced to live in squalid conditions. The Quaker belief, "the light of God is within every man—and woman—so [Quakers] do not recognize differences of rank," prompts the government to pass this decree. Lawmakers were afraid this theory would lead society into chaos. Fear led to persecution.

This Quaker theological tenant of the light within each individual has been interpreted in different ways by varying sects of Quakerism since it originated in the 1600's. Reading *No Shame, No Fear* provides an excellent opportunity for discussion of this matter as well as freedom of religion, intellectual freedom, bullying, purity, gender roles, and the pros and cons of marrying at a young age.

There are a few references to prostitution, drinking, gambling, and also a couple of incidents of inappropriate touching between characters, all appropriately working within the storyline. Hopefully, discussion of this book will allow high school students an opportunity to think critically about the way they live their lives and how they treat others. This fast paced novel offers a lot for readers to ponder.

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

Phantom outlaw at Wolf Creek / by Sigmund Brouwer. (Accidental detectives ; 15.) LCCN 2004020611. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2005.

PAP, 0764225782, list price: \$5.99.

Fic. Christian life--Fiction; Ranch life--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories. 141 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 5-9. Rating : 4.

Short cuts / by Sigmund Brouwer. (Accidental detectives ; 16.) LCCN 2004020613. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2005.

PAP, 0764225790, list price: \$5.99.

Fic. Christian life--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories. 139 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 5-9. Rating : 4.

The ghost of a woman outlaw haunts the hills near the Montana ranch where Ricky Kidd and his friends are staying. Making things more exciting: a crazed hermit and cattle rustlers are also roaming the area.

That's the plot of *The Phantom Outlaw of Wolf Creek*, part of Sigmund Brouwer's Accidental Detectives boys' mysteries. It's a nice addition to the series. Ricky, brother Joel, and best friends Mike and Ralphy are here, there's a multi-layered mystery for them to solve, and there's the usual warm relationship between characters. Ricky claims six-year-old Joel is a terrible pest, but the love he feels for his brother is clearly shown, and Ricky's friends—super-extroverted Mike and nerdy Ralphy—each make valued contributions to the plot. While Lisa doesn't appear, another strong girl character, Mike's cousin Sarah, plays just as important a role.

Short Cuts is a series of stories about the characters that uses the device of Ricky interviewing Sigmund Brouwer to let Brouwer comment on what he hopes readers will learn from each story. While obviously not as richly plotted as the novel, the stories are still compelling, focusing on mini-adventures that allow the characters to consider concepts like why bad things happen, why a person should live his or her life to its fullest, and whether God is real.

While Brouwer is a brilliant writer and his comments on each Short Cut are powerful, I'm not sure readers in the youngest end of the juvenile fiction group would fully appreciate their depth. But since the stories mirror Brouwer's message, and since Ricky and his friends show such a strong faith in God, readers will surely get Brouwer's points, one way or another.

Both books are must-haves for Accidental Detectives fans, and great introductions to the series for everyone else.

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

Rifles for Watie / by Harold Keith. LCCN 57010280. New York : HarperCollins, 1987, 1957.

HBB, 0690049072, list price: \$16.89.

Fic. Watie, Stand, 1806-1871--Fiction; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Fiction. 352 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

Grades 6-Adult. Rating : 5.

When some proslavery Missouri bushwhackers cross the border into Kansas in 1861 to attack his "Free State" family, sixteen-year-old Jeff Bussey enlists in the Union volunteers. Over the next few years, he endures repeated spiteful conduct by Captain Clardy as he serves in infantry, artillery, cavalry, and finally as a scout for the Union army. While scouting in Rebel territory, he and his buddy are confronted by Confederate soldiers, and arrange to join their Rebel Watie brigade in order to gain intelligence for the Union.

After an attack of malaria takes him out of action for months, Jeff learns that the Confederate General Stand Watie has plans to acquire smuggled new repeater rifles. This would give Watie's Rebel Indian forces a decided military advantage. When Jeff discovers the details of the scheme, he escapes from Rebel trackers and reports his findings to his Union commander.

Author Harold Keith compiled much of the background for *Rifles for Watie* during research for a master's thesis in history at the University of Oklahoma. Although Jeff and his absorbing story are wholly fictional, many of the characters and events in the often-neglected Western theater of the Civil War are historically accurate. (An author's note details the distinctions.) Jeff's experiences in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas give him a sympathetic understanding of the varying perspectives of competing Indian factions, as well as Union and Confederate forces and their supporters. (He even falls in love with an educated Cherokee young lady from a Rebel family.)

Jeff is a well-rounded character who grows as he learns that war is not pretty. In one touching scene he encourages a dying young friend as he explains to him how only Jesus can save him. A map at the front of the book shows major sites in the story. Highly recommended for home and Christian school libraries. Newbery Medal 1958.

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

Sam I am / Ilene Cooper. LCCN 2004041715. New York : Scholastic, 2004.

HBB, 0439439671, list price: \$15.95.

Fic. Family life--Fiction; Religions--Fiction; Identity--Fiction; Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Christmas--Fiction; Hanukkah--Fiction. 252 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 4.

Twelve-year-old Sam has always celebrated Christmas with a Hannukah bush. This year, unfortunately, his dog, Pluto, ruins both holidays with a mad dash through the living room. Worse, the disposal of the tree symbolizes the collision of his father's non-religious Jewishness and his mother's lukewarm Christianity. Trying to sort out which is correct, Sam asks questions of everyone. In school he learns about the Holocaust and how he would have fared as a half-Jewish child. Encountering bigotry gives Sam a lens through which he views children who were formerly just classmates. When he visits church with his mom, he feels peace and love, but no answers. It is not until Sam's father is involved in a serious car accident that the whole family takes a hard look at what should unite them, rather than drive them apart.

Sam I Am is a touching portrayal of children in mixed religion families when adolescence prompts them to identify themselves as individuals. Sensitive, loving, and sometimes brutally honest, Ilene Cooper's portrayal of Sam takes him through several experiences that help him frame the questions he needs to ask. In the end, the whole family decides to respect each other's choices and beliefs. To let each person decide for themselves who God is and how they want to follow Him.

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

A season of dreams / Sharon Westra. Baltimore : PublishAmerica, 2003.

PAP, 1592868436, list price: \$19.95.

Fic. Teenagers--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction. 210 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 5.

The rest of forever / Sharon Westra. Baltimore : PublishAmerica, 2004.

PAP, 1413728014, list price: \$19.95.

Fic. Christian life--Fiction; College students--Fiction. 202 p. ; 23 cm.

Grades 9-12. Rating : 4.

A Season of Dreams is the story of Katie Fremont, a high school senior who moves with her family to Washington State. She relies on her cousin, Diana, to help her adjust to the changes the move brings to her life. Diana introduces Katie to the Anderson brothers, Steve and Wayne, who are friends of hers, and they all begin their senior year together in a Christian school. Katie falls in love with Steve, the athletic Anderson boy who seems to have everything going for him, and they become engaged. But when Steve is killed on his way home to visit Katie on Valentine's Day, Katie's whole life crashes down. Will Wayne come to the rescue of Katie's heart?

The Rest of Forever is the sequel to *A Season of Dreams* and continues the story about Katie Fremont and Wayne Anderson. Wayne and Katie are falling in love, but Steve's memory is

a constant roadblock to their relationship. As Katie struggles to let go of the bittersweet memories of the past, she also lets go of God's loving hand and becomes lost in her faith. Wayne feels as if he will never be able to banish Steve's memory from Katie's heart, and finally gives Katie a choice—put Steve in the past and return to the land of the living, or lose him for good. Now, college students away from home, Katie and Wayne are surrounded by friends to help them figure it all out, but will Katie move in to Wayne's and God's loving arms once again?

Sharon Westra captures and holds the reader's attention throughout the books, and I felt a deep sadness when Steve was killed. As Katie learns to trust God once again in her life, she rediscovers the hope for the future she once had with Steve, only now with Wayne by her side. Teens will recognize the strong emotions that falling in love can evoke, and will experience the camaraderie of enduring friendships. Katie learns that trusting in God is essential for happiness in life, as her well-laid plans for her future crumble into dust. The only negative comment I have is the constantly wavering indecisions of Wayne and Katie became annoying and tedious after countless breakups and reconciliations in *The Rest of Forever*. Katie's hesitation of becoming involved with Wayne so soon after Steve's death is understandable, but the constant waffling seems a bit overdone.

Sherry Myers. Freelance Writer, Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

Trouble times two / by Marsha Hubler. (Keystone Stables ; 3.) LCCN 2004023968. Grand Rapids : Zonderkidz, 2005.

PAR, 0310705746, list price: \$4.99.

Fic. Horses--Fiction; Foster home care--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Runaways--Fiction; African Americans--Fiction; Pennsylvania--Fiction. 120 p. ; 18 cm.

Grades 4-10. Rating : 4.

Trouble Times Two, by Marsha Hubler, is part of the Keystone Stables series. Tanya, an especially troubled foster child, learns to love a mare who dies after giving birth to a beautiful foal. Mourning the animal's demise causes Tanya to relive her own mother's death. In time Tanya "invite(s) Jesus into her heart," lets go of her bitterness, and faces a hopeful future with adoptive parents.

This selection is a great choice for any public or church library. Young readers will think about adoption, race relations, a child feeling unwanted, peer pressure, and foster care. Exciting, but believable, events follow one right after the other. A minor, but important part of the book, is Tanya's too-busy adoptive parents. They eventually choose a less hectic life and buy a farm. Tanya looks forward to owning a

horse after her foster family present her with the beloved foal she loves so much.

Conversations are typical for young teens. Plots are neatly organized, and each chapter ends with some event to make the reader curious. Always, you'll note a little invitation to flip on to the next chapter!

Appendices include a Glossary of Gaits, Parts of a Horse, and Parts of a Western Saddle. In addition, the last few pages are an introduction to another Keystone Stables book, *Teamwork at Tioga*. For more information, see www.zondervan.com.

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

Worlds apart / Kathleen Karr. LCCN 2004019455. New York : Marshall Cavendish, 2005.

HBB, 0761451951, list price: \$15.95.

Fic. Indians of North America--South Carolina--Fiction; Sewee Indians--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Survival--Fiction; Colonists--Fiction; South Carolina--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775--Fiction. 196 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 6-9. Rating : 5.

In this deeply researched historical novel, the reader is drawn into the mutual story of two young men who are truly worlds apart. Arriving in Virginia in 1670, fifteen-year-old Christopher is one of the early settlers from England. Ashapo, a Sewee Indian lad, goes out of his way to befriend Christopher. As the story unfolds, similarities and disparities between these two are explored. Fun, humor, mutual friendship, stunning differences, apprehension, and sorrow all play a part in the growing friendship. Tension builds as the terrible possibilities arising from a distinctly unusual ending begins to loom in the reader's mind.

Multiple award winning author, prolific writer, capable history detective, Kathleen Karr, presents little known American history in an engrossing format. The plot uncoils slowly and persuasively while the characterizations draw the performers as complete and interesting people. A study into inter cultural relationships, many comparisons are drawn between these two groups including religion, care for the environment, differences in facing dangers, friendship's demands and joys, and everyday life. Karr's careful and thorough research and empathy for history's players makes *Worlds Apart* a genuine adventure in America's heritage. Recommended for all libraries and schools, this book will be of special interest to budding history detectives.

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

A year down yonder / Richard Peck. LCCN 99043159. New York : Dial Books for Young Readers, 2000.

HBB, 0803725183, list price: \$16.99.

Fic. Grandmothers--Fiction; Depressions--1929--Fiction; Country life--Illinois--Fiction; Illinois--Fiction. 130 p. ; 22 cm.

Grades 6-10. Rating : 5.

