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CCBC Choices 1989

Kathleen T. Horning and
Ginny Moore Kruse

with Deana Grobe and Merri Lindgren

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1 INTRODUCTION

Many perspectives on books for children and young adults 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 funded primarily by the UW-Madison School of Education and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Division for Library Services. Additional information about the CCBC can be found at the end of this publication. 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 1989, 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 1989

At least 4,000 new books were published in the U.S.A. for children and young adults in 1989, perhaps more. The 1989-90 edition of *Children's Books in Print* (R.R. Bowker) cited 58,616 books available for purchase in this country. Although statistics in the U.S. children's book industry depend on who's counting and what's counted, it is reasonable to conclude that book consumers—children and adults alike—have more choices than ever before. Children's books were selling very well at the end of this decade. Some refer to these times as another Golden Age in juvenile trade publishing.

The word **visual** characterizes many of the books published at the close of the 1980s. Continually increasing numbers of picture story books and picture book editions of folktales first published here and abroad offer a wide variety of very colorful choices. Some say that more editions are available than the market can manage of oft-published familiar tales from such sources as the Brothers Grimm. A totally new, totally surprising edition appeared in 1989: *The True Story of The Three Little Pigs* by A. Wolf (Viking). In what is perhaps the year's most original reinterpretation of familiar material, however, poems commonly attributed to "Anon." were ingeniously unified with Henrik Drescher's wildly creative artwork in *Poems of A. Nonny Mouse* (Knopf). An exceptional book from a culture previously unreflected in children's picture books, *Nine-in-One Grr! Grr!* (Children's Book Press), is from the Hmong folk tradition. Nonfiction or informational books also underwent noticeable changes in appearance. The expanded uses of **color photography** to complement texts increasingly designed for visual interest and general reading appeal stand out in 1989. Books such as *Bearman* (Scribner), *Afro-Bets First Book About Africa* (Just Us Books) and *Bread Bread Bread* (Lothrop) exemplify this welcome trend.

The ever-enlarging number of **series** books written according to formula is especially evident in book stores; the number increased annually throughout the decade. In the past two years, we observed a preponderance of new series aimed at **transitional readers**, those children ready to move beyond easy readers and into chapter books. Some, such as the Jenny Archer series (Little, Brown), are well written for this type of fiction. Original books for transitional readers are extremely challenging to write. An encouraging change

is seen in the slowly growing aggregate of individually developed titles for new readers, such as *7 x 7 Tales of a Sevensleeper* (Dutton) and *Stories from the Big Chair* (McElderry).

Good writing about universal childhood experiences in picture books can live for many generations, although the art may not. The staying power of gifted writers Margaret Wise Brown and Charlotte Zolotow is evident as one reads the **newly illustrated** editions of their works which continue to appeal to young children today. The publisher and/or artist's decision to develop new artwork featuring an African-American family to illustrate a new edition of Brown's *Baby Animals* (Random House) is a welcome dimension of the reappearance of this book in 1989. The continuing revision of information as well as visual material in the Let's-Read-And-Find-Out science series resulted in a new edition of *My Five Senses* (Crowell) presenting an Asian-American child throughout the book. We applaud this particular expression of universality, occasioned by decisions within the publishing process. Such decisions are no doubt influenced by the commercial certainty that parents, teachers and librarians want to buy books featuring many kinds of families, not just books about themselves, and that children want to read them.

Another noticeable aspect in publishing is the **global dimension** of themes and topics in children's and young adult literature today. An increase in the number of **translated** novels is apparent in the books published in the U.S. for young readers in 1989. The Russian novel *Forever Nineteen* (Lippincott) is seen by some readers as a companion to *All Quiet on the Western Front*. *The Pup Grew Up* (Holt) was first written years ago by a Russian author; its freshness and humor provide one of the year's best chuckles. Due in part to successful media promotion, the most prominent of the books reflecting the growing exchanges and commerce between political and economic entities is *Here Comes the Cat!* (Scholastic), a bilingual picture book created by two artists working in collaboration: an American and a Russian. *The Abduction* (Farrar) is an exquisitely written Norwegian novel exploring a tragic clash between cultures. E.P. Dutton won this year's ALA/ALSC Mildred L. Batchelder Award for publishing *Buster's World*, a noteworthy realistic Danish novel already popular in other languages and formats abroad and available here in a videocassette adaptation. Whatever the reason for the book's comparatively tardy appearance in the U.S.A., Dutton deserves commendation for publishing it here. Very few books from Latin American countries were published in translation during the 1980s in the U.S.A. *The Enchanted Raisin* (Latin American Literary Review Press) from Chile and *The Companions* (Farrar) from Brazil may represent an end-of-the-decade promise that we will see more in the 1990s. Some of the stunning 1989 novels written in English but first published elsewhere are *Eva* (Delacorte) from Great Britain and *In Lane Three*, *Alex Archer* (Houghton) from New Zealand.

Yet another kind of universality emerges in books with a planetary perspective, such as *Animals, Animals* (Philomel) and *Is Anybody Up?* (Putnam). Books emphasizing the fragile habitats required to sustain wildlife include *Saving Our Wildlife* (Enslow), *Box Turtle at Long Pond* (Greenwillow), *Tenrec's Twigs* (Philomel), first published in Great Britain, and *At the Frog Pond* (Lippincott), first published in Germany. Many nations and cultures are represented in *Eating the Alphabet* (Harcourt), a global approach to thinking about origins of foods often taken for granted by many children as available in all seasons and places.

Valentine & Orson (Farrar) is a classic from long-standing traditional literature unknown to today's readers prior to the advent of Nancy Ekholm Burkert's elegant new edition in 1989. Like other types of traditional literature given new form and audience this year,

Valentine & Orson, as well as *Proud Knight, Fair Lady* (Viking), involves **timeless, universally powerful story elements**. *Lucie Babbidge's House* (Crowell) is a brilliant, fully original novel resonating with universal themes. Incorporating the traditional "Jack and the Beanstalk" tale within its many-layered story, *Lucie Babbidge's House* is timeless in content, exceptional in form and innovative in style. *Number the Stars* (Houghton) is a less complex, unique novel for younger readers which includes references to the folktale "Little Red Riding Hood." The young adult novel *Celine* (Farrar) exemplifies a trend observed by *Booklist* reviewers: books with good stories for younger teens which also provide greater substance, diversity and literary excellence for more sophisticated teen readers. Ingeniously conceived, expertly crafted books which unfold additional stories and levels of understanding with subsequent readings, offer the promise of pleasure now and for generations to come.

Intergenerational themes constituted an important dimension of children's books throughout the decade. Marvelously re-created experiences between elders and children can be found in *The Big Alfie and Annie Rose Storybook* (Lothrop), *The Grandpa Days* (Simon & Schuster), *In Two Worlds* (Houghton), *The Shimmershine Queens* (Putnam), *Uncle Vova's Tree* (Philomel) and *A Visit with Great-Grandma* (Whitman), to name only a few.

AIDS continued to be a prominent topic in literature for children and young adults at the close of the 1980s. *Children and the AIDS Virus* (Clarion), *Fighting Back* (Putnam), and *Losing Uncle Tim* (Whitman) provide information on a personal level to young readers, some of whom have a tragic first-hand knowledge of the subject to bring to their reading.

1989 was a year when the adult-known names and reputations of remarkably diverse celebrity authors were affixed to books for the young, generating curiosity if not sales. Danielle Steel, Judy Collins, Mark Helprin, Jane Goodall, Umberto Eco and the Duchess of York all competed in book stores with the Three Little Pigs and Little Red Riding Hood. In a time when name recognition sells, **new authors and artists** who are otherwise unknown need to be brought to the attention of potential readers. We particularly admire the timely, inventive humor and original writing style of first-time novelist Francesca Lia Block in *Weetzie Bat* (Zolotow/Harper); the exquisite use of language and the singular voice of A.M. Homes in *Jack* (Macmillan); the skill of Angela Johnson in creating through dialogue a story about memory in *Tell Me a Story, Mama* (Orchard); and Esther Silverstein Blanc's talent for reshaping a memorable family experience into story in *Berchick* (Volcano Press). First novelist Suzanne Fisher Staples was astonishingly successful in combining her gifts in plotting and character development with the integration of details reflecting late-20th century Pakistani desert culture in *Shabanu* (Knopf). Visual artists whose first books show great promise include Lisa Desimini, Sarah Garland, J. Brian Pinkney, Véronique Tadjo, John Ward and David Wisniewski. Name recognition can be disadvantageous when an author or artist's previously published works lead readers to expect a specific style or type of book. Established authors and artists who took this type of risk in 1989 by trying something new include Lois Lowry, *Number the Stars* (Houghton); Gary Paulsen, *The Winter Room* (Orchard); Kevin Henkes, *Shhhh* (Greenwillow); and Nicki Weiss, *Where Does the Brown Bear Go?* (Greenwillow). Authors known for picture book texts whose first novels were published in 1989 include George Shannon, *Unlived Affections* (Zolotow/Harper) and Camille Yarbrough, *The Shimmershine Queens* (Putnam). Gregory Maguire turned from fantasy to science fiction in *I Feel Like the Morning Star* (Harper); Bill Peet; *An Autobiography* (Houghton) broke new ground by combining the

techniques of picture-book making with a full-length biography; and Patricia and Fredrick McKissack developed a bold account of otherwise little known U.S. history in *Long Hard Journey; The Story of the Pullman Porter* (Walker).

The McKissacks' book is one of the 48 titles by 41 Black authors and illustrators published in 1989 in the U.S.A. Seven of these titles (15%) were published by small independent presses, five of which are owned and operated by African-Americans: Black Butterfly/Writers & Readers; Creative Press Works; Gumbs & Thomas; Just Us Books; and Third World Press. The 48 titles encompass folklore, original poetry, biography, fiction, picture books, books of information and books about the holidays Kwanzaa and Christmas. *Have a Happy...* (Bradbury) is the first children's novel since Sharon Bell Mathis' *Listen for the Fig Tree* (Viking, 1974) to include details of a Kwanzaa celebration. *Chita's Christmas Tree* (Bradbury) and *Bells of Christmas* (Harcourt) are especially noteworthy; although each is distinctive, they both concern an African-American family's Christmas observance in the late 1880s. As in previous years, we observe that contemporary Latino, Asian-American and Native American life and living are virtually unrepresented in the world of newly published books for children and young adults. This is not the case with presentations of contemporary African-American life in 1989 books, which include *The Black Snowman* (Scholastic); *Nathaniel Talking* (Black Butterfly/Writers & Readers); *The Shimmershine Queens* (Putnam); *Tell Me a Story, Mama* (Orchard); and *Willie's Not the Hugging Kind* (Harper). The number of books this year by Black authors and illustrators shows a considerable increase in comparison with the past four years. We documented 18 books in 1985 and 1986; 30 in 1987; and 38 in 1988. We know we missed one or more books each year since we began documenting these numbers at the Cooperative Children's Book Center in 1985. It is important to keep in mind, however, the estimated number of newly published books for the young when reflecting upon these statistics. The number of books published in the U.S.A. between 1985 and 1989 by Black authors and illustrators is woefully small, but the overall high quality of these particular books is noteworthy. They are few in number and generally are notable, enjoyable, unique and/or important. These books deserve the attention of all adults interested in finding, buying and sharing books with the young.

1989 marked a year of tremendous loss in the children's book field. We mourned the untimely deaths of many authors and illustrators whose careers were cut short in mid-life: Donald Carrick, Sylvia Cassedy, Dayal Kaur Khalsa, Norma Klein, George Selden, John Steptoe and Margot Zemach. The 1989 deaths of authors and artists whose long lives and careers contributed significantly to the young through the books they created include: Birago Diop, Walter Farley, Lorenz Graham, May McClintock (May Garelick), Scott O'Dell, May Swenson and Ronald Syme. One of the heartening aspects in the children's book field is that one's efforts can continue after death through the impact one's books make on children and young adults in succeeding years. In part, this impact depends upon the adults who discover books they want to share with, give to or even teach to the young people in their professional or personal lives. We created this issue of *CCBC Choices* informed by the queries the CCBC received every month in 1989 from teachers and librarians and from university students in the process of becoming teachers and librarians. We know they are searching for books with accurate information on matters important to the children in their schools and libraries. These CCBC users know that children and young teenagers may have questions or need information in order to understand a friend, family member, neighbor, classmate or even themselves a bit better. They are looking for well-written stories and entertaining books. People who work with

children want to find books to engage the attention and spark the curiosity of children for whom reading is new or, perhaps, difficult. In 1989, the Year of the Young Reader, we once again sought to assist colleagues on campus, in schools and in libraries who are trying to meet the needs and reading interests of all young readers. In *CCBC Choices* we suggest a wide variety of excellent books for our colleagues' consideration. Every book here is not necessarily for every child or classroom or family. We hope, however, that everyone using *CCBC Choices* finds books from this new Golden Age which will have an impact on the children and teenagers in their lives.

Our Process

In making our selections of *CCBC Choices 1989*, 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.

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

Of the 257 titles listed in *CCBC Choices 1989*, 46 represent the first published works of their authors or illustrators; 47 were first published outside of the U.S.A.; nine were published by alternative presses and one other originated with an alternative press; 13 books are translations. Of the books we recommend, 179 did not appear on any other nationally distributed list of the year's best books as of February, 1990.

Prices and ISBNs are cited for the hardcover library editions of books. Editions and prices are subject to change and can be verified in the current edition of *Children's Books in Print or Books in Print* (R. R. Bowker).

The Friends of the CCBC, Inc., made possible the professional design, typesetting, printing and binding of this publication. We appreciate their continuing commitment to providing librarians, teachers and others with an attractive, easy-to-use edition of *CCBC Choices 1989*.

Kathleen T. Horning and Ginny Moore Kruse

2 HISTORY, PEOPLE AND PLACES

Addy, Sharon Hart. *A VISIT WITH GREAT-GRANDMA*. Illustrated by Lydia Halverson. Albert Whitman. 32 pages. (0-8075-8497-5) \$11.95

Barbara spends a special afternoon with her Czechoslovakian great-grandmother, baking kolach, looking at old photographs and basking in the warmth of an elder's company. Although great-grandma speaks little English and Barbara speaks little Czech they have a close relationship as they communicate with "ears, eyes and heart." (Ages 7-10)

Ancona, George and Mary Beth (Miller). *HANDTALK ZOO*. Four Winds. 28 pages. (0-02-700801-0) \$14.95

A multiracial group of five children and two adults spend a typical day at the zoo in a companion volume to *Handtalk* (1974) and *Handtalk Birthday* (1987). Clear color photographs record their conversations throughout the day in American Sign Language, the form of language which the children use naturally. Vivid color photographs of the zoo animals they see are labeled in both ASL and fingerspelling. (Ages 4-9)

Anderson, Joan. *THE AMERICAN FAMILY FARM*. Photographs by George Ancona. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 90 pages. (0-15-203025-5) \$18.95

The daily lives of three farm families are documented in short texts and numerous black-and-white photographs. Anderson carefully chose three families to represent the American farm experience: a white family of dairy farmers in Massachusetts; an African-American family in Georgia who raise chickens and have organized a farm cooperative; and a white Iowan family who raise hogs and grain organically. Through their first-person statements and Ancona's particularly powerful photographs, the families emerge as distinct individuals who have in common a commitment to the tradition of living off the land. (Ages 9-14)

Blanc, Esther Silverstein. *BERCHICK*. Illustrated by Tennessee Dixon. Volcano Press. (P.O. Box 270, Volcano, CA 95689) 28 pages. (0-912078-81-2) \$14.95

An unusual work of short fiction details the life of a Jewish homesteading family living in Wyoming at the turn of the century. After Mama finds an orphaned colt in their north pasture, everyone takes part in caring for him, and the little colt, called "Berchick," soon shows himself to be intelligent and spirited. During Berchick's first three years, he is regarded as a pet and Mama, in particular, has a soft spot in her heart for him. But when the family's crops fail and they must seek their fortune in town, they are forced to sell Berchick. The eloquent story, told in first-person from the youngest daughter's point of view, is accompanied by detailed black-and-white paintings. (Age 7-10)

Ellis, Veronica Freeman. *AFRO-BETS FIRST BOOK ABOUT AFRICA; AN INTRODUCTION FOR YOUNG READERS*. Illustrated by George Ford. Just Us Books (301 Main St. Suite 22-24, Orange, NJ 07050) 31 pages. (0-940975-12-2) \$13.95; pbk ed. (0-940975-03-3) \$6.95

A Ghanaian visitor to a classroom answers questions about his continent posed by a group of curious African-American children. Mr. Amegashi's natural-sounding conversation with the children provides a wealth of information about Africa's history, geography and cultures, stressing the diversity of this rich continent. Outstanding page designs use full-color illustrations and a combination of color and black-and-white photographs, all clearly reproduced and perfectly placed. (Ages 6-12)

Fisher, Leonard Everett. *THE WAILING WALL*. Macmillan. 28 pages. (0-02-735310-9) \$14.95

The history of the Jerusalem Temple Wall is explained in a short text illustrated with action-filled black-and-white pictures. A chronology of the First and Second Temples, two maps

and page decorations symbolizing religious and secular aspects of the Middle East assist readers to follow the complex background events concerning this important site. (Ages 5-12)

Hewett, Joan. **GETTING ELECTED; THE DIARY OF A CAMPAIGN.** Photographs by Richard Hewett. Lodestar/E.P. Dutton. 48 pages. (0-525-67259-1) \$13.95

A photo-essay traces from start to finish the successful campaign of Gloria Molina, running for city council in Los Angeles. Descriptions of campaign procedures, such as speeches, press conferences, debates and envelope-stuffing, are enriched by details specific to Ms. Molina's experiences as a Chicana activist campaigning in a newly created district of mostly Hispanic voters. (Ages 8-12)

Horenstein, Henry. **SAM GOES TRUCKING.** Houghton Mifflin. 38 pages. (0-395-44313-X) \$14.95

Briefly captioned color photographs recount young Sam's day as he accompanies Dad on his rounds in his sixteen-wheeler truck. Many preschoolers will be thrilled with this highly visual, insider's view of a typical day aboard a big red truck. (Ages 2-5)

Jenness, Aylette and Alice Rivers. **IN TWO WORLDS; A YUP'IK ESKIMO FAMILY.** Photographs by Aylette Jenness. Houghton Mifflin. 84 pages. (0-395-42797-5) \$13.95

A photo-documentary account of life examines the same Bering Sea village and family in the early to mid-20th century and also during the late 1980s. Two voices speak: Alice Rivers, a middle-aged woman has lived in Scammon Bay all her life, and writer Aylette Jenness who met Alice while researching *DWELLERS OF THE TUNDRA* (1970). Life at home, in school, around the village, and out on the tundra is described and pictured, showing how the fast-changing society outside affects the land and the people of a small community once isolated in the tundra. (Ages 7-14)

Kandoian, Ellen. **IS ANYBODY UP?** G.P. Putnam's Sons. 32 pages. (0-399-21749-5) \$14.95

