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CCBC Choices 1987

**Kathleen T. Horning and
Ginny Moore Kruse**
with Deana Grobe

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The Compilers

Kathleen T. Horning is a librarian and coordinator of CCBC special collections. She frequently lectures at the CCBC and has planned CCBC workshops and conferences. In 1987, she served on the Notable Children's Book Committee of the Association for Library Service to Children, American Library Association. She has a B.A. in Linguistics and a Master's Degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This is the sixth annual *CCBC Choices* for which she has read and selected books.

Ginny Moore Kruse is the director of the Cooperative Children's Book Center. She is a former classroom teacher, school librarian, public librarian and college teacher of children's literature. She reviews books for Wisconsin Public Radio and teaches courses for the UW-Madison Division of University Outreach. She has served on and is active in many national book award and evaluation committees. Her Master's Degree in Library Science is from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has read and selected books for *CCBC Choices* since 1980.

1 INTRODUCTION

Many perspectives on books for children and young teenagers are available to those associated with the Cooperative Children's Book Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The CCBC is a children's and young adult literature library for adults, about which more information can be found at the end of this booklet. As a book examination center and a research library, the CCBC receives review copies of almost all of the trade and alternative press books published in English in the U.S.A. for children and young adults during the year. Each week during 1987, we examined newly published books. We subsequently read many of them. We discussed hundreds formally or informally with other librarians and educators in Wisconsin and elsewhere in the nation.

Publishing in 1987

Nearly three thousand books were published in the U.S.A. for children and young adults in 1987, more than any other year in this decade. Book gimmicks, book-and-audiocassette packages, popular series and participation paperbacks continue to be prevalent. There was a phenomenal increase in paperback publishing, representing original and simultaneous publication as well as reissues of hardcover editions or out-of-print titles, all indicative of publishers' growing interest in the retail market.

Among the large numbers of newly published titles, we noticed several changes in juvenile trade publishing. Perhaps the most outstanding is the incredible boom in full-color picture books, unquestionably the result of inexpensive overseas printing. Picture book artists are no longer required to do preprepared art to keep costs of book production down; consequently, two and three color books are rare in these days. Full-color art outshines weak story lines in many lavishly illustrated picture books which have more show than substance. Our impression is that text, in general, is not getting the careful editorial attention it deserves. This is especially apparent in the noticeable lack of copy editing in novels and other longer texts.

We saw more high quality, highly visual books of information in 1987, developed individually according to the requisites of the subject matter, rather than to those of a nonfiction series. We also found some good writing on topics of interest within established series. We selected several of these as CCBC Choices this year. There were a number of books of information published in 1987 that dealt with two subjects much in the public eye: the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution and the tragedy of AIDS. Because of the importance of currency and accuracy in books dealing with AIDS, we sought out the expert opinions of a content specialist for each of the 1987 juvenile trade books on this subject. She recommended one title over several others published: *AIDS: What Does It Mean To You?* (revised edition) by Margaret O. Hyde and Elizabeth H. Forsyth. This title appears as a CCBC Choice in the section "Issues in Today's World"; it represents one of the few nonfiction titles published in the latter half of the 1980s that deal with serious contemporary issues. We find social issues more often raised in works of fiction than in books of information.

While the numbers of translated books, particularly those of substantial length, continue to dwindle, copublishing projects serve as models of international cooperation. Particularly notable in 1987 are the titles *Making Friends*, copublished in the U.S.S.R.

and U.S.A. and *All In a Day* which celebrates a global perspective and represents the work of illustrators from nine nations; both are CCBC Choices. U.S. editions of picture books originally published in Japan help fill the great need for images of Asian children and adults in the literature of our pluralistic society. We are happy to see three Asian American illustrators—Keiko Kasza, Ju-Hong Chen and Keiko Narahashi—make their picture book debuts in 1987. Hispanic Americans and Native Americans continue to be an underrepresented minority in children's and young adult literature.

We saw an increase in the number of books by Black authors and illustrators, from 18 in 1986 to 30 in 1987, although it is important to keep in mind that there were more books published in general, so that the overall percentage hasn't changed much. Afro-American history was an important theme in fiction written by Black authors in 1987.

Pets and birthdays figured prominently in the picture books this year; grandparents, stepfamilies and single parent families were prevalent in both picture books and novels. The uses of imagination were central to many works of fiction in 1987, from the relatively simple *It's Just Me, Emily* by Anna Grossnickle Hines, a picture story about a small child playing an inventive game of hide-and-seek with her busy mother to Sylvia Cassedy's brilliant, demanding novel *M.E. and Morton* which uses the theme of imaginative play to develop a multi-layered plot.

First-time writers and artists often bring a completely original, imaginative vision to their works. This is particularly true in 1987 of Maira Kalman's wonderfully wild illustrations of a Talking Heads lyric in the picture book *Stay Up Late* and Posy Simmond's rendition in comic book format of a glorious cat's equally glorious funeral rites in *Fred*.

Our Process

In making our selections of CCBC Choices 1987, we used standard literary and artistic criteria. Accuracy, potential appeal to children and interest to librarians and teachers were essential considerations in our evaluation and selection process. We paid special attention to books of information for all ages and to translated books. We looked very carefully at books which were the first or second published works of an author or illustrator. We looked for high quality books reflecting non-sexist and multicultural values. When we located books on topics or themes we know to be in demand by school media specialists, public librarians and teachers, we looked closely and made selections in favor of need whenever possible. Prices and ISBNs are included this year for the first time.

We applaud the efforts of the publishers who dare to take financial risks by publishing books that are innovative in style, theme or format. It is our hope that the increase in numbers of books being published will eventually lead to an increase in opportunity for authors and artists outside of the mainstream whose voices and visions enrich our multicultural society.

Of the 221 titles listed in CCBC Choices 1987, 39 represent the first published works of their authors or illustrators; 29 were first published outside of the U.S.A.; 7 were published by alternative presses; and 6 are translations. Nearly half of the books we recommend are not included on any other nationally distributed list of the year's best books.

The Friends of the CCBC, Inc., made possible the professional design, typesetting, printing and binding of this publication, which began in 1980. We appreciate their commitment to providing librarians, teachers and others with an attractive, easy to use edition of CCBC Choices 1987.

Kathleen T. Horning and Ginny Moore Kruse

2 HISTORY, PEOPLE AND PLACES

Chaikin, Miriam. **A NIGHTMARE IN HISTORY; THE HOLOCAUST 1933-1945.**

Clarion. 150 pages. (0-89919-461-3) \$14.95

Excerpts from diaries and eyewitness reports bring immediacy to a carefully developed explanation of the institutionalized anti-Semitism and the concentration camps which implemented the genocidal policies of the Nazis. (Age 11 and older)

Fritz, Jean. **SHH! WE'RE WRITING THE CONSTITUTION.** Pictures by

Tomie dePaola. G. P. Putnam's. 64 pages. (0-399-21403-8) \$12.95

Drawings enliven every page of a relatively easy to read rendition of the events and people of the Constitutional Convention in 1887. (Ages 7-11)

Giblin, James Cross. **FROM HAND TO MOUTH; OR, HOW WE INVENTED KNIVES, FORKS, SPOONS, AND CHOPSTICKS AND THE TABLE MANNERS TO GO WITH THEM.** Thomas Y. Crowell. 86 pages. (0-690-04662-6) \$11.89

A thoroughly enjoyable history of the invention and development of eating utensils in both the East and the West challenges readers to think about behavior generally taken for granted. Well-selected black and white photographs and carefully planned page layouts contribute to its accessibility. (Ages 9-14)

Harvey, Brett. **IMMIGRANT GIRL; BECKY OF ELDRIDGE STREET.** Illustrated

by Deborah Kogan Ray. Holiday House. 40 pages. (0-8234-0638-5) \$11.95

In 1910, Becky Moscowitz and her family left Russia to escape the pogroms and joined relatives living in New York City. Black and white drawings illustrate every spread, showing a Jewish family's new experiences as well as their traditional Sabbath and Passover preparations. (Ages 6-10)

Hauptly, Denis J. **"A CONVENTION OF DELEGATES"; THE CREATION OF THE CONSTITUTION.** Atheneum. 148 pages. (0-689-31148-6) \$12.95

An absorbing account of events before and during the Constitutional Convention offers glimpses of the people and the complexities surrounding the creation of this historic document, a copy of which is reprinted as part of extensive documentation at the book's end. (Ages 11-14)

Hendershot, Judith. **IN COAL COUNTRY.** Illustrated by Thomas B. Allen.

Alfred A. Knopf. 40 pages. (0-394-98190-1) \$13.95

The daughter of a coal miner recalls her childhood on Company Row in a small Ohio mining town, focusing particularly on the adults' work and the children's play. Hendershot recreates the ambiance of a mining town by honing in on details such as the sound of trains pulling out at night and the look and feel of Papa's work clothes. Allen's marvelously textured pastel and charcoal illustrations are at once gritty and tender, a perfect complement to Hendershot's text. Honor Book, 1987 CCBC Caldecott Discussion. (Ages 4-9)

Kuskin, Karla. **JERUSALEM, SHINING STILL.** Illustrated by David Frampton.

A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 28 pages. (0-06-023549-7) \$12.89

The four thousand year history of this city of stone is evoked in an engaging, poetic narrative. Lavishly illustrated with colored woodcut images, the account features the city itself, rather than its inhabitants, from a primarily Jewish perspective. (Ages 5-12)

Lenski, Lois. **SING A SONG OF PEOPLE.** Illustrated by Giles Laroche.

Little, Brown. 32 pages. (0-316-52074-8) \$14.95

Three dimensional paper constructions assembled into colorful collage images of contemporary Boston offer a visual story complementing a short rhyming poem written years ago about city life. (Ages 2-7)

MAKING FRIENDS; KATYA FROM MOSCOW AND STAR FROM SAN FRANCISCO: TWO ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD GIRLS DISCOVER AMERICA TOGETHER. Photography by Morton Beebe. Henry Holt and Raduga Publishers.

96 pages. (HH: 0-8050-0641-9) \$13.95

Paralleling Samantha Smith's journey to the Soviet Union in 1983, Katya Lycheva made a similar peace trip to the U.S.A. in 1985. Color photographs show Katya with her American counterpart, Star Rowe, from San Francisco during their whirlwind cross-country tour. (Ages 6-11)

Meltzer, Milton, editor. **THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARIES; A HISTORY IN THEIR OWN WORDS, 1750-1800.** Thomas Y. Crowell. 210 pages. (0-690-04643-X) \$12.95

"... People made the American Revolution, not abstract social and economic and political forces." Personal documents preceded by Meltzer's introductory notes offer first person evidence of life in the last half of the 18th century. The somewhat modernized short excerpts often reflect the voices of youthful participants during the upheaval. (Age 12 and older)

Obadiah. **I AM A RASTAFARIAN.** Photographs by Chris Fairclough. U.S. edition:

Franklin Watts. 32 pages. (0-531-10440-0) \$9.90

Full-color photographs amplify a clearly related explanation of Rastafari. Reggae music, uncut hair, festivals and the Amharic language represent some aspects of a British Rastafarian family's way of life as seen through 8-year-old Petra's eyes. (Ages 7-11)

Olson, Arielle North. **THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER'S DAUGHTER.** Illustrated by Elaine Wentworth. Little, Brown. 32 pages. (0-316-65053-6) \$14.95

A fictional account of an actual incident which occurred on the Maine coast in the mid-1850s is illustrated with paintings reproduced in full color. When her parents could not do so, a young girl actually did maintain the lighthouse lamps during a storm. (Ages 6-10)

Perl, Lila. **MUMMIES, TOMBS, AND TREASURE; SECRETS OF ANCIENT EGYPT.** Illustrated by Erika Weihs. Clarion. 120 pages. (0-89919-407-9) \$14.95

Captioned black and white photographs, maps and drawings illustrate absorbing details about Egyptian mummies, how they were made and what has happened to them over the years. (Ages 9-13)

Provensen, Alice and Martin. **SHAKER LANE.** Viking Kestrel. 32 pages.

(0-670-81568-3) \$14.95

A picture book story shows a happenstance community undergoing the changes which follow a developer's decision to flood part of the region and build a reservoir. Shaker Lane becomes Reservoir Road; "you wouldn't know the place." (Ages 5-9)

Roy, Ron. **WHOSE HAT IS THAT?** Photographs by Rosmarie Hausherr. Clarion.

40 pages. (0-89919-446-X) \$12.95

Who wears a hat shaped like a turtle shell? a tall white hat? a snug helmet that buckles under the chin? Black and white question-captioned photographs on the right side of each spread show girls and boys of several racial backgrounds wearing the hats. An explanation follows as the page is turned. The format encourages participation. (Ages 3-8)

Taylor, Mildred D. **THE GOLD CADILLAC.** Illustrated by Michael Hays. Dial.