Chicago still struggles in the grip of The Great Depression in 1937. Mary Alice Dowdel's father has lost his job, forcing the family to give up their apartment. Her brother, Joey, sixteen, has joined the Civilian Conservation Corps to help the family and is sent out West. Mary Alice, along with her mother and father, relocate to the city where they find a small "light housekeeping" room. This, however, is of little consolation. The room is not big enough for three people, and Mary Alice needs to finish her education. With regret, she agrees to leave her parents to go live with Grandma Dowdel in a small "hick town" in Illinois.

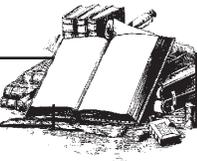
Mary Alice's vivid memories of past visits with Grandma Dowdel leave her uneasy. Her grandmother's usual pursuits include deriving pleasure from misleading self-important and portentous people in order to bestow justice on the underdog. Grandma Dowdel scorns social skills and is famous for carrying a rifle and knowing how to use it.

Knowing that the kids in this tiny town look on her as the "rich girl from Chicago," Mary Alice is filled with apprehension as she awaits her Grandma at the train station, with her cat Bootsie and her Philco radio.

Richard Peck's book, *A Long Way From Chicago*, was a 1999 Newbery Honor book; the author received the coveted Newbery Medal with this sequel, *A Year Down Yonder*. His knowledge of the Depression era, and his unique humor, create a hilarious year for Mary Alice and Grandma Dowdel. His style shines as he rewards the reader with a poignant, surprise-filled ending.

With description, language, and vivid detail, Peck litters this book with historical facts that will strengthen classroom lessons on this period. Adults will enjoy the author's humor, and his passion for family.

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



The Facts on File guide to research / by Jeff Lenburg. (Facts on File library of language and literature.) LCCN 2004018941. New York : Facts on File, 2005.

HBB, 0816057419, list price: \$45.00.

025.5/24. Library research--Handbooks, manuals, etc.; Research--Methodology--Handbooks, manuals, etc.; Information retrieval--Handbooks, manuals, etc. xxxii, 560 p. ; 24 cm.

Grades 9-Adult. Rating : 5.

Lenburg, author of fourteen popular nonfiction books, is a part-time instructor on research and writing. He brings a great deal of wealth to this subject for students and general readers who need to prepare research papers and class studies. This guide succeeds in being a comprehensive map to doing thorough and accurate research. Appendices cover style guides, including APA, MLA and The Chicago Manual of Style.

Section II, finding sources of information, reaches out to a wide audience for it offers concrete suggestions and examples of how to find a variety of information sources, all the way from finding associations and societies, to electronic databases, to email discussions groups and newsgroups, and government publications and agencies.

All size libraries can utilize this general introductory volume for it offers valuable tips for beginners and more experienced students of all ages. It also enables users to find sources by topic with detailed listings of selected books, and print and Web indexes, for subjects from aging to women's studies. Those having *Complete Idiot's Guide to Writing Research Papers* (Alpha, 2004) and serving primarily ninth and tenth graders need not update. Those seeking a comprehensive guide for older secondary students, undergraduate students and adult learners would do well to review *The Facts on File Guide to Research*.

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

Biotechnology and genetic engineering / Lisa Yount. Rev. ed. (Library in a book.) LCCN 2003064223. New York : Facts on File, 2004.

HBB, 0816050597, list price: \$40.50.

303.48. Genetic engineering--Social aspects; Biotechnology--Social aspects. 316 p. ; 24 cm.

Grades 9-Adult. Rating : 4.

Beginning with a broad overview of genetic engineering, *Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering*, revised ed. by Lisa Yount, addresses a wide and often controversial topic with a slight leaning towards liberal ethics. From early biotechnology in ancient agriculture and the discovery of chromosomes in 1875, to the controversy over genetically altered plants of today, the book provides an overview of a vast wealth of information. It addresses (but wisely does not attempt to settle) concerns such as cloning and embryonic stem cell research.

Anyone conducting research on the subject will be pleased with the extensive bibliography, index, and suggested websites, articles, and books, and tips on researching biotechnology and genetic engineering. All of these topics are well organized into easy-to-use sections.

Biotechnology also presents the legal aspects of its subject, particularly DNA testing, genetic discrimination, the patenting of biotechnology, and the effects of court decisions in each case. It includes summaries of court cases in the body of the book. The actual court cases themselves are in the detailed appendices. The in-depth chronology, biographical listing, glossary, annotated bibliography, list of organizations and agencies, appendices, and index make this book exactly what it claims to be: a library's worth of information in a single reference book, and an excellent starting point for serious research.

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

Dragons of the deep / written by Carl Wieland ; illustrated by Darrell Wiskur. LCCN 2004118183. Green Forest, Ark. : Master Books, 2005.

HBB, 0890514240, list price: \$15.99.

591.92. Sea monsters--Juvenile literature; Marine animals--Juvenile literature; Marine animals. 79 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 29 cm.

Grades 5-7. Rating : 5.

A fine paleontology textbook firmly based in creationism, *Dragons of the Deep* presents an interesting group of ocean dwelling monsters from the past, and the present. Students will enjoy reading about these huge creatures, how they correlate with Bible material, correctly interpreting fossils, some of the mistakes made by scientists in the past, and interesting data from this science and the critters studied. An adequate index capably closes this volume.

CEO of the creation-based Australian ministry Answers in Genesis, prolific author of germane articles and books, Dr. Carl Wieland brings his own research and expertise as well as that gained from colleagues to the writing of *Dragons of the Deep*. All specimens discussed are solidly approached from a biblical, scientific viewpoint. The subject itself is engrossing, and Wieland's handling of it captures the intelligence and imagination. Well known for his Dinky Dinosaur picture books, Darrell Wiskur's large, bright, lifelike, detailed acrylic illustrations capably amplify the narration.

Of special interest to Christian schools, home schoolers, and church groups, scientifically accurate *Dragons of the Deep* will also be of value to any group or school seeking to provide creationism as well as evolution.

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

The Facts on File dictionary of physics / edited by John Daintith, Richard Rennie. 4th ed. (Facts on File science library.) LCCN 2005040096. New York : Facts on File, 2005.

HBB, 0816056536, list price: \$45.00.

530/.03. Physics--Dictionaries. x, 278 p. : ill., diagrams ; 24 cm.

Grades 9-13. Rating : 5.

The Facts on File dictionary of biology / edited by Robert Hine. 4th ed. (Facts on File science library.) LCCN 2005040698. New York : Facts on File, 2005.

HBB, 0816056471, list price: \$45.00.

570/.3. Biology--Dictionaries. x, 406 p. : ill., diagrams ; 24 cm.

Grades 9-13. Rating : 5.

The Facts on File dictionary of mathematics / edited by John Daintith, John Clark. 4th ed. (Facts on File science library.) LCCN 2005048762. New York : Facts on File, 2005.

HBB, 081605651X, list price: \$45.00.

510/.3. Mathematics--Dictionaries. x, 262 p. : ill., diagrams ; 24 cm.

Grades 9-13. Rating : 5.

The Facts on File dictionary of chemistry / edited by John Daintith. 4th ed. (Facts on File science library.) LCCN 2005043785. New York : Facts on File, 2005.

HBB, 0816056498, list price: \$45.00.

540/.3. Chemistry--Dictionaries. x, 310 p. : ill., diagrams ; 24 cm.

Grades 9-13. Rating : 5.

These dictionaries, extensively revised and extended, are designed for use in schools. Intended for students of the respective science, each offers a list of Web sites and a bibliography. In addition to 60 to 130 line drawings, a guide to using the dictionary explains its main features.

As in earlier editions, the definitions are concise and easy for most secondary and undergraduate students to understand. Some line drawings in each volume help to clarify the definition.

New to each edition is the inclusion of pronunciations for terms that are not in everyday use.

The previous edition for each title was published in 1999. Each contains more than 300 new entries reflecting advances in the discipline.

The low cost makes this a title worthy of consideration for a technical dictionary in a small or medium sized library, in a school library, or in a college library. Those having McGraw-Hill, Oxford or Penguin science dictionaries should update if having a copyright before 2003.

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

Winning gymnastics for girls / David Porter ; foreword by David A. Feigley. LCCN 2003014767. New York : Facts on File, 2004.

HBB, 0816052298, list price: \$35.00.
796.44/082. Gymnastics for girls--Juvenile literature; Gymnastics. xvi, 159 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 6-12. Rating : 4.

This enthusiastic in tone book is for any young girl who wants to learn about the wide range of gymnastic skills and how to do them. The chapters follow the progression from learning basic skills to building on these skills with advanced techniques and maneuvers. Each chapter provides suggested drills. More than 130 photographs illustrate many of the drills and concepts discussed, and an appendix offers additional resources.

One clear advantage for libraries to consider this title is its step-by-step concentration on the basics, e.g. conditioning starts with warm-up, stretching with specifics for head and neck, arms, shoulders, and wrist, back and chest, legs, knees, ankles, and feet. Each of these specifics is also addressed for more advanced conditioning, with both the basics and advanced techniques presented in a way that girls can handle them on their own.

All public and school libraries can add this volume to reach athletes beginning their training or needing ideas for more advanced development. School libraries can add it to offer practical ideas to students for understanding what coaches or training exercises emphasize.

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

The tarantula scientist / by Sy Montgomery ; photographs by Nic Bishop. LCCN 2003020125. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2004.

HBB, 0618147993, list price: \$18.00.
B or 921 or 595.44. Marshall, Samuel D.; Scientists; Arachnologists; Spiders; Tarantulas. 80 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 5-9. Rating : 4.

Author Sy Montgomery received a 2005 Robert F. Sibert Honor Award for nonfiction for *The Tarantula Spider*. Nic Bishop photographed the numerous close-up pictures of the tarantulas, and scientist Sam Marshall and his team, who are studying the spider in French Guiana, contributed research. Readers are taken through the scientists' research, following them into the jungle habitat, into the tarantula's burrow, and on to Marshall's spider lab back in Ohio. This lab is the only "comparative tarantula lab in the world that's global in reach."

Sam not only catalogs each species but also conducts experiments to learn, for example, how the tarantula finds the silk of its own burrow. Tarantula myths are dispelled. As a scientist, Marshall wonders about the future of tarantulas and their ultimate role in the ecosystem. End material includes: spider stats, spider speak, a selected bibliography, websites, and information about French Guiana.

Montgomery not only describes the tarantula, but her writing extends into the mind of a scientist examining how a biologist works while conducting his research. The book thus becomes a career book as well as a descriptive title. It is Nic Bishop's photographs that will draw the browser. Tarantulas have their own ghoulish appeal, and the photographs just add to that appeal. Arachniphobics will want to keep their eyes shut. Not so much a book for the simple report which includes habitat, young, food, and enemies categories, but one to appreciate the tarantula and scientific research.

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

E.B. White : spinner of webs and tales / Catherine Bernard. (Authors teens love.) LCCN 2004018097. Berkeley Heights, N.J. : Enslow Publishers, 2005.

HBB, 0766023508, list price: \$26.60.
B or 921 or 818/.5209. White, E. B. (Elwyn Brooks), 1899--Juvenile literature; Authors, American--20th century--Biography--Juvenile literature; Children's stories--Authorship--Juvenile literature. 104 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.
Grades 6-8. Rating : 4.

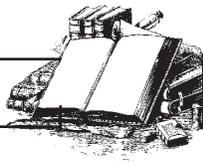
It seems that everyone loves E.B. White's classic *Charlotte's Web*, children and adults alike. *E.B. White: Spinner of Webs and Tales* gives a close look at the life of this well known

and well loved author. This book takes you from his birth to death, giving readers insight into his life, motives and career. Born in 1899 in Mount Vernon, New York, Elwyn Brooks White (who incidentally hated his name Elwyn) had a happy childhood with a family that loved him and encouraged him to express himself through words. Although he had a long career as a writer for *The New Yorker*, and considered himself an essayist and poet, he was best known for his children's books featuring talking animals, and particularly for *Charlotte's Web*.