As she prepares a simple breakfast for herself, a young girl, who is the first in her household to awaken, thinks about her counterparts in Quebec, Miami, Haiti, Peru, and elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere who are also awakening and greeting the day. The simple text and the softly colored watercolor illustrations introduce a concept of interest to preschoolers. A note to adults on time and time zones is included at the end of the story. (Ages 2-4)

Katz, William Loren and Marc Crawford. **THE LINCOLN BRIGADE; A PICTURE HISTORY.** Atheneum. 84 pages. (0-689-31408-X) \$14.95

Approximately 2,800 U.S. activists, idealists and other served voluntarily as part of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade which fought in the Spanish Civil War between 1936 and 1938. The black-and-white photographs of Langston Hughes and Ernest Hemingway at the book's opening may serve as points of general familiarity to young readers. The final chapter covers the 50th anniversary events in Spain during 1986 and 1988, showing survivors whose names become familiar during the reading about a time in 20th-century history about which little is generally written for the young. (Ages 9-14)

McKissack, Patricia and Fredrick. **A LONG HARD JOURNEY; THE STORY OF THE PULLMAN PORTER.** Walker. 144 pages. (0-8027-6884-9) \$17.95

The authors combined in-depth research from primary and secondary sources to provide an uncompromising account of the history of African-Americans who worked as porters aboard George Pullman's luxury sleeping cars. While the first generation of porters were newly freed from slavery and grateful for work, poor working conditions and mistreatment at the hands of management led succeeding generations to unite in a struggle for better pay and fair treatment, under the leadership of A. Philip Randolph. Songs, stories, first-person accounts and numerous black-and-white photographs accompany the narrative which is unique in its content. (Age 11 and older)

Marie, D. **TEARS FOR ASHAN.** Illustrated by Norman Childers. Creative Press Works (P.O. Box 280556, Memphis TN 38128) 32 pages. (0-9621681-0-6) \$10.95

An uncommon perspective on slavery is provided in a short, understated story about an African boy who faces trauma and grief when his best friend is kidnapped by European slavers and taken away in a big ship. Cultural details combine with deep human emotions to invest the story with a strong Afrocentric point of view, making this a unique, important contribution to the literature on a painful part of history. (Ages 7-11)

Meltzer, Milton, editor. **VOICES FROM THE CIVIL WAR; A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE GREAT AMERICAN CONFLICT.** Thomas Y. Crowell. 203 pages. (0-690-04802-5) \$13.89

Meltzer's organization of documentary material enables people from the Civil War years to express their experiences themselves. Excerpts from personal letters, journals, memoirs, newspaper reports, interviews, ballads, testimony in public hearings, speeches, etc., become a collage of perspectives combined with Meltzer's brief introductory note for each person and/or event. He modernizes the text as necessary for conformity of spelling and punctuation and clarity of understanding. (Age 12-adult)

Morris, Ann. **BREAD BREAD BREAD.** Photographs by Ken Heyman. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages. (0-688-06335-7) \$11.88

———. **HATS HATS HATS.** Photographs by Ken Heyman. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages. (0-688-06339-X) \$11.88

From Ecuador to England, Ghana to Hong Kong, people around the world eat bread and wear hats. In each volume, appealing color photographs are accompanied by a few words to accentuate the differences and similarities of these two basic necessities worldwide. An illustrated index on the two final pages identifies the nations in which the photographs were taken and provides a brief written cultural context. (Ages 2-5)

Rosenblum, Richard. **THE OLD SYNAGOGUE.** Edward E. Elson Book/The Jewish Publication Society. 28 pages. (0-8276-0322-3) \$12.95

The synagogue, originally built centuries ago by Jewish immigrants in a busy, thriving neighborhood, is abandoned and sold when their descendents grow up and move away. Generations later, Jewish families gradually begin moving back into the old neighborhood, rediscover the old synagogue and work to restore it. Detailed pen-and-ink drawings in black and white focus on a special building in order to document growth, deterioration and regrowth in a big city neighborhood. (Ages 7-11)

St. George, Judith. **PANAMA CANAL; GATEWAY TO THE WORLD.** G.P. Putnam's Sons. 148 pages. (0-399-21637-5) \$15.95

A history of the Panama Canal focuses on the technical and historical aspects of its construction. The roles of Presidents Roosevelt and Taft and the three chief engineers assigned to the project are balanced with accounts of working conditions and the constant battle with yellow fever. Documentary black-and-white photographs, maps and drawings expand the text and add to its appeal. (Ages 11-14)

Sandin, Joan. **THE LONG WAY WESTWARD.** (An I Can Read Book) Harper & Row. 63 pages. (0-06-025207-3) \$10.89

Carl Erik, his brother Jonas, their parents and the baby travel on crowded trains and a steamboat as they make their way to Anoka, Minnesota, via Chicago, LaCrosse and St. Paul during the late 1860s. This colorfully illustrated, episodic tribute to perseverance is a sequel to **THE LONG WAY TO A NEW LAND** (1981). (Ages 5-9).

Seed, Jenny. **NTOMBI'S SONG.** Illustrated by Anno Berry. (Night Light) U.S. edition: Beacon Press. 46 pages. (0-8070-8318-6) \$14.95

A Black South African child is very pleased and proud when her mother decides she is old enough to go into town on her own to run an errand. Ntombi feels very brave until she

reaches the forest which her older cousin has told her is haunted. She bolsters her courage in the forest by singing the special song her mother made up for her when she was born. Ntombi's trip to the store and back is filled with small challenges and triumphs in a lengthy picture book illustrated with dynamic watercolor paintings. (Ages 5-8)

Shachtman, Tom. **THE PRESIDENT BUILDS A HOUSE**. Photographs by Margaret Miller. Introduction by Jimmy Carter. Simon and Schuster. 80 pages. (0-671-67705-5) \$14.95

Andrew Young, Jimmy Carter and Rosalyn Carter are just three of the many volunteers who work to build and renovate houses for a Christian outreach program called Habitat for Humanity. These houses are then sold at no profit to low-income families. The cooperative efforts of the diverse group of volunteers and future home-owners are described in an unusual photo-essay which demonstrates "what can be done—if people will work for change." (Ages 9-12)

Turner, Dorothy. **MILK**. Illustrated by John Yates. U.S. edition: Carolrhoda. 32 pages. (0-87614-361-3) \$9.95

A basic introduction to milk sources, production and processing, and milk products is illustrated with color photographs and drawings. Distinctive for its global perspective on milk, the clearly written text concludes with simple recipes for making yogurt, raita (an East Indian yogurt) and ice cream. (Ages 6-9)

Turner, Glennette Tilley. **TAKE A WALK IN THEIR SHOES**. Illustrated by Elton C. Fax. Cobblehill/E.P. Dutton. 174 pages. (0-525-65006-7) \$14.95

Brief biographical essays about 14 African-Americans are followed by short dramatizations for children to act out. Arthur A. Schomburg, Leontyne Price, Garrett A. Morgan and Ida B. Wells are a few of the individuals included in this original approach to bringing these achievers to life. Much hard-to-find information is made easily accessible a handsomely designed volume. (Ages 8-12)

See also: ABC books by Mayers; *Abduction*; *And One for All*; *Andi's War*; *Bells of Christmas*; *Bill Peet*; *Black Snowman*; *Children of the River*; *Chita's Christmas Tree*; *Forever Nineteen*; *Four Questions*; *Gift from St. Francis*; *Have a Happy . . .*; *Island of Ogres*; *News About Dinosaurs*; *Number the Stars*; *Season of Secret Wishes*; *Shabanu*; *Shimmershine Queens*; *Snow Day*; *Story of Hanukkah*; *Valentine & Orson*; *War at Home*; *We Were Not Like Other People*; *Folklore*; *Biography*

3 THE NATURAL WORLD

Arnold, Caroline. **DINOSAUR MOUNTAIN; GRAVEYARD OF THE PAST**.

Photographs by Richard Hewett. Clarion. 48 pages. (0-89919-693-4) \$14.95

Recent discoveries within the Dinosaur National Monument in Utah comprise the core of this account of late 20th century paleontology. The color photographs dominating the book show pictures of paleontologists at work outdoors and inside, scale photographs of humans with dinosaur bones, and museum displays of dinosaur skeletons and models. (Ages 4-11)

Arnosky, Jim. **COME OUT, MUSKRATS**. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 24 pages.

(0-688-05458-6) \$12.88

As the late afternoon turns to evening, the muskrats are just coming out to begin a period of vigorous activity that will last through the night. Observations about muskrat life are

related in a simple, second-person narrative, accompanied by accurate full-color illustrations. (Ages 2-4)

Cole, Joanna. THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS INSIDE THE HUMAN BODY.

Illustrated by Bruce Degen. Scholastic/Hardcover. 38 pages. (0-590-41426-7) \$13.95

The indomitable Ms. Frizzle and her class of scientific adventurers set off on another of their unusual class trips—this time through the human body. Cole successfully combines information with fantasy and humor in an original and entertaining lesson about human physiology. (Ages 7-10)

Florian, Douglas. NATURE WALK. Greenwillow. 32 pages. (0-688-08269-6) \$12.95

A rhyming text composed of one or two words per page highlights the sights two children and an adult see on their hike through the woods. Child readers are encouraged to make their own observations by using an illustrated appendix at the book's end to match the labeled plants and animals cited with the unlabeled plants and animals appearing throughout the book in the crayon and ink illustrations. (Ages 3-5)

George, William T. BOX TURTLE AT LONG POND. Illustrated by Lindsay Barrett

George. Greenwillow. 24 pages. (0-688-08185-1) \$12.95

Resplendent full-color gouache paintings provide a turtle's-eye view of a typical day at the edge of Long Pond. A passing chipmunk, a gentle rain and a feeding raccoon contribute to the subtle drama of life in the natural world. (Ages 3-5)

Gibbons, Gail. MONARCH BUTTERFLY. Holiday House. 28 pages. (0-8234-0773-X)

\$13.95

Bold, full-color illustrations chart the metamorphosis of the monarch, from egg to butterfly, concluding with a description of migration and easy instructions for raising monarchs from caterpillars. (Ages 4-7)

Goodall, Jane. THE CHIMPANZEE FAMILY BOOK. Photographs by Michael

Neugebauer. (An Animal Family Book) U.S. edition: Picture Book Studio. 64 pages.

(0-88708-090-1) \$17.95

The acclaimed naturalist shares her observations of a chimpanzee family as she follows them over the course of one day in their natural environment. The straight-forward, concise account is enhanced by engaging, color photographs which appear on every page. (Ages 6-12)

Hirschi, Ron. WHERE DO HORSES LIVE? Photographs by Linda Quartman

Younker and Ron Hirschi. Walker. 32 pages. (0-8027-6879-2) \$11.95

"Horses live on farms, high in western mountains, beside the sea, and on the open plain . . ." begins a spare text which lists several types of environments where horses can be found. Each place is accompanied by a color photograph extending over a double-page spread with a smaller color photograph inset to illustrate the variety of places where horses can be found. (Ages 3-6)

Lacey, Elizabeth A. THE COMPLETE FROG; A GUIDE FOR THE VERY

YOUNG NATURALIST. Illustrated by Christopher Santoro. Lothrop, Lee &

Shepard. 71 pages. (0-688-08018-9) \$12.95

Detailed black-and-white pencil drawings illustrate basic information about frogs. Lacey's style is fluid and often witty as she explains frog physiology, how they live and grow, and how to tell the difference between a frog and a toad. A large, clear typeface and variation in page layouts contribute to a handsome design, making the content inviting and accessible to young readers. (Ages 7-11)

Lauber, Patricia. THE NEWS ABOUT DINOSAURS. Bradbury. 48 pages.

(0-02-754520-2) \$14.95

Lauber briefly presents nine outdated scientific theories about dinosaurs, following each one with an account of recent discoveries which led scientists to change their thinking. Dramatic

full-color paintings by several artists accompany the text; many have a nearly photographic quality which will greatly appeal to young dinosaur enthusiasts. (Ages 4-12)

MacCarthy, Patricia. **ANIMALS GALORE!** Dial. 24 pages. (0-8037-0721-5) \$11.95

Brilliant batik paintings colorfully illustrate groups of animals while a brief text identifies specific group names: a shoal of fish, a bed of eels, a pack of wolves, etc. MacCarthy's appealing pictures are large and clearly reproduced, making this perfect for group sharing. (Ages 3-6)

Michels, Tilde. **AT THE FROG POND.** Translated from the German by Nina Ignatowicz. Illustrated by Reinhard Michl. U.S. edition: J.B. Lippincott. 32 pages. (0-397-32315-8) \$11.89

A gentle, poetic text invites the reader to open the senses to all forms of life that live and grow in and around the frog pond. Softly textured full-color paintings evoke a mood of harmony, as they detail the pond life described in the text and encourage consideration of the importance of the environment. (Ages 6-9)

Pringle, Laurence. **BEARMAN; EXPLORING THE WORLD OF BLACK BEARS.**

Photographs by Lynn Rogers. Charles Scribner's Sons. 42 pages. (0-684-19094-X) \$13.95

The life and work of a Minnesota wildlife biologist who studies black bears is recounted with a concise text and clear color photographs. A wealth of factual information, based on the biologist's observations, is interwoven into the account, dispelling many common misconceptions people have about bears. (Ages 8-11)

Roop, Peter and Connie Roop. **SEASONS OF THE CRANES.** Walker. 28 pages. (0-8027-6860-1) \$14.95

Color photographs and a short text chronicle the life cycle of whooping cranes by following the activities of one crane family from spring through winter. The cranes' struggle for survival in an increasingly hostile world is a key concept in an accessible science book. (Ages 8-12)

See also: *Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs; Guess Where You're Going, Guess What You'll Do; Lost Lake; My Spring Robin; Rabbit Spring; Saving Our Wildlife; Seeds of Change; Tenrec's Twigs; Turtle Day; Turtle in July*

4 SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS

Cole, Joanna. **A GIFT FROM SAINT FRANCIS; THE FIRST CRÈCHE.** Illustrated by Michèle Lemieux. William Morrow. 28 pages. (0-688-06503-1) \$13.95

A picture book fictionalizing the life and works of Francis of Assisi, Italy, begins with young Francis' rejection of family wealth and material goods. He wanted to demonstrate that happiness came not from money but from loving God through service to people in poverty, even to creatures such as animals and birds. In the early 13th century, Francis' vision of a living nativity scene on a hillside near Greccio was realized, serving to inspire the continuing custom of the Christmas crèche in many parts of the world. Luminous full-color paintings and end papers contribute a sense of time, place and wonder. (Ages 3-7)

DePaola, Tomie. **MY FIRST CHANUKAH.** G.P. Putnam's Sons. 12 pages. (0-399-21780-0) \$5.95

Sturdy laminated 7½" x 7" board pages illustrate familiar Chanukah family activities and objects in bright colors. The text of the first of six double-page spreads is "Chanukah is the

Feast of Lights. / Every year we celebrate it for eight nights. We light / candles to remember / Judah the Maccabee and his brothers . . ." A warmly expressed explanation for the youngest. (Ages 6 months-3 years)

Ehrlich, Amy. *THE STORY OF HANUKKAH*. Illustrated by Ori Sherman. Dial. 24 pages. (0-8037-0616-2) \$14.89

Dramatic gouache paintings illustrate a picture book account of the historic events celebrated the world over during the feast of Hanukkah. As well as telling about Matthaia's, his son Judah the Maccabee and the Jews whose faith enabled the lamp of the Jerusalem temple to burn for eight days and nights, the text explains the background of this observance which "proclaims God's glory and the freedom of the Jews." (Ages 3-8)

Florian, Douglas. *A YEAR IN THE COUNTRY*. Greenwillow. 32 pages. (0-688-08187-8) \$12.95

With the names of the twelve months in a large typeface and colorful illustrations suggesting a family's outside activities during each month, an almost wordless picture book ends where it began by showing a snowy January landscape. Gardening progress and crop growth are signs of the four seasons. Varying uses of the nearby pond and fields indicate a year's passage while details such as a Christmas wreath on the farmhouse door denote specific months. (Ages 2-5)

Fowler, Susi Gregg. *WHEN SUMMER ENDS*. Illustrated by Marisabina Russo. Greenwillow. 32 pages. (0-688-07606-8) \$11.88

A little girl, who is disappointed to find summer ending, is reminded by her mother about the things she likes about each season: Halloween, piles of crisp leaves to jump in, the first frost, Thanksgiving, Christmas, building fat snowmen, Easter, watching the geese come back . . . "Oh," she always says, remembering why she especially enjoys each part of the year. Full-color paintings capture the essence of year-round family life indoors and out. (Ages 3-6)

Hamilton, Virginia. *THE BELLS OF CHRISTMAS*. Illustrated by Lambert Davis. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 60 pages. (0-15-206450-8) \$16.95

A handsome 10¼" x 8¼" tribute to childlike anticipation of recurring seasonal events takes place a hundred years ago in 12-year-old Jason Bell's home beside the historic National Road near Springfield, Ohio. The plot moves quickly, and characterizations are vivid. As well as experiencing Jason's 1890 Christmas, readers are treated to abundant dialogue and short sentences reminiscent of writing for children a hundred years ago. Likewise, the full-color acrylic paintings on every double-page spread utilize an illustration style a century old. The story offers multiple references to independence, to bells, to travel across space and time and to carefully researched details about this period. Appreciation of individuality rings loud and clear through Jason's Papa, a self-employed master carpenter who has a wooden leg and a wheel-a-chair, and Mama, also her own boss as a seamstress. An invigorating sense of this loving African-American family's continuity combines with a warm expression of noncommercialized holiday joy. The design and layout choices serve the story and illustrations well and are exemplary of superior book making. Inviting for family reading, the book deserves consideration as a future classic. (Ages 5-11)

Howard, Elizabeth Fitzgerald. *CHITA'S CHRISTMAS TREE*. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Bradbury. 30 pages. (0-02-744621-2) \$13.95

"In a tall house in the middle of old Baltimore, a little girl named Chita bounces out of bed . . . 'Will Papa listen to any hearts today?' asks Chita. 'No hearts, no pulses,' says Papa. 'My patients don't need to see me today. Today we will ride into the deep, deep woods and find Chita's Christmas tree . . .'" Six brief episodes convey the little girl's excitement: A Special Saturday; The Waffle Man; The Deep, Deep Woods; Baking Cookies; Christmas Eve; and Christmas Morning. Full-color cinematic illustrations and a short text invite readers to imagine the December in 1911 of three-year-old Elizabeth McCard, daughter of one of Baltimore's first African-American physicians, whose childhood photograph is on the back

of the book. She is the author's cousin and is alive today, still nicknamed "Chita." (Ages 2-6)

Hughes, Shirley. *ANGEL MAE; A TALE OF TROTTER STREET*. U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 24 pages. (0-688-08539-3) \$12.95