48 pages. (0-8037-0343-0) \$11.95

Tension builds as an affluent Black family drives in their brand-new 1950 car south from their home in Ohio to Mississippi to visit relatives. With relatively few words, Taylor manages

to create a vivid sense of time and place, and she shows through a child's eyes the horror of institutionalized racism. (Ages 8-12)

See also: *Actor's Life for Mel*; *Afro-Bets ABC Book*; *All in a Day*; *Amelia Earhart*; *Bà-Năm*; *Bayberry Bluff*; *Belva Lockwood Wins Her Case*; *Charley Skedaddle*; *Charlie Pippin*; *Chinese New Year*; *Cremation of Sam McGee*; *Crossing*; *Dahlov Ipcar, Artist*; *Dinosaurs Walked Here*; *Friendship*; *Go In and Out the Window*; *History of Women Artists for Children*; *Homecoming*; *Indian Chiefs*; *Into a Strange Land*; *Leaving Point*; *Lily and the Lost Boy*; *Lincoln*; *Maggie By My Side*; *Martin Luther King Day*; *Martin Luther King, Jr.*; *Morning of the Gods*; *My Sister's Wedding*; *Return*; *Road to Bethlehem*; *Samantha Smith*; *Secret of Gumbo Grove*; *Tasmania*; *Turtle Watch*; *Vanishing Border*; *Very Truly Yours*, Charles L. Dodgson; *Waiting for the Rain*; *What a Morning!*

3 THE NATURAL WORLD

Arnosky, Jim. **RACCOONS AND RIPE CORN.** Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 28 pages. (0-688-05456-0) \$12.88

A colorful visual presentation of wild animals foraging for food also shows details of the flora and fauna which might be in a cornfield during early fall. A oversized typeface and easy text invite the youngest, newest readers. Large images render the book effective for group as well as individual use. (Age 3-6)

Drescher, Henrik. **WHOSE FURRY NOSE? AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS YOU'D LIKE TO MEET.** J. B. Lippincott. 32 pages. (0-397-32243-7) \$11.89

A lively child favorts "down under" with animals such as a wallaby, spotted cuscus and numbat. The early question and answer format invites participation, and the whimsy does not alter the essential facts, for which added details are provided at the book's end. (Ages 3-8)

Lauber, Patricia. **DINOSAURS WALKED HERE, AND OTHER STORIES FOSSILS TELL.** Bradbury. 56 pages. (0-02-754510-5) \$15.95

Full-color captioned photographs show landscapes and museum objects relevant to an explanation of the earth's record of its early creatures through fossil evidence. An easy to follow text and distinctive photographs make this perspective on dinosaurs unique. (Ages 5-11)

Lerner, Carol. **A FOREST YEAR.** William Morrow. 48 pages. (0-688-06414-0) \$11.95

The changes forest animals undergo during each season are explained in two types of narrative on the left side of each page spread and shown in full-color, detailed drawings on the right. Superior internal organization earmarks a book useful in a variety of ways. (Ages 7-12)

Parker, Nancy Winslow and Joan Richards Wright. **BUGS.** Illustrated by Nancy Winslow Parker. Greenwillow. 40 pages. (0-688-06624-0) \$11.75

An easy-to-read participation device opens each page spread in a beginning entomology book. Detailed, labeled insect diagrams and brief explanations of sixteen commonly known insects are invitingly presented in a superior book for field use as well as in back yards and classrooms. (Ages 5-12)

Powzyk, Joyce. **TASMANIA; A WILDLIFE JOURNEY.** Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages. (0-688-06460-4) \$11.75

An island off the coast of Australia contains plants and animals not seen elsewhere in the world. Currawongs, marsupial mice and New Holland honeyeaters are among the creatures

pictured in watercolor paintings and explained in a brief text. The format creates high interest about an area previously little known to children in this country. (Ages 6-10)

Pringle, Laurence. **HOME; HOW ANIMALS FIND COMFORT AND SAFETY.**

Charles Scribner's Sons. 71 pages. (0-684-18526-1) \$12.95

Earth is home for millions of diverse animals. Types of North American animal shelters are examined, showing the complex relationships of living and nonliving creatures in their particular environments. (Ages 9-14)

Simon, Seymour. **ICEBERGS AND GLACIERS.** William Morrow. 32 pages.

(0-688-06187-7) \$11.00

Vivid color photographs show different types of ice masses and how they affect life on the planet. A concise, brief text about an unusually dramatic aspect of nature provides material for interpretation of the stunning visual information presented by a noted science writer. (Ages 6-12)

Simon, Seymour. **MARS.** William Morrow. 32 pages. (0-688-06585-6) \$12.88

Space-age visual information about the so-called Red Planet is combined with a brief text. An extraordinary view of the planet which has long fascinated humans. (Ages 7-14)

Simon, Seymour. **URANUS.** William Morrow. 32 pages. (0-688-06583-X) \$12.88

The seventh planet in the solar system was first reported by a British astronomer in 1781. Color photographs taken from the Voyager 2 spacecraft offer a glimpse of this distant planet, while Simon's concise prose provides brief information. (Ages 7-14)

Tejima, Keizaburō. **OWL LAKE.** Translated from the Japanese. U.S. edition: Philomel. 40 pages. (0-399-21426-7) \$13.95

Dramatic, delicately colored woodcuts convey information about owls in a forest and lake region. A handsome award-winning Japanese picture book can be read as a nature story or to gain straightforward information. (Ages 4-9)

See also: *All in a Day; Do Not Disturb; Fox's Dream; Growing Vegetable Soup; Owl Moon; Turtle Watch*

4 SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS

Anno, Mitsumasa. **ALL IN A DAY.** Also illustrated by Raymond Briggs, Ron Brooks, Eric Carle, Gian Calvi, Zhu Chengliang, Leo and Diane Dillon, Akiko Hayashi and Nicolai Ye. Popov. U.S. edition: Philomel Books. 24 pages. (0-399-21311-2) \$13.95

Ten internationally known artists picture simultaneous moments on January 1st in the lives of children in nine locations on Earth. Information about planetary rotation, world time zones and seasons follows the inviting full-color wordless picture vignettes. The challenging format may require adult guidance for very young children. The book itself is an example of international cooperation. (Ages 3-11)

Brown, Ruth. **OUR PUPPY'S VACATION.** U.S. edition: E.P. Dutton. 28 pages. (0-525-44326-6) \$10.95

Domestic animals often experience holiday activities, just as their people do. A child relates the family dog's responses to a beach trip and to first-hand confrontations with wildlife and other changes in territory and terrain. Full-color illustrations tell almost all the story. (Ages 3-7)

Brown, Tricia. **CHINESE NEW YEAR.** Photographs by Fran Ortiz. Henry Holt. 48 pages. (0-8050-0497-1) \$12.95

Twenty-eight black and white photographs document the weeks of activities associated with this centuries old spring festival celebrated by Chinese Americans. Gift-giving, feasting on special foods, family gatherings, fireworks, a parade, and temple prayers are all part of this distinctive holiday for which the color red symbolizes happiness. (Ages 5-11)

Cohen, Barbara. **EVEN HIGHER.** Retold from the story by I. L. Peretz. Illustrated by Anatoly Ivanov. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages. (0-688-06453-1) \$12.88

Just before Rosh Hashanah, which is the Jewish New Year and birthday of the world, a Lithuanian arrives in a Ukranian village. He discovers that the local Rabbi's quiet generosity to those in need does warrant his local reputation as the holiest man living, but not in the literal way the townsfolk imagine. (Ages 6-12)

Charlip, Remy with Mary Beth Miller and George Ancona. **HANDTALK BIRTHDAY; A NUMBER & STORY BOOK IN SIGN LANGUAGE.** Four Winds. 48 pages. (0-02-718080-8) \$14.95

A woman is awakened one morning by six friends bringing presents, a cake, cookies and punch to help her celebrate her birthday. The complete story is told in sign language and finger spelling or through full-color photographs that beautifully capture the energy and exuberance of ASL. (Ages 4-14)

Ehlert, Lois. **GROWING VEGETABLE SOUP.** Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 32 pages. (0-15-232575-1) \$10.95

Boldly colored illustrations and a simple text celebrate and explain the vegetable garden, from seed to soup. Relatively simple shapes are expertly placed on each double-page spread to show growth and development, while bright colors enhance both the clarity and the appeal. Together form and color show growth, seasonal changes and the passage of time in a creative presentation of common experience. (Ages 3-8)

Florian, Douglas. **A WINTER DAY.** Greenwillow. 24 pages. (0-688-07352-2) \$11.75

Twenty-three different words in a ⁹/₁₆" typeface appear and reappear in an easily read rhyme describing snowy day experiences. Full-color illustrations capture winter essence. (Ages 2-6)

Laird, Elizabeth, reteller. **THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM; AN ETHIOPIAN NATIVITY.** Foreword by Terry Waite. U.S. edition: Henry Holt. 32 pages. (0-8050-0539-0) \$12.95

Centuries ago, several of the ancient Ethiopian stories about Jesus' birth were illustrated on royal commission. Reproduced here from those hand painted manuscripts, their vivid colors lend authenticity to these Christmas story variants. Captions explain some of the artistic and social conventions of the time in which the artists lived, lending another level of interest and potential use. (Ages 6 and older)

Langstaff, John, selector and editor. **WHAT A MORNING!; THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN BLACK SPIRITUALS.** Illustrated by Ashley Bryan. Arrangements for singing and piano by John Andrew Ross. Margaret K. McElderry Books. 26 pages. (0-689-50422-5) \$12.95

The Christmas story is told through a chronological arrangement of five Afro-American spirituals, lavishly illustrated by brilliant tempera paintings. Brief Biblical quotes accompanying each of the spirituals provide a religious context, while Ashley Bryan's shining iconographic portraits of a Black Nativity provide historical, geographical and emotional content. (Ages 3 and older)

Lee, Jeanne M. **BÀ-NĂM.** Henry Holt. 32 pages. (0-8050-0169-7) \$13.95

On Thanh-Minh Day, a young Vietnamese girl is at first frightened by the graveskeeper, Bà-Năm, but manages to overcome her fear when the old woman rescues her during a

thunderstorm. The universal story of a child's fear of the unknown is set within a very specific time and place, creating a fine balance between the universal and the specific. Both text and illustrations show details of Vietnamese family life and culture and the illustrations give us a strong sense of place by depicting Vietnamese flora and fauna as well as of the traditional Vietnamese holiday on which ancestors are honored. (Ages 4-9)

Lowery, Linda. **MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY.** Illustrated by Hetty Mitchell. Carolrhoda. 56 pages. (0-87614-229-4; pbk. 0-87614-468-7) \$12.95; \$4.95

An author's note about the meaning of some of the "big words" used by Martin Luther King, Jr., precedes an easy to read explanation of holiday first celebrated nationally in 1986 in observance of Dr. King's birthday anniversary. All pages are illustrated with drawings, half in full-color. (Ages 4-9)

Rosenblum, Richard. **MY SISTER'S WEDDING.** William Morrow. 32 pages. (0-688-05956-2) \$10.95

A first person narrative describes and pen drawings picture a Jewish wedding in the U.S.A. in 1943. Visual and written details specify the era as well as the family observance. (Ages 5-9)

Rylant, Cynthia. **BIRTHDAY PRESENTS.** Illustrated by Suçie Stevenson. A Richard Jackson Book/Orchard Books. 32 pages. (0-531-08305-5) \$12.95

An adult narrator affectionately tells a six year old about her preceding five birthdays. Each year's observance is typical of that age and stage of child development. The high energy of most years is as realistic as the 3rd birthday on which "you had the flu, but we made a train cake anyway. We chugged it into your room..." (Ages 2-6)

Sawicki, Norma Jean. **SOMETHING FOR MOM.** Illustrated by Martha Weston. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 24 pages. (0-688-05590-7) \$11.88

Matilda's upstairs efforts to wrap a surprise birthday gift for Mom parallel her mother's breakfast preparations, each one doing much more than their brief spoken exchanges indicate. A fully successful, subtle melding of words and full-color pictures tells a story of mutual love laced with daily routine on one special morning. (Ages 2-8)

See also: Do Not Disturb; Family Storytelling Book; Immigrant Girl; Jam Day; Lights Around the Palm; Little Tree; Lucy and Tom's 1.2.3.; Martin Luther King, Jr.; Mommy and Me By Ourselves Again; Sketching Outdoors in Spring; Tricksters

5 ACTIVITIES

Anno, Mitsumasa. **ANNO'S MATH GAMES.** U.S. edition: Philomel. 104 pages. (0-399-21151-9) \$18.95

A book filled with colorful images offers puzzles and observations, all designed to give children who use it a way of thinking for all subjects. The problem are not always easy and some are downright confusing, but the attempts can be stimulating. A long note to parents, teachers and other readers follows sections on One, Connecting, Order and Measurement. (Age 3 and older)

Arnosky, Jim. **SKETCHING OUTDOORS IN SPRING.** Lothrop, Lee and Shepard. 48 pages. (0-688-06284-9) \$11.75

From March to May the observant artist finds renewed life everywhere. He records what he observes with subtle pencil drawings, accompanied by brief explanatory notes. Arnosky's

eloquent description of his own search for spring appears side by side with practical advice to budding artists. The two distinctive narratives are clearly distinguished from each other by the use of different typefaces. (Ages 8-12)

GO IN AND OUT THE WINDOW; AN ILLUSTRATED SONGBOOK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. Music arranged and edited by Dan Fox. Commentary by Claude Marx. Metropolitan Museum of Art and Henry Holt. 144 pages. (MMA: 0-87099-500-6; HH: 0-8050-0628-1) \$19.95

Over five dozen traditional American songs of childhood are presented alphabetically by title with musical arrangements for intermediate musicians. Several full-color images of museum art objects extend each song's usual connotation and offer a complementary global perspective spanning thousands of years. One of the year's most elegant, handsome, intellectually stimulating books. (Ages 3 and older)

Pellowski, Anne. **THE FAMILY STORYTELLING BOOK; HOW TO USE STORIES, ANECDOTES, RHYMES, HANDKERCHIEFS, PAPER, AND OTHER OBJECTS TO ENRICH YOUR FAMILY TRADITIONS.** Illustrated by Lynn Sweat. Macmillan. 150 pages. (0-02-770610-9) \$15.95

A professional storyteller and world authority on children's cultures discusses the why, what, when and how of storytelling. She suggests folk stories for which the simple props in the title are explained and, if necessary, diagrammed. The book is perfect for community youth leaders and for self-starting children as well. This inviting companion to *The Story Vine* (1984) also contains resources such as a bibliography, additional story sources and a list of annual storytelling events around the nation. (Age 10-adult)

Weiss, Nicki. **IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT; EIGHTEEN STORY SONGS SET TO PICTURES.** Music arranged by John Krumich. Greenwillow. 40 pages. (0-688-06444-2) \$13.00

Eighteen camp songs and traditional songs are illustrated in color by tiny vignettes. Brief music notations with easy guitar chords offer simple arrangements for day care singing and family recorder playing. Short paragraphs at the end of the 11¼" x 9¼" book give background for each story song; a seven-item bibliography offers more detailed music book resources. (Ages 2-7)

See also: *Bugs; Growing Vegetable Soup; Night in the Swamp; Pooh and Some Bees; Pooh Goes Visiting; What a Morning!; What's Missing?; Whose Furry Nose?; Whose Hat is That?*

6 ISSUES IN TODAY'S WORLD

Ancona, George. **TURTLE WATCH.** Macmillan. 48 pages. (0-02-700910-6) \$13.95

A photodocumentary explains the work of a team of Brazilian scientists committed to saving an endangered species of sea turtles. Much of the account is told from the point of view of two children, the son and daughter of a local fisherman, who use their egg searching skills to help the scientists. With a few words and a lot of photographs, *Turtle Watch* provides much valuable information, including a mention of the impact of conservation efforts on a local economy dependent on turtles. (Ages 7-9)

Ashabranner, Brent. **THE VANISHING BORDER; A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY ALONG OUR FRONTIER WITH MEXICO.** Photographs by Paul Conklin. Dodd, Mead. 175 pages. (0-396-08900-3) \$14.95