E.B. White: Spinner of Webs and Tales is included in the series *Authors Teens Love*, although the cover gives an indication that the book is more appropriate to the elementary or early middle school reader rather than teens. Yet the text and materials would be of interest to high school readers as well. Many black and white photos of White's life are interspersed with text, and the book concludes with several interesting features. Included are a timeline, a list of published works, a glossary and also In His Own Words, an excerpt from a famous interview of E.B. White conducted in 1969.

Although perhaps not the most exciting biography written, readers will satisfy any questions they may have about this noted author by the reading of *Spinner of Web and Tales*, and certainly gain new information.

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



Above all earthly powers / Jack Cavanaugh. (Songs in the night ; 3.) LCCN 2003028169. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2004.

PAP, 0764223097, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Berlin Wall, Berlin, Germany, 1961-1989--Fiction; Youth with disabilities--Fiction; Escapes--Fiction; Widows--Fiction; Germany--History--1933-1945--Fiction; Berlin (Germany)--Fiction; Germany (East)--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 380 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

The third and culminating installment in Cavanaugh's award-winning *Songs in the Night* series, *Above All Earthly Powers* is a gripping adventure about the perils faced by World War II survivors in Post-Nazi Germany. Mady Schumacher, her daughter Elyse, and friend Lisette outlived the terrors of Nazi extermination facilities, but now endure the bleak reality of Communist oppression in 1960's East Germany.

Surprising reunions with fellow survivors inspire the friends to embark on a daunting journey. Aided by several unlikely allies, the group takes on the heroic task of rescuing several handicapped youth and leading them to freedom on the other side of the Berlin Wall. Each rescuer must exorcise personal demons and overcome brutal memories in order to complete this mission of liberation, begun decades ago by Mady's late husband, Josef.

Cavanaugh weaves a powerful tale, once again proving himself one of the preeminent writers of historical fiction. He makes stunning use of details about setting and atmosphere, causing the reader to dwell in the same environment of despair and urgency as the protagonists. The plot twists and turns every which way, but Cavanaugh avoids the temptation to compromise his story or increase the level of apprehension through illogical means.

Cavanaugh allows for the evolution of several characters through their trying circumstances, distinguishing the book from others in its genre. Ultimately, the story exists not for the sake of chills and thrills, but as a tale of the strain extraordinary conditions place on the strength of the human will.

While Cavanaugh uses this story to bring resolution to his series, he includes enough flashbacks and background information to make this installment compelling enough to stand alone. *Above All Earthly Powers* is a journey of hope and resurrection that will leave even the most seasoned reader breathless.

Aarik Danielsen, BS/BM. Free-lance journalist and worship leader, Knoxville, Tennessee.

*

Ahab's bride / Louise M. Gouge. (Ahab's legacy ; 1.) LCCN 2003012439. Colorado Springs : River Oak, 2004.

PAP, 1589190076, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Loss (Psychology)--Fiction; Women--Massachusetts--Fiction; Ahab, Captain (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Ship captain's spouses--Fiction; Nantucket Island (Mass.)--Fiction; Historical fiction; Psychological fiction; Christian fiction. 348 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : *5.

Intelligent and independent, Hannah Oldweiler wishes her peers spoke of something besides fashion, parties, and the hope of matrimony within nineteenth century New Bedford society. When long-time admirer Jeremiah Harris brings the handsome Captain Ahab to dine with Hannah and her father, she is smitten with their new guest. An ensuing courtship leads to her own marriage and creates concern for both Jeremiah and Mr. Oldweiler, who are worried about Hannah's spiritual wellbeing and marital happiness.

To her dismay, headstrong Hannah finds that married life and her fierce love for the aging Captain cannot persuade him to stay safely at home, even after the birth of their son. Rather, Ahab must follow his compulsion to roam the seas, looking for the great white whale that has taken his leg and escaped his final, fatal spear. Hannah grapples with loneliness and deep spiritual conflicts that result from her desire to understand and love her husband, a complicated man of dark and tempestuous moods. When the day comes that the Captain does not return, heartbroken Hannah must find her way alone.

Ahab's Bride, Book One of *Ahab's Legacy*, is fashioned as a prequel to Herman Melville's classic work, *Moby Dick*. Not only does it serve to create interest in that legendary tale, but it possesses its own absorbing account of the lives and passions of its characters. Author Louise Gouge has crafted a novel that is near flawless in both story and execution. She adeptly designs a world full of rich characters whose story is set in a whale fishery town so real one can almost smell the brine. The faith thread is intriguing, presenting questions not often voiced, and providing reasoned answers.

This is Christian fiction at it best. Readers may well say a prayer of thanks that the second book in the series, *Hannah Rose*, is already available for purchase. Highly recommended.

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

Brink of death / Brandilyn Collins. (Hidden faces series ; 1.) LCCN 2003024008. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2004.

PAP, 0310251036, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Courtroom artists--Fiction; Trials (Murder)--Fiction; Women artists--Fiction; Witnesses--Fiction; Mystery fiction. 341 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Stain of guilt / Brandilyn Collins. (Hidden faces series ; 2.) LCCN 2004018411. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2004.

PAP, 0310251044, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Fugitives from justice--Fiction; Police artists--Fiction; Women artists--Fiction; Murderers--Fiction; Mystery fiction. 353 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

When Annie's father dies she and her single sister Jenna move into their father's massive log home located on the outskirts of Redding, California. Jenna still has a life of her own in San Francisco but often flies up to be Annie's support during the adjustment of her recent divorce and becoming a single mother of two teenagers. Annie is no stranger to courtroom drama, having watched her father's work as a criminal lawyer; however, her main experience comes from being a courtroom artist, which leads her into places she never thought she would go.

Annie's involvement as a courtroom artist is the premise for the Hidden Faces Series by Brandilyn Collins. Annie's job is to both draw the criminal's face and to come to know the personality of those she is drawing, since personality traits can affect the countenance and aging process. It is the hidden face, the personality of the criminal, that makes the series different from other murder/mystery novels, since the readers are given glimpses into the criminal's thoughts as the main plot unfolds. There is also the subplot of Annie struggling with becoming a Christian. Readers will be drawn into how Annie becomes involved with the murder case because of her ability to draw the outer, and inner person.

In Book One, *Brink of Death*, the plot centers on how it was a murder of mistake. Annie discovers this painful truth when she is drawn into the murder of her neighbor and friend, Lisa Willits. Because of her courtroom artist experience and friendship with the Willits, Annie is asked to draw the composite of the killer based on what Lisa's daughter saw that

horrible night. Annie's involvement in the case reveals that the killer had the wrong house. Annie is the one who should be dead and not Lisa. As Annie is burdened with this guilt, her drawing gets her closer to finding the murderer, yet he is getting closer in finding her as a result.

In *Stain of Guilt*, the sequel, Annie has gone from a courtroom artist to a forensic artist as a result of the murder case she had been involved with. She has agreed to draw the updated composite of the man who murdered Don Terrell, a prominent businessman some twenty years prior. Her drawing will air on the national show, *American Fugitive*, in hopes of capturing him. Annie is reluctant to take on the task as she dreads knowing she will have to come to know the habits, and mind of a killer. The more involved she becomes in her assignment the more she realizes she cannot handle the pressures of both her career and being a single parent.

As in the first book in the Hidden Faces Series, Annie's involvement in her case nearly costs her life. Annie continues to struggle to truly trust God with her life. Her continuing difficulty with her rebellious teenage son, along with her continuing insecurities, make it obvious she cannot do it on her own. Though she goes to church, she has not made any real spiritual commitment.

In both books Annie's path towards salvation gets a little preachy at times, yet at the same time her hesitancy and the counsel she receives are genuine in tone. It's clear the author has researched the field of forensics, which unfortunately weighs down the story with too much detail. As in the first book the plot does not take off until well into the latter half of the book, and then it is difficult to put down since the pace and action is riveting. Readers interested in a new twist in murder mysteries, with the warmth of a woman trying to find salvation, will want to try the Hidden Face Series.

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

Dear enemy / by Jack Cavanaugh. LCCN 2005008958. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2005.

PAP, 0764223100, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Nurses--Fiction; Soldiers--Fiction; Prisoners of war--Fiction; Enemies (Persons)--Fiction; World War, 1939-1945--Fiction; War stories; Christian fiction. 283 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

In the midst of World War II's bloody Battle of the Bulge, nurse, Annie Mitchell, finds herself called back to the front lines the first day of her honeymoon. When the conflict heats up and the base is evacuated, Annie volunteers to stay behind. Word comes that General Maxwell is wounded in the Ardenne Forest; Annie commandeers a vehicle to find him, and her husband Keith, General Maxwell's driver. To

her great joy, Keith is still alive, but her joy is short-lived. Germans disable their vehicle, and Annie and Keith must flee into the forest to hide. Worse yet, when two German soldiers stumble toward their hiding place, Keith only kills one before he is fatally shot, and Annie is captured.

Annie does everything she can to escape from the wounded German soldier holding her captive. Her hate is a palpable thing for this killing machine who took the life of her husband. But things are not what they appear. As Annie is forced to spend time with Karl Hausmann, he repeatedly demonstrates that her preconceived ideas about the enemy are completely false, in his case, and he teaches her things about life and humanity that challenge her world view.

Dear Enemy, by Jack Cavanaugh carries the reader away with its intense battle scenes and stark look at the atrocities of war on the front lines. The book also challenges readers to consider "the enemy" not as a stereotyped, nameless group or entity, but as distinct individuals with names and families, hopes and fears much like ourselves—a timely issue, considering the United State's current involvement in Iraq.

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

Deep blue / Tom Morrissey. (Beck Easton adventure ; 1.) LCCN 2004019910. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2005.

PAP, 0310244072, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Women graduate students--Fiction; Women genealogists--Fiction; Treasure-trove--Fiction; Divers--Fiction; Florida--Fiction; Christian fiction; Mystery fiction. 344 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

"Our secret may yet save us," (p.27) writes Cecilia Sinclair, a Civil War widow whom Jennifer Cassidy was hired to research. When Jennifer uncovers the previous sentence in one of Cecilia's journals, she determines to research the secret also. Armed with the journals and a hunch, Jennifer, a graduate student on summer break, flies to Florida. Once there, she hires Beck Easton, owner of a dive shop and former Marine diver, to explore an underwater cave for Cecilia's buried secret. Beck's discovery ignites Jennifer's curiosity and fuels the evil intentions of the one who hired her. While Jennifer pursues both Beck and great wealth, Beck gently tries to redirect her focus to God's treasures.

Deep Blue, a contemporary suspense fiction book by Tom Morrissey, sweeps across Florida, the Bahamas, and parts of Michigan. Descriptions of the various settings allow the reader to see what the character sees, but do not bog down the narrative. The plot catches Beck and Jennifer in a vortex of mysteries, romance, and danger. Beck's Christian character is consistently admirable. Jennifer's character

develops throughout the book. At one point, Jennifer tries unsuccessfully to seduce Beck. Beck's wise and sensitive refusal attests to his deep convictions and love for God. The dialogue helps develop the characters as well as provide information. The theme of redemption threads its way through the lives of Beck and Jennifer. "Grace, Jen,... we don't deserve it; He gives it anyhow." (p. 326)

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

Dying to kill / Patricia H. Rushford. (An Angel Delaney mystery ; 2.) LCCN 2004015534. Grand Rapids : Revell, 2004.

PAP, 080075848X, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Family violence--Fiction; Policewomen--Fiction; Mystery fiction; Christian fiction. 267 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

Abusive men deserve to die. At least, somebody in Sunset Cove, Oregon, thinks so. When Candace Jenkins' abusive husband is murdered, police assume Candace is guilty. Angel Delaney's gut feeling that Candace may be innocent compels her to investigate. When Angel, who is on trauma leave from the Sunset Cove Police Department, begins her investigation, some police on the force resent her lack of confidence in their investigation. In spite of their disapproval, Angel doggedly pursues the killer. The startling implications of her discoveries put her life and two of her friends' lives in danger.