Mae Morgan's mom, dad and big brother Frankie—and even her grandma who lives near their third story apartment—are getting ready for the baby they expect to be born about Christmas time. Mae looks for ways to help and to express her ambivalent feelings about the baby. At school she feels less uncertain. She'll be the "Angel Gave-You" in a play about the baby Jesus being born. Each production occurs, more or less as planned. Hughes' talent for creating preschool families is matchless. Her true-to-life characterizations of children from several racial backgrounds all acting their ages are faultless. Her sensitivity to the ordinary muddles of a child's daily life allows humor without condescension or ridicule. This fast-moving story about anticipation has appeal in all seasons. (Ages 2-7)

Koralek, Jenny, reteller. *THE COBWEB CURTAIN; A CHRISTMAS STORY*. Illustrated by Pauline Baynes. U.S. edition: Henry Holt. 32 pages. (0-8050-1051-3)

Beginning at the traditional manger, the tale continues with Joseph and Mary's escape with the Christ child to a cave where a spider's web protects them from the king's soldiers. Christmas tree tinsel might be a reminder of the legend of the Christmas Spider. (Ages 4-8)

Low, Alice, selector. *THE FAMILY READ-ALoud CHRISTMAS TREASURY*. Illustrated by Marc Brown. Joy Street Books/Little, Brown. 136 pages. (0-316-53371-8) \$17.95

The table of contents listing the 54 selections in this marvelous collection of mostly classic, mostly secular stories, poems and folktales reads like a who's-who of writing. Eleanor Farjeon, John Updike, Beverly Cleary, A. A. Milne, Judith Viorst, Pura Belpré and Langston Hughes are but a few of the authors represented in an 11¼ x 8¼" volume illustrated in full color with an abundance of appeal. (Ages 3-11)

Maestro, Betsy. *SNOW DAY*. Illustrated by Giulio Maestro. Scholastic. 32 pages. (0-590-41283-3) \$12.95

The combination of efforts required of work crews and individuals digging out after a snow storm big enough for schools to close is shown in realistically detailed full-color paintings and drawings. The artist used photographs from the Oshkosh Truck Corporation to prepare the illustrations showing snow removal equipment. (Ages 3-7)

Neitzel, Shirley. *THE JACKET I WEAR IN THE SNOW*. Illustrated by Nancy Winslow Parker. Greenwillow. 32 pages. (0-688-08030-8) \$11.95

An easy full-color rebus enumerates ten items of clothing worn by a young child on a winter day. A catchy rhythm recounts frustrations familiar to anyone small bundled up for play in the snow. (Ages 2-6)

Polacco, Patricia. *UNCLE VOVA'S TREE*. Philomel. 32 pages. (0-399-21617-0) \$14.95

The artist/author's childhood memories of Russian Orthodox Christmas celebrations yield homey details of foods, decorations, activities and specific family members, showing how annual observances sustain cultural and personal ties. Mixed media illustrations capture the warmth of a particular tradition and of one extended family. (Ages 5-9)

Rockwell, Anne. *MY SPRING ROBIN*. Illustrated by Harlow Rockwell & Lizzy Rockwell. Macmillan. 21 pages. (0-02-777611-5) \$12.95

A little child notices the blossoms of a crocus bed, forsythia bush, magnolia tree, fuzzy fiddlehead ferns, yellow daffodils, purple violets and—finally—she observes the return of a robin she enjoyed last summer. A brief and colorful review of spring signs. (Ages 2-6)

Rogers, Jacqueline. **THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**. Grosset & Dunlap. 32 pages. (0-448-40151-7) \$12.95

A text loosely adapted from the King James version of the Christmas Story is expanded by the gently humorous, generally realistic portrayal of a community dramatization with an all-child cast. From backstage chaos with live animals to onstage giggles, the production evokes both smiles and insights engendered by earnest thespians. The music and first verses of six carols are interspersed with the full-color illustrations which relay two Christmas stories in one. (Ages 2-8)

Samuels, Barbara. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DOLORES**. Orchard. 28 pages. (0-531-08391-8) \$13.95

Dolores tries to be a polite hostess during her fifth birthday party, but difficulties arise with Stewie's behavior and the family cat's unexpected appearance. Action and humor earmark the third picture book story about this free-spirited heroine. (Ages 3-6)

Schwartz, Lynne Sharon. **THE FOUR QUESTIONS**. Illustrated by Ori Sherman. Dial. 32 pages. (0-8037-0601-4) \$15.89

An ingeniously conceived and developed bilingual English/Hebrew explanation of Passover involves full-color gouache paintings, two to each split-frame page. Families gathered for the Passover holiday can place the book on the Seder table for children on both sides to see the beautifully created animal characters eating matzoh, etc., as they listen to or read the clearly written questions and answers. The whimsical approach shows understanding of today's young children as well as respect for the heritage, traditions and meaning of Passover. (Ages 2-9)

Vigna, Judith. **BOOT WEATHER**. Albert Whitman. 32 pages. (0-8075-0837-3) \$11.95

Little Kim imagines mountain climbing, space travel, circus performance and being in Santa's sleigh while playing in new snow. Small pen-and-ink drawings with watercolor and crayon on the left-hand pages show Kim's actual activities while the full-page pictures on the right illustrate her make-believe adventures. (Ages 2-5)

Walter, Mildred Pitts. **HAVE A HAPPY . . .** Illustrated by Carole Byard. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 102 pages. (0-688-06923-1) \$10.95

Although 11-year-old Chris has four reasons for people to wish him a Happy Birthday/Christmas/Kwanzaa/New Year, this December is difficult because his father is unemployed. Uncle Ronald's leadership for this family's African-American Kwanzaa celebration gives Chris a focus for his ability to create handmade gifts as well as a new sense of the Kwanzaa principles. Honest characterizations, a brisk pace, short sentences and a genuine representation of peer and sibling interactions earmark an easy-to-read novel expanded with eight full-page black-and-white illustrations. A Swahili glossary and information about Kwanzaa follow the story. (Ages 5-12)

See also: *Big Alfie and Annie Rose Story Book*; *Christmas Memory*; *Frannie's Fruits*; *Going Up!*; *Grandpa Days*; *Guess Where You're Going, Guess What You'll Do*; *Henry and Mudge and the Forever Sea*; *Lost Lake*; *Nattie Witch*; *Rainbow Crow*; *Turtle in July*; *Winter Room*

5 ACTIVITIES

Bauman, A. F. **GUESS WHERE YOU'RE GOING, GUESS WHAT YOU'LL DO**. Illustrated by True Kelley. Houghton Mifflin. 32 pages. (0-395-50211-X) \$13.95

Alternating double-page spreads in this innovative participation book illustrate and describe preparations for a planned seasonal activity such as sledding, fishing or going to school, and

then pose the questions, "Guess where you're going? Guess what you'll do?" After guessing, the child turns the page to find the answer on a wordless double-page-spread illustration. Kelley's engaging full-color illustrations are full of humorous details which will charm the youngest guessers. (Ages 3-6)

Brown, Laurie Krasny. **BABY TIME; A GROWNUP'S HANDBOOK TO USE WITH BABY.** Illustrated by Marc Brown. Alfred A. Knopf. 40 pages. (0-394-89462-6) \$12.95

Children and teenagers who provide infant and baby care within their own families or who babysit elsewhere will welcome these practical, sound suggestions for guiding babies into the sensory experiences so important to their overall development. Examples of observation and communication experiences vital to reading readiness are detailed in this 11 3/4" x 9" book which, in itself, offers toddlers opportunities for endless pleasure. Preschool siblings will enjoy chances to name the objects and activities pictured in the dozens of softly colored drawings of baby and family life. The instructions to parents or caregivers are direct and clear, requiring minimal reading and offering maximum motivation. (Infants and toddlers/Interested and involved others)

Delacre, Lulu, editor and illustrator. **ARROZ CON LECHE; POPULAR SONGS AND RHYMES FROM LATIN AMERICA.** Scholastic/Hardcover. 32 pages. (0-590-41887-4) \$12.95

Twelve songs and rhymes familiar to children in Latin American countries appear in their original Spanish versions and in rhyming English translations. Games or fingerplays associated with several of the selections are described in notes and musical notations for the nine songs are appended. (Ages 2-5)

Staines, Bill. **ALL GOD'S CRITTERS GOT A PLACE IN THE CHOIR.** Illustrated by Margot Zemach. E.P. Dutton. 32 pages. (0-525-44469-6) \$13.95

Zemach's rich and lively watercolor paintings perfectly capture the celebratory exuberance of a contemporary folksong which calls on all animals to join in life's song in any way they can: "... the donkey brays and the pony neighs and the old coyote howls..." Musical notation for the song is included. (Ages 4-8)

See also: Animals Galore!; Christmas Pageant; Day Care ABC; Going to My Ballet Class; Grandpa Days; Have a Happy...; Jacket I Wear in the Snow; My Father; Rise and Shine; Sign Language Talk; Concept Books

6 ISSUES IN TODAY'S WORLD

A CHILDREN'S CHORUS; CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD. U.S. edition: E.P. Dutton. 32 pages. (0-525-44545-5) \$12.95

Thirty years after the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, this version reasserts these ten fundamental principals as first-person statements by children. For example, "Principal Seven: Teach us well, so that we may lead happy and useful lives. But let us play so that we may teach ourselves." Eleven of the world's children's book illustrators joined forces to illustrate this 11 1/4" x 8 5/8" tribute to a hope for the future: Anastasia Arkhipova, Danièle Bour, Michael Foreman, Helme

Heine, Satoshi Kitamura, Tony Ross, Ingrid and Dieter Schubert, Hannu Taina, Stepan Zavrel and Paul O. Zelinsky. The full text of the Declaration is included at the end of the book. (Ages 4-9)

Eco, Umberto and Eugenio Carmi. **THE THREE ASTRONAUTS**. Translated from the Italian by William Weaver. U.S. edition: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 34 pages. (0-15-286383-4) \$12.95

An original visual fantasy combines collage and abstract painting to illustrate the story of astronauts from three competitive political entities (China, United States and the Soviet Union) who land on Mars at the same time and come to appreciate their common humanity when faced with a Martian. Peace educators in particular will welcome the story's underlying message of the necessity for peaceful coexistence. (Ages 5-8)

Hausherr, Rosmarie. **CHILDREN AND THE AIDS VIRUS; A BOOK FOR CHILDREN, PARENTS & TEACHERS**. Clarion Books. 48 pages. (0-89919-834-1) \$13.95; pbk. ed. (0-395-51167-4) \$4.95

Text in a large typeface describes what AIDS is, and how it is transmitted and not transmitted (eg. insects, doorknobs, holding hands), providing clear, accurate information. Hausherr also focuses on the challenges faced by two children with AIDS, five-year-old Jonathan and ten-year-old Celeste, concluding with the reassurance that it is safe to play with, hug and share secrets with a person with AIDS. More detailed information appears in a smaller typeface throughout the books, furnishing further information for the adult or older child who wants to know more. (Ages 4-12)

Kuklin, Susan. **FIGHTING BACK; WHAT SOME PEOPLE ARE DOING ABOUT AIDS**. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 110 pages. (0-399-21621-9) \$13.95

Complex volunteer networks have evolved nationwide to offer practical help and support to people who are living with AIDS. Over a nine-month period, Kuklin documents the work of 18 individuals who are part of one such network active in New York City, Team Seven of the Gay Men's Health Crisis, which pairs each volunteer with a person with AIDS to help with housework, run errands, etc. Through extensive interviews with the volunteers and their clients, Kuklin gives a first-hand account of daily routines, personal philosophies and strong commitments to caring. (Age 13 and older)

Pringle, Laurence. **THE ANIMAL RIGHTS CONTROVERSY**. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 103 pages. (0-15-203559-1) \$16.95

The author explores moral and ethical dilemmas concerning the uses of nonhuman creatures for human pleasure, scientific experiments and food. The contemporary animal rights movement is examined with attention to its history and philosophy. Many of the past and present human benefits and medical advances stemming from research requiring animals are discussed. The examples throughout the text and the captioned photographs refer to ideas young readers can grasp and will possibly find to be disturbing, as well, although the author strives to be objective and nonsensational. An extensive list for further reading cites very recent articles and books. A list of organizations involved in animal rights issues is included, as is an index. (Age 12 and older)

———. **LIVING IN A RISKY WORLD**. William Morrow. 105 pages. (0-688-04326-7) \$12.95

A carefully developed examination of the concept of risk and perceptions of uncertainty precedes chapter discussions on various types of safety and of hazards. Concluding that risk is inevitable, Pringle believes that in a democracy citizens have a right to be informed and to participate in a dialogue about known and possible hazards to life. Captioned black-and-white photographs, a glossary, a list of government agencies responsible for health and safety matters, a list of public interest groups seeking to reduce the hazards of modern life and a bibliography of further reading are included. (Age 14 and older)

——. **NUCLEAR ENERGY; TROUBLED PAST, UNCERTAIN FUTURE.**

(Science for Survival) Macmillan. 124 pages. (0-02-775-391-3) \$13.95

Incorporating information from interviews, books, recent articles and scientific papers, Pringle updated his **NUCLEAR POWER** (1979) with the intention of clarifying major issues of the 1980s and the future concerning nuclear technology. Clearly captioned visual material, a bibliography of further reading, a glossary and an index contribute to the book's usefulness. (Age 14 and older)

——. **SAVING OUR WILDLIFE.** Enslow. 64 pages. (0-89490-204-0)

Several of the many ways people are trying to save the wild creatures of North America are discussed. Pringle points out varying motivations and strategies, briefly citing Wisconsin's barn owl captive breeding program and the involvement of volunteers in Wisconsin and other states in the maintenance of desirable wildlife habitats through the burning of prairies and pulling of purple loosestrife from lakes. Captioned black-and-white photographs, an annotated list of national organizations encouraging citizen involvement, a list of further reading and an index are included. (Ages 11-14)

Sanders, Pete and Clare Farquhar. **THE PROBLEM OF AIDS.** ("Let's Talk About"

Series) U.S. edition: Watts/Gloucester. 32 pages. (0-531-17191-4) \$10.40

Accurate information about AIDS is provided in concise answers to 14 questions dealing with definitions, transmission, protection and research. Notable for its focus on high risk behavior rather than high risk groups, the book's easy vocabulary and question-and-answer format make important information accessible to young readers, as well as older ones who have difficulty reading. (Ages 8-14)

See also: *American Family Farm*; *Eva*; *I Feel Like the Morning Star*; *Panama Canal*; *President Builds a House*; *Seasons of the Cranes*; *Tenrec's Twigs*; *When Someone You Know Is Gay*; *Natural World*

7 UNDERSTANDING ONESELF AND OTHERS

Aliki. **MY FIVE SENSES.** (A Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science Book)

Revised edition: Thomas Y. Crowell. 32 pages. (0-690-04794-0) \$12.89

A reissue of a book first published in 1962 features an Asian child talking about how he responds to the world through the use of his five senses. The uncomplicated text uses simple words and repetition to make the concepts comprehensible to the youngest listeners, and the large, full-color illustrations add to the appeal. (Ages 2-4)

Amadeo, Diana M. **THERE'S A LITTLE BIT OF ME IN JAMEY.** Illustrated by

Judith Friedman. Albert Whitman. 32 pages. (0-8075-7854-1) \$10.50

Brian experiences fear and confusion when his younger brother Jamey is diagnosed as having leukemia. Descriptions of Jamey's hospitalization, medical treatment and home care are interwoven into an honest portrayal of Brian's emotional responses to the situation, which realistically include jealousy of the attention Jamey's getting. But Brian faces his biggest challenge when he is asked to donate bone marrow for his brother. The straightforward, informative story offers reassurance without raising false hopes. (Ages 7-12)

Burns, Kay. **OUR MOM.** Photographs by Rick Reil. Franklin Watts. 48 pages.

(0-531-10677-2) \$9.90

Four children in a busy family describe some of the daily routines of their wheelchair-mobile mom, which include dressing, childcare, grocery shopping, cooking and athletics. Step-by-

step accounts of the methods she uses to move herself from bed to wheelchair and from wheelchair to car, for example, stress the active role this independent woman takes to enable herself to participate fully in her children's lives. (Ages 4-8)

Cohen, Daniel and Susan. **WHEN SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS GAY.** M. Evans. 170 pages. (0-87131-567-X) \$13.95

The authors address straight teenagers directly to give them accurate and unsensationalized information about what it means to be gay. First-hand quotations from gay and lesbian teenagers are frequently interjected into the sympathetic text which provides information from psychological, sociological and historical perspectives. (Age 12 and older)

Christiansen, C. B. **MY MOTHER'S HOUSE, MY FATHER'S HOUSE.** Illustrated by Irene Trivas. Atheneum. 32 pages. (0-689-31394-2) \$12.95

A little girl who divides her living arrangements between the houses of her separated parents knows not to take one's personal environment for granted. She thinks about the house she'll live in every day of the week when she grows up. She also imagines welcoming both her parents there. Brightly colored vignettes of present and future home activity and furnishings reflect the love of which the child feels certain midst her constant need to use a suitcase twice each week. (Ages 4-7)

Emmert, Michelle. **I'M THE BIG SISTER NOW.** Illustrated by Gail Owens. Albert Whitman. 28 pages. (0-8075-3458-7) \$11.95

Nine-year-old Michelle speaks candidly and lovingly about life with her older sister, Amy, severely disabled with cerebral palsy. Details of a daily routine involving extensive caretaking are combined with Michelle's descriptions of how she plays with Amy and how she and others feel about her. The individual personalities of both sisters emerge through Michelle's words and through the full-color illustrations in soft pastel hues. (Ages 6-10)

Greene, Laura and Eva Barash Dicker. **SIGN LANGUAGE TALK.** Franklin Watts. 95 pages. (0-531-10597-0) \$10.90

An overview of American Sign Language describes the basic features and structure in contrast to written and spoken English. Two final chapters focus on ASL games, poetry and music. Signs are illustrated throughout with clear, black-and-white line drawings. (Age 9 and older)

Holden, Dwight. **GRAN-GRAN'S BEST TRICK.** Illustrated by Michael Chesworth. Magination Press (19 Union Square West, New York, NY 10003) 54 pages. (0-945354-16-9) \$15.95, \$5.95, pbk.