Many people inhabit, visit, work or pass over the two-thousand-mile Mexico/U.S.A. border for a wide range of reasons from tourism to survival. Black and white photographs and a documentary narrative explore a wide range of economic, racial, political and law enforcement perspectives. (Age 13 and older)

Ashabranner, Brent and Melissa Ashabranner. **INTO A STRANGE LAND; UNACCOMPANIED REFUGEE YOUTH IN AMERICA.** Dodd, Mead. 120 pages. (0-396-08841-4) \$12.95

Sometimes Southeast Asian children and teenagers are separated from their families because of the circumstances concerning their departure from their homelands or during the events related to their arrival in the U.S.A. The challenges of living in a new culture include adjusting to a second language, undergoing unfamiliar methods of learning, and living with foster families. Severe depression can result, along with other difficulties unique to the young. (Ages 11-14)

Benedict, Helen. **SAFE, STRONG, & STREETWISE.** Joy Street Books/Little, Brown. 176 pages. (0-316-08899-4) \$14.95

Sexual safety for both females and males at home, on the street, on dates, on the job and at parties is presented honestly, evenhandedly, and practically, always empowering the individual reader, regardless of background or circumstances. This helpful handbook written by a trained rape crisis counselor offers essential, accurate insights without sensationalizing the topics covered or trivializing genuine concerns. (Age 10 and older)

Hyde, Margaret O. and Elizabeth H. Forsyth. **AIDS; WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?** Revised edition. Walker. 116 pages. (0-8027-6705-2; pbk. 0-8027-6747-8) \$12.95; \$6.95

A well-written, accurate account of the history and the current status of the AIDS epidemic includes the complete text of the Surgeon General's Report, names, addresses and phone numbers of groups offering information and support, and a glossary of unfamiliar terms used in the text. (Age 11 and older)

Pringle, Laurence. **RESTORING OUR EARTH.** Enslow. 64 pages. (0-89490-143-5) \$12.95

Scientists and volunteers are working in many ways to return certain areas to conditions as close as possible to what once grew and lived there. Restorationists are shown at work in the University of Wisconsin's Arboretum in Madison, and Aldo Leopold's leadership is recognized in a book raising concerns as well as offering hope. (Ages 11-14)

7 UNDERSTANDING ONESELF AND OTHERS

Butler, Beverly. **MAGGIE BY MY SIDE.** Dodd, Mead. 96 pages. (0-396-08862-7) \$11.95

The author's experiences in undergoing training with her fifth guide dog since losing her sight at age fourteen show the individuality of these animals. Readers will also recognize the assistance toward personal independence and the enhancement of dignity a well-matched-and-trained guide dog can provide. Over two dozen black and white photographs give behind-

the-scenes information about the training. A large typeface and ample space between lines makes the book itself as intriguing as its subject. (Ages 9-14)

Egger, Bettina. *MARIANNE'S GRANDMOTHER*. Translated from German by Christopher Franceschelli. Illustrated by Sita Jucker. U.S. edition: E.P. Dutton. 24 pages. (0-525-44335-5) \$11.95

At first, Marianne remembers only her grandmother's death and funeral. As she recalls details of their experiences together, she finds that actively remembering helps her to overcome her grief. Beautiful watercolor paintings convey some of Marianne's memories. (Ages 4-7)

Girard, Linda Walvoord. *AT DADDY'S ON SATURDAYS*. Illustrated by Judith Friedman. Albert Whitman. 32 pages. (0-8075-0475-0) \$11.25

Katie's ambivalence shows when her parents separate and her time has to be divided between two households. A fictionalized account offers a realistic look at three people working at creating ways for Katie to be with each parent and to know each one still loves her. (Ages 4-8)

Hoffman, Mary. *NANCY NO-SIZE*. Illustrated by Jennifer Northway. U.S. edition: Oxford University Press. 24 pages. (0-19-520596-0) \$8.95

Five-year-old Nancy has a bad case of middle-childitis. She's not as tall/old/dark/thin as her older sister nor is she as short/young/light/round as her baby brother. Nancy's dilemma and its resolution are rhythmically recounted in a warm, full-color picture story which features an interracial family. (Ages 3-7)

Rogers, Fred. *MAKING FRIENDS*. Photographs by Jim Judkis. (First Experiences) G.P. Putnam's Sons. 32 pages. (0-399-21382-1; pbk. 0-399-21385-6) \$12.95; \$4.95

Color photographs and a brief text show a variety of companionships as well the difference between being by oneself and finding out how to share turns, spaces, toys and other friends. (Ages 2-5)

Schaffer, Patricia. *HOW BABIES AND FAMILIES ARE MADE; (THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY!)*. Illustrated by Suzanne Corbett. Tabor Sarah Books, 2419 Jefferson Ave., Berkeley, CA 94703. 52 pages. (pbk. 0-935079-17-3) \$6.95

The straightforward account of baby and family making is most notable for its inclusion of information that is not easily found in children's books about human reproduction. In addition to briefly discussing sexual intercourse, nine month pregnancy and vaginal birth, the text explains alternative insemination and adoption, miscarriage and premature birth, cesarean section and babies born with disabilities. Six of the 32 black and white line drawings make visual references to adults and children with disabilities and one drawing includes an interracial family and a lesbian couple. Although the illustrations are average at best, many adults will welcome the wealth of hard-to-find facts and alternatives this single volume contains. (Ages 5-10)

Vigna, Judith. *MOMMY AND ME BY OURSELVES AGAIN*. Albert Whitman. 32 pages. (0-8075-5232-1) \$11.25

Amy feels forgotten when Mommy's recently estranged boyfriend doesn't pay attention to her sixth birthday, even though he'd been such a big part of the day she turned five. Fictionalized and written in the first person, this book briefly examines a child's need to identify dependable sources of continuing affection. (Ages 3-7)

See also: Different Dragons; Enchanted Hair Tale; Handtalk Birthday; I Like To Be Little; Look, Baby! Listen, Baby! Do, Baby!; Welcome, Little Baby

8 THE ARTS

Byrne, David. *STAY UP LATE*. Illustrated by Maira Kalman. Viking Kestrel.

32 pages. (0-670-81895-X) \$14.95

The lyrics to a Talking Heads song about sibling rivalry are brightly illustrated with striking full-color paintings. The artist manages, amazingly, to portray chaos without ever losing control of the illustrations. Her quirky style, coupled with sophisticated humor, will appeal more to middle-schoolers than preschoolers. (Ages 11 and older)

Epstein, Vivian Sheldon. *HISTORY OF WOMEN ARTISTS FOR CHILDREN*.

VSE Publishing, 212 S. Dexter St. #23, Denver, Co 80222. 32 pages. (0-9601002-6-1; pbk. 0-9601002-5-3) \$13.95; \$6.95

An unparalleled history documents the lives and works of 30 American and European women artists from the 16th century to the present, including Artemisia Gentileschi, Edmonia Lewis, Käthe Kollwitz, Maria Martinez and Judy Chicago. Arranged chronologically, each page in this 8½" x 11" volume is devoted to one artist and includes: one or two introductory sentences which place the artist in the context of her times and highlight her contribution to art; a reproduction of one of her works; and a brief biographical statement. The inclusion of a chronological listing of 111 women artists born prior to 1900 make this unique resource all the more valuable. (Ages 7-14)

Goffstein, Brooke. *AN ACTOR*. A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row.

32 pages. (0-06-022169-0) \$12.89

Like a brief drama itself, a 7½" x 6½" book shows the narrator explaining and then acting in a new original playlet. Subtle Shakespearean references to the actor's role in eliciting tears and laughter, cheers and anguish are part of this tribute. The third of Goffstein's trilogy, it is preceded by *An Artist* (1980) and *A Writer* (1984). (Ages 4 and older)

Goffstein, M. B. *ARTISTS' HELPERS ENJOY THE EVENINGS*.

A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 32 pages. (0-06-022182-8) \$13.89

Good friends Blanc, Noir, Gris, Bistre and Sanguine stop working as daylight fails at the artists' studio skylights. The characters are crayons, and the location is Paris. In four visual vignettes, function shapes both character and story, each delightfully amusing. (Ages 5-8)

Kuklin, Susan. *REACHING FOR DREAMS; A BALLET FROM REHEARSAL TO OPENING NIGHT*. Lothrop, Lee and Shepard. 128 pages. (0-688-063160) \$11.75

An Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater company's six weeks of preparations for a new ballet are documented with black and white photographs, interviews and the author's observations. The guest choreographer along with members of the multi-racial professional modern dance company, dance and production staff, and its management unit are shown as distinctive individuals working hard in different ways to bring a new work to life. (Ages 9-14)

Lloyd, David, adapter. *THE RIDICULOUS STORY OF GAMMER GURTON'S NEEDLE; ADAPTED FROM THE 16TH-CENTURY COMEDY (PLAY)*. Illustrated by Charlotte Voake. U.S. edition: Clarkson N. Potter/Distributed by Crown.

48 pages. (0-517-56513-7) \$13.95

An illustrated 16th century farce about a misplaced needle is full of boisterous cause and effect activity, boldly and broadly drawn and acted. Voake's illustrations occasionally suggest comic strips, making a popular culture connection spanning four centuries. (Ages 5-9)

Milne, A.A. **POOH GOES VISITING.** With decorations by Robert Cremins after the style of E.H. Shepard. Design and paper engineering by Paulette Petrovsky.

(A Pooh Carousel Book.) E.P. Dutton. 9 pages; 5 scenes. (0-525-44337-1) \$6.95

A chapter from Winnie *The Pooh* is presented in an accordion page format when extended and a three dimensional five-scene drama on the opposite side. Unique paper engineering, exquisite attention to detail and the fun of a private "theatre" earmark this 6½" x 4¼" book and its companion *Pooh and Some Bees*. (Ages 4-7)

Schick, Eleanor. **ART LESSONS.** Greenwillow. 48 pages. (0-688-05121-9) \$11.75

A child talks about Adrienne, the adult artist who lives next door and shares several aspects of observation and response with her young neighbor. A quiet story showing teacher-student companionship as well as discovery about what it means to be an artist is illustrated with black and white drawings overtinted in muted orange. (Ages 5-9)

See also: *Actor's Life for Me!*; *Dahlov Ipcar, Artist; Go In and Out the Window; Road to Bethlehem; Sketching Outdoors in Spring; What a Morning!*

9 POETRY

cummings, e.e. **LITTLE TREE.** Illustrated by Deborah Kogan Ray. Crown. 24 pages.

(0-517-56598-6) \$9.95

"little tree/little silent Christmas tree/you are so little/you are more like a flower." The experimentation with typography, language and punctuation which externally identify cummings' poetry are evident in this poem. Ray's companion drawings in color add a nostalgic wordless story of two urban children who buy a tiny tree from a street vendor. (Ages 5-9)

De Veaux, Alexis. **AN ENCHANTED HAIR TALE.** Illustrated by Cheryl Hanna.

Harper & Row. 40 pages. (0-06-021624-7) \$11.89

Sudan's wonderful hair—"a fan dangle of locks and lions and lagoons"—sets him apart from other kids in his neighborhood, who tease him because he's different. Upset by their cruelty, he storms away and, far from home, stumbles upon a whole family of folks with enchanted hair who help him celebrate his differences. De Veaux's rhythmic text is full of pleasing rhyme and alliteration. Her marvelous imagery brilliantly conveys the mystery and magic of Sudan's hair, and the poem is enhanced and extended by Cheryl Hanna's captivating black and white pencil drawings. (Ages 5-10)

Farber, Norma and Myra Cohn Livingston, selectors. **THESE SMALL STONES.**

A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 84 pages. (0-06-024014-8) \$11.89

Fifty-seven short poems from a variety of sources praise the virtues of small things from marbles to snails to paper clips to lentils. An inspired focus and excellent organization make the collection extraordinary. (Age 3 and older)

Gordon, Ruth, selector. **UNDER ALL SILENCES: SHADES OF LOVE; AN ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS.** A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 78 pages.

(0-06-022155-0) \$12.89

A collection of 65 poems expresses various stages and expressions of love. The poets represented range across centuries and nations with contemporary representation including Ewan MacColl ("The First Time I Ever Saw Your Face"); Joan Baez ("Love Song to a Stranger"); Maya Angelou ("In Retrospect"); and Yevgeny Yevtushenko ("Waiting")—to

name only four—to translations of 8th century Japanese poems and of 13th century Persian ones. Whether or not readers initially recognize the poets or poems, a recognition of love's inclusiveness and universality seems inevitable for all who dip into or read all the pages of this global anthology. (Age 14 and older)

Janeczko, Paul B, selector. **THIS DELICIOUS DAY; 65 POEMS.** Orchard Books. 81 pages. (0-531-08324-1) \$11.95

"O I have dined on this delicious day,/on green salad treetops wet with beaded/water, tossed by the fork tines of the wind;" The title poem by Richard Snyder opens this life-affirming anthology of 65 poems by contemporary poets including William Carlos Williams, X.J. Kennedy, Arnold Adoff, John Ciardi and Karla Kuskin. (Ages 10-14)

Livingston, Myra Cohn, selector. **CAT POEMS.** Illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman. Holiday House. 32 pages. (0-8234-0631-8) \$11.95

Nineteen short poems are illustrated with carefully observed, delightful drawings of cats and people, especially contemporary children, white and Black. Poets represented include Eleanor Farjeon ("Cat"), T.S. Eliot ("The Song of the Jellicles"), Valerie Worth ("Cat: Christmas") and Rosalie Moore ("Catalog"). (Ages 5-12)

Service, Robert W. **THE CREMATION OF SAM McGEE.** Paintings by Ted Harrison. U.S. edition: Greenwillow. 32 pages. (0-688-06903-7) \$13.00

"There are strange things done/in the midnight sun/By the men who toil for gold;/The Arctic trails have their secret tales/that would make your blood run cold;/The Northern Lights/have seen queer sights,/But the queerest they ever did see/was that night on the marge of Lake Lebarge/I cremated Sam McGee." A famous Yukon poet's humorous poem is introduced to a new generation in a handsome 12¼" x 9¼" edition illustrated on every page with full-color art by Yukon artist Ted Harrison. Notes about the details of Harrison's striking, vibrant images also appear on every double spread. (Age 7 and older)

Willard, Nancy. **THE VOYAGE OF THE LUDGATE HILL; TRAVELS WITH ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.** Illustrated by Alice and Martin Provensen. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 32 pages. (0-15-294464-8) \$14.95

A whimsical recreation of a voyage by ship from London to New York in 1887 stars none other than Robert Louis Stevenson. Both Willard's poem and the Provenses' paintings are rollicking fun, filled with humorous details. The Provenses' rocking perspective give the sense of being on board ship. (Ages 4-8)