In *Dying to Kill*, Patricia Rushford presents Angel Delaney, a courageous woman who is stalked by her insecurities. In the end, determining to act in spite of her emotions causes Angel to grow into a more mature character. The beautiful Oregon coastal setting contrasts starkly with the ugly crimes committed there. Rushford sensitively deals with the subject of spousal abuse, and a counselor present in the story teaches that fighting violence with violence yields tragic results. Yet, as the plot twists, Angel discovers even the counselor could be a possible suspect. This work of suspense fiction has a definite contemporary feel. The dialogue driven plot moves quickly, creates many possible suspects, and has a thread of romance.

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

A garden in Paris / by Stephanie Grace Whitson. LCCN 764229354. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2005.

PAP, 0764229354, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Americans--France--Fiction; Mothers and daughters--Fiction; Widows--Fiction; Paris (France)--Fiction. 285 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Is there life after fifty? Is God really a God of second chances? How do you define yourself when your only child is grown and very self-

sufficient, and you are a widow? These are the questions that haunt Mary Davis in this contemporary novel. One day Mary finds an old sampler in an antique market and it fans a spark of hope deep inside her. A chance encounter with someone from her past via the Internet prompts Mary to go in search of the young woman she once was. Leaving a note for her family Mary heads for a garden in Paris.

A Garden in Paris is a book of hope and forgiveness. Hope that in spite of mistakes and poor choices God has not given up on us. *A Garden in Paris* portrays the Godly attribute of forgiveness. The characters are believable and human. The power of forgiveness and the wonder of hope are played out through the lives of the characters and not just with the quoting of scripture. This is an enjoyable read. The book has a sequel so not all issues are resolved in the final chapter.

Mary J. McCoy, Orange, Texas.

The heart of Thornton Creek / Bonnie Leon. (The Queensland chronicles ; 1.) LCCN 2004016966. Grand Rapids : Revell, 2005.

PAP, 080075896X, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Pioneers--Fiction; Americans--Australia--Fiction; Queensland--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 352 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

For the love of the land / Bonnie Leon. (The Queensland chronicles ; 2.) LCCN 2004029368. Grand Rapids : Revell, 2005.

PAP, 0800758978, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Pioneers--Fiction; Americans--Australia--Fiction; Queensland--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 313 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 2.

Rebecca is frustrated by the constraints of society and her loving father. Suddenly, Rebecca's father takes ill and dies, leaving Rebecca with only a spinster aunt and a mountain of debt. Society will not allow Rebecca to use her training in law, and she is not well suited to the role of nanny, seamstress, or teacher. The only alternative is to accept the marriage proposal of the young Australian her father represented. Can a marriage based on need and not love, succeed? Daniel is a fine Christian man and he stirs Rebecca as no other man has, but is that enough? Has her Christian upbringing equipped her to face the life in the Australian outback? Will she fit into the Thornton family?

The Heart of Thornton Creek is good historical fiction. But the book's value lies not in its Christian view of marriage but in its character study of Bertram Thornton. Bertram, Daniel's father, is a man who knows about God but does not know God. He feels a great responsibility for the community of Thornton Creek, a responsibility much greater than God intended. Time and the burden have

transformed him from a spiritual leader to a religious dictator. The strength of the story lies not only in how this change impacts the Thornton family, but the whole community of Thornton Creek. Can we trust God to care for those we love and all we hold dear or does He need our help? The story can be enjoyed on more than one level, the obvious story for some, and the deeper truths for others.

Rebecca and Daniel have come to love each other as they never believed possible, but Daniel is obsessed with Douloo, the family ranch. Daniel works to prove to his now dead father that he is man enough to manage Douloo. What Daniel does not understand is that he has followed in Bertram's footsteps not only as manager at Douloo, but also in trying to shoulder responsibility that is God's alone. A series of misfortunes beset Douloo and the Thornton family. Will these misfortunes bring Rebecca and Daniel closer together or drive them further apart? Will the trials of life bring them closer to God?

For The Love Of The Land is a sequel and does not have the substance to stand alone. It is dependent on the characters and story line from the first book of *The Queensland Chronicles* series. While the second book in the series, *For The Love Of The Land*, does move the story forward, the plot lacks depth and is predictable. The characters do not grow in this book. They remain much as they were in Book One of the series.

Mary J. McCoy, Orange, Texas.

The last storyteller / by Diane Noble. LCCN 2004010014. Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2004.

PAP, 1578563992, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Grandparent and adult child--Fiction; Women storytellers--Fiction; Welsh Americans--Fiction; Terminally ill--Fiction; Pregnant women--Fiction; Single women--Fiction; Grandmothers--Fiction; Storytelling--Fiction; Wales--Fiction; Adventure fiction; Love stories; Christian fiction. 372 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Taite Abbot grew up on her grandmother's stories while her mother attended college. Now that Taite is an adult, she finds herself in need of her grandmother again. When Taite learns that her boyfriend, Sam, has accepted a fellowship at the Institute of Neurological Research, she cancels her plan to tell him that she's pregnant. Instead, Taite chooses to get an abortion. However, out of money and out of work, Taite needs someplace to go. She goes to her grandmother's, and learns that her grandmother needs her just as much as Taite needs to hear the rest of the stories that her grandmother shares.

Vivid, spirited characters fan the flame of this tale of God's mercy and grace. Flung from modern-day California, Boston, London, and Spain to medieval Wales, the setting enhances and moves the story without overwhelming the

plot. The dialogue vibrates with controversial subjects such as abortion, stem cell research, and embryonic harvesting. Noble treats these tough issues with great sensitivity and manages to present both sides of the debate fairly well. The plot moves quickly, and generally centers on relationships, and the complicated decisions resulting from allowing people into your life. The theme so clearly presented in the lives of Taite, her mother, and grandmother is that no matter what you've done, God waits, ready to forgive and cleanse you with His love.

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

A light to my path / Lynn Austin. (Refiner's fire ; 3.) LCCN 2004012913. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2004.

PAP, 1556614446, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. African American women--Fiction; Plantation life--Fiction; Women slaves--Fiction; South Carolina--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 432 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

The third book in the Refiner's Fire Series picks up the stories of Grady and Anna, plantation slaves during the ending years of the Civil War. Austin takes us back in years to when they were snatched away from their parents as young children and sold into slavery. Grady works for an evil slave trader until he cleverly allows himself to be won in a poker game by a more caring master. Anna, with no one to care for her, lives on Slave Row like a wild barn cat eating any crumbs that get dropped. While playing with some barn kittens, the white girl in the big house demands that she hold one, and when Anna meows and crawls on all fours to find them, the white girl demands that she become "my kitty." Thus Anna becomes Kitty and serves a selfish, demanding, spoiled white girl who treats her disrespectfully and inhumanely until the slaves are freed when the war is over. Despite the darkness, both Grady and Anna are gifted—Grady in playing the fiddle, and Anna with the ability to sketch realistic pictures.

There is nothing else pretty about this novel. Except for the colorful dresses of the gentry, everything in the story is in shades of gray—the clothing, the mean living conditions, the meager food—and hopelessness. Still, through Delia, a black storyteller, many slaves place their trust in Jesus Christ. And hope will not be denied. When the chains of slavery are broken there is a choice—the way of revenge or the way of the Spirit.

Austin captures the historical setting, the haughtiness of white plantation owners, and the sights and smells of war. Through her deep characterizations, realistic dialogue, and storyline substance, the reader is transported to Charleston and the surrounding countryside to join Grady and Anna in hoping that the North will set the slaves free and help them begin a

new unshackled life where tender wills are no longer battered.

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

Like a watered garden / Patti Hill. (Garden gates ; 1.) LCCN 2004020015. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2005.

PAP, 0764229370, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Widows--Fiction; Women gardeners--Fiction; Loss (Psychology)--Fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. 318 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Always green : a novel / Patti Hill. (Garden gates ; 2.) LCCN 2005008955. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2005.

PAP, 0764229389, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Women gardeners--Fiction; Single mothers--Fiction; Widows--Fiction; Christian fiction. 318 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Struggling to carry on with life after the unexpected death of her husband, Mibby Garrett pours her time into her struggling garden design business—anything to avoid the day-to-day encounters that bring up painful reminders of her sweet life with Scott. Mibby finds herself able to cope, until Andrea shows up looking for her father; she is Scott's daughter from his first marriage—something Mibby knew nothing about. Torn between rage and grief, Mibby, supported by her wise, praying friend Louise, gradually comes to terms with Andrea, inviting her into her home where they can both heal from their shared pain of loss.

The story *Like a Watered Garden*, by Patti Hill, is carried on in *Always Green*, book two in the Garden Gates series. Mibby's garden design business is still struggling to make enough to pay her bills; worse yet, her teenage son, Ky, has turned into a stranger, becoming disrespectful, lazy, and absorbed in his video games. Encouraged by her friends, Mibby begins dating again, but gives up hope of finding a man as good as Scott was. What she almost misses is right under her nose—the valuable friendship of the Sweet Suzy delivery man, Larry, and the possibility of a new love.

Patti Hill's Garden Gates books are wonderfully written, with relatable characters and enough gentle humor to balance Mibby's grief and the mundane everyday struggles. Like the gardens she tends, Mibby's life goes through seasons of struggle and drought, but she is hardy and tenacious, buoyed up by her friends' encouragement, and her growing faith.

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

Lost in Rooville : a novel / Ray Blackston. LCCN 2005002936. Grand Rapids : Revell, 2005.

PAP, 0800730577, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Wilderness survival--Fiction; Australia--Fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. 300 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

Girl + Exotic Vacation + Ring = Engagement. That's what Jay Jarvis is thinking when he and his girlfriend Allie decide to visit Australia, explore the sights, and chase kangaroos. Being stranded for three days in the middle of the Australian outback, in the deadly heat, with a rapidly diminishing water supply and no real hope of rescue was not exactly the romantic proposal scene he had envisioned. Nor was going to jail and accumulating a massive debt part of his plan—but it was not outside of God's plan.

With his trademark blend of quirky humor and spiritual insights, Ray Blackston concludes his Flabbergasted trilogy with *Lost in Rooville*. Readers will love the laugh-aloud hilarity of this book as they revisit the lives of Jay and Allie, Steve and Darcy, Neil and Alexis—familiar characters who have grown and matured in their spiritual lives, and in their relationships with each other. This fun book is filled with intelligent humor, and real-life people and situations that most people can relate to. And the best part of the book is that it works its way to a great climax, and you think the story's over—but then you realize, to your great joy, there's still half a book left to read, with yet another climax and resolution to look forward to. And in midst of all the "Murphy's Law" scenarios are woven timeless truths about God's faithfulness.

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

Memories of a dirt road town / Stephen Bly. Nashville : Broadman & Holman, 2005.

PAP, 0805431713, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Forgiveness--Fiction; Wyoming--Fiction. 275 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

Memories of a Dirt Road Town starts slowly, but by the last pages the reader is swept into the adventure, romantic intrigues, and the spiritual journey found in the book. The main character, Develyn Worrell is a forty-five year old fifth grade teacher in Indiana. She embarks on a summer western trip to Wyoming to find a small town where her family unintentionally vacationed thirty-five years ago. Develyn has fond memories from so many years before of riding a roan colored horse, and the promise made as a ten year old Develyn to return to that Wyoming dirt road town someday.

Develyn makes good on that promise to return seeking peace with her past and with her present conflicts with her grown daughter. The divorce of Develyn from her husband two years before is explained as marital infidelity on his part. They were attempting to reconcile when he suddenly dies of a heart attack resulting in the

conflict between mother and daughter. It is handled from a compassionate Christian perspective. Develyn's conversations and prayers to God are heartfelt and real, as is the story's dialogue with the wide open space Wyoming cowboys and cowgirls that inhabit the Wyoming landscape.