A young girl who is especially close to her grandfather must cope with the fact that he is terminally ill with cancer. Her emotional responses to hospital visits, his death and funeral are skillfully depicted in a quiet narrative and soft-edged black-and-white line drawings. (Ages 7-10)

Joose, Barbara M. **DINAH'S MAD, BAD WISHES.** Illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully. Harper & Row. 32 pages. (0-06-023099-1) \$12.89

When Dinah is sent to her room for drawing on the walls with magic markers, she works through her anger at her mother by rocking in her rocking chair, imagining horrible fates for her. Meanwhile Mama works through her anger at Dinah by first scrubbing the walls, then riding her exercycle, as she recalls a similar incident from her own childhood. McCully's pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations portray the two simultaneous stories of a mother and daughter realistically dealing with anger in constructive, nonthreatening ways. (Ages 3-5)

Jordan, MaryKate. **LOSING UNCLE TIM.** Illustrated by Judith Friedman. Albert Whitman. 32 pages. (0-8075-4756-5) \$12.95

Young Daniel enjoys spending time with his favorite uncle and has difficulty accepting the news that Uncle Tim has AIDS. A simple yet realistic account of Daniel's responses to

Uncle Tim's prolonged illness and eventual death is accompanied by full-page illustrations in soft earth tones. (Ages 5-9)

Merriam, Eve. **DADDIES AT WORK**. Illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes. Simon and Schuster. 24 pages. (0-671-64873-X) \$5.95

———. **MOMMIES AT WORK**. Illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes. Revised edition: Simon and Schuster. 24 pages. (0-671-64386-X) \$5.95

Fathers and mothers of diverse ethnic and class backgrounds are shown in a variety of traditional and nontraditional work environments in two volumes which address children's curiosity about what their parents do when they're away at work. (Ages 2-4)

Simon, Norma. **I AM NOT A CRYBABY**. Illustrated by Helen Cogancherry. Albert Whitman. 40 pages. (0-8075-3447-1) \$11.95

First-person statements from several children highlight specific instances in which they cried or felt like crying. Physical pain, hurt feelings, loneliness and fear are a few of the examples cited to reassure children that crying is a natural response in many situations. (Ages 4-8)

Waxman, Stephanie. **WHAT IS A GIRL? WHAT IS A BOY?** Revised edition:

Thomas Y. Crowell. 32 pages. (0-690-04711-8) \$10.89

Black-and-white photographs of children from diverse ethnic backgrounds engaged in non-traditional activities (boys playing with dolls, girls playing basketball, for example) break down sex role stereotypes before both the text and photographs go on to explain the anatomical differences between boys and girls. A few new photographs and minor changes in terminology appear in this revision of a book first published by a small press in 1976. The straight-forward presentation of a topic preschoolers frequently find confusing begins with a helpful note to adults. (Ages 3-5)

See also: *Children and the AIDS Virus; Fighting Back; Fourth-Grade Four; Handtalk Zoo; Magic School Bus Inside the Human Body*

8 ARTS

Ardley, Neil. **MUSIC**. (Eyewitness Books) U.S. edition: Alfred A. Knopf. 63 pages. (0-394-92259-X) \$12.95

The concept of musical sound production is clearly explained through diagrams and extraordinarily beautiful color photographs and reproductions of art showing folk, classic and electronic instruments from many times and cultures. One of several inviting visual explorations of information in the Eyewitness Books series, this book offers much more than a standard introduction to instruments. (Age 5-adult)

Collins, Judy. **MY FATHER**. Illustrated by Jane Dyer. Little, Brown. 28 pages. (0-316-15228-5) \$12.95

Childhood dreams of a future life in faraway France are realized in the poet/singer's adulthood. The dreams are visualized in full-color art showing the Ohio mining family life in which the narrator's father nurtured hope for a wider world for his daughter. A musical arrangement for piano or guitar is included. (Ages 5-14)

French, Fiona, illustrator. **RISE AND SHINE**. U.S. edition: Little, Brown. 28 pages. (0-316-29299-0) \$12.95

A folk adaptation of an African-American spiritual draws upon the story of the flood, the ark and Noah. The first verse and chorus are, "The Lord said to Noah, / 'There's gonna

be a floody, floody. / Get those children out of the muddy, muddy.' / Children of the Lord." Highly patterned illustrations in bright colors dominate this slim 11" x 8¾" volume. (Ages 3-9)

Kuklin, Susan. **GOING TO MY BALLET CLASS.** Bradbury. 32 pages.
(0-02-751235-5) \$12.95

Through Jami's eyes and words, readers see color photographs and read a short narrative about participation in Dorothy Lister's pre-ballet class at the Joffrey Ballet School. The photographs indicate that class members come from several racial/ethnic backgrounds. Two pages for adults at the end contain comments in a smaller typeface on selecting a ballet instruction experience for preschool children. (Ages 2-6)

Salerno-Sonnenberg, Nadja. **NADJA; ON MY WAY.** Crown. 85 pages.
(0-517-57392-X) \$13.95

A talented young professional violinist describes her youth and her years at Juilliard. Her valuable insights concern the demands of career preparation and challenge of creating a life involving more than study, practice and performance. (Age 11-adult)

Sills, Leslie. **INSPIRATIONS; STORIES ABOUT WOMEN ARTISTS.** Albert Whitman. 56 pages. (0-8075-3649-0) \$16.95

The lives and art of Georgia O'Keeffe, Frida Kahlo, Alice Neel and Faith Ringgold are discussed in a handsome volume which includes a photograph of each artist as a young girl or young woman, as well as later in life. Color photographs of some of their works indicate the dynamic, progressive, distinctive spirit of each woman's career. (Ages 9-14)

See also: ABC books by Mayers; *Animals Galore!*; *Bill Peet*; *Celine*; *Christmas Pageant*; *Dance, Tanya*; *Hey, World, Here I Am!*; *Jenny Archer, Author*; *Man Who Was Poe*; *Nathaniel Talking*; *Raffi*; *Sand Horse*; *Sorcerer's Apprentice*; *Valentine & Orson*

9 POETRY

Adoff, Arnold. **CHOCOLATE DREAMS.** Illustrated by Turi MacCombie. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 64 pages. (0-688-06823-5) \$13.95

In this homage to chocolate, even the dedication and introduction are poems one can't resist reading out loud in order to savor their sounds as well as their content. Most of Adoff's four dozen original poems are lighthearted and fun; all are complimented by inventively appealing full-color pictures of chocolate on every page. (Ages 7-14)

Greenfield, Eloise. **NATHANIEL TALKING.** Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Black Butterfly/Writers & Readers (distributed by Consortium, 213 E. 4th St., St. Paul, MN 55101) 28 pages. (0-86316-200-2) \$11.95

The 18 first-person poems in this handsome 18¾" square book characterize lively contemporary nine-year-old Nathaniel's strong moods and experiences. They reveal this African-American boy's spoken ideas about himself and his thoughts about his family. Gilchrist's black-and-white illustrations fill the pages with images sometimes bouyant and sometimes poignant but always, like Nathaniel, in a male idiom. Linking several generations with the rhythms unique to each, Greenfield offers homage to the instrument called "bones" played by Nathaniel's grandma and by elders in Africa as well as in the U.S.A. in the early to mid-

20th century. Nathaniel's daddy plays the twelve-bar blues on his guitar; listeners and readers are invited to use Greenfield's suggestions for creating their own poem in this rhythm and style. Nathaniel's generation expresses itself through rap music. In a more reflective poem Nathaniel pictures himself "moving through the world / doing good and unusual / things." These pride-filled pages create hope by looking directly through a child's eyes at his past, present and future. Winner, 1989 CCBC Coretta Scott King Discussion of Writing. (Ages 5-11)

Hopkins, Lee Bennett. **STILL AS A STAR; A BOOK OF NIGHTTIME POEMS.**

Illustrated by Karen Milone. Little, Brown. 32 pages. (0-316-37272-2) \$14.95

Evening themes developed in 14 short poems by Norma Farber, Nikki Giovanni, Nancy Willard, Carl Sandburg, Eleanor Farjeon and other poets are illustrated in color with appealing childlike whimsy. (Ages 2-6)

Livingston, Myra Cohn. **POEMS FOR FATHERS.** Illustrated by Robert Casilla.

Holiday House. 32 pages. (0-8234-0729-2) \$13.95

Eighteen short poems concerning fathers inside and outside, past and present, are by Lucille Clifton, John Ciardi, Emmanuel di Pasquale, Alfred Noyes, X. J. Kennedy, Lillian Morrison, the selector and others. Illustrations reproduced in blue, red and black suggest a variety of contemporary living styles, families and situations. (Ages 5-12)

Lyon, George Ella. **TOGETHER.** Illustrated by Vera Rosenberry. A Richard Jackson

Book/Orchard. 28 pages. (0-531-08431-0) \$14.95

"You cut the timber / and I'll build the house. / You bring the cheese / and I'll fetch the mouse / . . . Let's put our heads together / and dream the same dream." Two little girls—one Black and one white—contribute distinctively to their companionship which is illustrated in full color with watercolors and ink line. The children's exuberant imaginative play is a metaphor for an actively harmonious world in which diversity is honored and celebrated in all aspects of life and in all places—from ocean to desert, from inside a kitchen to beyond the moon. (Ages 2-9)

Merriam, Eve. **CHORTLES; NEW AND SELECTED WORDPLAY POEMS.**

Illustrated by Sheila Hamanaka. William Morrow. 53 pages. (0-688-08153-3) \$11.95

Over four dozen original poems touching on unusual words (Cacaphony, Serendipity, Amphibian) or showing word fun (Twogether, Unfinished Knews Item, The Sappy Heasons) are illustrated with small black-and-white drawings. (Ages 9-14)

Prelutsky, Jack, selector. **POEMS OF A. NONNY MOUSE.** Illustrated by Henrik

Drescher. Alfred A. Knopf. 40 pages. (0-394-88711-5) \$12.95

A collection of 70 silly poems attributed in most anthologies to "Anon." is presented in a totally wacky, action-filled romp starring Ms. Nonny Mouse. A humorous introduction tells of Prelutsky's efforts to connect the witty rodent with publishers and rectify a long-standing typographical error in spelling her name! Drescher's imaginative treatment of the content and his colorfully bordered visual high jinks are perfectly suited to the book's concept. Honor Book, 1989 CCBC Caldecott Discussion. (Ages 5-14)

Singer, Marilyn. **TURTLE IN JULY.** Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Macmillan.

32 pages. (0-02-782881-6) \$13.95

Endpapers the color of a July sun invite readers to a dynamically presented year-round exploration of wild and domestic creatures. Seventeen poems and accompanying watercolor and line drawings bring the year to life in a new way. The poetic images characterizing the creatures by sound, rhythm, and season show Singer's stunning mastery of words. (Ages 7-12)

Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk, selector. **DANCING TEEPEES; POEMS OF AMERICAN INDIAN YOUTH.** Illustrated by Stephen Gammell. Holiday House.

32 pages. (0-8234-0724-1) \$14.95

A unified palette connects a remarkable selection of diverse writings expressing ideas about American Indian youth. Sources are acknowledged at the end of the 8¼" x 10¼" illustrated

collection encompassing 19 brief writings by Black Elk, Ms. Driving Hawk Sneve and voices from the Osage, Dakota, Mescalero Apache, Navajo, Crow, Zuni, Hopi and other traditions. (Ages 4-14)

Whipple, Laura. **ERIC CARLE'S ANIMALS, ANIMALS.** Illustrated by Eric Carle. Philomel.

88 pages. (0-399-21744-4) \$18.95

A strong, fresh selection of poetry from various cultures is unified by the vigorous, boldly colored creatures which are the subject of this visual celebration. Over five dozen brief poems by haiku poets, Emily Dickinson, D. H. Lawrence, Ogden Nash, Edward Lear, Rudyard Kipling, Laura Richards, Mary Jane Hoberman, Karla Kuskin and others are indexed by their first lines at the back. The 74 animals cited are arranged in an alphabetical index. (Ages 3-9)

See also: *Family Read-Aloud Christmas Treasury*; *Hey, World, Here I Am!*; *Lord of the Dance*; *Missing Tarts*; *Nonstop Nonsense*; *Peacock Pie*; *Valentine & Orson*

10 BIOGRAPHY AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Adler, David A. **A PICTURE BOOK OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.** Illustrated by Robert Casilla. Holiday House. 28 pages. (0-8234-0770-5) \$13.95

A brief biography illustrated with full-color art presents a clear picture of Dr. King's life and of the civil rights movement. (Ages 3-9)

Altman, Susan. **EXTRAORDINARY BLACK AMERICANS; FROM COLONIAL TO CONTEMPORARY TIMES.** Children's Press. 240 pages. (0-516-00581-2) \$30.49

From Estevanico, Lucy Teiry Smith and Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable to Fannie Lou Hamer, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Toni Morrison, this book contains short biographies of 85 of the many African-American men and women whose leadership came from varying walks of life. The two to three page biographies are illustrated with 3" x 2½" black-and-white drawings or photographs and are interspersed with brief essays on movements such as Slave Uprisings, the Underground Railroad and Sit-Ins. Group biographies include Black Seminoles and The Little Rock Nine. The Emancipation Proclamation is one of the five documents and speeches reproduced in full. Footnotes, a one-page bibliography and an index aid in quick access to information in the chronologically organized book. (Age 7-adult)

Bernheim, Mark. **FATHER OF THE ORPHANS; THE STORY OF JANUSZ KORCZAK.** Introduction by Katherine Paterson. (A Jewish Biography Series Book) E.P. Dutton. 160 pages. (0-525-67265-6) \$15.95

This heroic pediatrician, educator and author devoted his life to abandoned and orphaned children. The selfless humanitarian taught democratic principals through the conduct of his life as well as that of his schools. He continued this commitment until the end of his life when he and his partner Stefa accompanied "their" children from the Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka death camp. A well researched and compellingly written portrait of Dr. Korczak is illustrated with over two dozen black-and-white captioned photographs and contains a listing of the four works by Korczak published to date in English translations. Katherine Paterson's moving foreword includes her description of an incident that occurred when her book *Bridge to Terabithia* won the Janusz Korczak Commemorative Medal. (Ages 11-14)

Hovde, Jane. JANE ADDAMS. (A Makers of America Book) Facts On File. 131 pages. (0-8160-1547-3) \$16.95

A well-researched account of the youth and long career of the woman typically known for establishing Hull-House in Chicago encompasses her multi-faceted leadership for social reforms. Arenas in which she effected change include suffrage for women, legislation governing child labor and anti-war activism. She was the first president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the winner of the 1931 Nobel Peace Prize. Eleven black-and-white illustrative items, a list of primary and other sources and an index are included. The northern Illinois locales and early experiences concerning Wisconsin will especially interest Midwest readers. (Age 12-adult)

Larsen, Rebecca. PAUL ROBESON; HERO BEFORE HIS TIME. Franklin Watts. 158 pages. (0-531-10779-5) \$13.90

Extraordinarily well-documented chapters earmark an account of the life and works of the African-American athlete, singer and actor whose growing anger concerning racism in this nation led to years in England and in Russia and subsequently to additional pressures during the so-called Red Scare in the U.S. during the 1950s. Sixteen black-and-white photographs illustrate the book which contains material from the author's interview with Robeson's son and her correspondence with Howard Fast and Pete Seeger. (Age 11-adult)

Patterson, Lillie. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT. (A Makers of America Book) Facts On File. 178 pages. (0-8160-1605-4) \$16.95

Expanding this famous African-American's civil rights image to that of the human rights leader who won the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize, Patterson's biography offers a reliable transition between juvenile and adult book accounts of this 20th century freedom fighter honored by the newest federal holiday. The biography is illustrated with black-and-white photographs, maps, and freedom songs. Includes an excellent annotated listing of further reading and a brief chronology. (Ages 11-14)

Peet, Bill. BILL PEET; AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY. Houghton Mifflin. 190 pages. (0-395-50932-7) \$16.95

The popular and prolific artist/author tells about his early career as a Disney Studio employee and his initial struggles to write original stories to go into the action-filled, exuberant books he later created for young children. Black-and-white line drawings fill half of every 10¼" x 8¼" page, telling much about an artist's life in the mid-20th century and also about the development of several animated Disney films familiar to children today. (Ages 7-12)

Spies, Karen. RAFFI; THE CHILDREN'S VOICE. Dillon. 60 pages. (0-87518-398-0) \$9.95

The childhood and growing career of the popular Canadian performer for young children and families is presented in an easy-to-read format illustrated with many photographs. A discography and bibliography of Raffi's works through 1988 are included. (Ages 5-9)

See also: *Bearman*; *Christmas Memory*; *Gift from Saint Francis*; *Inspirations*; *Man Who Was Poe*; *Nadja*

11 FOLKLORE, MYTHOLOGY AND TRADITIONAL LITERATURE

Aardema, Verna, reteller. RABBIT MAKES A MONKEY OF LION; A SWAHILI TALE. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Dial. 28 pages. (0-8037-0298-1) \$11.89

Once Rabbit knows about the beehive in Lion's calabash tree she is determined to get the honey for herself. Using Turtle and Bush-rat as accomplices, Rabbit outwits the slow-moving

Lion. Each animal is characterized through its actions as well as by the details of Pinkney's dramatic pencil and watercolor illustrations. The author is successful in using onomatopoeia effectively in passages such as "The sand flew, freh, freh, freh, freh! But the burrow was too deep." Pinkney's illustrations are as dynamic from a distance as they are close up, making the lengthy, action-filled tale from Zanzibar a natural choice for group use. (Ages 4-9)

Alexander, Ellen, reteller and illustrator. **LLAMA AND THE GREAT FLOOD: A FOLKTALE FROM PERU.** Thomas Y. Crowell. 40 pages. (0-690-04729-0) \$13.89

A flood story from the Quechua-speaking people of Peru tells of an Andean mountain llama whose vision of world destruction caused him to lead creatures of every kind to safety at the top of Willka Qutu. The author/artist represents the enduring Andean understanding of the "aliveness" of all nature by suggesting human faces on some of the rocks and mountains in this colorful picture book. (Ages 4-9)

Bach, Alice and J. Cheryl Exum. **MOSES' ARK; STORIES FROM THE BIBLE.** Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. Delacorte. 183 pages. (0-385-29778-5) \$14.95

Thirteen retellings utilize new translations from the Hebrew and the findings of contemporary scholarship. The substantial introduction, bibliography and helpful explanatory notes following each story appear in a smaller typeface than that used for the more easily read text which uses inclusive language. Interestingly composed stylized black-and-white illustrations heighten the visual dimensions of the stories. (Ages 5-14)

Bryan, Ashley, reteller and illustrator. **TURTLE KNOWS YOUR NAME.** A Jean Karl Book/Atheneum. 28 pages. (0-689-31578-3) \$12.95

Lilting phrases and internal rhymes engage attention and sweep listeners into a tale from the West Indies in which a little boy has a name too long to remember without his granny's help. After *Upsilimana Tumpalrado* finally says his name correctly, he and his patient granny sing and dance near the sea. Turtle overhears the boy's name, which is a big help to the boy later. Beautifully composed sunny images illustrate the episodic family story. Honor Book, 1989 CCBC Coretta Scott King Discussions of Writing and of Illustration. (Ages 3-9)

Burkert, Nancy Ekholm. **VALENTINE & ORSON; A FOLK PLAY IN VERSE AND PAINTINGS.** A Floyd Yearout Book/Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 48 pages. (0-374-38078-3) \$16.95