See also: Sing a Song of People

10 BIOGRAPHY

Bassett, Lisa. **VERY TRULY YOURS, CHARLES L. DODGSON, ALIAS LEWIS CARROLL.** Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 118 pages. (0-688-06091-9) \$15.95

Lewis Carroll's interest in and devotion to children provides the framework for a fresh approach to writing about his life. Lisa Bassett's skillful presentation of stories, puzzles, and letters Carroll shared with child friends, as well as captivating photographs he himself took of the children mentioned in the text, give readers insight into the unusual character and literary genius. (Age 9 and older)

Brown, Drollene P. **BELVA LOCKWOOD WINS HER CASE.** Illustrated by James Watling. Albert Whitman. 64 pages. (0-8075-0630-3) \$9.75

A clearly written, well-documented biography of the 19th century lawyer, activist, and presidential candidate provides a lot of information about the historical struggle for equal rights for women, as well as about the life of a remarkable woman. A first rate biography draws on primary and secondary sources to make Lockwood's life interesting and accessible to children, without the least hint of fictionalization. (Ages 9-12)

Freedman, Russell. **INDIAN CHIEFS.** Holiday House. 151 pages. (0-8234-0625-3) \$15.95

Short biographical essays on six 19th century Indian leaders who clashed with white soldiers and settlers are accompanied by black and white documentary photographs appearing on nearly every double page spread. A well-researched, well-documented and attractively presented work provides a unique perspective on the Indian Wars. While Freedman's tone is relatively objective in that he does not condemn either side, his choice to focus on Indian leaders, rather than whites, gives readers a fresh outlook on the conflict and a new insight into U.S.A. history. (Ages 10-14)

Freedman, Russell. **LINCOLN; A PHOTOBIOGRAPHY.** Clarion. 150 pages. (0-89919-380-3) \$15.95

A cogent narrative and nearly 100 photographs document the life of Abraham Lincoln and the times in which he lived. Through frequent use of direct quotes from Lincoln and the people who loved or hated him, Freedman manages to bring a larger-than-life historical legend down to earth, focusing on his personal ambition and sense of failure, his wit and melancholy. (Age 11 and older)

Galicich, Anne. **SAMANTHA SMITH; A JOURNEY FOR PEACE.** (Taking Part Books) Dillon. 72 pages. (0-87518-367-0) \$9.95

An unusually clear, child-oriented narrative coupled with an inviting typeface describes events of the 11-year-old peacemaker's life before, during and after her historic U.S.S.R. visit in 1983. The full-color pictures and narrative reveal much about the personality of the girl for whom the Soviet government subsequently issued a stamp and named a diamond, flower, planet and mountain. Similar to and yet different from Samantha's own book *Journey To the Soviet Union* (1985), this inspiring short biography of an ordinary child with extraordinary vision, presence and parental support includes information about ongoing projects in her name. (Ages 6-13)

Gish, Lillian; as told to Selma G. Lanes. **AN ACTOR'S LIFE FOR ME!** Illustrations by Patricia Henderson Lincoln. Viking Kestrel. 74 pages. (0-670-80416-9) \$14.95

A living actress born in 1896 speaks of her childhood as a member of a touring acting troupe. She relates the effect of silent films on vaudeville, and she discusses the personal contacts which launched her family into movies. Illustrated with an unusual combination of charming black and white archival photos and colored contemporary drawings, the short account is approachable because of its child's point of view and easy language. (Ages 8-12)

Randolph, Blythe. **AMELIA EARHART.** (An Impact Biography) Franklin Watts. 128 pages. (0-531-10331-5) \$11.90

Randolph has used a wealth of primary and secondary sources, including interviews with Earhart's sister, to document her research into Earhart's life. The well-written biography focuses on the aviator's work and accomplishments rather than on her disappearance. (Age 11 and older)

Reef, Pat Davidson. **DAHLOV IPCAR, ARTIST.** (Maine Art Series for Young Readers) Kennebec River Press, 36 Old Mill Road, Falmouth, Maine 04105. 48 pages. (pbk. 0-933858-20-5) \$12.95

The life of the artist is told largely through her work from age four through adulthood, accompanied by brief explanatory text. A highly visual biography focuses on Ipcar's artwork,

which has been very well-reproduced in photographs, many in full-color. An intimate tone draws the reader in and personalizes Ipcar's creative vision. (Ages 4-14)

Smith, Kathie Billingslea. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Illustrated by James Seward. (The Great Americans Series) Julian Messner. 24 pages. (0-671-64149-2) \$7.79
An easy series biography clearly explains the civil rights movement and Dr. King's leadership within this social revolution. (Ages 6-11)

Stevenson, James. HIGHER ON THE DOOR. Greenwillow. 32 pages. (0-688-06637-2) \$11.75

A sequel to the autobiographical picture book *When I Was Nine* (1986), here the title refers both to the author's own growth and to his relationship with his older brother, a key figure in this volume, who would always measure a little higher. Bright dabs of watercolor, expertly placed, recreate a fondly remembered world which extends as far as the next block. (Ages 6-9)

See also: *Martin Luther King Day*

11 FOLKLORE, MYTHOLOGY AND TRADITIONAL LITERATURE

Bierhorst, John, reteller. DOCTOR COYOTE; A NATIVE AMERICAN AESOP'S FABLES. Illustrated by Wendy Watson. Macmillan. 48 pages. (0-02-709780-3) \$14.95

In the sixteenth century, Spanish settlers in Mexico shared Aesop's fables with native Aztecs who in turn adapted them to fit an Aztec world-view before recording them in writing. John Bierhorst's translation and retelling of 20 of the tales reveals an interesting mixture of European and Native American values, while Wendy Watson adds her own interpretation by depicting a contemporary Southwestern U.S. setting in her full-color illustrations. (Ages 8-12)

Bierhorst, John, editor. THE NAKED BEAR; FOLKTALES OF THE IROQUOIS. Illustrated by Dirk Zimmer. William Morrow. 123 pages. (0-688-06422-1) \$14.95

Sixteen traditional Iroquois tales are retold by an expert who uses relatively easy language printed here in a large typeface with lots of space between the lines and fitting black and white illustrations on several half-pages. Documentation and introductory material are printed in typically sized type. (Ages 5-11)

Crossley-Holland, Kevin. BRITISH FOLK TALES; NEW VERSIONS. U.S. edition: Orchard. 383 pages. (0-531-05733-X) \$22.95

Crossley-Holland gives his own voice to the retellings of 55 British folktales which represent a range of tale types, geographical settings and familiarity. Careful endnotes indicate the original source of each tale as well as a brief explanation of the choices the author made in reaching his final version. Ample white space, fine typography and an overall handsome book design add distinction to a scholarly and enjoyable collection of tellable tales. (Age 11 and older)

French, Fiona. SNOW WHITE IN NEW YORK. U.S. edition: Oxford University Press. 32 pages. (0-19-279808-1) \$11.95

A Roaring Twenties version cleverly combines a traditional tale with stock characters and circumstances. The abandoned Snow White joins seven jazz-men as their vocalist and is heard by a newspaper reporter whose article sends the stepmother into such a rage she

drops a poisoned cherry into Snow White's cocktail. Excellent uses of line, form and color create unique page layouts for a highly unusual picture book. (Ages 8-12)

Harris, Joel Chandler. **JUMP AGAIN!; THE ADVENTURES OF BRER RABBIT.** Adapted by Van Dyke Parks. Illustrated by Barry Moser. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 40 pages. (0-15-241352-9) \$14.95

Five Brer Rabbit tales are retold and illustrated in a book designed in a manner similar to that of *Jump!* (1986). High quality cream colored paper and outstanding typography contribute to the overall excellence of the edition. (Ages 4-12)

Ishii, Momoko, reteller. **THE TONGUE-CUT SPARROW.** Illustrated by Suekichi Akaba. Translated from the Japanese by Katherine Paterson. U.S. edition: Lodestar/E.P. Dutton. 40 pages. (0-525-67199-4) \$13.95

When a peasant's wife drives away his beloved friend, the sparrow, first the husband, then the wife, journey to visit the bird, and are both rewarded for their trouble. Paterson's choice to retain many of the onomatopoeic words from the original Japanese version was a small stroke of genius because they work just as well in English and give us a flavor of the original tale. In addition to delightful visual characterization, bold lines and ingeniously placed dabs of color make Akaba's illustrations particularly memorable. (Ages 4-8)

Leaf, Margaret. **EYES OF THE DRAGON.** Illustrated by Ed Young. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 30 pages. (0-688-06156-7) \$11.95

The itinerant painter commissioned by the village to paint a protective dragon on the village wall finally adds its eyes, even though, according to a 13th century Chinese artist, eyes will make the dragon see to fly away. Using pastels to create drawings in bold shapes and bright hues, Young's large images seem ready to leap from the 9½" x 11¼" pages. (Ages 5-9)

Lester, Julius, reteller. **THE TALES OF UNCLE REMUS; THE ADVENTURES OF BRER RABBIT.** Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Dial. 151 pages. (0-8037-0272-8) \$14.89

A new Uncle Remus emerges from Lester's creative reshaping of 48 Brer Rabbit stories from his Afro-American tradition into "modified contemporary southern Black English." Lester's foreword advises telling or reading the tales in one's own language. Storytelling specialist Augusta Baker's introduction speaks of the importance for contemporary children to hear these tales. Pinkney's occasional black and white drawings complement the high-spirited tales; four of his watercolors are reproduced in full-color on double-page spreads. Honor Book, 1987 CCBC Newbery Discussion. (Ages 4-12)

Mayo, Gretchen Will, reteller. **STAR TALES; NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN STORIES ABOUT THE STARS.** Walker. 96 pages. (0-8027-6673-0) \$11.95

Sixteen exciting tales about the night sky are retold in easily read language. Black and white illustrative material adds information and meaning. A glossary and documentation are appended. (Ages 5-11)

Monroe, Jean Guard and Ray A. Williamson. **THEY DANCE IN THE SKY; NATIVE AMERICAN STAR MYTHS.** Illustrated by Edgar Stewart. Houghton Mifflin. 130 pages. (0-395-39970-X) \$12.95

Legends of the Pleiades and the Big Dipper are retold here as are celestial tales from six regions in North America. Extensive notes and a glossary extend the uses of this collection. (Ages 9-14)

Morris, Winifred. **THE MAGIC LEAF.** Illustrated by Ju-Hong Chen. Atheneum. 32 pages. (0-689-31358-6) \$13.95

Visual playfulness matches the lighthearted story about a man who thinks he's become invisible. Excellent composition adds surprise as well as order to the overall development of a picture book edition of this Chinese tale. (Ages 5-9)

O'Shea, Pat, reteller. **FINN MAC COOL AND THE SMALL MEN OF DEEDS.** Illustrated by Stephen Lavis. Holiday House. 88 pages. (0-8234-0651-2) \$12.95

The legendary Irish hero enlists in the help of eight small men with fantastic powers to rescue a giant's missing child. The reteller's remarkable gift for hyperbole gives a distinctly Irish flavor to her fine retelling. (Ages 7-12)

Pevear, Richard, reteller. **OUR KING HAS HORNS!** Illustrated by Robert Rayevsky. Macmillan. 32 pages. (0-02-773920-1) \$14.95

A folktale from the Georgian region of what is now the U.S.S.R. concerns a king with a secret and the young barber who discovers it. The excellent draftsmanship and subtle humor of the full-color art offer a visual complement to the robust picture story. (Ages 5-9)

Rohmer, Harriet, Octavio Chow and Morris Vidaure. **THE INVISIBLE HUNTERS/ LOS CAZADORES INVISIBLES; A LEGEND FROM THE MISKITO INDIANS OF NICARAGUA/UNA LEYENDA DE LOS INDIOS MISKITOS DE NICARAGUA.** Illustrated by Joe Sam. Spanish version by Rosalma Zubizaretta & Alma Flor Ada. (Stories from Central America) Children's Book Press, 1461 Ninth Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122. 32 pages. (0-89239-031-8) \$10.95

An early Central American legend tells of the ultimate price of greed as well as the tragedy of deceiving one's own people. Themes concerning colonialism are developed in colorful, unique paper constructions and collages. The text is bilingual, printed both in English and Spanish. (Ages 5-12)

Rohmer, Harriet and Dorminster Wilson. **MOTHER SCORPION COUNTRY/LA TIERRA DE LA MADRE ESCORPIÓN; A LEGEND FROM THE MISKITO INDIANS OF NICARAGUA/ UNA LEYENDA DE LOS INDIOS MISKITOS DE NICARAGUA.** Illustrated by Virginia Stearns. Spanish version by Rosalma Zubizaretta and Alma Flor Ada. (Stories from Central America) Children's Book Press, 1461 Ninth Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122. 32 pages. (0-89239-032-8) \$10.95

A brave young man follows his dead wife beyond her grave and into Mother Scorpion Country, but they cannot stay there together. The tragic lovers are archetypal; the ideas concerning life and death predate Christian influences. Full-color illustrations and a bilingual English/Spanish text extend the audience for this Nicaraguan tale. (Ages 5-12)

Step toe, John. **MUFARO'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS; AN AFRICAN TALE.** Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages. (0-688-04046-2) \$13.00

Two beautiful sisters—one vain, the other kind—compete for the king's attention when he announces he is looking for a wife. Brilliant full-color pen and ink watercolor paintings illustrate the Cinderella tale. Step toe skillfully uses light and color to give emotional power to illustrations rich in detail of a specific region in Zimbabwe. Honor Book, 1987 CCBC Caldecott Discussion. (Ages 4-8)

Uchida, Yoshiko. **THE TWO FOOLISH CATS.** Illustrated by Margot Zemach. Margaret K. McElderry Books. 32 pages. (0-689-50397-0) \$12.95

To settle a dispute over which of them is entitled to the larger of a pair of rice cakes, two cats journey to the mountain to appeal to the wise old monkey. The fresh, amusing story, based on a Japanese folktale, is full of delightful twists. Zemach's use of sweeping lines in her watercolor illustrations is reminiscent of a Japanese painting style; her own touches of humor characterize the two cats as engagingly absurd. (Ages 4-8)

See also: *Even Higher; Family Storytelling Book; Lights Around the Palm; Morning of the Gods; Road to Bethlehem; Through the Dolls' House Door; Tricksters; What a Morning!*