The ending is just what you would expect from the first book in a series, in this case the new Horse Dream Series by Christy Award winning author Stephen Bly. The ending leaves you hanging on the edge of your seat ready for a continuation of the story, and the next book in the series.

David Hajdik, Columbia, Tennessee.

One Tuesday morning / Karen Kingsbury. LCCN 2003002408. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2003.

PAP, 0310247527, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. September 11 Terrorist Attacks, 2001--Fiction; Terrorism victims' families--Fiction; Victims of terrorism--Fiction; Lookalikes--Fiction; Amnesia--Fiction; Los Angeles (Calif.)--Fiction; New York (N.Y.)--Fiction; Psychological fiction; Christian fiction. 337 p. ; 22 cm.

Beyond Tuesday morning / Karen Kingsbury. LCCN 2004017038. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2005.

PAP, 0310257719, list price: \$13.99.

Fic. September 11 Terrorist Attacks, 2001--Fiction; Terrorism victims' families--Fiction; Fire fighters--Fiction; Brothers--Fiction; Widows--Fiction; Police--Fiction; New York (N.Y.)--Fiction; Christian fiction. 316 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Tuesday morning, September 11, 2001 began like many other Tuesdays, but before this day is over countless lives will be changed forever. Jake Bryan is a firefighter in Manhattan, and Eric Michaels is a businessman from Los Angeles. The only thing they have in common is their appearance. Both will enter the World Trade Center, but only one will survive. One man's love and hunger for God will change many lives. His influence will lead two families to a greater understanding of God's love, forgiveness and provision. In this contemporary fiction, two families' worlds are about to collide, one Tuesday morning.

The events of 9/11 are a familiar backdrop to the testimony of the power of one man's love for his God and his family. *One Tuesday Morning* is not for the faint of heart. The personalization of 9/11 is painful. Karen Kingsbury's characters are people we can relate to and care about. *One Tuesday Morning* allows us to see how one man, one ordinary person can make a difference and can impact their world.

Her name jumped out from the pages of Jake's Bible. Jake had written her name next to Deuteronomy 30:15-16 and the words-Choose life. That was Jake's desire for Jamie, but how do you choose life when your world and life have been destroyed by an act of terrorism.

True, Jamie had found Jesus in the pages and comments written in Jake's Bible, and in the thoughts and prayers Jake had jotted down in his journal, but to choose life seemed impossible. Slowly she and their precious daughter, Sierra learned to live again. Jamie volunteers at the St. Paul's Chapel and seeks to help others come to terms with the tragedy of September 11. Jamie can choose life for Sierra's sake, but can she ever choose love?

Beyond Tuesday Morning brings Jamie Bryan full circle to a life that is so much more than she ever thought or dreamed possible. The story portrays the loving plans of the Father for each of his children. God's desire for each of us is to choose life and to always look to Him for guidance. Well defined characters such as Jamie and Clay seek God for answers and direction. They learn to choose life and to trust God's direction and timing. These are the ways we all grow through the tragedies of life. Young and old alike will profit from this contemporary example of God's plans for each of His children. "For I know the plans I have for you, and you, and you..." (Paraphrase of Jeremiah 29:11)

Mary J. McCoy, Orange, Texas.

Over the waters / Deborah Rainey. Steeple Hill, 2005.

PAP, 373785437, list price: \$12.95.

Fic. Haiti--Fiction; Christian fiction; Romance fiction. 329 p.; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

Instead of heading to the Bahamas for her honeymoon, Valerie Austin finds herself on a plane to an orphanage in Haiti, after permanently parting ways with her fiancé shortly before her wedding. Frustrated, searching for God's will in her life, she wonders why God refuses to allow her the one dream she holds so dear—that of being a wife and a mother to half a dozen children—when all around her other women are mothers of children they don't even want, or can't afford to care for.

Dr. Max Jordon is likewise angry and disillusioned as he makes his way to Haiti to grieve where his son Joshua had worked as a doctor, and eventually died of illness. A wealthy and successful plastic surgeon, Max doesn't understand what drew Joshua to this poverty-stricken place, nor does he understand how Joshua's life was transformed after he "got religion." As Valerie and Max's paths intersect, Valerie challenges Max, showing him his desperate need for a personal relationship with Christ. And in the process, Valerie experiences her own spiritual growth as she learns how the Lord will fulfill the desires of her heart in a most unexpected way.

Over the Waters, by Deborah Rainey, paints a vivid portrait of the deep material and spiritual poverty of Haiti. Rainey's colorful descriptions of the people and the country, sprinkled liberally

with the Creole language, bring to life the reality of living in a world far removed from the plush opulence of America. Although the story seems somewhat superficial and formulaic for the first half of the novel, the storyline takes a more substantive turn the second half, focusing not on romance, but instead challenging the reader to consider how easy it is to fall into the trap of materialism, and encouraging the reader to wholeheartedly follow the call of God, even though it may seem like foolishness in the eyes of the world.

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

The storekeeper's daughter / Wanda E. Brunstetter. Ulrichville, Ohio : Barbour Publishing, 2005.

PAP, 1593104464, list price: \$12.95.

Fic. Amish--Fiction. 318 p.; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

The Storekeeper's Daughter, by Wanda E. Brunstetter, is book one in her *Daughters of Lancaster County* series. Naomi was content with her life in the Amish community of Pennsylvania, but her role in the family has changed since the sudden death of her mother. She now tends to her siblings while working everyday with her father in the family store. The long hours at the shop, the responsibilities of home, the inability to be courted by a gentleman in the community, and her father's unappreciative behavior has put a strain on Naomi's spirit. Then one day, Naomi makes a mistake that will cause her to question herself and her family's need for her.

Though labeled as a Christian romance, this story is more about forgiveness and family relationships. Brunstetter has constructed a story that shows how love and forgiveness heals wounds and brings family and friends together amid tragedy. The characters are well defined and the audience is able to witness the emotions of the main characters. The author has kept the spirit of the Amish while being able to develop characters who exhibit different attitudes within the community. Wanda Brunstetter has written a well rounded novel that has set a good foundation for the upcoming books in this series.

Stacie Coomer, MLS. Reference Librarian, Xenia, Ohio

A table by the window / by Lawana Blackwell. LCCN 2004024191. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2005.

PAP, 0764224727, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Inheritance and succession--Fiction; Home ownership--Fiction; Mississippi--Fiction. 413 p.; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

Carley Reed unexpectedly learns she has inherited money and a house from a grandmother she never knew. She decides to

quit her less than satisfying job teaching literature at a San Francisco private academy, and flies to Mississippi. It is there in the small town of Tallulah that Carley learns she not only has a house, but relatives. Having had a rough childhood due to a negligent mother, Carley is more thrilled with having family than having sudden wealth. She decides to trade California living for the much slower pace of the South, and tries her hand at opening up her own café. Never very good at relationships, Carley opens her heart to receiving the love her new family offers. In return Carley is able to reach out to Brooke, a troubled teen girl. Carley also discovers there may be room for romance in her life, but the taint of the town's unsolved murder begins to hinder the true joy Carley has begun to experience in her new life.

Lawana Blackwell's new offering, *A Table by the Window*, has much going for it—a likeable heroine, a mysterious murder lurking in the plotline, a young girl who needs mentoring, and a charming setting. There is also the sensitive treatment of a believer reluctantly returning to church. Yet all this gets weighed down by Blackwell's penchant for slowing down the story with an overabundance of exposition. There is also the overuse of italicizing words to contend with. However, these small annoyances aside, the story offers up a nice read of light romance mixed with mystery.

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

Treason / Don Brown. (Navy justice series ; 1.) LCCN 2005002988. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2005.

PAP, 0310259339, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. United States. Navy--Fiction; Courts-martial and courts of inquiry--Fiction; Legal stories. 325 p.; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

This exciting legal thriller centers on the Navy's top prosecutor, Lieutenant Zack Brewer. He is first assigned to prosecute a Navy SEAL for the rape of a female officer, a case which pits him against a long-time rival. While the best prosecutor and best defense counselor in the Navy go head-to-head in court, Islamic terrorists have infiltrated the Navy Chaplain Corps, and recruited Muslims in the military to wage acts of terrorism against the United States armed forces.

With the arrest of three chaplains for murder and treason, Lieutenant Brewer must team up with his former rival to prosecute these chaplains against a notorious criminal defense lawyer who will try anything to win the case for his clients.

This fast-paced novel weaves together an insightful look into the military justice system with authentic characters and an intricate story line. The story line spans such a great deal of time, however, that this reader would like to have seen Don Brown focus on developing more fully just one portion of this plot. This

story could easily have been made into two books, both of which, if told with the same engaging details as this one, would be great books in and of themselves.

Filled with emotion, timely subject matter, and suspense, this book is a must-read. Don Brown reminds us how easy it is for evil to creep into our lives, whether through terrorism, anger, or greed. This relevant book shows how individuals with a relationship to Christ can and will help defeat the forces of evil in this world.

Rev. Chris Carroll, Castalia, North Carolina

The trumpet at Twisp / Doris Elaine Fell. (Fields of valor ; 2.) LCCN 2004052360. West Monroe, La. : Howard, 2004.

PAP, 1582293910, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Persian Gulf War, 1991--Casualties--Fiction; September 11 Terrorist Attacks, 2001--Fiction; Persian Gulf War, 1991--Veterans--Fiction; Friendly fire (Military science)--Fiction; Mothers and sons--Fiction; War widows--Fiction; Washington (State)--Fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. 357 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

From Washington State to Heidelberg, Germany, to Bagdad, Iraq, this story unfolds with ever increasing suspense and heartache during the first Gulf War and eventually the current war in Iraq. Fell captures the terrible tension between love for your husband and his interests, and the fear and hatred of a war that could snatch him from his family. Her characters reveal insights into a contemporary war that makes the battle personal for every reader.

This second novel in the Fields of Valor Series takes up the story of Cameron Juddman, gung-ho Army enlisted man and gifted trumpeter, and Meagan, the woman he impulsively married when just a young girl and their young son, Ryan. Covering from 2003 to current time, Fell makes good use of flashback to fill in all the blanks in the past. Rejecting the God of her husband until many years after his death, Meagan works as both the protagonist and the antagonist. Interwoven with the Juddman's lives are those of Robinson Gilbert, seasoned reporter and his young son, Robbie. The mature Robbie, imbedded with a U.S. Army unit, arrives in Iraq in time to save Ryan Juddman's life. Add in Captain Tharon Marsh, a career officer who obeys an order that changes his life forever, and a German family with Nazi ties, and you have all the ingredients for a fine novel. The only negative about the story is why the German family is included—interesting but I was left with unanswered questions and wondering how their presence moved the story forward. Perhaps there will be closure with these characters in her next book in the series.

Will Meagan lose another loved one to war or will she trust God with her fears? Good dialogue and intertwining the fictitious with the real creates a heart-wrenching tale dealing with

serious lifelike situations that make the battle personal for each of us.

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

Vanished : a novel / by Ward Tanneberg. LCCN 2004013230. Grand Rapids : Kregel Publications, 2004.

PAP, 0825438500, list price: \$14.99.

Fic. Hostages--Fiction; Missing persons--Fiction; Americans--Israel--Fiction; Victims of terrorism--Fiction; Fathers and daughters--Fiction; Young women--Crimes against--Fiction; Israel--Fiction; Suspense fiction; Christian fiction. 525 p. ; 24 cm.

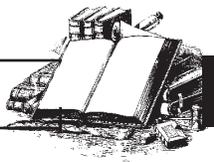
Adult. Rating : 4.