This extraordinarily handsome edition of an epic unknown to children for centuries is an impressively developed adaptation enjoyable for individual reading and family reading aloud. Burkert shaped the narrative from a Middle English translation into a rhymed folk play. She set the drama in 16th century Flanders and cast it with a traveling family troupe, a magical narrator and assorted villagers who use domestic objects as the props needed for staged confrontations. Drawing readers increasingly into the action with an ingenious sequence of exquisitely composed, symbolically rich, full-color paintings, the artist/author invites and engages emotional and intellectual participation. The action-filled story involves separation: infant twins by circumstance and their parents through misunderstanding; it also concerns the mutual recognition of common humanity which causes reconciliation to be an equitable outcome. In a compelling essay at the end, Burkert summarizes the history of "Valentine and Orson" as a text and as an inspiration within the arts over many centuries. She also indicates some of the decisions she made in recreating this classic work in an edition sure to be a classic itself for decades. Winner, 1989 CCBC Caldecott Discussion; Honor Book, 1989 CCBC Newbery Discussion. (Ages 8-adult)

De France, Marie. **PROUD KNIGHT, FAIR LADY; THE TWELVE LÄIS OF MARIE DE FRANCE.** Translated from the French by Naomi Lewis. Illustrated by Angela Barrett. 100 pages. Viking Kestrel. (0-670-82656-1) \$19.95

A twelfth-century French writer living in Norman England collected tales from minstrels who roamed through Brittany and Celtic England, transforming their tales into works which

later influenced Chaucer and others. Lewis recreates the universal dimensions of these love stories while retaining dramatic medieval details. Her three-page introduction offers fascinating reading about Marie, her time and her tales. More than 50 full-color illustrations of varying sizes decorate the lovely 10 1/2" x 7 3/4" volume. (Ages 11-14)

De Souza, James, reteller. **BROTHER ANANSI AND THE CATTLE RANCH.** (Bilingual: English and Spanish) Illustrated by Stephen Von Mason. Adapted by Harriet Rohmer. Children's Book Press (5925 Doyle St., Suite U, Emeryville, CA 94608) 32 pages. (0-89239-044-1) \$12.95

The Trickster Spider and folk hero from West African lore finds out that Brother Tiger won the lottery. Brother Anansi convinces Brother Tiger to buy livestock for a cattle ranch they will manage jointly. This Anansi tale thrives in contemporary Nicaragua where De Souza tells it in a version of the Creole language. The bilingual English/Spanish texts appear together on each double-page spread. Lush golds, reds and greens dominate the boldly conceived animal characters which appear, like the text, in a fresh combination of the contemporary and the folk. (Ages 5-9)

Flora, reteller and illustrator. **FEATHERS LIKE A RAINBOW; AN AMAZON INDIAN TALE.** Harper & Row. 24 pages. (0-06-021838-X) \$13.89

A gray-winged trumpeter bird wants to become brightly colored. In trying to find rainbow colors for her child, the bird's mother seeks help from Macaw, Toucan and other jungle birds. Together they attempt to gain Hummingbird's secret. Lush, vibrant, intense colors within detailed illustrations make this book about wildlife distinctive. (Ages 5-9)

Gellman, Marc. **DOES GOD HAVE A BIG TOE?; STORIES ABOUT STORIES IN THE BIBLE.** Illustrated by Oscar de Mejo. Harper & Row. 88 pages. (0-06-022433-9) \$14.89

In his introduction to this collection of 21 modern "midrashim," Rabbi Gellman explains "Jews, Christians and Moslems have been writing stories about stories in the Bible for a very long time." He points out that a "midrash" is the Jewish name for a story about a story made up for a clearer understanding of it. The humor of Gellman's writings is exemplified by the title story in which a little girl's question prompts the king to order the people of Babel to construct a tower from which he can see God's foot. Eight full-color paintings add another imaginative dimension. (Ages 5-12)

Harris, Joel Chandler. **JUMP ON OVER! THE ADVENTURES OF BRER RABBIT AND HIS FAMILY.** Adapted by Van Dyke Parks. Illustrated by Barry Moser. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 40 pages. (0-15-241354-5) \$15.95

The third collection in the "Jump" sequence of retold Brer Rabbit tales includes five stories about Brer Rabbit's family illustrated with watercolor paintings reproduced in both color and in black and white with calligraphed captions. Music and lyrics for the song "Home" are on the final page. (Ages 5-9)

Lattimore, Deborah Nourse, reteller and illustrator. **WHY THERE IS NO ARGUING IN HEAVEN; A MAYAN MYTH.** Harper & Row. 32 pages. (0-06-023718-X) \$13.89

A smooth retelling of a creation story involves the challenge of Hunab Ku, Creator God of the Mayas, who challenges Lizard Horse, Moon Goddess and Maize God to create a creature worthy of worshipping them. The other gods fail, but Maize God takes his seeds to earth where "a race of tall, bronze men and women spring up." The contemporary people whose ancestors told this story live in Guatemala and parts of Mexico. Visual details contribute cultural information. (Ages 5-9)

Marshall, James, reteller and illustrator. **THE THREE LITTLE PIGS**. Dial. 32 pages. (0-8037-0594-8) \$11.89

In an inviting edition of an old tale, Marshall draws upon conventional elements in humorous ways. A sow cannot support her three sons, tearfully seeing them leave home unequally equipped to seek their fortunes: "Now be sure to write . . . and remember I love you." A lean, hungry wolf gobbles up the first two pigs; is tricked into the usual turnip and apple picking ruses by the third pig; gets chased by a rolling butter churn; and becomes a delectable dinner for the surviving member of the porcine trio. In Marshall's ink and watercolor paintings, the clothed, more-or-less debonair pigs and the bicycle-riding, rough-and-ready wolf reside in the early 20th century. Jacket art showing all three pigs taking a bow implies the staging of a dramatic production rather than the permanent demise of two main characters. A solid addition to Marshall's lighthearted sequence of picture book folklore including **GOLDBLOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS** (1988) and **RED RIDING HOOD** (1987). (Ages 3-7)

Mayo, Gretchen Will. **EARTHMAKER'S TALES; NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN STORIES ABOUT EARTH HAPPENINGS**. Walker. 89 pages. (0-8027-6839-3) \$11.95

Sixteen tales about natural earth events such as a snow storm, tornado, earthquake, fog and rainbow are derived from a wide range of Native American sources. The introductory notes and retellings read smoothly; the black-and-white illustrations add drama and provide continuity; and a glossary, source notes and acknowledgements give helpful background. (Ages 5-14)

Moore, Inga, reteller and illustrator. **THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE**. U.S. edition: Macmillan. 32 pages. (0-02-767645-5) \$13.95

A famous fairy tale which has inspired poets, musicians and even filmmakers involves an unlikely pair of opposites: a master sorcerer and his reckless apprentice Franz. Trying to spare save himself of some drudgery, Franz makes a potion he has watched the sorcerer use. Because Franz doesn't fully understand the power of his meddling, he soon is confronted with hundreds of water-carrying brooms. The dramatic illustrations show the humorously overwhelming consequences of Franz' unwillingness to follow directions. (Ages 5-9)

Rohmer, Harriet, adapter. **UNCLE NACHO'S HAT**. (Bilingual: English and Spanish) Illustrated by Veg Reisberg. Children's Book Press (5925 Doyle St., Suite U, Emeryville, CA 94608) 32 pages. (0-89239-043-3) \$12.95

Ambrosia gives her Uncle Ignacio, a/k/a Uncle Nacho, a new hat. No matter what he does with the old one, he keeps getting it back. The Nicaraguan tale concerns making changes and getting rid of bad habits. This English/Spanish bilingual edition illustrated with brightly colored, bordered acrylic paintings is an adaptation of the version used by the Puppet Workshop of Nicaraguan National Television. (Ages 5-9)

Sanfield, Steve, reteller. **THE ADVENTURES OF HIGH JOHN THE CONQUEROR**. Illustrated by John Ward. Orchard. 113 pages. (0-531-08407-8) \$12.95

Always able to outwit his white Master, bold, witty High John the Conqueror offers entertainment with modern appeal. Fourteen black-and-white full-page illustrations add drama to the 16 exciting African-American tales based on an assortment of sources. The author's notes interspersed throughout the text provide a historical context for the stories. (Ages 8-14)

San Souci, Robert D, reteller. **THE BOY AND THE GHOST**. Illustrated by J. Brian Pinkney. Simon and Schuster. 32 pages. (0-671-67176-6) \$13.95

The middle child of in a family of seven sets out to earn some money, bearing a pot and a hambone to make soup, a croaker sack, and admonitions to be brave, honest, polite and generous. After young Thomas shows kindness to a stranger, he wins a treasure for his family by staying all night in a haunted house. This 11¼" x 8¾" edition of a tale from

African-American lore is direct and spare, moving quickly with its appealing hero and vigorous red-headed ghost. Compellingly composed on each double-page spread, the illustrations are extremely effective from a distance. Winner, 1989 CCBC Coretta Scott King Discussion of Illustration. (Ages 5-9)

San Souci, Robert D, reteller. **THE TALKING EGGS**. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Dial. 32 pages. (0-8037-0620-0) \$12.89

A Creole folktale from the U.S. Southern oral tradition features two sisters: a favored, spoiled, lazy daughter named Rose; and a generous, kind, hard-working one named Blanche. The girls are given identical tasks by a mysterious woman in the woods. Blanche obeys directions such as not to laugh at what she sees—and she sees the woman take off her head! Unlike selfish Rose who fails to follow any of the directions, Blanche is rewarded for her trust and obedience. This beautifully designed and printed version of a tale previously known by many in its Anglo-European variant features African-American characters wonderfully realized by Pinkney. His drawing and painting show fresh observations of humans and of the animal world and contain a richness of detail and motion harmonious with the tale's idiom, time and place. (Ages 4-9)

Scieszka, Jon. **THE TRUE STORY OF THE 3 LITTLE PIGS; BY A. WOLF**. Illustrated by Lane Smith. Viking Kestrel. 28 pages. (0-670-82759-2) \$13.95

Pointing out that he's a classic victim of news media bias, Alexander T. Wolf ("You can call me Al") claims "the real story is about a sneeze and a cup of sugar." He also tries to make a case for the bad press wolves receive for eating "cute little animals . . . That's just the way we are. If cheeseburgers were cute, people would probably think you were Big and Bad, too." Fresh wit and visual irony abound. Readers see Al's allegedly cute homemade cheeseburger containing grisly ingredients midst its pickles and bun. The jacket art expands the theme by suggesting a tabloid newspaper. (Ages 7-11)

Tadjo, Véronique, reteller. **LORD OF THE DANCE; AN AFRICAN RETELLING**. J.B. Lippincott. 28 pages. (0-397-32352-2) \$12.89

A brief, original exploration of the spirit of the sacred mask within the culture of the Senufo people of Côte d'Ivoire of West Africa was prompted by the theme of a contemporary English hymn bearing the same name but otherwise quite different from this unusual illustrated tale. "... I am the Mask / I still survive / I swirl like the wind / I leap like an antelope / I dance with farmers / With fishermen and hunters / I dance in the popular quarters / Of African towns . . ." A one-page history of Senufo masks and a color photograph of traditional Senufo art being created with brown vegetable ink are included at the end. The contemporary illustrations pay respect to the distinctive style of Senufo art except that they employ bright colors. (Ages 3-9)

Van Laan, Nancy, reteller. **RAINBOW CROW**. Illustrated by Beatriz Vidal. Alfred A. Knopf. 32 pages. (0-394-89577-0) \$12.95

A Lenape tale about the origin of Crow's black feathers explains how Crow brought the gift of Fire to Earth's creatures, consequently losing his former rainbow colors. Striking colored pencil illustrations reflect the stylized art of Eastern Woodland Indians. An authentic Lenape symbol depicts the Sky Spirit. (Ages 4-9)

Xiong, Bli, reteller. **NINE-IN-ONE GRR! GRR!; A FOLKTALE FROM THE HMONG PEOPLE OF LAOS**. Adapted by Cathy Spagnoli. Illustrated by Nancy Hom. Children's Book Press (5925 Doyle St., Suite U, Emeryville, CA 94608) 32 pages. (0-89239-048-4) \$12.95

A female tiger is told by the great god Shav to expect nine baby cubs a year as long as she remembers this promise. Bird's interest in self-preservation leads to tricking Tiger into only having one cub every nine years, which is why there are so few tigers on the earth today! The silkscreen, watercolor and colored pencil art created for this book was adapted from the story cloth stitchery techniques of Hmong women. (Ages 3-9)

Yep, Laurence, reteller. **THE RAINBOW PEOPLE.** Illustrated by David Wiesner. Harper & Row. 194 pages. (0-06-026761-5) \$13.89

Chinese elders settled in the U.S.A. were the W.P.A. sources during the 1930s for these 20 stories rewritten for the entertainment of young readers today. The tales are organized thematically: Tricksters, Fools, Virtues and Vices, In Chinese America, and Love. The sharing of these tales was once a survival mechanism for Chinese people far from their culture and loved ones. The lively stories now prove to be enjoyable leisure reading for school-aged children as well as windows to Chinese-American heritage for all who discover this handsomely designed book. (Age 9-adult)

Young, Ed, translator and illustrator. **LON PO PO; A RED-RIDING HOOD STORY FROM CHINA.** Philomel. 32 pages. (0-399-21619-7) \$14.95

Leaving her three children home alone in the country, a woman departs to spend the day with their grandmother Po Po. Although instructed by their mother to latch the door at sunset, the children are persuaded by a wolf disguised as their grandmother to open the door. Chinese panel art is recognizable in the book's overall design and in the layout of the watercolor and pastel art created to illustrate the more than thousand-year-old tale. The wolf symbolizes an ominous side of human nature and appears as either a shadowlike possibility or presence in each double-page spread of this suspenseful book. (Ages 5-9)

See also: *Arroz con Leche; Balyet; Christmas Pageant; Cobweb Curtain; Family Read-Aloud Christmas Treasury; Little Red House; Lucie Babbidge's House; Missing Tarts; Number the Stars; Rise and Shine*

12 CONCEPT BOOKS

Ehlert, Lois. **COLOR ZOO.** J.B. Lippincott. 28 pages. (0-397-32260-7) \$11.89

A whimsical participatory introduction to shapes and colors employs ingeniously designed, perfectly die-cut and bound pages which line up exactly to unfold nine distinctly recognizable abstractly formed animal heads. This immensely enjoyable application of modern art principles showcases Ehlert's giftedness in expressing ideas in abstract shapes and vivid colors. Visual reviews of the concepts appear at the end of the compact 9¼" square book. (Ages 2-7)

———. **EATING THE ALPHABET; FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FROM A TO Z.** Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 36 pages. (0-15-224435-2) \$13.95

A feast for the eye and the intellect introduces 75 fruits and vegetables originating the world over. Their bright colors and distinctive shapes are arranged in a painted and cut assemblage labeled with upper and lower case first letters and names. A mouth watering example of foods represented at the turn of a page is the M-N-O sequence containing a mango, melon nectarines, okra, an onion and oranges. Children generally can find at least one familiar food from their ethnic or cultural background in every section. Handsome in graphic design, this 8 3/4" x 11 1/4" book utilizes negative space wisely and actively. An alphabetical glossary keyed by 26 capital letters and colored miniatures of the foods classifies each as a fruit or vegetable, gives a phonetic spelling and a brief history of its origin and early use. (Ages 2-9)

Hall, Mahji. **T IS FOR TERRIFIC/T ES POR TERRIFICO.** Open Hand (P.O. Box 22048, Seattle, WA 98122) 32 pages. (0-940880-21-0 cl.; 0-940880-22-9 pbk.) \$8.95; \$3.95

"Automobile, bicycle, crocodile, chocolate . . ." begins the English wording in a 8¼" x 5½" English/Spanish bilingual ABC book created by Mahji Hall of Bellevue, Washington, a fifth

grade child of color whose photograph appears at the end of the book. The drawings printed in blue and fuchsia are ones Mahji made in elementary school. Each page is decorated with a two-alphabet border. A bilingual pronunciation guide follows "Z for Zigzag." School-aged children will appreciate the objects featured. (Ages 3-11)

Hennessy, B.G. A,B,C,D, TUMMY, TOES, HANDS, KNEES. Illustrated by Wendy Watson. Viking Kestrel. 28 pages. (0-670-81703-1) \$12.95

A toddler and mother (or caregiver) proceed through a day at home, on errands and at the park. Alphabet and counting concepts as well as those referring to space, movement, sounds and naming are incorporated into an engaging rhyming text well-suited to toddler activity. Best of all is the concept of generously expressed affection evident in the delicately rendered pictures of this gentle book. (Ages 1-3 years)

Hoban, Tana. OF COLORS AND THINGS. Greenwillow. 28 pages. (0-688-07535-5) \$12.95

Striking color photographs of objects of interest to young children are coordinated on each page according to color with planned repetition of colors. Multiple opportunities exist for naming and classifying the objects seen within these pages. (Ages 1-5)

Kunhardt, Edith. WHICH ONE WOULD YOU CHOOSE? Greenwillow. 24 pages. (0-688-07908-3) \$11.88

The book begins: "Wake up, sleepyheads! / Will woke up. / Maggie woke up. / Will chose a blue shirt. / Maggie chose a red shirt. / Which one do you choose?" Readers are invited to participate as Maggie and Will make choices of what to wear and what to do throughout the day. The full-color images were created with magic markers and a black pen. (Ages 2-5)

Martin, Bill Jr. CHICKA CHICKA BOOM BOOM. Illustrated by Lois Ehlert. Simon and Schuster. 32 pages. (0-671-67949-X) \$13.95

"A told B / and B told C, / 'I'll meet you at the top / of the coconut tree.' " Lower case, neon colored, personified alphabet shapes assume a life of their own as they troop up and down the tree trunk. Ingenious page designs further heighten the amusement and create variety. (Ages 2-7)

Mayers, Florence Cassen. ABC; NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY. Harry N. Abrams. 32 pages. (0-8109-1875-7) \$10.95

ABC objects from the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., include a 1912 automobile; a detail from a bedcover woven in 1845; an acorn clock made in 1849; a contemporary Seneca Indian doll dressed in typical ceremonial clothing worn in the 1700s; and the flag which in 1814 inspired Francis Scott Key to write the poem that became the national anthem of the U.S.A. A treasury of stunning full-color photographs and a fine introduction to an amazing museum. (Age 3-adult)

Mayers, Florence Cassen. ABC; THE ALEF-BET BOOK (THE ISRAEL MUSEUM, JERUSALEM) Harry N. Abrams/The Domino Press. 28 pages. (0-8109-1885-4) \$10.95

More than 30 museum objects from the Israel Museum in Jerusalem are shown in color photographs and briefly explained in a carefully documented book 14" tall and 4 3/4" wide. Written in English and in Hebrew, this second dimension further enriches anyone using this lovely book, one of a series showcasing the collections of particular museums to illustrate the ABCs. (Age 3-adult)

Phillips, Tamara. DAY CARE ABC. Illustrated by Dora Leder. Albert Whitman. 28 pages. (0-8075-1483-7) \$11.95

The short text of a book about a down-to-earth day to, from and at a multicultural day care center suggests objects to locate in its 27 full-color action packed pages: "Adam asks for applesauce . . . / Irene is interested in insects . . . / Luis likes lemonade . . ." However, each

page contains many visual connections to the alphabet letter shown in an upper and lower case typeface. A partial listing of the "extra" objects and colors follows the ABC pages. (Ages 2-5)

Sawicki, Norma Jean. *THE LITTLE RED HOUSE*. Illustrated by Toni Goffe.

Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 20 pages. (0-688-07892-3) \$9.88

"There was a little red house / And in the little red house / There was a little green house . . ." A toddler is pictured playing with nine nesting houses, each in a different color. Based on the old nursery rhyme about a walnut, this adaptation contains a new surprise. (Ages 1-4)

Serfozo, Mary. *WHO WANTS ONE?* Illustrated by Keiko Narahashi. Margaret K.

McElderry Books. 28 pages. (0-689-50474-8) \$12.95

Two preschool children play, the older one pretending to be a magician who grants counting wishes: "Do you pick six? / Look, here is six. / Six sails, six whales, six driftwood sticks, / Six jolly dolphins doing tricks. / Do you want six?" But the younger child wants the one object in the nearby box; it's a surprise to readers, and it isn't imaginary! (Ages 2-7)

Sis, Peter. *GOING UP!* Greenwillow. 22 pages. (0-688-08127-6) \$11.95

A cumulative counting book about color involves costumed guests entering an apartment house elevator one floor at a time to attend a surprise birthday party. The guests include Little Red Riding Hood, a witch with a black violin case, an astronaut in a blue space suit, a girl in a gray wetsuit, and a yellow banana. A nicely realized visual development of concepts and curiosity. (Ages 2-7)

Yekta, Niki. *WHAT'S SILLY?* Illustrated by Susannah Ryan. Clarion. 28 pages.

(0-89919-746-9) \$13.95

Something is definitely silly on page one, because a little girl has her skirt on her head! Thirteen carefully staged pairs of reversed daily circumstances provide both a chuckle and the sense of getting back to normal in well-composed sequences moving from morning to evening. (Ages 2-5)

Ziebel, Peter. *LOOK CLOSER!* Clarion. 32 pages. (0-89919-815-5) \$13.95

Close-up color photographs invite identification and guesses concerning ordinary objects usually shown in use by children on the next page. A new approach to observation. (Ages 3-7)

See also: *Bread, Bread, Bread; Hats, Hats, Hats; Jacket I Wear in the Snow; When Summer Ends; Year in the Country*

13 BOOKS FOR TODDLERS

Anholt, Catherine. *WHEN I WAS A BABY*. Joy Street/Little, Brown. 28 pages.

(0-316-04262-5) \$11.95

Throughout their day together, a three-year-old girl questions her mother about what sort of things she did when she was a baby, frequently comparing herself as a baby to her present-day self. Warm, light-hearted illustrations show the three-year old on the left-hand side of the page while the scene recalling her babyhood is shown on the right-hand side. (Ages 2-4)

Baer, Gene. *THUMP, THUMP, RAT-A-TAT-TAT*. Illustrated by Lois Ehlert.

A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 32 pages. (0-06-020362-5) \$11.89

A distant marching band, "big as ants, loud as crickets," approaches, getting bigger and louder until it passes, "festive colors, flashing brass," and recedes, "small as ants, soft as

crickets." Repeated similes and onomatopoeia chart the progress of the parade while playing with the concepts of near and far, loud and soft, reinforced by variation in the size of typeface. The band members, composed of boldly colored, basic geometrical shapes, embody all the visual excitement of a real parade. (Ages 2-6)

Barton, Byron. *DINOSAURS, DINOSAURS*. Thomas Y. Crowell. 34 pages. (0-690-04768-1) \$13.89

A simple text set in large typeface describes the variety of dinosaurs that lived a long time ago. Barton's flat, boldly colored illustrations make this a good choice for group reading, while his conclusion that there were "very tired and very, very sleepy dinosaurs" also make it a possibility for bedtime reading. (Ages 18 months-3 years)

Denton, Kady MacDonald. *DOROTHY'S DREAM*. U.S. edition: Margaret K. McElderry Books. 24 pages. (0-689-50482-9) \$12.95

As the youngest of three children, Dorothy hates to go to bed because she's afraid she might miss something, until the night she remembers a piece of a good dream she had and decides to go right to sleep so she won't miss the next dream. Denton's wry text and whimsical watercolor paintings provide an original and satisfying resolution to a common toddler quandary. (Ages 2-4)

Florian, Douglas. *TURTLE DAY*. Thomas Y. Crowell. 28 pages. (0-690-04745-2) \$12.89

From the moment Turtle first sticks his head out of his shell in the morning, he must respond both to his own needs and to other animals in his environment. Florian takes full advantage of all the drama page-turning provides as he depicts with skillful simplicity a typical day in a turtle's life. (Ages 18 months-3 years)

Henkes, Kevin. *SHHHH*. Greenwillow. 22 pages. (0-688-07986-5) \$11.95

When a small girl awakens early in the morning, she finds that "Everything is quiet. Everyone is sleeping." She tiptoes from room to room observing the sleeping dog and cat, sleeping baby and Mama and Papa, before she fulfills her early morning duty of waking everyone up. The figures in the textured, sunrise-colored acrylic paintings are subtly outlined in red, skillfully evoking the mood of a household on the brink of wakefulness. (Ages 18 months-3 years)

Jam, Teddy. *NIGHT CARS*. Illustrated by Eric Beddows. U.S. edition: Orchard. 28 pages. (0-531-08393-4) \$13.95

With so much going on in the busy street outside the apartment, it's hard for a restless baby to go to sleep. Luckily, Dad is there to walk the floor with baby, holding him up to the window to see all the passing cars and trucks. The many moods of the now drowsy, now wakeful baby are shown as he appears along the wide white borders of each double-page spread, while luminous full-color paintings of nighttime city scenes are depicted as views through a second-story window. (Ages 18 months-3 years)

Kelley, True. *LET'S EAT!* E.P. Dutton. 32 pages. (0-525-44482-3) \$11.95

A multi-ethnic cast of characters illustrates a wry introduction to food and eating by showing a variety of behaviors and routines. Mealtimes, hungry times, and favorite foods are just a few of the subjects covered in the highly visual double-page spreads. (Ages 18 months-4 years)

Nilsson, Ulf. *LITTLE BUNNY AT THE BEACH*. Illustrated by Eva Eriksson.

Translated from the Swedish. U.S. edition: Chronicle Books. 24 pages. (0-87701-610-0) \$6.95

———. *LITTLE BUNNY & THE HUNGRY FOX*. Illustrated by Eva Eriksson.

Translated from the Swedish. U.S. edition: Chronicle Books. 24 pages. (0-87701-605-4) \$6.95

Little Bunny is just old enough to assert some independence, with varying degrees of success. At the beach, she insists on ignoring her big brother's admonition to stay away from the

water and nearly loses her doll to the tides. Playing outside she wanders a little too far from home and meets a hungry fox whom she manages to thwart through a series of lucky breaks. Gentle humor and outstanding characterization are the hallmarks of the charming watercolor and pen-and-ink illustrations. (Ages 2-4)

Ormerod, Jan. *THE SAUCEPAN GAME*. U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 20 pages. (0-688-08519-9) \$10.88

Together a baby and a black cat explore the possibilities of an empty sauce pan as they play together on the kitchen floor. The natural curiosity of these two creatures is charmingly depicted in two-color pen-and-ink illustrations. (Ages 1-2)

Tafari, Nancy. *THE BALL BOUNCED*. Greenwillow. 28 pages. (0-688-07872-9) \$11.88

A baby throws a big, brightly colored ball over mother's shoulder, setting off a series of chain reactions as the cat and dog respond to the bouncing ball. Tafari's brightly colored illustrations capture the drama of simple occurrences on a warm summer day. (Ages 1-2)

Voake, Charlotte. *MRS. GOOSE'S BABY*. U.S. edition: Joy Street/Little Brown. 18 pages. (0-316-90511-9) \$12.95

The egg Mrs. Goose found and hatched produces a baby who's loving and loyal but doesn't quite catch on to Mrs. Goose's way of doing things. Young listeners will understand what Mrs. Goose doesn't: her baby is a chicken, not a goose. Wry humor underscores a satisfying story, accompanied by softly colored, cross-hatched drawings. (Ages 2-4)

Weiss, Nicki. *WHERE DOES THE BROWN BEAR GO?* Greenwillow. 28 pages. (0-688-07863-X) \$11.88

"When the lights go down/on the city street/where does the white cat go, honey?/Where does the white cat go?" A series of similarly structured questions about the destination of a cat, monkey, camel, dog, seagull, and bear is repeatedly answered, "They are on their way./They are on their way home." Double-page spreads show the ever-growing line of animals heading home until the final picture reveals that they are all stuffed animals on a sleeping child's bed. Weiss's colored pencil illustrations use rich nighttime hues of dark green, brown, blue and black to create a somber, peaceful mood. Honor Book, 1989 CCBC Caldecott Discussion (Ages 2-4)

Wellington, Monica. *ALL MY LITTLE DUCKLINGS*. E.P. Dutton. 28 pages. (0-525-44459-9) \$11.95

Rhyme, reptition and alliteration are skillfully used to tell the story of seven ducklings who follow their mother through a busy day in the water and in the barnyard. Bold, appealing gouache paintings perfectly suit the story's playful mood. (Ages 2-3)

See also: *Baby Time*; *Come Out, Muskrats*; *Jacket I Wear in the Snow*; *My First Chanukah*; *Not a Little Monkey*; *Concept Books*

14 PICTURE BOOKS

Babbitt, Natalie. *NELLIE, A CAT ON HER OWN*. A Michael di Capua Book/Farrar Straus and Giroux. 32 pages. (0-374-35506-1) \$11.95

A marionette cat likes her quiet life with the wise old woman who made her but when the old woman dies, she is tempted by the excitement of outdoors life Big Tom the real cat has

told her about. Old Tom cuts the marionette strings and the two set off to discover the wonders the world has in store for them. Glowing full-color paintings accompany the original animal fantasy. (Ages 4-7)

Bate, Lucy. **HOW GEORGINA DROVE THE CAR VERY CAREFULLY FROM BOSTON TO NEW YORK.** Illustrated by Tamar Taylor. Crown. 32 pages. (0-517-57142-0) \$12.95

While being bounced on her mother's knee, little Georgina pretends to drive, imagining the details of her long trip. The pencil and watercolor artwork offers whimsically portrayed people and vehicles, and the overall page space is successfully used. The fantasy itself is very well suited for the preschool age when children typically enjoy make believe play in which they can take charge. (Ages 2-5)

Blos, Joan W. **THE GRANDPA DAYS.** Illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully. Simon and Schuster. 24 pages. (0-671-64640-0) \$8.95

Grandpa shows Philip the tools he once used to build a tree house and the drawings he made first to plan it. Philip first designs a rocket ship and then a racing car before thinking of a project he and Grandpa can actually make with those tools and the lumber they can shape. It, too, goes fast—it's a sled! (Ages 4-7)

Bonnars, Susan. **JUST IN PASSING.** Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages. (0-688-07712-9) \$11.88

A pleasant wordless page-turner elicits a mood of security as its pictures show a baby's yawn travelling contagiously to other people and back. The transitions are clever without redundancy, and the yawn's progress is well foreshadowed in the artwork prepared in pen and ink, watercolor washes and colored pencil. (Ages 3-6)

Garland, Sarah. **POLLY'S PUFFIN.** U.S. edition: Greenwillow. 24 pages. (0-688-08749-3) \$11.95

One day when Polly, her mother and baby brother go out on errands, Polly's stuffed animal puffin is tossed by the baby into the hood of a nearby man who walks away without realizing this. Slowed down by the baby's stroller, they search for the man, a musician who is always just ahead of them or around the corner. The full-color pictures tell the story here as much or more than the text; readers will spot the man with the puffin before the story's characters see him. A delightfully original snapshot of a city family. (Ages 3-7)

Gauch, Patricia Lee. **DANCE, TANYA.** Illustrated by Satomi Ichikawa. Philomel. 28 pages. (0-399-21521-2) \$13.95

Little Tanya wants to be a ballet dancer like her older sister. While her older sister practices and dresses for her ballet recital, Tanya follows her every movement like a shadow. But as an audience member at the dance performance, Tanya has difficulty staying awake. Ichikawa's marvelous watercolor paintings perfectly capture Tanya's not-quite-graceful movements as she tries very hard to turn her chunky toddler body into a wonderful sad swan. (Ages 3-5)

Henkes, Kevin. **JESSICA.** Greenwillow. 24 pages. (0-688-07830-3) \$11.95

Ruthie didn't have a dog, cat, brother or sister, but she did have Jessica, who went wherever Ruthie went. "'There is no Jessica,' said Ruthie's parents. But there was." Jessica even accompanies Ruthie to kindergarten until . . . she meets a new friend. Marvelously observed moments of childhood interaction and play are developed in a perfectly paced page-turning narrative and detailed visually with line, color and innovative uses of typography. (Ages 3-7)

Hennessy, B.G. **THE MISSING TARTS.** Illustrated by Tracey Campbell Pearson. Viking Kestrel. 32 pages. (0-670-82039-3) \$12.95

A snappy romp through ten nursery rhyme references begins "'Where are the tarts?'" / asked the Queen of Hearts. / 'Let's look up the hill,' said Jack and Jill. / 'Not in my bowl,' said Old King Cole." The Queen accumulates an intrigued following as she conducts a

personal house-to-house search for the pastries. Watercolor illustrations with left-to-right action often burst beyond the framed paintings. (Ages 3-7)

Hest, Amy. **THE MIDNIGHT EATERS**. Illustrated by Karen Gundersheimer. Four Winds Press. 32 pages. (0-02-743630-6) \$12.95

Samantha and her grandmother share the same bedroom while Nana recuperates. They also share a propensity for late-night sundaes while they look through the family scrapbook. Gundersheimer lovingly shows small events in a mutually contented grandchild-grandparent relationship. (Ages 3-7)

Hughes, Shirley. **THE BIG ALFIE AND ANNIE ROSE STORYBOOK**. U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 58 pages. (0-688-07673-4) \$15.00

A collection of family stories and poems featuring Alfie and his little sister Annie Rose includes a humorous episode in which Annie Rose somehow learns to say the name of Alfie's friend before she can say "Alfie"; a wonderfully worded story involving Alfie's participation in a wedding; and a touching exchange between Alfie and his grandma while they look at family pictures. Hughes' Alfie and Annie Rose Stories are consistently superb entertainment offering profound insight without becoming heavy-handed. (Ages 3-6)

Johnson, Angela. **TELL ME A STORY, MAMA**. Illustrated by David Soman. Orchard Books. 32 pages. (0-531-08394-2) \$13.95

An African-American child accustomed to hearing stories about her mama's childhood asks for one at bedtime, knowing full well what the true-life story will be. Readers are drawn into the warm family memories of past comings and goings, partings and returns so common in families and yet so personal for this one. A superb recognition of intergenerational experience is recreated through a question and answer dialogue and in the exquisitely painted watercolors which incorporate details appealing to young children. (Ages 3-9)

Johnson, Herschel. **A VISIT TO THE COUNTRY**. Illustrated by Romare Bearden. Harper & Row. 28 pages. (0-06-022854-7) \$13.89

While visiting his grandparents in the rural South of the early 20th century, an African-American boy named Mike finds and briefly cares for an injured baby cardinal until the little bird is ready to live independently once again. The full-color paintings which illustrate this compassionate story are the only works by the late Romare Bearden to appear in a book created for children. (Ages 3-6)

Jorgensen, Gail. **CROCODILE BEAT**. Illustrated by Patricia Mullins. U.S. edition: Bradbury. 32 pages. (0-02-748010-0) \$13.95

"Down by the river in the heat of the day / the crocodile sleeps and awaits his prey. Zzzzzzzzzz. Zzzzzzzzzz. Zzzzzzzzzz." A happy surprise concludes a sequence of striking, brightly colored collages picturing jungle creatures and featuring fast action anchored by a steady rhythm. (Ages 3-7)

Kalman, Maira. **SAYONARA, MRS. KACKLEMAN**. Viking Kestrel. 32 pages. (0-670-82945-5) \$14.95

Lulu and Alexander say good-bye to their dreaded piano teacher, Mrs. Kackleman, and head for Japan, where they spend fun-filled days touring and taking in the sights. Kalman's colorful and whimsical tribute to Japan uses visual humor, exaggerated characterizations and a marvelously skewed perspective to create a sense of excitement and wonder. (Ages 4-8)

Khalsa, Dayal Kaur. **HOW PIZZA CAME TO QUEENS**. Clarkson N. Potter. 24 pages. (0-517-57126-9) \$13.95

"Long ago, before there were pizza stands and pizzerias and frozen pizzas and pizza mixes" Mrs. Pelligrio came from Italy to visit the family of May's best friends. Four little girls' efforts to communicate without words combine with aproned Mrs. Pelligrio's understanding of their intent if not their language in a series of tenderly amusing snapshots from a leisurely

Queens summer in the late 1940s. An engaging story full of well-paced dialogue is illustrated with the strikingly composed full-color paintings characteristic of Khalsa's picture books reminiscent of her childhood. The book features May, the imaginative and determined girl in *I Want a Dog* (1987) and *My Family Vacation* (1988), and it stars—pizza! (Ages 4-9)

——. JULIAN. Clarkson N. Potter. 24 pages. (0-517-57279-6) \$12.95

A self-sufficient woman adds a large yellow barking dog named Julian to her peaceful rural surroundings. Julian settles uneasily into his new household until the day his chasing instincts are put to a constructive purpose. Khalsa's talent for written and visual composition and her fondness for dogs (*I Want a Dog*, 1987) inspire an original first-person picture tribute to life with an unforgettable canine. (Ages 4-9)

Kimmelman, Leslie. FRANNIE'S FRUITS. Illustrated by Petra Mathers. Harper & Row. 32 pages. (0-06-023164-5) \$12.89

A little girl tells about her family's fruit, vegetable and flower stand on Highway 57; it's named after their dog Franny, and everyone helps. Through the child's commentary and Petra Mathers' colorful paintings readers meet the customers and helpers on a typical day. Mathers suggests visual spaces very effectively as well as aptly characterizing the people of the story. An industrious and efficient summer day is filled with the hope of child-like joy in self-pride and the predictable. (Ages 4-7)

Kitchen, Bert. TENREC'S TWIGS. U.S. edition: Philomel. 20 pages. (0-399-21720-7) \$14.95

A tenacious, inquisitive little streaked tenrec quizzes one creature after another about whether he'll waste time constructing yet another fragile twig dwelling. Each one responds according to its typical behavior. Elegantly painted wildlife and stunning graphic design make a stand-out cumulative entertainment even more outstanding visually. After the story's end, the author/artist informs and also startles readers with an additional page stating that the creatures all live in central and south Africa near where the tenrec's natural habitat is currently threatened with extinction. This fully pleasurable original story is effective in group settings of young children. It can also motivate older readers/listeners to ponder the basis on which worth depends. (Ages 3-9)

Lester, Alison. ROSIE SIPS SPIDERS. U.S. edition: Houghton Mifflin. 32 pages. (0-395-51526-2) \$13.95