12 BOOKS FOR BABIES

- Aliki. **WELCOME LITTLE BABY.** Greenwillow. 24 pages. (0-688-06811-1) \$11.75
The earliest needs and care of a newborn are shown, including a spring buggy ride to a playground where active children from diverse backgrounds are playing. "You'll learn to walk, to run, to talk, to read." The full-color art was done in watercolor, crayon and ink. (Babies/Families)
- Kelley, True. **LOOK, BABY! LISTEN, BABY! DO, BABY!** E.P. Dutton. 32 pages. (0-525-44320-7) \$8.95
Body parts, sounds, and activities such as crying, washing and climbing, are shown in their great varieties, clearly labeled, to define and celebrate the world of the baby. Done in the Richard Scarry tradition, this durable book is notable for its fresh view, excellent organization and multicultural perspective. (Ages 1-3)
- Ormerod, Jan. **BEND AND STRETCH.** (Jan Ormerod's Baby Books) U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 20 pages. (0-688-07272-0) \$5.95
———. **MAKING FRIENDS.** (Jan Ormerod's Baby Books) U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 20 pages. (0-688-07270-4) \$5.95
———. **MOM'S HOME.** (Jan Ormerod's Baby Books) U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 20 pages. (0-688-07274-7) \$5.95
———. **THIS LITTLE NOSE.** (Jan Ormerod's Baby Books) U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 20 pages. (0-688-07276-3) \$5.95
A pregnant mother and a baby share quiet times together exercising, napping, exploring the contents of a shopping basket, and coping with a head cold in four 7" x 6½" volumes. (Ages 1-3)
- Oxenbury, Helen. **ALL FALL DOWN.** (Big Board Books) U.S. edition: Aladdin Books/Macmillan 8 pages. (0-02-769040-7) \$4.95
———. **CLAP HANDS.** (Big Board Books) U.S. edition: Aladdin Books/Macmillan. 8 pages. (0-02-769030-X) \$4.95
Four toddlers in day-care engage in simple, everyday activities such as clapping hands, waving and bouncing on the bed in an 8½" by 8½" format. The spare, rhyming text is accompanied by wonderfully humorous full-color illustrations which show energetic babies of four different races: Black, Hispanic, white and Asian. (Ages 6 months-3 years)
- Tafari, Nancy. **IN A RED HOUSE.** (Board Book) Greenwillow. 10 pages. (0-688-07185-6) \$3.95
———. **MY FRIENDS.** (Board Book) Greenwillow. 10 pages. (0-688-07187-2) \$3.95
———. **WHERE WE SLEEP.** (Board Book) Greenwillow. 10 pages. (0-688-07189-9) \$3.95
Each book explores a portion of a toddler's world, and each concludes with a reference to the child. Strong uses of line and color made these 6½" square board books distinctive. (Ages 6 months to 3 years)

13 CONCEPT BOOKS

- Hoban, Tana. **DOTS, SPOTS, SPECKLES, AND STRIPES.** Greenwillow. 32 pages. (0-688-06863-4) \$11.75
Twenty-nine color photographs of urban life and the natural world reveal one or more specific patterns. A less obvious visual reference can usually be noticed once the photo is examined closely. There is no text. (Ages 3-8)

Hudson, Cheryl Willis. *AFRO-BETS ABC BOOK*. Just Us Books, 301 Main St., Orange, NJ 07050. 24 pages. (pbk. 0-940975-00-9) \$3.95

Six active Afro-American children are pictured playing on the alphabet pages. Cartoon images are sometimes typical (balloon, keys, pencil) and sometimes culturally specific (Africa, cornrows, Kente cloth, Nefertiti.) A light-hearted spirit is predominant. (Ages 2-7)

Hughes, Shirley. *LUCY & TOM'S 1.2.3*. U.S. edition: Viking Kestrel. 32 pages. (0-670-81763-5) \$10.95

A full-color picture story unfolds the busy day of a girl and her little brother. Some items requiring counting are integrated into the text; packages and cans at the supermarket come in ones, sometimes in fours or sixes. Often the pictures show items and sets to count. The family's day culminates in an afternoon birthday tea-party at Granny's. (Ages 2-7)

Johnston, Tony. *WHALE SONG*. Illustrated by Ed Young. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 32 pages. (0-399-21402-X) \$12.95

"Some say the whales sing songs to each other, across wide oceans, around the world. I say they are counting." So claims a narrator, unseen until the book's end. Readers see the full-color watercolor paintings suggesting the ocean giants' forms and also relaying a number between 1-10 on every page spread. (Ages 3-7)

Jonas, Ann. *REFLECTIONS*. Greenwillow. 28 pages. (0-688-06141-9) \$13.00

An unseen narrator takes a day long walk to the ferry boat landing, the mill, the campground, the woods and (after turning the book upside down) back again. The turnabout technique the artist developed in *Round Trip* (1983) is used here in watercolor paintings reproduced in full-color. (Ages 4-9)

Kitchen, Bert. *ANIMAL NUMBERS*. Dial. 24 pages. (0-8037-0459-3) \$11.95

Fourteen different creatures with their young are shown (1-10,15,25,50,75,100) with brief identifying notes at the end of the handsome 12½" x 9½" book. Each page displays a large number around the line(s) of which the green woodpecker, salamander, Irish setter, etc., are realistically presented. A *tour de force* of draftmanship and design. (Ages 2-8)

Milios, Rita. *I AM*. Illustrations by Clovis Martin. (A Rookie Reader) Children's Press. 32 pages. (0-516-02081-1) \$6.95

Synonyms and antonyms are contrasted visually within multicultural, active, upbeat child-centered environments: "I am one. We are two." The short rhyming text is predictable, using 27 different words. (Ages 2-7)

Samton, Sheila White. *BESIDE THE BAY*. Philomel. 32 pages. (0-399-21420-8) \$12.95

A child's shoreline fantasy walk is punctuated with rhyming references to the colors of all she sees: "I walk alone beside the bay,/The water's blue, the sky is gray." The bright colors and stylized silhouette-like shapes are distinctive. (Ages 3-6)

Wolf, Janet. *ADELAIDE TO ZEKE*. Harper & Row. 32 pages. (0-06-026598-1) \$11.89

A community of interaction is pictured in full-color single spreads: "Q is for Quentin (a duck) who quacked at Ron; R is Ron who read to Sally." The final double spread reiterates every image, showing the community together. (Ages 4-8)

Yektai, Niki. *WHAT'S MISSING?* Illustrated by Susannah Ryan. Clarion. 32 pages. (0-89919-510-5) \$12.95

A family walk to the park, dinner and bedtime are pictured with each full-color image repeated after the page is turned to reveal a predictable object not shown on the previous page. Vigor of line and visual suggestion of personality are hallmarks of this participation book with a large typeface displaying its short text. (Ages 4-8)

See also: *Growing Vegetable Soup*; *Handtalk Birthday*; *I Like To Be Little*; *Look, Baby! Listen, Baby! Do, Baby!*; *Whose Hat Is That?*

14 PICTURE BOOKS

Aliki. **OVERNIGHT AT MARY BLOOM'S.** Greenwillow. 32 pages. (0-688-06765-4) \$11.75

The title character from *At Mary Bloom's* (1983) invites a little girl to spend the night with her and her baby. They cook, feast, clean up, feed all the pets, play dress up, have a puppet show, and read. An upbeat, active combination of characters are shown in drawings reproduced in full-color. The typeface is oversized. (Ages 3-7)

Anderson, Peggy Perry. **TIME FOR BED, THE BABYSITTER SAID.** Houghton Mifflin. 32 pages. (0-395-41851-8) \$12.95

The babysitter and her charge are bright green personified frogs, and their actions are wildly froggy as well as human during lively, chaotic bedtime preparations. A short rhyming text hops from page to page. (Ages 3-7)

Barbour, Karen. **LITTLE NINO'S PIZZERIA.** Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 32 pages. (0-15-247650-4) \$14.95

Tony helps his father Nino make pizza, clear tables and give extra food to hungry, homeless people in the alley behind their popular little restaurant. After good business leads to having a bigger restaurant, neither Tony nor Nino enjoys the change. Contemporary, brightly colored painterly images carry the 10½" x 11" picture story. (Ages 4-8)

Boujon, Claude. **BON APPÉTIT, MR. RABBIT!** Translated from the French. U.S. edition: Margaret K. McElderry Books. 32 pages. (0-689-50425-X) \$10.95

Pastel drawings large in scale illustrate a short text about a rabbit who doesn't like carrots. Repetition, suspense and humor characterize an action-packed picture book. (Ages 3-7)

Boyd, Lizi. **THE NOT-SO-WICKED STEPMOTHER.** Viking Kestrel. 32 pages. (0-670-81589-6) \$10.95

Hessie keeps expecting the worst during the first days of her summer vacation at the lake with her Daddy and Molly. She finds, instead, a marvelous new companion and a second household of which she's an important member. Line drawings and watercolor wash reproduced in full-color show the distinctive images of a new artist as well as of a new family. (Ages 3-8)

Bunting, Eve. **GHOST'S HOUR, SPOOK'S HOUR.** Illustrated by Donald Carrick. Clarion. 32 pages. (0-89919-484-2) \$12.95

Waking near midnight, a young boy hears sounds and sees shapes differently. Letting his imagination take over, he and the family dog go downstairs to discover the logical explanations and find his parents. Watercolor paintings cover 2/3 of every double spread. (Ages 5-8)

Carlstrom, Nancy White. **THE MOON CAME TOO.** Illustrated by Stella Ormai. Macmillan. 32 pages. (0-02-717380-1) \$12.95

A rhyming text indicates what to take to Grandma's house, including "A blue flashlight/ Five books and a kite . . ." An energetic girl's many interests are reflected in what she and her mother pack in the car. Full-color pictures on every page show details of the car trip, too. (Ages 2-7)

Carlstrom, Nancy White. **WILD WILD SUNFLOWER CHILD ANNA.** Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Macmillan. 32 pages. (0-02-717360-7) \$13.95

Anna is an exuberant, active, Black, outdoor child with a sunny disposition: "Anna Anna begs/but frog doesn't answer/except for a frog splash/and that doesn't matter./Tiny pools

of water/trickle down Anna's legs./Cool pool, trickle trickle Anna." Bright yellow and green watercolor washes predominate in the line drawings illustrating Anna's solitary escapade within a large back-yard or nearby field and woods. (Ages 3-6)

Caseley, Judith. **APPLE PIE AND ONIONS**. Greenwillow. 32 pages. (0-688-06763-8) \$11.95

Rebecca loves visiting Grandma in her city neighborhood apartment. However, hearing about Grandma's childhood after her family came from the old country is one thing, and being right there on the sidewalk when Grandma talks excitedly in Yiddish to her old friend Hattie is another matter. Being embarrassed in public by a grownup relative's behavior is a universal experience, recreated here in full-color watercolor paintings which individualize the details of this intergenerational story. (Ages 5-9)

Drescher, Henrik. **THE YELLOW UMBRELLA**. Bradbury Press. 40 pages. (0-02-733240-3) \$9.95

Pen and ink drawings with yellow colors show a vigorous wordless 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " fantasy about an umbrella and two monkeys. (Ages 3-6)

Edwards, Dorothy. **EMMIE AND THE PURPLE PAINT**. Illustrated by Priscilla Lamont. U.S. edition: Oxford University Press. 28 pages. (0-19-520599-5) \$8.95

Back home after an unsuccessful first day at Play Group, Emmie carries her finger-painting a little too far when she extends it to the walls from the kitchen to her upstairs bedroom, and finds herself in a real mess. Drama, conflict and resolution arise from realistic experiences common to the lives of many preschoolers and the sense of realism is enhanced by Priscilla Lamont's sensitive visual portrayal of Emmie's tired, loving mum who's working hard as a single parent. (Ages 3-5)

Fox, Mem. **HATTIE AND THE FOX**. Illustrated by Patricia Mullins. U.S. edition: Bradbury Press. 32 pages. (0-02-735470-9) \$12.95

In the bushes Hattie the Hen first sees a nose, then two eyes, then two ears, and so on, but none of the other barnyard animals heed her warning until the entire fox is visible. A wonderful combination of predictability and surprise succeeds as an original cumulative tale. The colorful collage illustrations show an expert use of form and space, and though they depict the same setting and the same animals again and again, no two illustrations look the same. (Ages 3-6)

Graham, Bob. **THE ADVENTURES OF CHARLOTTE AND HENRY**. Translated from the French. U.S. edition: Viking Kestrel. 46 pages. (0-670-81660-4) \$10.95

Five fun-filled stories, with 12 captioned and uncaptioned colored comic strip-like illustrations on each double page spread, tell of a lively girl and her more cautious playmate. The stories are "The Tire," "The Skipping Rope," "The Dolls," "The Presents" and "The Dancer." (Ages 5-8)

Grifalconi, Ann. **DARKNESS AND THE BUTTERFLY**. Little, Brown. 32 pages. (0-316-32863-4) \$14.95

Little Osa seems fearless when playing during the day but at night she's afraid of the dark. Strong vividly colored images show an extended family. An abundance of curving lines convey security within the story of Osa's visit to the Wise Woman who enables Osa to overcome her fear. An unspecified region of the African continent, looking much like the setting for *The Village of Round and Square Houses* (1986), gives a cultural basis to Osa's dream quest for self-understanding. (Ages 5-9)

Hearn, Michael Patrick. **THE PORCELAIN CAT**. Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. Little, Brown. 32 pages. (0-316-35330-2) \$12.95

An old sorcerer sends his young apprentice to find a charm to turn his porcelain cat into a monster. Visually formal, full-color illustrations contain stylized images, partially hidden

cats and a muscular Black centaur—all suitable images for a new fairy tale which seems ancient. (Ages 5-8)

Heller, Nicholas. *FISH STORIES*. Greenwillow. 32 pages. (0-688-06932-0) \$11.75

Three simple but wildly outrageous stories involve a fisherman and an inept wizard who always manages to make a bad situation worse. Brightly colored paintings in a comic book format help to carry the charming narrative, which is marked by humor, repetition and surprises. (Ages 4-7)

Henkes, Kevin. *ONCE AROUND THE BLOCK*. Illustrated by Victoria Chess.

Greenwillow. 24 pages. (0-688-04955-9) \$11.75

To each neighbor, Annie repeats her complaint that there's nothing to do, and at each stop she's offered something to occupy her time for a few minutes. A well-paced flow of drawings with watercolor wash and a text effectively utilizing repetition culminate in a new resolution of a familiar childhood dilemma. (Ages 3-7)

Henkes, Kevin. *SHEILA RAE, THE BRAVE*. Greenwillow. 32 pages. (0-688-07156-2) \$11.75

It's Sheila Rae's little sister Louise who proves to be resourceful after bold, occasionally bully-ish Sheila Rae loses track of exactly where in the neighborhood they both are. Exceptional writing, clarity of the watercolor images and interestingly varied page layouts distinguish this story inhabited by lively mouse characters, two of whom appear in Henkes' *A Weekend With Wendell* (1986). (Ages 3-7)

Hewett, Joan. *ROSALIE*. Illustrated by Donald Carrick. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard.