Ward Tanneberg brings the continuing suspenseful story of John Cain, first introduced in *Without Warning*, to its sequel *Vanished*. Cain's twelve year old daughter, Jessica, has been taken hostage from the terrorists who issued their own jihad in the first novel. The Palestinian Islamic Jihad is making this act of terrorism personal for John Cain. Not willing to wait while the United States government makes promises to the Cain family about the safe return of the daughter, John takes matters into his own hands to bring Jessica back home.

Vanished is an updated version of Tanneberg's 1995 novel, *October's Child*, just as the first book of the series, *Without Warning*, is the updated version of his 1994 novel, *September Strike*. Though this book can stand alone without reading the first book, readers would benefit from reading *Without Warning* to learn the background of the characters, and the events leading up to Jessica's kidnapping. Tanneberg has taken extreme care to present accurate details concerning the Islam religion, and the Middle East geography and conflicts. The pace is fast with short chapters, but is hindered by the vast amount of information Tanneberg presents in the novel. Readers witness the moral and emotional struggle John Cain endures to bring his daughter home safely. One can't help but admire the spiritual, emotional, and physical strength of Jessica Cain as she endures being held hostage. The present day kidnappings in the Middle East bring more interest to this story.

John Cain, a pastor, uses a gun in this story to defend his life and others. The use of guns was a subject matter John struggled with and one where he sought spiritual guidance from a close Christian friend. Readers may also have a difficult time reading the passage about the attempted rape of twelve year-old Jessica.

Stacie Coomer, MLS. Reference Librarian, Xenia, Ohio



Falling in love with the Bible / Mike MacIntosh. LCCN 2004029411. Colorado Springs : Victor, 2005.

HBB, 0781441366, list price: \$16.99.
220. Bible--Reading. 219 p. : 24 cm.
Grades 9 and up. Rating : 3.

Falling in Love with the Bible was written to help readers do just that. Specifically, the book is designed to encourage readers to develop a desire to read the Bible out of a desire to do so rather than a feeling of pressure or obligation. . . As part of his method of accomplishing this, author Mike MacIntosh, pastor of Horizon Christian Fellowship in San Diego, sets forth two main concepts: that the only way to a fulfilling life is to become intimately acquainted with God, and the only way to become intimately acquainted with God is to read the Bible.

In the book, MacIntosh tackles the main reasons people have for not reading the Bible (it's boring; it's an old people's book, etc.), and he details ways to fall in love with the Bible (including the suggestion to surround yourself with Bible-loving friends and the assurance that if the Bible is read in the belief that it is compelling, it will become so). For example, readers are told the Bible is full of imaginative stories of skullduggery and daring-do and they're given statistics about how Bible lovers are more at peace.

Ultimately, however, MacIntosh too often simply lists why he loves the Bible without really explaining why. A Christian already in love with the Bible will find his points compelling. New Christians actively anticipating the Bible's beauty would also be a good audience. But non-Christians, or readers hostile to Christianity might be puzzled by MacIntosh's using spaceships, Dear Abby, Mark Twain, sheep ranches, and the Wright Brothers to prove those points.

While his writing style is reader friendly, MacIntosh uses a large vocabulary and an almost textbook-like analysis of why the Bible is lovable, making his book best for adults and older teens.

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

The new Unger's Bible handbook / rev. & updated ed. LCCN 2005280603. Chicago : Moody Publishers, 2005.

HBB, 0802490565, list price: \$39.99.
220.7. Bible--Handbooks, manuals, etc. 751 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 26 cm.

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

How can a reviewer critique a book already held in high regard by thousands of Christians? The answer: with respect! *The New Unger's Bible Handbook* offers chronological notes from Genesis to Revelation. Special topics include "The Bible and Archaeology," "Outline of Church History," and "Principal Religions of the World." Smaller special features are represented by nearly 60 sidebars, such as Assyria, Sanctification, and Events Exclusive to Luke.

The late Dr. Merrill F. Unger wrote the first edition. Gary N. Larson revised the new edition considering recent archaeological discoveries, and a broader range of interpretive positions on difficult texts. The New International Version is the selected Scripture.

Abundant illustrations may form tiny sidebars or two page spreads. Representative examples are "Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus," and "Dung Gate of the old city of Jerusalem today." Helpful charts include "The Book of Judges versus the Book of Joshua" and "Expulsion of demons." Artwork, such as "Moses before Pharaoh" add interesting details. Maps comparable to "Paul's First Missionary Journey" will aid the beginning Bible student. More advanced students of geography will note "Pietism in Europe, c. 1700," and "Areas of Jewish Settlement in New Testament Times."

Everything is quality—sturdy binding, color, quality paper, and the layout. *The New Unger's Bible Handbook* is an excellent choice for families, church libraries, public libraries, and Sunday School classrooms. Let its attractive front grace your coffee table. Keep this hefty volume near, for ready reference. It will soon be an old friend who has taught you much!

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

The uttermost part of the earth : a guide to places in the Bible / Richard R. Losch. LCCN 2004065417. Grand Rapids : W.B. Eerdmans, 2005.

PAP, 0802828051, list price: \$16.00.
220.9/1. Bible--Geography. xi, 260 p. : ill., 6 maps ; 23 cm.
Grades 9-Adult. Rating : 5.

In Acts 1:8, Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to go to the "uttermost part of the earth." Richard R. Losch names his book from this command. *The Uttermost Part of the Earth: A Guide to the Places of the Bible* does not replace a Bible dictionary or a Bible atlas.

Rather, this wonderful book offers a broad picture of over 75 important places in early Christianity. Geographical locations are arranged in alphabetical order. The letter E includes Emmaus and Ephesus. Hazor and Hebron represent the H section. T has Tarsus, Thessalonica, Thyatira, Tiberias, Tirzah, and Tyre.

Father Losch, a retired rector of an Episcopal church, includes some ancient tradition and scholarly opinions. He is careful, however, to distinguish between opinions of people and biblical sources. Plenty of white space in the text allows an interested reader to scribble questions and thoughts about a selected topic. Scattered black and white pictures, six maps, and an index add study tools. I especially appreciated the Guide to Pronunciation. For instance, Ur of the Chaldeans is "oor-of the kal-dee-uns."

The author notes, "Some readers may read this volume cover-to-cover, while others may simply dip in to find out more about a particular town or city." I'm keeping my copy nearby—a ready help, as I study my Bible. *The Uttermost Part of the Earth* can guide all Christians into a deeper understanding of biblical geography.

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

The Christ : his miracles, his ministry, his mission / Carroll Roberson. LCCN 2004118187. Green Forest, Ark. : New Leaf Press, 2005.

PAP, 0892216107, list price: \$14.99.
232. Jesus Christ. 283 p. : ill. ; 23 cm. ; incl. CD-ROM.
Adult (Grades 9-12). Rating : 5.

Listed as Christian apologetics, this multi-use book, *The Christ*, catches the reader's attention with its cover, and holds it with its content. Chronologically based, grounded firmly in the Bible, and backed by fascinating first century Jewish cultural data, *The Christ* presents 106 events from our Lord's sojourn here on earth. Included is a CD of easy-listening, easy-to-learn hymns written by the author to enhance his narrative. The words of these songs are included within the relevant text.

Preacher, award winning Christian singer and song writer, head of his own ministry, author, student of the Holy Land past and present and of Hebrew, Carroll Roberson draws from a large palette of information to present this unique, inspiring, interesting life of Christ. Intimate as a face to face conversation, *The Christ* provides

familiar and fresh perceptions which encourage worship and Christian growth. Each straight to the point section affords a range of biblically based retellings of incidents enhanced by Hebrew insights, historical data, and life applications. With its beautiful, die-cut, wrap around cover, antiqued black and white illustrations, and important contents The Christ has many uses, a few being: personal and group devotions; Bible study series for youths and adults; opening material for services and chorus singing; background for other Bible studies. This book will make a most welcome gift.

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

If grace is so amazing, why don't we like it? / Donald McCullough. LCCN 2004025498. San Francisco : Jossey-Bass, 2005.

HBB, 0787974374, list price: \$22.95.

234. Grace (Theology). ix, 245 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

Grace is unpredictable and often unsettling. This book looks at the many facets of grace—from the individual to the community level. The author writes that persistent, wishful thinking about wanting things to be some other way—is surely going to cause unhappiness, because grace is unpredictable and often occurs in surprising ways. It's far better to accept grace and then work in the service of grace.

This book is organized in four parts, Upside Down, Upside-Down God, and Upside-Down Self, Upside-Down World. This organization provides the framework to talk about grace in various contexts and situations, with the underlying theme being that "grace is not fair," which is supported with uplifting examples of God's grace in action.

While the author's discussion about grace is noteworthy, the book appears to take on a moralistic tone that berates one's shortcomings and failings—in pursuit of and in spite of God's grace. The author relies on quotes from various theologians and others to support his exposition about grace, but these do not contribute significantly to the book. The flow of the book was somewhat disconcerting as it appears to be a rambling about grace with few connections to tie the various musings together. Overall, this book may disappoint those seeking to understand God's grace.

Shirley Copeland, Ed.D., *Education Consultant, Freelance Book Reviewer, Charlottesville, Virginia.*

Come thirsty / Max Lucado. LCCN 2004007737. Nashville : W Publishing, 2004.

HBB, 0849917611, list price: \$22.99.

248.4. Christian life. xvi, 215 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Pastor and author, Max Lucado, continues his earned reputation of offering something for the person on the street in *Come Thirsty*. Lucado gets his points across as if he was sitting across from you chatting. His ability to relate a story to spiritual truths touches the reader, and in this work truly "offers a long drink of cool water to parched throats and 'dehydrated hearts'." Readers are invited to accept God's work, to rely on his energy, trust his Lordship, and receive his love.

Those new to Lucado can expect to be treated to inspirational stories that draw one into the reflection, and now and then to be hit with a challenging personal point. Those familiar with Lucado will find more parallels between the stories presented and the life circumstances of biblical characters as well as guides for opening us to new discoveries about God and his plans.

Almost fifty pages are devoted to a reader's guide, prepared by Steve Halliday, which Bible study groups could use as a discussion guide.

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

Jesus in the margins / Rick McKinley. LCCN 2004022661. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2005.

PAP, 1590523873, list price: \$12.99.

248.4. Marginality, Social--Religious aspects--Christianity; Christian life. 191 p. ; 21 cm.

Grades 10-Adult. Rating : 4.

*

Parenting the heart of your child / Diane Moore. LCCN 2005004888. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2005.

PAP, 0764200364, list price: \$13.99.

248.8/45. Decision making in children; Moral development; Parenting--Religious aspects--Christianity; Child rearing--Religious aspects--Christianity. 172 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : *5.

Lawrence Kohlberg's six stages of moral development include three levels: (1.) It's All About Me, (2.) It's All About Us! (3.) It's Bigger Than Us! In *Parenting the Heart of Your Child*, Diane Moore uses Kohlberg's developmental stages with Scripture, which "tie in beautifully." Yet, parenting is not easy. She acknowledges faith-stretching experiences in teens may be painful for parents.

Moore admits the mind is simpler to educate, but she stresses training at the heart level. Consider her suggestions. Adults must be comfortable with hard questions, knowing that "moral development doesn't happen all at once." Good boundaries are essential, "tethered to a value or an expectation." Beware of people who "mine others," always extracting for themselves from the relationship. Christians must model Jesus, who worked toward the good

of all people, "whether they appreciated Him or not."

Parenting the Heart of Your Child includes a study guide with discussion questions. This slim volume holds more parenting help than many large, widely-publicized books. You may read Diane Moore's words quickly, but continue to mull over the ideas. Discuss the concepts with other adults. Share this book with them. Parents can train children to make good decisions, even when no one is looking.

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

Healing America : the life of Senate majority leader William H. Frist, M.D. and the issues that shape our times / Charles Martin. LCCN 2004012625. Nashville : W Publishing, 2004.

HBB, 0849918367, list price: \$21.99.