Seven distinctive children indicate their equally distinctive preferences about work, home, food, fun, gardens, animals, baths and sleep. The first visual and written sequence sets the pace for the whole book and also for each child: "Ernie is a wildlife photographer. / Celeste is a famous ballet dancer. / Frank is an astronaut. / Rosie goes herding. / Nicky is the doctor at the doll's hospital. / Clive bakes chocolate cakes. / But Tessa is a princess." (Tessa was last seen wearing dress-up clothes and pedaling her bicycle down the road.) A rhythmic frolic about individuality features real kids drawn in color with affection and accuracy. (Ages 3-7)

Marshak, Samuel. THE PUP GREW UP! Translated from the Russian by Richard Pevear. Illustrated by Vladimir Rudunsky. U.S. edition: Henry Holt. 28 pages. (0-8050-0952-3) \$13.95

"A lady came to the station / With a pan / A divan / A basin / A box / With three locks / A valise / And a tiny Pekinese." A droll cumulative story about mishap and mistake is illustrated in the style and graphic design of European commercial art of the late 1920s and early 1930s, the era in which the poem was first published in the Soviet Union. The author was a well loved Russian writer who organized the first children's publishing house in the USSR. The humor originates within the word combinations, but the punch line is visual. (Ages 3-8)

Mendez, Phil. **THE BLACK SNOWMAN**. Illustrated by Carole Byard. Scholastic/Hardcover. 45 pages. (0-590-40552-7) \$13.95

Jacob is an angry, bitter city child of color who associates his family's poverty with their race. He reluctantly joins his younger brother's efforts to create a snow figure from traffic-dirtied snow. The rag they find in the trash and drape over the snowman is actually colorful West African kente cloth. Its magical powers enable Jacob to envision the dark beauty of his majestic ancient African ancestors about which the snowman tells him. Byard's sweeping, curving lines, her exceptionally well depicted human figures and her selection of luminous blues, gray, black and purple hues add emotional power and depth to the story. Although there's an abundance of child appeal in this long complex story within a story, it also requires a double suspension of disbelief. Honor Book, 1989 CCBC Coretta Scott King Discussion. (Ages 7-10)

Pfanner, Louise. **LOUISE BUILDS A HOUSE**. U.S. edition: Orchard. 28 pages. (0-531-08396-9) \$12.95

Louise is planning a house to accommodate her multiple pastimes. It will have "a flat roof to fly kites from. / It must have big windows / to read in, / and small windows / to paint on." Louise plans to watch the stars, garden, draw, keep bees and play chess—and more. This Australian author/artist has an acute written and visual understanding of child-like hopes for the future. (Ages 3-8)

Rosner, Ruth. **NATTIE WITCH**. Harper & Row. 32 pages. (0-06-025099-2) \$11.89

An understated text recounts the mundane details of an ordinary day in a school girl's life, contrasting humorously with whimsical illustrations which depict Nattie as a purple-haired witch who eats Newt Loops for breakfast, gets a ride to school on her father's broom stick and is literally turned into a little fish in her swimming class. (Ages 3-6)

Say, Allen. **THE LOST LAKE**. Houghton Mifflin. 32 pages. (0-395-50933-5) \$14.95

A boy lives with his father each summer, typically passing the time by reading and watching television. Their week-long camping trip yields new self-knowledge for the boy and shows another dimension of the dad's interests, particularly his strongly expressed concerns about crowded recreation areas. A first-person narrative, lots of dialogue, and well-composed full-page watercolor paintings are hallmarks of a father-and-son story involving an Asian-American family which grows closer in spirit the farther they go into the wilderness. (Ages 4-9)

Schwartz, Henry. **HOW I CAPTURED A DINOSAUR**. Illustrated by Amy Schwartz. A Richard Jackson Book/Orchard. 32 pages. (0-531-08370-5) \$12.95

Once he gets used to the Bradford family, dinosaur Albert likes running through the sprinkler, seeing mud wrestling and the Flintstones on TV, and being scratched on the head. Actually, the family got used to Albert somewhat easily after Liz, a young dinosaur enthusiast ranking with the best of them, located Albert not far from where the family went camping near Baja, California. Amy Schwartz's witty artwork created with pen and ink and watercolor wash perfectly extends the humor of her father's California fantasy story. Once again this artist displays her unique facility with perspective and detail in expressing her wildly canny observations of serious children being taken seriously by their parents and teachers. (Ages 4-9)

Sundvall, Viveca. **MIMI AND THE BISCUIT FACTORY**. Translated from the Swedish by Eric Bibb. Illustrated by Eva Eriksson. R & S Books/U.S. distributor: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 24 pages. (91-29-59142-2) \$12.95

A first wobbly tooth and a field trip to the town biscuit factory result in an action-filled day for six-year-old Mimi and Albert, her friend who can count to 42. The classmates and adults in their lives are well-characterized with quirky details in Eriksson's full-color illustrations full of the humorous side events in Mimi's day. (Ages 4-7)

Turnbull, Ann. **THE SAND HORSE**. Illustrated by Michael Foreman. Atheneum. 32 pages. (0-689-31581-3) \$13.95

On a St. Ives beach on the Cornish coast of England, an artist becomes inspired one day by the white crested waves sometimes called white horses. Using sand and water for his project, the artist sculpts a large reclining horse. After the next tide, the horse joins the galloping waves. A softly colored quiet transformation fantasy about human creativity as well as that of nature's continuing cycles.

Vagin, Vladimir and Frank Asch. **HERE COMES THE CAT!** U.S. edition: Scholastic/Hardcover. 32 pages. (0-590-41859-9) \$11.95

A watchful mouse alerts a community on land and sea to the pending arrival of a feline who turns out to be a harnessed pussycat conveying a wheel of cheese for all to share. Readers may anticipate an unseen enemy and ominous consequences as the frequently repeated English/Russian announcement "Here comes the cat!" heightens suspense. The drama succeeds, as does the surprise and the minutely detailed visual stories within the story. And so did the long distance collaboration of a Russian and a Vermonter whose cooperative venture into picture book creation resulted in this first such "glasnost" project in the children's book industry of each nation. (Ages 3-7)

Williams, Susan. **POPPY'S FIRST YEAR**. U.S. edition: Four Winds. 32 pages. (0-02-793031-9) \$13.95

A small boy describes what day-to-day life is like during the first year of his baby sister's life, highlighting aspects of her development such as her first tooth, learning to crawl, etc. Detailed realistic watercolor paintings feature an ordinary British family. (Ages 2-5)

Wisniewski, David. **THE WARRIOR AND THE WISEMAN**. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 28 pages. (0-688-07890-7) \$13.95

Twin brothers Tozaemon and Toemon are charged by their emperor father to bring him the five eternal elements: Earth, Fire, Water, Wind and Cloud. Wieniewski's background in drama, especially shadow puppetry, is evident in his first action-packed book in which he explores the merits of strength and wisdom. Setting his original story in ancient Japan, he dramatizes two approaches to a challenge, blind force and reasoned action, with the latter as the winner from the start. Many of the intricate almost three-dimensional cut-paper illustrations are derived from Japanese decorative arts. (Ages 5-9)

Wynne-Jones, Tim. **BUILDER OF THE MOON**. Illustrated by Ian Wallace. U.S. edition: Margaret K. McElderry Books. 28 pages. (0-689-50472-1) \$14.95

A desperate message from the moon reached brave block-building David Finebloom who knew just what to do with his toys, his imagination and the time left before his next meal with his mother. Full-color, pastel-pencil pictures show an active boy's spaceship mission created with his blocks and his block-buster ingenuity. (Ages 3-6)

Yorinks, Arthur. **OH, BROTHER**. Illustrated by Richard Egielski. A Michael di Capua Book/ Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 34 pages. (0-374-35599-1) \$15.95

In a tongue-in-cheek rags-to-riches story, sparring identical-twin brothers, Milton and Morris, are orphaned in a ship wreck in New York Harbor. After running away from Rotten's Home for Lost Boys, they join the circus, then try their hand at selling apples and performing as street musicians before they make their fame and fortune as tailors. True to the literature of the Dickensian era in which the story is set, one coincidence after another moves the fast-paced plot along. The understated text is accompanied by full-color illustrations which frequently expand it with exaggeration. (Ages 4-7)

See also: *Angel Mae*; *Animals Galore!*; *Baby Animals*; *Berchick*; *Boot Weather*; *Boy and the Ghost*; *Brother Anansi and the Cattle Ranch*; *Chita's Christmas Tree*; *Christmas Pageant*; *Cobweb Curtain*; *Come Out, Muskrats*; *Dinah's Mad, Bad Wishes*; *Feathers Like a Rainbow*; *Gift from Saint Francis*; *Guess Where You're*

Going, Guess What You'll Do; Happy Birthday Delores; Is Anybody Up?; Llama and the Great Flood; Lon Po Po; Lord of the Dance; My Mother's House, My Father's House; Nine-in-One GRR! GRR!; Not a Little Monkey; Popcorn Dragon; Rabbit Makes a Monkey Out of Lion; Rainbow Crow; Rise and Shine; Snow Day; Sorcerer's Apprentice; Talking Eggs; Three Astronauts; Three Little Pigs; Together; True Story of the Three Little Pigs; Turtle Knows Your Name; Uncle Nacho's Hat; Uncle Vova's Tree; Why There Is No Arguing in Heaven; Year in the Country; Concept Books; Books for Toddlers

15 FICTION FOR NEW READERS

Barrett, Joyce Durham. *WILLIE'S NOT THE HUGGING KIND*. Illustrated by Pat Cummings. Harper & Row. 32 pages. (0-06-020417-6) \$12.95

Willie becomes self-conscious about showing physical affection after a friend teases him about hugging his dad good-bye before leaving for school. Although his family respects his newly established boundaries, deep down Willie still wants to hug and be hugged. Barrett's easy narrative and Cummings' vivid full-color illustrations aptly portray a predicament common to elementary school-aged children. Willie is African-American and his best friend Jo Jo is Asian-American. (Ages 7-9)

Conford, Ellen. *JENNY ARCHER*, AUTHOR. Illustrated by Diane Palmisciano. (A Springboard Book) Little, Brown. 61 pages. (0-316-15255-2) \$9.95

In the third volume of the Jenny Archer series, Jenny takes to heart her teacher's praise of her writing ability. When the class is assigned to write their autobiographies, Jenny goes out of her way to make sure that her life story is filled with fascinating tidbits, even if it means stretching the truth. Touches of humor enliven a credible plot in an accessible story about a girl with a big imagination. (Ages 7-9)

Impey, Rose and Jolyne Knox. *DESPERATE FOR A DOG*. (Speedsters) U.S. edition: E. P. Dutton. 62 pages. (0-525-44513-7) \$10.95

Two sisters find it impossible to convince their parents, especially their at-home, unemployed dad, to add a dog to the household, that is, until the family dog-sits for their neighbor. The ratio of black-and-white line drawings to story is very high, which will add to how quickly novice or struggling readers will race through this lively story. (Ages 7-9)

Johansen, Hanna. *7 X 7 TALES OF A SEVENSLEEPER*. Translated from the German by Christopher Franceschelli. Illustrated by Käthi Bhend. U.S. edition: E. P. Dutton. 95 pages. (0-525-44491-2) \$12.95

Forty-nine prose vignettes recount episodes from the life of a seven-year-old boy who insists on doing everything in sevens, from eating seven potatoes at supper to having seven bristles on his toothbrush. This gentle portrait of an imaginative boy is generously and inventively illustrated with black-and-white line drawings. (Ages 6-8)

Levinson, Marilyn. *THE FOURTH-GRADE FOUR*. Illustrated by Leslie Bowman. (A Redfeather Book) Henry Holt. 57 pages. (0-8050-1082-3) \$12.95

Nine-year-old Alex values his newly established friendships with schoolmates Billy and Steve, even though he is uncomfortable when they sometimes tease kids who are different. When Alex finds out that he has to get eyeglasses, he fears he will be subjected to their ridicule,

so he tries to keep it a secret from them. Levinson develops credible characters responding to realistic life situations in an easy chapter book for transitional readers. (Ages 7-9)

Michels, Tilde. *RABBIT SPRING*. Translated from the German by J. Alison James. Illustrated by Käthi Bhend. U.S. edition: Gulliver Books/Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 84 pages. (0-15-200568-4) \$11.95

Exquisitely detailed black-and-white line drawings illustrate every page of a quiet animal story about the natural cycles. The life of a family of rabbits contrasts subtly with that of a family of hares as the young in each group are born, grow and mature, and eventually set out on their own to start the cycle over again. (Ages 7-9)

Rylant, Cynthia. *HENRY AND MUDGE AND THE FOREVER SEA*. (The Henry and Mudge Books) Illustrated by Suçie Stevenson. Bradbury. 48 pages. (0-02-778007-4) \$11.95

Four short chapters illustrated in full color involve a day on the ocean beach for Henry, his father and Henry's large dog. (Ages 5-7)

Sachs, Marilyn. *MATT'S MITT & FLEET-FOOTED FLORENCE*. Illustrated by Charles Robinson. New edition : E.P. Dutton. 39 pages. (0-525-44450-5) \$11.95

Two stories previously issued as separate volumes in 1975 and 1981 are successfully combined to create a unified whole. Matt's magic mitt, which can catch any fly ball, makes him the star of his major league team, the North Dakota Beavers. His talent as a ballplayer is only surpassed by that of his daughter, Florence, who, as the new star of the major leagues, can run so fast that she can hit a home run on a bunt. These contemporary tall tales offer fast-paced humor for young or reluctant readers. (Ages 7-10)

Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman. *NATE THE GREAT GOES DOWN IN THE DUMPS*. Illustrated by Marc Simont. (A Break-of-Day Book). Coward-McCann. 48 pages. (0-698-20636-3) \$11.95

Boy Detective Nate and his dog Sludge are called upon to search for their friend Rosamond's missing money box so she can continue to operate her sidewalk stand. (Ages 6-8)

Wallace-Brodeur, Ruth. *STORIES FROM THE BIG CHAIR*. Illustrated by Diane de Groat. McElderry. 42 pages. (0-689-50481-0) \$11.95

Every evening after supper seven-year-old Molly curls up in a big chair with her mother or her father and tells a story about herself and her little sister, Susan. The seven stories here, one for each day of the week, are set in a large, clear typeface and are told with simple vocabulary and sentence structure, making this just right for newly independent readers. (Ages 7-9)

Walsh, Jill Paton. *BIRDY AND THE GHOSTIES*. Illustrated by Alan Marks. U.S. edition: Farrar Straus Giroux. 46 pages. (0-374-30716-4) \$9.95

"Rowing nobody to nowhere" is how Birdy's ferryman father describes the unusual task before him when he is hired by three ghosties to row them to an island that doesn't exist. But Birdy, blessed with second sight, sees the ghosties for what they really are: a king, queen and prince, and she is rewarded for her perception. With a haunting, eloquent simplicity, the author creates a strong sense of place, well-developed characters and a marvelously engaging plot. Delicate watercolors illustrate every page of the handsomely designed volume. (Ages 7-9)

See also: *Grandpa Days*; *Long Way Westward*; *A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr.*; Concept Books

16 FICTION FOR YOUNG READERS

Bawden, Nina. *THE OUTSIDE CHILD*. U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 232 pages. (0-688-08965-8) \$12.95

When Jane discovers that she has a younger brother and sister no one has ever told her about, she and her best friend Plato successfully plot to find them and make contact with them. An intriguing and appealing story features offbeat yet credible characters. (Ages 8-11)

Cassedy, Sylvia. *LUCIE BABBIDGE'S HOUSE*. Thomas Y. Crowell. 243 pages. (0-690-04798-3) \$12.89

Shy, unkempt Lucie is frequently the subject of ridicule in her classroom at Norwood Hall but she is the center of loving attention in her own house to which she returns every afternoon. As the story progresses, readers gradually realize that much of Lucie's world is the product of her own imagination; exactly how much is open to interpretation. The brilliant, multilayered novel explores the complexity of a child's mind at play, enriched by wordplay, metaphor and symbolism. Like the beans handed out to each child in the botany lesson that opens the first chapter, all things in Lucie's world are "magic because they can be transformed" in the "fertile planting medium" of Lucie's imagination. The ingeniously crafted story about the healing power of play and the renewal of life continues to unfold and resonate with repeated readings. Winner of the 1989 CCBC Newbery Discussion. (Age 10 and older)

Fine, Anne. *MY WAR WITH GOGGLE-EYES*. U.S. edition: Little, Brown. 166 pages. (0-316-28314-2) \$13.95

Kitty detests her mum's newest boyfriend whom she unkindly nicknames "Goggle-eyes." How can her mum and younger sister be taken in by this politically conservative jerk who belittles their efforts in the anti-nuclear movement? With humor and insight, Fine tells a wildly entertaining story about a family in transition. Her attention to the details of a young girl's developing political attitudes and her seriocomic descriptions of the endless rallies Kitty and her mother attend make this a particularly distinctive story. (Ages 9-13)

Green, Connie Jordan. *THE WAR AT HOME*. Margaret K. McElderry Books. 136 pages. (0-689-50470-5) \$12.95

Thirteen-year-old Mattie, living in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, during World War II, doesn't like her bossy 12-year-old cousin Virgil who has come to live with her family. Her dad seems to be paying more attention to Virgil than to her and Mattie feels suddenly distant from him. Like other adults working in the government-restricted area in Oak Ridge, her dad is not permitted to talk about his work, placing an even greater distance between them. Mattie's feelings toward Virgil change as she gradually gains a clearer understanding of his past difficulties and, at the war's end, the nature of Oak Ridge's secret project is also revealed. Fine characterization, crisp dialogue and a noteworthy historical setting are the hallmarks of this engaging family story. (Ages 9-12)

Hughes, Dean. *FAMILY POSE*. Atheneum. 184 pages. (0-689-31396-9) \$13.95

Ever since he lost his parents, eleven-year-old David has been shuttled from one foster home to another and has never felt part of a family. Determined not to be found when her runs away, he hides out in the laundry room of a downtown hotel until he is discovered by a sympathetic bellboy who agrees to keep his presence a secret. David slowly begins to develop close relationships with the hotel's night staff; they give him the sense of family he craves. But he can't hide forever. Both primary and secondary characters are fully developed in an intriguing novel with an unusual setting. (Ages 9-12)

Joosse, Barbara M. *PIECES OF THE PICTURE*. J.B. Lippincott. 135 pages. (0-397-32343-3) \$12.89

After her father dies, Emily and her mother move from Chicago to Door County, Wisconsin, where her mother is employed as an innkeeper. Bitter and resentful about the changes in her life, Emily must eventually find comfort in her new surroundings and come to terms with the double-edged grief she feels for loss of her father and her own loss of childhood. (Ages 9-12)

King-Smith, Dick. *MARTIN'S MICE*. Illustrated by Jez Alborough. U.S. edition: Crown. 122 pages. (0-517-57113-7) \$10.95