32 pages. (0-688-06229-6) \$11.75

An affectionate, authentic portrait of the household role of an aged family pet is related by Cindy and shown in the watercolor paintings, i.e. the neighbor steps over the snoozing dog at the front door, Cindy finds and wakes the dog if she isn't at the front door after school, etc. (Ages 4-9)

Hines, Anna Grossnickle. *IT'S JUST ME, EMILY*. Clarion. 32 pages. (0-89919-487-7) \$12.95

A fully-awake, imaginative child finds several ways to occupy herself, as well as, to tease her sleepy mother into getting up and going one morning. The interplay between child and mother is delightful and down-to-earth, and they both know how to make-believe! (Ages 2-5)

Howe, James. *I WISH I WERE A BUTTERFLY*. Illustrated by Ed Young.

Gulliver Books/Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 36 pages. (0-15-200470-X) \$12.95

The pastel drawings in this 11¼" x 10¼" picture story are particularly effective from a distance, easily conveying a littlest cricket's dilemma in dramatic hues as well as in a longer than usual narrative. (Ages 4-8)

Hurd, Thacher. *A NIGHT IN THE SWAMP; A MOVEABLE BOOK*.

Paper engineering by Thacher Hurd and David A. Carter. Harper & Row.

12 pages. (0-694-00177-5) \$7.95

A brief book with ingenious moveable parts allows the reader to cause portions of the story to happen, i.e., "Frog jumps . . ." involves pulling a tab which makes this happen. Painted backgrounds are reproduced in full color while drawings delineate the pieces that move. (Ages 4-7)

Jeschke, Susan. *LUCKY'S CHOICE*. Scholastic/Hardcover. 40 pages. (0-590-40520-9) \$13.95

A personified apartment cat is well cared for but lonely, until he finds both a mouse companion and a way to improve their existence. The drawings are reproduced in full-color and have considerable verve. (Ages 4-7)

Joose, Barbara M. **JAM DAY**. Illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully. Harper & Row. 32 pages. (0-06-023097-5) \$11.89

Ben and Mama, a family of two, take the train to his grandparents' for the extended family's annual berry picking and jam making project. Ben soon realizes he's really part of a large family. Bright reds and greens accented with yellow predominate in the watercolor wash and line drawings illustrating the book. (Ages 3-8)

Kasza, Keiko. **THE WOLF'S CHICKEN STEW**. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 32 pages. (0-399-21400-3) \$11.95

A predatory wolf is no match for a self-sufficient chicken and her brood in a unique story offering some suspense, many chuckles and extraordinary characterizations. One of the several memorable full-color illustrations shows the wolf at full tilt in his kitchen, baking. (Ages 4-8)

Khalsa, Dayal Kaur. **I WANT A DOG**. Clarkson N. Potter/Distributed by Crown. 28 pages. (0-517-56532-3) \$10.95

To prove to herself and her parents that she's responsible enough to care for a pet, May adopts . . . a rollerskate. A wry story of creative problem solving manages to make a simple skate seem like a viable substitute for a dog. The marvelous incongruity of Khalsa's understated text and May's overstated devotion to the skate accounts for much of the humor. Kalsa's full-color gouache paintings are filled with humorous references and distinctive details. (Ages 4-8)

Komaiko, Leah. **ANNIE BANANIE**. Illustrated by Laura Cornell. Harper & Row. 32 pages. (0-06-023261-7) \$11.89

Who would have a pet porcupine, other than Annie Bananie? This naughty, jolly girl is moving away, and so she's remembered for her outrageous as well as her ordinary actions by the best friend who tries to picture life without Annie Bananie. Pen and ink drawings and watercolor wash show what is told in rhyme. (Ages 3-6)

Lattimore, Deborah Nourse. **THE FLAME OF PEACE; A TALE OF THE AZTECS**. Harper & Row. 42 pages. (0-06-023709-0) \$12.89

An original tale of an Aztec boy's quest for peace in ancient Mexico draws heavily on elements of Aztec mythology and culture. Stylized motifs from ancient Aztec art lend a sense of authenticity and originality to the tale. (Ages 7-10)

Lent, Blair. **BAYBERRY BLUFF**. Houghton Mifflin. 32 pages. (0-395-35384-X) \$13.95

A toy-like quality permeates this visual account of how an unusual island community (read: Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard) developed. Pattern, line and color are distinctive in Lent's unusual cardboard cut prints, about which the end papers give details. (Ages 3-7)

Macaulay, David. **WHY THE CHICKEN CROSSED THE ROAD**. Houghton Mifflin. 32 pages. (0-395-44241-9) \$13.95

A full-color tall tale begins with the proverbial chicken, whose quick run across a road causes a herd of cows to stampede across a collapsing railroad bridge and fall into a passing train. From here, the plot thickens but the madcap pace never slows in a chain of events coming full circle back to . . . the chicken! (Ages 4-9)

Mahy, Margaret. **17 KINGS AND 42 ELEPHANTS**. Illustrated by Patricia MacCarthy. U.S. edition: Dial. 28 pages. (0-8037-0458-5) \$10.95

Assonance, alliteration, rhythm, rhyme, and nonsensical neologisms roll right off the reader's tongue in a delightfully poetic description of a jungle journey, illustrated with brightly colored batik paintings. (Ages 3-7)

Mayper, Monica. *AFTER GOOD-NIGHT*. Illustrated by Peter Sis. Harper & Row. 32 pages. (0-06-024121-7) \$10.89

A poetic mood piece on bedtime uses imagery and the senses to suggest visions—written and seen—of the world between being awake and falling asleep. Sophisticated, subtle black and white illustrations perfectly complement the exquisite writing. (Ages 3-8)

Narahashi, Keiko. *I HAVE A FRIEND*. Margaret K. McElderry Books. 32 pages. (0-689-50432-2) \$12.95

A young boy describes the special features of his closest friend—his own shadow. Narahashi's brief, eloquent text embodies the voice of a young child. Her distinctive watercolor paintings show a totally original style. (Ages 3-6)

O'Donnell, Elizabeth Lee. *MAGGIE DOESN'T WANT TO MOVE*. Illustrated by Amy Schwartz. Four Winds. 32 pages. (0-02-768830-5) \$13.95

Simon projects his pessimism about the impending family move onto his little sister. Schwartz's quirky line drawings and wash offer a distinctive view of contemporary blue-collar life in California showing multicultural communities and a one-parent family with ease while further developing the characters introduced in the well-paced text. (Ages 3-8)

Polushkin, Maria. *BABY BROTHER BLUES*. Illustrated by Ellen Weiss. Bradbury. 24 pages. (0-02-774780-8) \$13.95

The baby is old enough to get into his sister's way and young enough to be adorable to everyone else. Sometimes, though, he only smiles for his big sister. Drawings with distinctive patterns reproduced in full-color show the hub-bub of a household with a baby. (Ages 3-8)

Rosner, Ruth. *ARABBA GAH ZEE, MARISSA AND ME!* Albert Whitman. 32 pages. (0-8075-0442-4) \$10.75

"No one's as good at playing as Marissa," claims the white protagonist of her light brown-skinned friend. The vitality of the girls' imaginative play and the pictures of everyday apartment house life create a rare, fresh and natural tone. The only conflict in this upbeat story illustrated with line drawings and watercolor wash occurs when the mothers agree it's time for the girls to say good-bye for now. (Ages 3-8)

Russo, Marisabina. *WHY DO GROWN-UPS HAVE ALL THE FUN?* Greenwillow. 32 pages. (0-688-06626-7) \$11.88

When Hannah has difficulty falling asleep after she's been tucked in at night, she imagines all the fun her parents must be having eating ice cream and playing with her toys. Bold gouache paintings delightfully contrast Hannah's fantasy with reality. (Ages 3-6)

Schubert, Dieter. *WHERE'S MY MONKEY?* Dial. 24 pages. (0-8037-0069-5) \$10.95

A wordless fantasy begins when a child and a favorite stuffed animal ride in a bicycle seat to the park with an older person (mother? older sister? care-giver? friend?). The various wild creatures who find the lost monkey each have their own portion of the story, as does the toymaker who ultimately repairs the doll. Open-endedness is part of the story's quiet charm, as are its full-color watercolor paintings, their varied sizes and layout contributing to the book's appeal. (Ages 2-7)

Schwartz, Amy. *OMA AND BOBO*. Bradbury. 32 pages. (0-02-781500-5) \$13.95

Alice's grandmother, Oma, is not pleased with the latest addition to the household—an amiable mutt named Bobo—and she insists that Alice enroll him in dog obedience school. When he does not prove to be an inspired pupil, Oma undertakes his education herself. Schwartz draws humor out of ordinary experience by showing small conflicts between highly individualized characters. Her distinctive pen and ink drawings with water color washes are filled with details that add both depth and humor to the story. Honor Book, 1987 CCBC Caldecott Discussion. (Ages 4-7)

Simmonds, Posy. *FRED*. (A Borzoi Book) U.S. edition: Alfred A. Knopf. 24 pages. (0-394-98627-X) \$9.95

A recently deceased cat's previous superstar status in the cat community scarcely seems a vehicle for a comic strip narrative about its human family's grief. The artist/author's genius in combining the two is evident in the success of this unusual fantasy in which young Sophie and Nick discover who poor, lazy, sleepy, old Fred really was! (Ages 4-9)

Soya, Kiyoshi. *A HOUSE OF LEAVES*. Illustrated by Akiko Hayashi. U.S. edition: Philomel. 24 pages. (0-399-21422-4) \$10.95

Little Sarah climbs into leafy shrubbery to stay dry during sudden, gentle rain. Drawings and wash reproduced in full-color show the insects (cabbage butterfly, beetle, praying mantis, etc.) she observes while she sits very still. Sarah's Asian appearance is incidental to the theme of this quiet book. (Ages 2-5)

Tafari, Nancy. *DO NOT DISTURB*. Greenwillow. 24 pages. (0-688-06542-2) \$11.88

An active family unpacks camping gear and settles in without realizing that human summer outdoor activity can disrupt large and small creatures in nature. Do later natural nocturnal sounds deliberately or incidentally disrupt the humans? Line drawings and wash are used to develop large forms, distinctive lines and effectively shaded hues. A large typeface displays the seven words in the almost wordless story. (Ages 2-9)

Tejima, Keizaburō. *FOX'S DREAM*. Translated from the Japanese by Susan Matsui. U.S. edition: Philomel. 42 pages. (0-399-21455-0) \$13.95

A fox walks alone at midnight, tracking a snow hare and finding himself in an icy dream with the memory of a warm spring day under a gentle sun. Dramatic woodcut prints reproduced in full-color depict natural life and seasonal beauty from the northern Japanese island Hokkaido. (Ages 4-8)

Thompson, Richard. *SKY FULL OF BABIES*. Illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes.

Annick Press/ Distributed by Bookpeople. 24 pages. (0-920303-93-5; pbk. 0-920303-92-7) \$12.95; \$4.95

Jesse builds her spaceship out of two chairs, two pillows and an umbrella. She then invites her dad to come along on a trip through outerspace, where they see all kinds of babies floating by, being matched up with families. Truly a small child's fantasy, the enchanting full-color illustrations subtly maintain the boundaries between fantasy and reality. (Ages 2-4)

Titherington, Jeanne. *A PLACE FOR BEN*. Greenwillow. 24 pages. (0-688-06494-9) \$11.75

A toddler brother seems to be everywhere Ben turns. After trying to establish a private space, Ben realizes he wants his sibling's companionship, after all. Soft, textured pencil drawings portray large forms complemented by an oversized typeface for the short text. (Ages 2-5)

Tsutsui, Yoriko. *ANNA'S SECRET FRIEND*. Illustrated by Akiko Hayashi. Viking Kestrel 32 pages. (0-670-81670-1) \$10.95

After moving to a new town, Anna feels lonely without a playmate until little gifts (three dandelions, an unsigned note, etc.) begin to appear in the family mailbox. Line drawings and wash are the illustration media. Both Anna and her new-found friend are Asian. (Ages 2-5)

Willard, Nancy. *THE MOUNTAINS OF QUILT*. Illustrated by Tomie dePaola.