328.73/092 or B. Frist, William H.; United States. Congress. Senate--Majority leaders--Biography; Legislators--United States--Biography; Surgeons--United States--Biography; Physicians--Tennessee--Biography. xiv, 254 p. : ill. ; 25 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Martin, in researching the life of William Frist, has come to respect and admire him. "I was amazed at the number of people—and the varieties in their backgrounds and political persuasions—who stood behind or alongside him, called him friend and who were willing to follow him most anywhere." (p. 238) Readers have the opportunity to gain insights into the life of this fourth generation Tennessean, William H. Frist. He pledged to leave the Senate after two terms (which would be in 2006) and is ideally placed to pursue a 2008 presidential run.

Stories note Frist's legislative specialist concerns with health care, his being part of the Christian Right, and opposing federal funding of abortion. He has taken positions on AIDS and developed an interest in bioterrorism.

This biography is easy to read, includes enough historical detail to document the twists and turns in a political life, and yet keeps an interesting, informative beat to probe issues of concern to many Americans. A worthy title to be added to biography collection.

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

Simply in season : a world community cookbook / Mary Beth Lind and Cathleen Hockman-Wert ; [foreword by Graham Kerr]. LCCN 2005010107. Scottsdale, Pa. : Herald Press, 2005.

SPB, 0836192974, list price: \$19.99.

641.5. Cookery, American. 352 p. : col. ill. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

In the tradition and style of the *More with Less* cookbook, Mary Beth Lind and Cathleen

Hockman-Wert have compiled more than 300 contributed recipes featuring fresh produce in *Simply in Season*. Divided into the four seasons plus All Seasons, the mostly simple recipes highlight fresh fruit and vegetables that can be grown or bought from local farmers and farmers markets. Entrees do include some meats, and Mennonite style dishes are scattered throughout. The premise is of preparing and consuming nutritious food with minimal environmental impact. Short notes and paragraphs through the book ask probing questions, highlight health and economic insights, and challenge readers to consider how their food habits affect others.

Simply in Season presents a host of tasty and uncomplicated recipes in a context of being responsible toward creation, society, and one's health. The notes, serving suggestions, and variations add interest to the pages. A wealth of resources increases the book's usefulness: a fruit and vegetable guide, list of resources on food production, food, faith and the environment, and curricula about responsible eating. Included are a glossary of cooking and preparation terms, alternative protein listing, whole grains and flours, substitutions and equivalents. Recipes are indexed by title and by key ingredient. *Simply in Season* presents worthwhile information and interesting, creative recipes that point toward a holistic view of body and earth care.

Karen Schmidt, BA. *Freelance Writer/Editor, Camano Island, Washington.*

The world's most powerful leadership principle : how to become a servant leader / James C. Hunter. LCCN 2003028103. New York : WaterBrook, 2004.

HBB, 140005334X, list price: \$23.00.

658.4/092. Leadership; Leadership--Moral and ethical aspects. 224 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 2.

The World's Most Powerful Leadership Principle describes the principles of servant leadership and presents a 3-step process to effect change. The author takes the slant that "leadership development and character development are one" and carries this theme throughout the book.

This book is an elementary introduction to servant leadership; it does not cover any new ground. It is best suited for those who are unfamiliar with servant leadership and need a general framework for understanding its principles. Overall the book lacks depth and breadth in the treatment of servant leadership and portrays a superficial view. The author does support some of his claims about leadership development with his own experiences and gives a few brief references to generally accepted management principles, but even this does not give credence to the book.

The author fails to achieve one of his goals of the book which was to provide some ways for practical application of the servant leadership principles. After having read the book, one is still left with the unanswered question as to how to implement servant leadership in a meaningful way.

Shirley Copeland, Ed.D., *Education Consultant, Freelance Book Reviewer, Charlottesville, Virginia.*

Serving the good and the great : the amazing true story of Violet Liddle / Violet Liddle as told to Mary Batchelor. LCCN 2004016140. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2004.

PAP, 0310253950, list price: \$12.99.

941.084/092 or B. Liddle, Violet, 1922-; Women domestics--Great Britain--Biography; Baptists--Great Britain--Biography; Number 10 Downing Street (London, England); World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives, British; Great Britain--Biography. 195 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 4.

"Every small scrap of experience has come together to prepare me for the next stage in my life. It's been a pattern not of my own but of God's making, and therefore it's been the best." This heartfelt attitude is evident throughout *Serving the Good and the Great*, an autobiographical and historical look at what life was like in England during World War II through the eyes of Violet Liddle, a British domestic servant. Among many of Liddle's remembrances and encounters the reader is able to travel vicariously to the peaceful English countryside manor of George Bernard Shaw, to the bustling city of London when Winston Churchill resided at 10 Downing Street, and onto the contemporary movie set of Gosford Park.

Throughout the book are subset paragraphs to include added detail about a particular person or situation that is mentioned in the text. Also included is a glossary of people, abbreviations, and terms. This helpful and thorough information is useful when explaining unfamiliar British terminology and would also be helpful to a younger reader gaining accurate, historical insight.

Called to be a missionary at the age of fourteen Liddle constantly searched for ways to be involved in mission work, primarily through involvement in local church congregations. Despite never able to pursue full-time missionary work, it is evident that she ministered in non-traditional ways as she worked for some exceptional individuals, whom she saw as ordinary people.

The story of this extraordinary woman will inspire readers of all ages to search for ways to be used of God where they are.

Sarah Jo Burkhead, BM. *Freelance Writer, Saint Clair, Missouri.*

Jesus : an intimate portrait of the man, his land, and his people / Leith Anderson. LCCN 2004024407. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2005.

HBB, 0764224794, list price: \$19.99.

B or 232.9/01. Jesus Christ--Biography. 363 p. : maps ; 24 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 5.

Jesus : An Intimate Portrait of the Man, His Land, and His People is a new biography written by Leith Anderson about the life of Jesus Christ. This book gives detailed descriptions of accounts written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in the Bible, and presents them chronologically from his birth to his last days on earth.

The product of years of extensive research, *Jesus* is an interesting and informative book for Christians and non-Christians alike. Side notes and detailed explanations of historical and political issues of Jesus' time will enlighten the reader. Written in simple language, I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in learning more about the life of the man from humble beginnings who became the greatest man to ever walk the earth.

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

A life with purpose : Reverend Rick Warren, the most inspiring pastor or our time / George Mair. LCCN 2005295661. New York : Berkley Books, 2005.

HBB, 0425201740, list price: \$19.95.

B or 286/.1/092. Warren, Richard, 1954-; Christian biography; Protestants--Clergy--Biography; Protestant churches--United States--Growth. 211 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Adult (Grades 10-12). Rating : 3.

A Life With Purpose is a brief but relevant look at the life of Saddleback pastor and Purpose Driven point man, Rick Warren. The author includes an introduction into church history in America, as well as a description of the people who helped Warren shape his unique ministry outlook. He addresses Warren's ministry experiences up to the present in a general way. Also, a good portion of the book is dedicated to the nuts and bolts of church growth as laid out by Warren at Saddleback, and is written from a decidedly pro-Warren perspective.

The book tends to be simplistic and straight forward, but is worth reading for the solid biographical information on Warren. Warren's passion and perseverance can be an inspiration to church leaders or to a younger generation in search of unique and authentic leaders. The book does a good job capturing Warren's heart for reaching people for Jesus, and points out that although Warren leads a mega church, he is by no means a mega millionaire. He pours much of the money that comes in back into the ministry as he looks to extend their efforts internationally. Warren's life story has the potential of igniting passion within the lives of those who refuse the

status quo, and would dream of something bigger.

Michael Ramsey, M.A. Clayton, North Carolina.

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

John Hus. Worcester, Pa. : Vision Video, 1985.

DVD, 1563647834, list price: \$19.99.

B or 921 or 284.3092. Hus, Jan, 1369?-1415; Martyrs. 1 videodisc (55 min.) : sd., col. ; 4 3/4 in. (Languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese, French)

Grades 9-Adult. Rating : 5.

*

God's outlaw : the story of William Tyndale / written by Ben Steed ; directed by Tony Tew. Worcester, Pa. : Vision Video, 1988.

DVD, 1563647370, list price: \$29.99.

B or 921 or 274.2. Tyndale, William, d.1536. 1 videodisc (93 min.) : sd., col. ; 4 3/4 in. (Languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese, French)

Grades 9-Adult. Rating : *5.

Many dissatisfied people in the 15th and 16th century worked slowly for church reform. Others, such as William Tyndale and John Hus, eagerly promoted salvation as totally through faith in Jesus Christ. Tyndale and Hus translated the Holy Scriptures, and wanted each person to read the Bible in their own language. Vision Video offers two films about these times: *John Hus : a Powerful, True Story*, and *God's Outlaw : the Story of William Tyndale*.

Hus quoted Romans 4 and 5, as he preached in a Bohemian chapel. He spoke of peace with God through Jesus Christ. John Hus asked, "Where does it say in Scriptures that a man can buy his way into Heaven?" The established church intensely disliked Hus. He was burned at the stake on July 6, 1415. William Tyndale also worked against the established church, and the tradition of keeping all Scripture in Latin. Tyndale wrangled with colorful Henry VIII, fled to Europe, and was eventually betrayed.

Both DVD's offer touching scenes. Hus languishes in a filthy prison, and remembers his mother's teachings. Another encouraging scene involved workmen preparing the stake and the wood to burn John Hus. One worker marveled, "He believes it's not necessary to pay for a blessing. He thinks faith is enough to be forgiven." That conversation should encourage all Christians. Hus never met the workmen, yet he influenced them greatly. While in prison, Tyndale requested his friends to bring a warm hood, and cloth to patch his leggings. He especially wanted a Hebrew grammar. Such was the man's devotion to translating the Scripture. He paid for his views at a fiery stake.

Excellent study materials are included in pdf format.. I especially liked the articles linked to *Christian History* magazine. Both films have received significant awards, including recognition from the Christian Film Distributors Association.

2:52 soul gear	17	Chumash	7	Franklin and the cookies	10
Above all earthly powers	31	Chumash : seafarers of the Pacific Coast	6	Franklin and the tin flute	10
Accidental detectives	27	Clark, John Owen Edward	29	Franklin's library book	10
Adam of the Road	23	Cody's varsity rush and	24	Franklin's pond phantom	10
Ahab's bride	31	Collins, Brandilyn	31	French, Martin	5
Ahab's legacy	31	Comanche : nomads of the northern plains	6	Frog wars	15
AIDS epidemic : disaster & survival	20	Come look with me	20, 21	Gabrielino	7
Al Capone does my shirts	23	Come look with me : art in early America	21	Gagnon, Celeste	10
Algonquin	7	Come look with me : discovering African American art for children	20	Garden gates	34
Always green	34	Come look with me : discovering women artists for children	21	Garden in Paris	32
American Indian nations	6	Come thirsty	38	Gauthier, Corbert	17
America's first peoples	6, 7	Complete chronicles of Narnia	2	Gibson, Karen Bush	6, 7
Amis, Nancy	21	Cooper, Ilene	27	GodQuest	17
Anderson, Leith	39	Coyne, Jennifer Tarr	21	God's outlaw : the story of William Tyndale	40
Angel came to Nazareth	9	Cushman, Karen	24	Gouge, Louise M.	31
Angel Delaney mystery	32	Daintith, John.	29	Gray-Kanotiosh, Barbara A.	7, 8
Arby Jenkins meets his match	13	Dangerous crossing : the revolutionary voyage of John Quincy Adams	13	Griffin, Jim	11
Arby Jenkins series	13	Davey, Charles	20, 21	Gross, Arthur William	17
Arthur, Sarah	4	De Angeli, Marguerite	13	Gurley, Nan	12
Aslan's call	3	Deadly disasters	20	Hafer, Todd	24, 25
Auer, Chris	11	Dean, Carol Shorey	11	Halverson, Tom	14
Austin, Lynn N.	33	DeAngelis, Therese	6, 7	Hambrick, Sharon	13, 16
Authors teens love	30	Dear enemy	32	Harlin, Greg	13
Baehr, James	4	Deep blue	32	Hasselriis, Else	15
Baehr, Ted	4	DiCamillo, Kate	14	Hathaway, Barbara	26
Bark of the bog owl	23	Discover space	19	Haysom, John	18
Barr, Marilyn G.	17	Discover the planets	19	Healing America : the life of Senate majority leader William H. Frist, M.D. and the issues that shape our times	38
Batchelor, Mary	39	Door in the Wall	13	Heart of Narnia : knowing God here by finding him there	2
Baynes, Pauline	2	Downing, David C.	2	Heart of Thornton Creek	33
Bearcub and Mama	10	Doyle, Christopher	18	Heart of Thornton Creek	33
Beck Easton adventure	32	Dragons of the deep : ocean monsters past and present	29	Heller, Ruth	19
Bernard, Catherine	30	Dunlop, Ed	14	Helmer, Marilyn	15
Beyond Tuesday morning	34	Dunn, Sandra	11	Hendry, Linda	12
Biotechnology and genetic engineering	29	Dying to Kill	32	Hennessy, B. G.	11
Bird	23	E.B. White : spinner of webs and tales	30	Here today	25
Bishop, Nic	30	Earthquakes : disaster & survival	20	Hidden faces series	31
Blackston, Ray	34	Eastman, Dianne	15	Hill, Patti	34
Blackwell, Lawana	35	Easy-to-do holiday crafts	21	Hine, Robert	29
Bly, Stephen A.	34	Ebony & ivory : discovering 10 keys to racial harmony	18	Hitty, Her First Hundred Years	14
Bourgeois, Paulette	20	Edwards, Bruce L.	2	Hockman-Wert, Cathleen	38
Bradford, June	21	Eldest	25	Hood, Susan	12
Brammer, Deb	16	Elkins, Stephen	18	Hopi	7
Brave dogs, gentle dogs : how they guard sheep	10	Enemy brothers	25	Horrible Harry and the locked closet	14
Bright Easter day	18	Englar, Mary	6, 7	Hubler, Marsha	28
Brink of death	31	Facts on File dictionary of biology	29	Hunter, James C.	39
Bronze bow	24	Facts on File dictionary of chemistry	29	Huron	8
Brooks, Bruce	26	Facts on File dictionary of mathematics	29	I like weather!	19
Brothers, Karen	17	Facts on File dictionary of physics	29	If grace is so amazing, why don't we like it?	38
Brouwer, Sigmund	27	Facts on File library of language and literature	29	Igloos	7
Brown, Devin	3	Facts on File science library	29	Incredible rescues	14
Brown, Don	35	Faith for Today	40	Inheritance	25
Bruner, Kurt D.	3	Falling in love with the Bible	37	Inside Narnia	3
Brunstetter, Wanda E.	35	Farnsworth, Bill	12	Into the wardrobe : C.S. Lewis and the Narnia chronicles	2
Buckwalter, Stephanie	20	Farris, Christine King	22	Inuit	7
Call It Courage	24	Fell, Doris Elaine	36	Inuit : ivory carvers of the Far North	6
Catherine, called Birdy	24	Field of beans	15	Iroquois : longhouse builders	6
Cavanaugh, Jack	31, 32	Field, Rachel	14	Iroquois : the six nations confederacy	6
Ceban, Bonnie J.	20	Fields of valor	36	Jennings, Sharon	10
Cherokee : an independent nation	6	Fig Street Kids	16	Jerome, Karen A.	10
Cherokee : native basket weavers	6	Finding God in the land of Narnia	3	Jesus : an intimate portrait of the man, his land, and his people	39
Cheyenne : hunter-gatherers of the northern plains	6	Firefighters	20	Jesus in the margins	38
Child's garden of Bible stories	17	First reports	7	Jim Elliot (DVD)	21
Child's garden of prayer	17	Fleabiscuit sings!	13	John Hus	40
Choctaw : stickball players of the south	6			Johnson, Angela	23
Choldenko, Gennifer	23				
Chrisman, Arthur Bowie	15				
Christ : His miracles, His ministry, His mission	37				

INDEX

Johnson, Rick	11	Mojave	8	Rolling, James Haywood	20
Jordan, Anna Louise	19	Molly & the good shepherd	11	Rosinsky, Natalie M.	7
Jumbo book of needlecrafts	21	Montgomery, Sy	30	Rumford, James	22
Just add one Chinese sister	10	Moore, Diane	38	Rushford, Patricia H.	32
Karr, Kathleen	28	Morrisey, Tom	32	Ryken, Leland	4
Keith, Harold	27	Morrison, Tony	18	Sadler, Judy Ann	21
Kenney, Cindy	15, 17	Moves make the man	26	Salinan	8
Keystone Stables	28	My book of thanks	11	Sam I am	27
Kids can read	19, 20	My brother Martin : a sister remembers growing up with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	22	Sam's snowy day	12
Kingsbury, Karen	34	Nakata, Hiroe	11	Sarrazin, Mariso.	12
Kirk, E. J.	5	Narnia beckons	4	Savery, Constance	25
Kline, Suzy	14	Native American life	7	Schakel, Peter J.	3
Kneen, Maggie	9	Native Americans	7, 8	Schmidt, Erin	19
Knott, Anthony	9	Navajo	7	Season of dreams	27
Knowing Aslan	4	Navajo : weavers of the southwest	6	Seminole : Patchworkers of the Everglades	7
Koestler-Grack, Rachel A.	6, 7	Navy justice series	35	Seminole : the first people of Florida	6
Kopp, David	5	New Unger's Bible handbook	37	Sequoyah : the Cherokee man who gave his people writing	22
Kopp, Heather	5	Nicolson, Cynthia Pratt	19	Serving the good and the great : the amazing true story of Violet Liddle	39
Krensky, Stephen	13	No shame, no fear	26	Shawnee	8
Kurisu, Jane	21	Noble, Diane	33	Shen of the Sea	15
Labatt, Mary	12	Nolan, Dennis	22	Short cuts	27
LaFave, Kim	20	Not-a-tame lion	2	Shoshone	8
Larson, Gary N.	37	Oh, look!	12	Shoshone : pine nut harvesters of the Great Basin	7
Last storyteller	33	Ojibwa : people of the Great Lakes	6	Shyer, Marlene Fanta	13
Lathrop, Dorothy L.	14	Ojibwa : wild rice gatherers	7	Simply in season : a world community cookbook	38
Lawson, Robert	23	One hundred Bible stories	17	Sioux : nomadic buffalo hunters	7
Legend of the Christmas stocking : an inspirational story of a wish come true	11	One Splendid Tree	15	Sioux : people of the great plains	6
Legend of the sand dollar	11	One Tuesday morning	34	Slavin, Bill	19, 20
Lenburg, Jeff	29	Orphans of Normandy: a true story of world war II told through drawings by children	21	Slavin, Jim	20
Leon, Bonnie	33	Osborne, Rick	11, 17	Smith, Mark Eddy	3
Lewis, C.S.	2, 5	Osofsky, Randy	21	Soentpiet, Chris	22
Lewis, Echo	26	Over the waters	35	Songs in the night	31
Library in a book	29	Paolini, Christopher	25	Soul of the Lion, the witch & the wardrobe	4
Liddle, Violet	39	Parade for Sam	12	Southern, Shelley	10
Life with purpose : Reverend Rick Warren, the most inspiring pastor or our time	39	Parenting the heart of your child	38	Speare, Elizabeth George	24
Light to my path	33	Pawnee : farmers and hunters of the central plains	6	Spellman, Susan	18
Like a watered garden	34	Peck, Richard	28	Sperry, Armstrong	24
Lind, Mary Beth	38	Penman, Robert	10	Spirit of the game series	24, 25
Live bale of hay : a real Maine adventure	11	Perfect wizard : Hans Christian Andersen	22	Spoon in the stone	15
Long way from Welcome	26	Peterson, Doug	15	Stain of Guilt	31
Longhouses	7	Phantom outlaw at Wolf Creek	27	Steed, Ben	40
Losch, Richard R.	37	Plank houses	7	Step into Narnia	5
Lost in place	15	Polacco, Patricia	12	Stiegemeier, Julie	18
Lost in Rooville	34	Porter, David	30	Storekeeper's daughter	35
Lowenstein, Felicia	19	Postal workers	20	Story of Easter	18
Lucado, Max	38	Preszler, June	7	Table by the window	35
MacIntosh, Mike	37	Pueblo : farmers of the southwest	6	Tanneberg, Ward M.	36
Mair, George	39	Pueblo : southwestern potters	7	Tarantula scientist	30
Manning, Maurie J.	16	Pueblos	7	Tepees	7
Martin, Ann M.	25	Pup and Hound in trouble	12	Tew, Tony	40
Martin, Charles	38	Pup and Hound stay up late	12	The Facts on File guide to research	29
Maze, Deborah	5	Queensland chronicles	33	This is no fairy tale	17
McCarthy, Conor Clarke	10	Raney, Deborah	35	Thoenes Keller, Kristin	7
McCullough, Donald W.	38	Readers' guide through the wardrobe	4	Thompson, Del	13
McIntyre, Sasha	10	Reed, Jennifer	20	Three-point play	25
McKeehan, Roby	18	Refiner's fire	33	Todd, Anne M.	6
McKinley, Rick	38	Reisch, Jesse	18	Tolmasoff, Dale	17
McMahon, Patricia	10	Remember : the journey to school integregation	18	Tommy's pocket	16
Mead, Marjorie Lamp	4	Remkiewicz, Frank	14	Tommy's race	16
Melo, Esperanca	21	Rennie, Richard	29	Torchlighters : heroes of the faith series	21
Memories of a dirt road town	34	Rest of forever	27	Tornadoes : disaster & survival	20
Mennonite Central Committee	38	Rifles for Watie	27	Transformed	20
Mercy Watson to the rescue	14	Roar! : a Christian family guide to the Chronicles of Narnia	5	Treason	35
Merriam-Webster's alphabet book	19	Roberson, Carroll	37	Trouble times two	28
Merriam-Webster's primary dictionary	19	Rogers, Jonathan	3, 23	Trumbauer, Lisa	19
Missy Violet & me	26				

Trumpet at Twisp	36
Turnbull, Ann	26
Two sides to everything	16
Umnik, Sharon Dunn	21
Unger, Merrill Frederick	37
Urbigkit, Cat	10
Ute	8
Uttermost part of the earth : a guide to places in the Bible	37
Van Dusen, Chris	14
Vanished	36
Veggie Bible dictionary	17
VeggieTown values	15
Veith, Gene Edward	4
Vining, Elizabeth Gray, 1902-	23
Volcanoes : disaster & survival	20
Walking through the wardrobe : a devotional quest into The lion, the witch, and the wardrobe	4
Wampanoag	8
Ware, Jim	3
Watt, Melanie	10
Way into Narnia : a reader's guide	3
Weiland, Carl	29
West, Angela	4
Westra, Sharon	27
What color is God's love : a parable of God's gifts	12
What does a community helper do?	19
What does a firefighter do?	19
What does a mail carrier do?	19
What does a police officer do?	19
What does an EMT do?	19
Whitson, Stephanie Grace	32
Why is it snowing?	19
Wickiups	7
wilderking trilogy	23
Williams, Judith	19
Williams, T. M. (Thomas Myron)	2, 4
Winning gymnastics for girls	30
Wiskur, Darrell	29
World according to Narnia : Christian meaning in C.S. Lewis's beloved chronicles	3
World of Narnia collection	5
Worlds apart	28
World's most powerful leadership principle : how to become a servant leader	39
Wummer, Amy	11
Year Down Yonder, A	28
Yokut	8
Yolen, Jane	22
Young refugees	14
Yount, Lisa	29