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 32 pages. (0-15-256010-6) \$12.95

"In the Mountains of Cleveland there lived a magician." So begins a long, inventive picture book fantasy employing characters from Sandusky, Elyria and Detroit, concerning the necessity to locate a certain quilt square. A useful baseball which becomes a full moon, an amazing magpie and a missing magic carpet are part of a fanciful tale printed in a thin, airy typeface and illustrated in a style and layout somewhat different for dePaola. The narrative lends itself to dramatization. (Ages 5-9)

Yolen, Jane. *OWL MOON*. Illustrated by John Schoenherr. Philomel. 32 pages. (0-399-21457-7) \$13.95

A father and child walk out on a cold, quiet, moonlit night with the hope that they'll catch a glimpse of an owl. Yolen's haunting prose and Schoenherr's fine pen and ink and watercolor paintings capture the wonder and the intimacy of a special occasion. Schoenherr's illustrations reflect the light of the full moon on a rural winter night. Winner, 1987 CCBC Caldecott Discussion. (Ages 4-7)

Zolotow, Charlotte. *I LIKE TO BE LITTLE*. Illustrated by Erik Blegvad. Thomas Y. Crowell. 32 pages. (0-690-04674-X) \$11.89

Previously published as *I Want to Be Little* (1966), this picture book affirmation of childhood uses dialogue between a little girl and her mother distinguishing unique aspects of being young. Blegvad's watercolor paintings reproduced in full-color on every page reflect contemporary apartment and city life and a diversity of people in this white child's environment. (Ages 3-7)

See also: *Actor*; *Adelaide to Zeke*; *Afro-Bets ABC Book*; *Animal Numbers*; *Artists' Helpers Enjoy the Evenings*; *Bà-Nām*; *Beside the Bay*; *Birthday Presents*; *Dots, Spots, Speckles and Stripes*; *Even Higher*; *Eyes of the Dragon*; *Granddaddy's Place*; *Higher on the Door*; *In Coal Country*; *Lights Around the Palm*; *Lucy and Tom's 1.2.3.*; *Magic Leaf*; *Marianne's Grandmother*; *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*; *Our King Has Horns!*; *Our Puppy's Vacation*; *Owl Lake*; *Raccoons and Ripe Corn*; *Reflections*; *Shaker Lane*; *Sing a Song of People*; *Snow White in New York*; *Something for Mom*; *Stay Up Late*; *Tongue-Cut Sparrow*; *Two Foolish Cats*; *Whale Song*

15 FICTION FOR YOUNG READERS

Bauer, Marion Dane. *TOUCH THE MOON*. Illustrated by Alix Berenzy. Clarion. 77 pages. (0-89919-526-1) \$11.95

Jennifer wanted a real horse, not a family memento, for her eleventh birthday. Her dream is realized within a fantasy made believable to readers and made unforgettable because of the irascible Moonseeker, the palomino only Jennifer can see. (Ages 8-12)

Bulla, Clyde Robert. *THE CHALK BOX KID*. Illustrated by Thomas B. Allen. (A Stepping Stone Book) Random House. 56 pages. (0-394-99102-8) \$5.99

When 9-year-old Gregory's family moves, he has to share his new room with a young uncle who calls him the Paintbrush Kid, because of his art; he also has to try to get along with new schoolmates. His imaginative use of a blank wall in a burned out building helps him adjust. The text is easy, and the chapters are short with occasional drawings in black and white. (Ages 5-9)

Cameron, Ann. *JULIAN'S GLORIOUS SUMMER*. Illustrated by Dora Leder. (A Stepping Stone Book) Random House. 62 pages. (0-394-99117-6) \$5.99

Julian tells a series of incredible stories to cover up his fear of learning to ride a bicycle when his best friend, Gloria, starts the summer with a brand-new two-wheeler. Newly independent readers will be encouraged by the short episodic chapters and numerous accompanying line drawings in a single story sequel to *The Stories Julian Tells* (1981). (Ages 5-9)

Dragonwagon, Crescent. *DIANA, MAYBE*. Illustrated by Deborah Kogan Ray. Macmillan. 32 pages. (0-02-733180-6) \$11.95

A seven-year-old girl wonders about the half-sister she has never met and imagines what life would be like if she shared it with an older sister. Detailed pencil drawings accompany the quiet, poetic tribute to stepfamilies. (Ages 6-10)

Griffith, Helen V. *GRANDDADDY'S PLACE*. Illustrated by James Stevenson. Greenwillow. 40 pages. (0-688-06254-7) \$11.75

A fresh, funny, five-chapter, illustrated prequel to *Georgia Music* (1986), shows young Janetta's responses to Granddaddy's rural environment during her first visit to Momma's childhood home. Character development through dialogue and uses of imagination are excellent. The full-color art is black line with watercolor paints, and the layout is superior. (Ages 4-8)

Henkes, Kevin. *TWO UNDER PAR*. Greenwillow. 116 pages. (0-688-06708-5) \$10.25

Ten-year-old Wedge and his impulsive young mother now live with King, new stepfather, new husband and proud owner of a miniature golf course, not exactly Wedge's picture of the father he so greatly misses having. Realistic elements of characterization and action and short, well-paced chapters make this nicely designed novel with a large typeface an absorbing story to read. (Ages 7-12)

Jukes, Mavis. *LIGHTS AROUND THE PALM*. Illustrated by Stacey Schuett. Alfred A. Knopf. 40 pages. (0-394-98399-8) \$13.99

Seven-year-old Emma's daily efforts to teach the family's animals to read seem childish to her 10-year-old brother. Young readers can enjoy the humor as well as join the fun of the onomatopoeic language of Emma's pupils. A contemporary family story set in California in early December twilight effectively employs the theme of boundaries: outside/inside; toy plane/real jet; Maypole/Christmas tree; imagination/ make-believe; childhood/early adolescence. Full-color, full-page paintings create time, event and place opposite every 10¼" x 8¼" page of text; and they also offer subtle images counterpointing written references to the Christmas legend of the talking beasts. Jukes successfully explores a particular time in childhood without directing humor at her protagonist or calling attention to the complex literary elements of her fiction. (Ages 5-10)

Little, Jean. *DIFFERENT DRAGONS*. Illustrated by Laura Fernandez. U.S. edition: Viking Kestrel. 123 pages. (0-670-80836-9) \$10.95

Ben's author-aunt surprises him with a dog when he stays with her for the weekend. This, and getting trapped in the attic with the neighbor girl Hana Uchida, give the once apprehensive boy some growth experiences over the weekend. Strong characterization and natural dialogue distinguish this enjoyable chapter book. (Ages 5-9)

Tapp, Kathy Kennedy. *FLIGHT OF THE MOTH-KIN*. Illustrated by Michele Chessare. Margaret K. McElderry Books. 118 pages. (0-689-50401-2) \$11.95

A sequel to *Moth-Kin Magic* (1983) finds little Ripple and the other tiny Moth-Kin folk free to explore the marvelous forest, an adventure fraught with dangers. (Ages 6-9)

Taylor, Mildred D. *THE FRIENDSHIP*. Illustrated by Max Ginsburg. Dial. 53 pages. (0-8037-0418-6) \$11.95

In the rural South during the Depression, four Black children witness a frightening scene at the General Store. A respected elder in the Black community dares to call the white store owner by his first name and is verbally and physically attacked by a group of white men, who do not know of a decades-long relationship between the two. This spare, terse story is powerful and moving as it effectively shows Black children learning first-hand about racism, as well as about the strength, courage, and dignity of Black adult role models. (Ages 7-10)

See also: *Art Lessons*; *At Daddy's On Saturday's*; *Immigrant Girl*; *Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter*; *Mommy and Me By Ourselves Again*

16 FICTION FOR MIDDLE READERS

Avi. **ROMEO AND JULIET TOGETHER (AND ALIVE!) AT LAST.**

Orchard Books. 122 pages. (0-531-08321-7) \$11.95

An 8th grade play in production gives several friends the opportunity to get its two main characters to . . . kiss! Contemporary middle school situations are combined with early adolescent humor and lively dialogue in this enjoyable book. (Ages 11-13)

Beatty, Patricia. **CHARLEY SKEDADDLE.** William Morrow. 186 pages.

(0-688-06687-9) \$11.75

Coming from the rough and tumble of street life in the Bowery, 12-year-old Charley expects to avenge his brother's Gettysburg death with ease. Being connected with the Union Army is different than Charley expected, just as the horrors of real war are nothing like the battles in his neighborhood. Charley learns about courage from Granny Bent and because of the opportunity he has to prove he isn't a coward. (Age 12 and older)

Boyd, Candy Dawson. **CHARLIE PIPPIN.** Macmillan. 182 pages. (0-02-726350-9)

\$12.95

A spunky young Black girl learns everything she can about the Vietnam War in order to better understand her father, a bitter Vietnam veteran. Boyd skillfully blends the contemporary concerns of preteens with unresolved conflicts of the past. (Ages 11-14)

Byars, Betsy. **THE BLOSSOMS AND THE GREEN PHANTOM.** Illustrated by

Jacqueline Rogers. Delacorte. 146 pages. (0-385-29533-2) \$13.95

The entire Blossom family promises to take part in the launching of Junior's homemade UFO, nicknamed "The Green Phantom." In the third volume of her seriocomic series about the Blossoms, Byars once again shows her skill at building a unified story through the simultaneous actions of distinct characters moving in different directions. (Ages 9-12)

Cassedy, Sylvia. **M.E. AND MORTON.** Thomas Y. Crowell. 312 pages.

(0-690-04562-X) \$12.89

Shy Mary Ella worries whether make-believe dreams can come true, once her need for attention and friendship becomes her singular preoccupation. M.E.'s dramatization of twinness with her mildly-retarded brother Morton and their economically poor neighbor Polly alarms M.E.'s heretofore situation-paralyzed parents, after Morton's cheerful capacity for literal response nearly causes his death. The complicated usage of remembered events is amazing, as is the symbol system developed to explore gifts and giftedness, external zaniness and internal fantasy worlds. Extensive word play offers a satisfying reward for readers who follow the flashbacks as well as the fantasies within this challenging novel about play, imagination and obedience. Winner, 1987 CCBC Newbery Discussion. (Age 12 and older)

Fox, Paula. **LILY AND THE LOST BOY.** A Richard Jackson Book/Orchard Books.

149 pages. (0-531-08320-9) \$12.95

In new situations, everything seems extraordinary; this is Lily's first response to the family's extended visit to a Greek island where ancient history seems side by side with the present. Lily's growth beyond personal family interactions is pinpointed by her growing ease with people and events unique to this region. The male characters, young and older, can be viewed as "lost" in one respect or another. The performed Greek tragedy Lily attends parallels the human tragedy to which all must respond. Honor Book, 1987 CCBC Newbery Discussion. (Age 12 and older)

Furlong, Monica. *WISE CHILD*. (A Borzoi Book) Alfred A. Knopf. 228 pages. (0-394-99105-2) \$11.95

Abandoned by her parents, unwanted by relatives, a spoiled nine-year-old girl is taken in by a mysterious, reclusive woman, Juniper. In the small Scottish village Juniper is known to the superstitious townspeople as a pagan and herbalist; to the child she nurtures she is known as a teacher, mother and friend. The child grows wise in her company. Much of the depth of the powerful, gripping story comes through the development of individual characters and the fine descriptions of their interactions with each other. (Age 11 and older)

Gardam, Jane. *THROUGH THE DOLLS' HOUSE DOOR*. U.S. edition: Greenwillow. 121 pages. (0-688-07447-2) \$10.25

Often dolls are imagined to have a life of their own by their humans. This novel explores that fantasy. Accomplished readers can witness the dramas within the doll's house, and they will recognize the various levels of reality employed by the author to tell a two-generational story through a variety of perspectives. An inventive narrative offers humor while demanding readers to shift from human, to doll, to inanimate French-speaking object, to mythological references, to imaginary friend and from within a goldfish bowl looking out. The novel may be understood best when shared or read aloud by an adult. (Ages 7-12)

Hahn, Mary Downing. *TALLAHASSEE HIGGINS*. Clarion. 180 pages. (0-89919-495-8) \$12.95

Living with relatives she hardly knows after her young mother leaves with a boyfriend for California, the protagonist discovers more about her family through albums and first-hand comments of the neighbors. Readers will easily identify with the feelings of this child of a Flower Child. (Ages 12-14)

Hamilton, Virginia. *THE MYSTERY OF DREAR HOUSE; THE CONCLUSION OF THE DIES DREAR CHRONICLE*. Greenwillow. 217 pages. (0-688-04026-8) \$11.75

Now that abolitionist Dies Drear's magnificent treasure has been uncovered, Thomas Small and his family must decide on the best way to keep it safe. The gripping story introduces two unforgettable characters: Thomas's great-grandmother and his neighbor Mrs. Darrow, both of whom preserve a wealth of history in their memories, the latter in a mental labyrinth that mirrors the underground tunnels in the Drear House. (Ages 11-14)

Klein, Robin. *HATING ALISON ASHLEY*. U.S. edition: Viking Kestrel. 182 pages. (0-670-80864-4) \$11.95

Erica is determined to despise the new pupil in her class, a beautiful, wealthy girl who threatens to take her place as the center of attention. The immediate rivalry between Erica and Alison is believable, as is the slow development of understanding and friendship. Klein uses humor to create a distinctive voice in a thoroughly enjoyable, funny story. (Ages 11-13)

Nilsson, Ulf. *IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE ME*. Illustrated by Eva Eriksson. Translated from the Swedish by Lone Thygesen Blecher and George Blecher.

Margaret K. McElderry Books. 113 pages. (0-689-50406-3) \$9.95

A young Swedish boy moves temporarily to his grandmother's farm where he plays with children who play very differently from himself; witnesses the matter-of-fact butchering of Emma the pig he'd learned to feed and even like; and talks with the hired man who reads history books to find out about others who earlier used the same land. Offering special pleasures and new insights to those who read it more than once, this episodic novel retains elements of rural Swedish life while capturing details reminiscent of childhood on a universal scale. The author's development of symbols for life continuity and of multiple meanings for the idea of home never interferes with the lighthearted tone of a seamless story tailored for reading aloud by adults who've already read it in entirety. The seventeen pen and ink drawings and jacket art from the original edition add visual tenderness and spunk. (Ages 7-11)

Pearce, Philippa. **WHO'S AFRAID? AND OTHER STRANGE STORIES.**

U.S. edition: Greenwillow. 152 pages. (0-688-06895-2) \$10.25

Eleven understated, unusual short stories offer something new for readers who enjoy ghosts and the supernatural. Titles include "A Christmas Pudding Improves With the Keeping" and "A Prince in Another Place." The master author of a classic fantasy presents spine chillers first published for children in England. (Ages 11-14)

Sachs, Marilyn. **FRAN ELLEN'S HOUSE.** E.P. Dutton. 97 pages. (0-525-44345-2) \$12.95

In a sequel to *The Bears' House* (1971), Fran Ellen is reunited with her family after having spent the past year living in a series of foster homes. The difficulty she has in getting lost in the fantasy world of her old doll house is a reflection of personal growth and change, as is her gradual acceptance of her rival younger sibling's fascination with Fran Ellen's imaginary play. The entire family's involvement in rebuilding the doll house brilliantly symbolizes the rebuilding of the reunited family. (Ages 9-13)

Tapp, Kathy Kennedy. **THE SCORPIO GHOSTS AND THE BLACK HOLE GANG.** Harper & Row. 151 pages. (0-06-026172-2) \$11.89

Interstate 90 in Rock County offers the setting for the opening chapter of a fast-moving story involving transformations: a family's renovation of a former one-room school house; the emergence of a glowing bookmobile staffed by a ghost librarian and her ghost niece; and the time travel in which the young protagonist experiences first-hand the science fiction to which he is a devotee. Effective dialogue moves the fast-paced, intricate plot, making the humorous, action-packed adventure enjoyable. (Ages 9-12)

Tate, Eleanora E. **THE SECRET OF GUMBO GROVE.** Franklin Watts. 266 pages. (0-531-10298-X) \$11.95

Eleven-year-old Raisin volunteers to help a feisty old woman clean up the New Africa No.1 Missionary Baptist Cemetery and, in the process, uncovers local Black history, which has been just as neglected as the tombstones in the cemetery. Tate has a special gift for writing dialogue that rings true and moves the plot along; consequently, characters and family relationships are as fully developed as the mystery plot. (Ages 11-14)

See also: Gold Cadillac

17 FICTION FOR TEENAGERS

Alcock, Vivien. **THE MYSTERIOUS MR. ROSS.** U.S. edition: Delacorte. 161 pages. (0-385-29581-2) \$14.95

In a British resort town twelve-year-old Felicity rescues a drowning man and she and her best friend, Bony, attempt to solve the mystery surrounding the stranger. Alternating points of view reveal to readers that the "mystery" is largely imagined by Felicity and Bony—fraught with romance in Felicity's version and with scandal in Bony's. Thus the story shows how two friends who are very different can come to know each other better by responding to an event that heightens their differences, as it unites them in purpose. (Ages 11-14)

Blume, Judy. **JUST AS LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER.** A Richard Jackson Book/ Orchard Books. 296 pages. (0-531-08329-2) \$12.95

Three girls with contrasting personalities and problems are good seventh grade friends. Main character Stephanie is a compulsive eater whose brother worries about nuclear war and

whose parents' marriage is ending; Rachel is a gifted musician and credit card shopper; and Alison is an adopted Vietnamese girl with a celebrity parent. Blume's snappy dialogue incorporates contemporary details of upper middle class life so well that the plot and character contrivances probably show only to adult readers. She integrates elements of sexuality common to middle schoolers with even greater finesse than in her earlier books. Her adult characters are sympathetically presented. The theme is important: avoidance of reality does not alter it. (Ages 11-13)

Bridgers, Sue Ellen. **PERMANENT CONNECTIONS**. Harper & Row. 264 pages. (0-06-020712-4) \$12.89

Rob's behavior, in and out of high school, catches up with him. His worried parents send him temporarily to relatives in the rural community where his dad grew up, hoping his alcohol and other drug abuse will stop and his poor grades will improve. Strength of originality of characters and circumstances earmark a novel showing a teenager's increasing awareness that his actions affect others, and vice versa. (Age 14 and older)

Cole, Brock. **THE GOATS**. Farrar Straus Giroux. 184 pages. (0-374-32678-9) \$11.95

A unusual survival story begins abruptly with immediate tension, as two socially inept, prepubescent kids are abandoned with no provisions and few clothes as part of an annual, cruel, camp prank. The boy and girl create their own moral code for remaining beyond the reaches of authority, while gradually gaining self-dignity and self-worth from each other. A provocative novel uses language with elegance and metaphors with ease in a contemporary tale of paradise found and claimed. Although the images of inner city campers representing worldly knowledge are jarringly off-target, the novel's eminently discussible elements and unanswered questions represent essential considerations forcefully presented. Honor Book, 1987 CCBC Newbery Discussion. (Age 12 and older)

Davis, Jenny. **GOOD-BYE AND KEEP COLD**. A Richard Jackson Book/Orchard Books. 218 pages. (0-531-08315-2) \$12.95

Grown-up Edda relates incidents from the months and years following her father's death which lead, finally, to her acceptance of herself within the forces which changed many lives in a Kentucky coal mining town. A Robert Frost poem offers the theme and title for a startlingly memorable novel expressing loss: of father, of security, and of innocence regarding the multiple roles of the adults in young Edda's life. (Age 14 and older)

Eige, Lillian. **CADY**. Illustrations by Janet Wentworth. Harper & Row. 183 pages. (0-06-021793-6) \$11.89

An uncertain family situation thrusts 12-year-old Cady once again into a different household, where he finds new perspectives from the woman who cares for him. Strong characterizations of uncommon adults and new insights on poverty as well as nature make this contemporary novel memorable. (Ages 12-14)

Fenton, Edward. **THE MORNING OF THE GODS**. Delacorte. 184 pages. (0-385-29550-2) \$14.95

After her mother's sudden death renders her almost helpless, Carla's dad sends her to the Greek village from which her mother emigrated to the U.S.A. Without realizing the mythic extent to which she's expressing her grief, Carla lives out her mother's cultural and political legacy with wonderful old Tigie and Theo, a Philemon and Bacchus for today. Readers gradually realize the immensity of Carla's need, as well as the masterful integration of her personal story with historical and contemporary time and place. (Age 14 and older)

Gordon, Sheila. **WAITING FOR THE RAIN; A NOVEL OF SOUTH AFRICA**. A Richard Jackson Book/Orchard Books. 214 pages. (0-531-08326-8) \$12.95

A hard-hitting novel traces the relationship of two boys, one Black, the other white, living in contemporary South Africa. Gordon does an admirable job of showing how differing values and racial injustices pull Tengo and Frikkie further and further apart until they have little in common except a shared past. (Age 12 and older)

Hamilton, Virginia. *A WHITE ROMANCE*. Philomel. 191 pages. (0-399-21213-2) \$14.95

As a Black student in a newly integrated high school, Talley Barbour is a perceptive yet dreamy young woman whose white friend Didi shares her passion for running. Inexperienced Talley admires Didi's apparent sophistication and worldliness to such an extent that she wildly romanticizes Didi's relationship with a pathetic white drug addict, until Talley herself gets involved in a depressing, painful relationship with a charismatic, abusive white boy. Exploring the theme of addiction on many levels, Hamilton writes in a Black teen vernacular stream of consciousness. (Age 14 and older)

Howker, Janni. *ISAAC CAMPION*. U.S. edition: Greenwillow. 86 pages. (0-688-06658-5) \$10.25

An old man recounts a traumatic event that occurred when he was a boy—the death of his older brother—and the resulting bitterness of his father. Howker's spare, hardhitting prose appeals to all of the reader's senses simultaneously, as she hones in on a specific time and place. The use of voice is particularly outstanding, as Isaac reveals much about himself and his situation just with the words he chooses to use in telling the story. (Age 11 and older)

Kerr, M.E. *FELL*. A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 165 pages. (0-06-023268-4) \$11.89

A mature, intelligent young adult stars in the first of several love/suspense stories of international intrigue. Clever dialogue, a fast pace and a fresh point of view are characteristic of the debut of John Fell, high school boy turned preppie for the worldly-wise plot. (Age 14 and older)

Levitan, Sonia. *THE RETURN*. Atheneum. 213 pages. (0-689-31309-8) \$12.95

An adolescent Jewish girl makes the arduous exodus on foot from Ethiopia to Israel with her older brother and younger sister. Based on events which occurred over a six month period between 1984-85, the story is intricately plotted, so that it never lags, yet no element seems contrived or coincidental. There is a remarkable development of Desta's character, as a teenage girl with adolescent worries, called upon to make extraordinary sacrifices and courageous advances in order to attain a goal. (Age 14 and older)

Mahy, Margaret. *THE TRICKSTERS*. U.S. edition: Margaret K. McElderry Books. 266 pages. (0-689-50400-4) \$12.95

Seventeen-year-old Harry prefers writing an extravagantly romantic story in the New Zealand seaside vacation house to mingling with her family, assorted friends and three mysterious ghostly guests all come to celebrate the holidays. Her private reflections find larger mirrors in the real-life advent already in motion. Multiple opposites abound and attract. Harry's visions of life and acceptance are extended through complex supernatural elements as well as life observations. Strong characters, brilliant uses of imagery and humor, and subtle foreshadowing distinguish a stimulating multi-leveled Christmas story written with good readers of young adult age in mind. (Age 14 and older)

Mazer, Harry. *THE GIRL OF HIS DREAMS*. Thomas Y Crowell. 214 pages. (0-690-04642-1) \$12.89

An 18-year-old factory worker is surprised when the "girl of his dreams" turns out to be a gangly 22-year-old farmer who's just moved to New York City. The author's sensitivity to the vulnerability of young adults and his development of strongly individualistic characters give depth to the dual-point-of-view story, while short, action-filled chapters make it accessible to reluctant teen readers. (Age 14 and older)

Mazer, Norma Fox. *AFTER THE RAIN*. William Morrow. 290 pages. (0-688-06867-7) \$11.75

Fifteen-year-old Rachel's attempts to develop a closer relationship with her grandfather are thwarted by his cantankerous personality and by his denial that he is dying of cancer.

Memorable characters are well-developed through dialogue in an absorbing novel about the difficulties of communication among family members. (Age 14 and older)

Melling, O.R. *THE SINGING STONE*. U.S. edition: Viking Kestrel. 206 pages. (0-670-80817-2) \$13.95

Two heroic girls embark on a quest in ancient Ireland to recover the lost treasures of the Tuatha de Danann. An action-packed adventure story with two strong female protagonists skillfully blends Irish history and mythology. Melling makes time travel and magic entirely credible in the context of a well-plotted, seamless tale that is both a quest fantasy and search for identity. (Ages 10-14)

Myers, Walter Dean. *CRYSTAL*. Viking Kestrel. 198 pages. (0-670-80426-6) \$12.95

A Black teenager's rapid ascent to the top as the latest modeling sensation reveals that the world of high fashion is a lot less glamorous than one might imagine. Complexity and conflict emerge through Crystal's outward development as a successful, rising star and inward development as a maturing, thinking young woman. A provocative thoughtful novel raises questions about society's standards of beauty, women as objects, racism and ethics, and it does so with intelligence, style, and grace. (Age 12 and older)

Paulsen, Gary. *THE CROSSING*. Orchard Books. 114 pages. (0-531-08309-8) \$11.95

The paths of a streetwise orphan and a mentally ill soldier cross three times in a Mexican border town, forever changing the lives of both of them. Paulsen uses borders literally and metaphorically in many different ways, from the border running between Mexico and the U.S.A. which Manny dreams of crossing, to the sharp borders of clear definition which the sergeant purposely blurs with alcohol. Each of the characters is ultimately trapped behind the borders of his own ego; only when they both choose a split-second of compassion for each other is the key crossing completed. (Age 14 and older)

Paulsen, Gary. *HATCHET*. Bradbury. 195 pages. (0-02-770130-1) \$12.95

Obsessed with private insights as to why his parents got divorced, Brian forces aside his efforts at personal emotional survival to literally live through the aftermath of the private plane crash which killed the pilot who was taking him to visit his dad. Like Robinson Crusoe, the boy manages, but with only one tool—a hatchet. The title symbolizes both the effect of the divorce and Brian's means of survival. (Age 14 and older)

Posell, Elsa. *HOME COMING*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 230 pages. (0-15-235160-4) \$14.95

An autobiographical novel recounts the harsh treatment a Jewish family living in the Ukraine received after the Russian Revolution in 1917. That any of the children of this family survived is a testament to human perseverance and selflessness midst starvation, discrimination and the harshest of winters. The story is told through the voice and viewpoint of a spirited girl, Olya. (Age 14 and older)

Vander Els, Betty. *LEAVING POINT*. Farrar Straus Giroux. 212 pages. (0-374-34376-4) \$12.95

In a sequel to *Bomber's Moon* (1985), the author continues 14-year-old Ruth's story as she and her younger brother join their parents in eastern China in 1950. The politically-charged environment confuses Ruth and Benjamin. The missionary family's safe departure from China is constantly threatened, due to Ruth's innocent companionship with a teenaged Chinese girl caught up in the revolution's goals. (Age 12 and older)

18 THE COOPERATIVE CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

4290 Helen C. White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706 U.S.A. 608-263-3720

Purpose

The Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is a noncirculating examination, study and research children's and young adult literature library for adults. The purposes of the CCBC are: 1) to provide a collection of current, retrospective and historical children's books; 2) to provide Wisconsin librarians, teachers, students and others informational and educational services based on the collection; and 3) to support teaching, learning and research needs related to children's and young adult literature. The CCBC is funded for these purposes by the UW-Madison, especially through the School of Education, and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Division for Library Services. The CCBC was established in 1963.

Collection

The 25,000 title library collection contains review copies of newly published juvenile trade books (15%); recommended children's trade books (50%); historical children's books (19%); contemporary and historical reference/bibliographic materials related to children's literature (7%); books by Wisconsin authors and illustrators (4%); and alternative press books for children (3%).

Access

The Dewey Decimal classification system is used to catalog all materials except the Alternative Press and Wisconsin Collections. Subject analytics are used extensively for card catalog access to reference materials. Author, title, illustrator, translator and subject card catalog entries are made for children's and young adult books. Any known award or distinction or selection tool recommendation is noted on the endpaper in the front of each children's and young adult book. CCBC records are entered in the WISCAT statewide database. CCBC collections are non-circulating.

Services

Reference assistance from student employees is available to anyone on a walk-in basis. Reference assistance from a professional librarian/children's literature specialist is available to students, faculty, Wisconsin librarians and teachers on call and by advance arrangement. Specialized reference assistance and children's literature consultation is also available by mail and phone to the above constituents anywhere in the state. Intellectual freedom information is available to anyone serving minors in Wisconsin libraries and schools. *Tours and/or lectures* are arranged as possible for university classes, library book selection groups and school inservice groups coming to the CCBC. CCBC *bibliographies* on selected children's literature topics are available along with selected award and distinction lists and annual CCBC Wisconsin related records. *Children's literature displays* can be seen

by walk-in library users. *Monthly book discussions* apply literary standards and book evaluation techniques and are open to any student, faculty member, librarian, teacher or other interested adult. *Continuing education* courses are taught via the UW-Madison Division of University Outreach. As possible, the CCBC participates in statewide and regional professional conferences through the provision of book examination exhibits and/or leadership in scheduled sessions. A two-day children's literature conference is co-sponsored every other year with CCBC funding units and the UW-Madison Division of University Outreach. The 1988 Conference date is March 31-April 1. Persons interested in attending lectures, workshops or conferences or in obtaining bibliographies are asked to send a self-addressed, stamped envelope when they write requesting a list of CCBC Free Materials or "The CCBC This Season," a flyer listing CCBC and Friends of the CCBC, Inc., information.

Public Service Schedule

The CCBC is open twelve months a year for public service to adults interested in children's literature. The CCBC is open 49 hours weekly during the Fall and Spring semesters: Monday-Thursday 10-8, Friday 10-4 and Saturday 10-1. Professional reference assistance is available on call 30 hours weekly. During Intersession, Summer School and University breaks, the CCBC is open 30 hours weekly; Monday-Friday 10-4. For advance requests, extended hours can be arranged to accommodate campus schedules as well as out-of-town users' schedules.

The Friends of the CCBC, Inc.

This membership organization sponsors programs to develop public appreciation for children's literature and supports special projects at the CCBC. Friends receive invitations to events open only to members, news about CCBC publications and services, and opportunities for adults who share an interest in children's and young adult literature to get together. The Friends distribute selected CCBC publications out-of-state and provide other types volunteer assistance to the CCBC. For Friends' information, write: Friends of the CCBC, Inc., Box 5288, Madison, WI 53705.

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