Martin is a most unusual farm cat. He detests catching mice, as cats are expected to do, and only does so at the insistence of his mother. Instead Martin would prefer to have a mouse for a pet because, he observes, "They're such dear little things!" But Drusilla, the mouse Martin adopts, is dear only in Martin's eyes. She's bossy and manipulative and considers herself a prisoner in Martin's care. King-Smith deftly combines animal and human traits to create memorable barnyard characters in a fresh and funny story that is perfect for reading aloud. (Ages 7-12)

Le Guin, Ursula K. *CATWINGS RETURN*. Illustrated by S.D. Schindler. Orchard. 48 pages. (0-531-08403-5) \$10.95

In a sequel to *Catwings* (1988), the extraordinary winged cats leave their newfound rural home to return to the city where they were born in search of their alleycat mother. Their search leads to the discovery of a small frightened kitten, winged just as they are, in an abandoned building slated for demolition. Jewel-like illustrations accompany this original, appealing fantasy. (Ages 8-11)

Lisle, Janet Taylor. *AFTERNOON OF THE ELVES*. Orchard. 122 pages. (0-531-08437-X) \$12.95

"Sara-Kate Connolly thinks she's got elves," eleven-year-old Hillary tells her mother one day after spending an afternoon in the Connolly's neighboring yard. And, indeed, it appears that she does have them, if the elaborate elf village in Sara-Kate's yard is any indication of truth. Hillary's fascination with Sara-Kate, her elves and her mysterious home life grows as she becomes more and more involved in her alternate world. Changing perceptions of reality resonate as a central theme in a finely crafted novel. (Ages 9-12)

Little, Jean. *HEY WORLD, HERE I AM!* Illustrated by Sue Truesdell. U.S. edition: Harper & Row. 88 pages. (0-06-024006-7) \$10.89

The high-spirited character of a girl on the brink of adolescence comes through in this collection of her short prose pieces and original poetry. Kate is a character in an earlier book by Jean Little and her reflections on school, family, friends and self are always amusing and often insightful. (Ages 8-12)

Lowry, Lois. *NUMBER THE STARS*. Houghton Mifflin. (0-395-51060-0) \$12.95

Ten-year-old Annemarie, living in occupied Denmark during World War II, must test the limits of her own courage when she and her family assist their Jewish friends in their escape from the Nazis. Flawlessly interwoven into her personal account are details of the historic and heroic Movement in which Denmark, as a nation, successfully resisted the attempts of the Nazis to exterminate Danish Jews. With their varying degrees of knowledge, each character represents a model of courage in a fast-paced story about individual and collective response to evil. Honor book, 1989 CCBC Newbery Discussion. (Ages 8-12)

Mahy, Margaret. *THE BLOOD-AND-THUNDER ADVENTURE ON HURRICANE PEAK*. Illustrated by Wendy Smith. U.S. edition: Margaret K. McElderry Books. 132 pages. (0-689-50488-8) \$12.95

Sir Quincey Judd-Sprockett (Villainous Industrialist) is determined to marry Belladonna Doppler (Beautiful Inventor). He's unaware that his plans will be thwarted by mishaps and

mistaken identities but especially by the students (well-rounded in science, math and in poetry) at the Unexpected School on the top of Hurricane Peak. The outrageously zany, perfectly put-together plot gets underway after young Huxley Hammond writes a thrilling, blood-and-thunder story in small neat printing on the great white empty space of his newly painted bedroom wall, and his sister ZaZa Hammond draws pictures to illustrate it. Twenty-six rapidly paced, exaggerated episodes (illustrated nonstop with black-and-white line drawings) later, readers are back to the beginning; or are they? (Ages 9-12)

———. **NONSTOP NONSENSE**. Illustrated by Quentin Blake. U.S. edition: Margaret K. McElderry Books. 120 pages. (0-689-50483-7) \$12.95

Readers will make a dash through 27 difficult-to-put-down chances to experience Mahy's playfulness with the sounds of words she links in new ways and the ideas she shapes with words into zany poems and prose pieces such as three "Strange Events in the Life of the Delmonico Family." Blake's equally vigorous pen-and-ink drawings prance across each page in a visual counterpoint perfectly matched with Mahy's dependably original, skillfully crafted fun. (Ages 7-12)

Marino, Jan. **EIGHTY-EIGHT STEPS TO SEPTEMBER**. Little, Brown. 154 pages. (0-316-54620-8) \$13.95

Amy first realizes that things are changing when she is able to surpass her older brother Robbie in a race up the eighty-eight steps they must climb each day on their way home from school. Robbie's recurrent doctor appointments and her parents' frequent absences from home soon reveal an awful truth—Robbie is dying. Amy's emotional responses to personal tragedy are realistically examined in a well-crafted first novel. (Ages 8-11)

Namioka, Lensey. **ISLAND OF OGRES**. Harper & Row. 197 pages. (0-06-024373-2) \$13.89

Feudal Japan provides the setting for a fast-paced mystery. When Kajiro, a young, unemployed samurai lands on an unfamiliar island, he is mistaken for a great warrior the islanders are expecting to help rid their homeland of vicious and elusive ogres. Political intrigue, romance and touches of humor are woven into the intricate plot. (Age 11 and older)

Nelson, Theresa. **AND ONE FOR ALL**. Orchard. 182 pages. (0-531-08404-3) \$12.95

Growing up in the Vietnam era, 13-year-old Geraldine is torn between her love for her older brother, Wing, and her lifelong friendship with Sam when Wing joins the Marines and Sam, the anti-war movement. A compelling story of conflicting loyalties develops through believable dialogue, first-rate characterization and vivid imagery. (Age 11 and older)

Paulsen, Gary. **THE WINTER ROOM**. Orchard. 103 pages. (0-531-05839-5) \$11.95

From spring to winter, eleven-year-old Eldon shares his impressionistic views of life on his family's Minnesota farm. Paulsen's prose shines with a poetic beauty which contrasts ingeniously with his realistic description of Eldon's unglamorous world of mud and muck and machinery. By tradition the family gathers on long winter evenings to listen to the eldest family member tell stories from his past, a legacy to which Eldon is a proud heir, and the cycle begins anew. (Age 9 and older)

Procházková, Iva. **THE SEASON OF SECRET WISHES**. Written in Czechoslovakian. Translated from the German language edition by Elizabeth D.

Crawford. U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 213 pages. (0-688-08735-3) \$12.95

Kapka explores her new neighborhood in contemporary Prague with the curiosity and perseverance typical of eleven year olds everywhere. But unlike many others, Kapka lives in a time and a place where freedom of expression is restricted, a fact of which she is painfully aware since her father is a free-thinking artist. Individuals willing to take risks and resist oppression in small ways make up the cast of fascinating characters whom Kapka befriends in a novel about the value of exploration and independence. Winner, 1989 CCBC Batchelder Discussion. (Ages 9-14)

Reuter, Bjarne. **BUSTER'S WORLD**. First published in Denmark. Translated by Anthea Bell. U.S. edition: E.P. Dutton. 154 pages. (0-525-44475-0) \$12.95

The son of a magician, Buster Oregon Mortensen is a gifted conjurer in his own right and he frequently uses a magic trick to get himself out of a tight spot, whether he finds himself in the principal's office or on a deserted street corner, facing the notorious neighborhood bully, Lars. The indomitable Buster is a resourceful and enchanting protagonist, a scrappy survivor in a world that is not always friendly to him. A satisfying novel set in contemporary Copenhagen is textured with humor, tenderness and poignance. Honor Book, 1989 CCBC Batchelder Discussion. (Ages 8-12)

Sargent, Sarah. **JONAS McFEE**, A.T.P. Bradbury. 119 pages. (0-02-778041-4) \$11.95

By a twist of fate, Jonas becomes the A.T.P.—Awful Terrible Powerful One—when a strange girl hands him a mysterious, glowing blue ball and runs. In possession of the ball, Jonas finds he has the power to do anything he likes, be it flying or getting the best of the school bully. But Jacobius Fiar, the evil scientist who created the ball, wants it back. A fast-paced adventure story blends elements of humor and childhood wish fulfillment. (ages 8-11)

———. **SEEDS OF CHANGE**. Bradbury. 103 pages. (0-02-778031-7) \$12.95

Rachel's dad is an offbeat entrepreneur whose latest scheme is to turn a wild swamp into a theme park called Swamp World. The weeks Rachel spends with her parents at the site of her father's newest venture provide her with time for exploration and she gradually comes to appreciate the raw, natural beauty of the swamp in its undisturbed state. (Ages 8-11)

Slepian, Jan. **THE BROCCOLI TAPES**. Philomel. 157 pages. (0-399-21712-6) \$13.95

When her father's work takes the Davidson family to Hawaii for five months, Sara tries to keep up with her fifth grade class back in Boston by working on an oral history project of her new experiences. Her tapes are full of resentment at being moved and negative impressions of Hawaii, but mostly she talks about Broccoli, the wild cat she's attempting to befriend, and about Eddie Nutt, the hostile boy who shares her fascination for the cat. Subtle parallels between Eddie and Broccoli unfold as Sara learns the challenges of getting close to someone who's learned by past experience to distrust people. (Ages 9-12)

Smith, Alison. **BILLY BOONE**. Charles Scribner's Sons. 119 pages. (0-684-18974-7) \$12.95

Twelve-year-old Billy wants to play the trumpet more than anything else in the world but her parents resist because they feel it's an inappropriate instrument for a girl. Feeling out of sorts at home, Billy spends more and more time with her unconventional grandmother who becomes a strong ally for her cause. A Southern setting and strong characterizations are the outstanding features in this story of an intergenerational relationship. (Ages 8-11)

Wrightson, Patricia. **BALYET**. U.S. edition: Margaret K. McElderry Books. 129 pages. (0-689-50468-3) \$12.95

A legendary figure known to the indigenous peoples of Australia, Balyet is a young woman banished from her people centuries ago whose restless spirit roams the hills seeking the company of children. Headstrong Jo ignores warnings about Balyet as she enters the ancient sacred lands and soon her life is hopelessly intertwined with the spirit. Elements of contemporary realism are skillfully blended with ancient stories in a spare but haunting novel. (Ages 9-14)

Yarbrough, Camille. **THE SHIMMERSHINE QUEENS**. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 142 pages. (0-399-21465-8) \$13.95

Pride in African-American heritage is the central theme in a finely crafted novel with an urban setting. Problems at home and conflicts with her peer group at school make life difficult for fifth-grader Angie, but she is strengthened by the wisdom of Great Cousin Seatta and her "get-up gift." The ability to see the past and the future, to see yourself doing your best, Cousing Seatta explains, fills you with that "shimmershine feeling," a gift passed down

from generation to generation. Angie's shimmering feeling helps her through some rough times as she grows in self-respect and racial pride. Honor Book, 1989 CCBC Coretta Scott King Discussion of Writing. (Ages 8-12)

See also: *Bells of Christmas*; *Christmas Memory*; *Have a Happy . . .*; *Secret Garden*; *Valentine* and Orson

17 FICTION FOR TEENAGERS

Avi. *THE MAN WHO WAS POE*. Orchard. 205 pages. (0-531-05833-6) \$13.95

As a newcomer to Providence, Rhode Island, in 1848, eleven-year-old Edmund is at a loss when his aunt and sister mysteriously disappear and he welcomes the help offered by an odd stranger known as Mr. Dupin. As they search through misty back streets and gloomy buildings, it becomes apparent to Edmund, and to the reader, that the unpredictable Mr. Dupin has an ulterior motive for helping; he is none other than Edgar Allan Poe, following a storyline in which Edmund fits as protagonist. But Poe and Edmund have different opinions on how the story should end. The masterful intertwining of two stories unfolds a suspenseful plot peopled by complex characters. (Age 12 and older)

Baklanov, Grigory. *FOREVER NINETEEN*. Translated from the Russian by Antonina W. Bouis. U.S. edition: J.B. Lippincott. 166 pages. (0-397-32296-8) \$13.95

The experiences of a sensitive 19-year-old Soviet soldier fighting against the Nazis during World War II are recounted in an absorbing novel which ultimately reveals the senselessness of war. Details of action on the front lines and life among the wounded in a crowded hospital provide a backdrop against which the compelling story of short-lived, fragile human relationships takes place. (Age 14 and older)

Block, Francesca Lia. *WEETZIE BAT*. A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 88 pages. (0-06-020536-9) \$12.89

A hip, urban fairy tale celebrates the glitter and the glamor of teenage punk culture in contemporary Los Angeles. Cooler-than-thou Weetzie is at heart an innocent who wishes for life-long love and happiness when a genie grants her three wishes. But in Weetzie's world her wishes are fulfilled in unusual and surprising ways. Francesca Lia Block offers a fresh, new voice in a sometimes touching, sometimes shocking, always funny first novel. (Age 13 and older)

Carter, Alden R. *UP COUNTRY*. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 256 pages. (0-399-21583-2) \$15.95

Life changes dramatically for 16-year-old Carl when his mother is placed in a recovery program for alcoholics and he is sent from his home in Milwaukee to rural northern Wisconsin to live temporarily with his aunt and uncle. The tough, streetwise city kid gradually begins to relax and let down his defenses, though he is continually haunted by his past. Carter skillfully combines a riveting plot with an insightful, believable character study to give teens a story several notches above the typical young adult problem novel. (Age 12 and older)

Childress, Alice. *THOSE OTHER PEOPLE*. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 186 pages. (0-399-21510-7) \$14.95

An African-American teenager and a gay student teacher witness the sexual assault of a fifteen-year-old girl by a popular male high school teacher, an event which polarizes the small suburban community in which they all live. By telling the story from the points of

view of ten people who play a role in the incident, Childress skillfully underscores the prejudices that influence each individual's perception of it. (Age 13 and older)

Cole, Brock. CELINE. Farrar Straus Giroux. 216 pages. (0-374-31234-6) \$13.95

A devastatingly witty and perceptive 16-year-old girl, Celine would like to be left alone to work on her paintings. Unfortunately, the fast-approaching deadline for a term paper on *Catcher in the Rye* (which she hates) and frequent visits from Jake, a neighbor kid (whom she tolerates), are constant intrusions into her solitude. In spite of their age difference, Celine and Jake find that, as neglected kids with divorced parents, they have a lot in common, and the two form a tough but tender alliance. Cole's brilliant characterizations reveal the complexity of human emotions and relationships in a funny, provocative, perfectly crafted novel. (Age 14 and older)

Crew, Linda. CHILDREN OF THE RIVER. Delacorte. 213 pages. (0-385-29690-8) \$14.95

When teen-aged Sundara flees Cambodia with her aunt to escape the Khmer Rouge Army, she and her family resettle in the United States, and try to resume life as usual in a completely foreign setting. Shy and cautious, Sundara gradually learns the ways of her peers in her new American high school and is flattered by the attention of Jonathan, one of the most popular boys in her class. The tension between her traditional Cambodian cultural values and her desire to "fit in" at school permeates the plot of an above-average teen romance. (Age 12 and older)

Dickinson, Peter. EVA. U.S. edition: Delacorte. 219 pages. (0-385-29702-5) \$14.95

In one of the most original and intriguing plots in years, 13-year-old Eva wakes up in a hospital after a terrible car accident to find that her brain has been transplanted into the body of a chimpanzee. Set in a future time in which the human population has completely overrun the earth and other animals exist only in laboratories and zoos, Eva's story becomes one of a clash between scientists and environmentalists, as she becomes the key player in a plot to return a group of chimpanzees to the wild. The outstanding characterization of Eva, with the heart and mind of an adolescent girl and the body and instincts of an adult chimpanzee, is the highlight of this unforgettable novel. (Age 12 and older)

Duder, Tessa. IN LANE THREE, ALEX ARCHER. U.S. edition: Houghton Mifflin. 176 pages. (0-395-50927-0) \$13.95

At fifteen, Alex is a gifted and disciplined athlete, competing against her arch-rival, Maggie Benton, for a spot on New Zealand's swim team at the 1960 Rome Olympics. The pressures of fame and competition weigh heavily on Alex, as does personal tragedy when her best friend is struck and killed by a drunken driver. But strength, integrity and an intense desire to be Number One push Alex inexorably forward in her quest for success. The novelist's first-hand experiences as a champion swimmer on New Zealand's national team enrich her detailed descriptions of practice sessions and swim meets. Fine characterization and excellent pacing combine to create a compelling story. (Age 12 and older)

Homes, A.M. JACK. Macmillan. 220 pages. (0-02-744831-2) \$13.95

In the months prior to his 16th birthday, Jack is adjusting to difficult changes in his family life. His parents have split up and his mom's new health conscious, aging hippy boyfriend has moved into the house. In addition, Jack's father is gay and everyone seems to know it. Faced with vicious teasing at school as well as his own homophobic reactions, Jack has a hard time maintaining a relationship with his dad, in spite of the fact his father is the same man he always was, someone Jack has loved and admired. The wry first-person narrative is full of the sort of exaggeration and hyperbole typical of teenagers. Like Jack himself, this first novel is witty, insightful and full of heart. (Age 12 and older)

Maguire, Gregory. I FEEL LIKE THE MORNING STAR. Harper & Row. 272 pages. (0-06-024022-9) \$14.89

In the middle of the 21st century, 400 survivors of the nuclear holocaust have lived in a self-sustaining community underground for nearly five years. Completely cut-off from the

outside world (if it exists), three teenagers begin to question the collective passive acceptance of their fates; they want out of their prison. Resisting all attempts the colony government makes to control their thoughts through memory-killing drugs and rigid rules, Sorb, Ella and Mart organize a clandestine movement of colonists determined to escape and start a new life above-ground. A beautiful use of language gives depth and texture to an absorbing post-holocaust story. (Age 13 and older)

Miller, Jim Wayne. *NEWFOUND*. Orchard. 213 pages. (0-531-05845-X) \$13.95

A novel set in Appalachia chronicles the personal development of a sensitive boy as he makes a slow transition from childhood to adulthood. The powerful narrative evokes a strong sense of place through its rich imagery and distinctive voice. (Age 14 and older)

Naughton, Jim. *MY BROTHER STEALING SECOND*. Harper & Row. 213 pages. \$13.95

As 16-year-old Bobby moves beyond the intense stage of grieving which virtually immobilized him following his older brother's death, he begins to put together the pieces of the events surrounding the tragedy and finds that the truth has been covered up. The first-person narrative effectively uses flashback sequences and baseball imagery in the carefully constructed plot. (Age 14 and older)

Newth, Mette. *THE ABDUCTION*. Translated from the Norwegian by Tiina Nunnally and Steve Murray. U.S. edition: Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 248 pages. (0-374-30008-9) \$13.95

Osuqo, on the brink of womanhood, looks forward to marrying her childhood friend, Poq, who is now a skilled and celebrated hunter among the Inuit people. But all of her childhood dreams and hopes for future happiness are brutally dashed when her people encounter Europeans on a ship off the coast of Greenland. Osuqo and Poq are kidnapped by the sailors, taken to Norway and displayed as exotic curiosities. Christine, the young serving woman commanded to care for Osuqo and Poq, is at first repulsed by them but gradually extends her sympathy and understanding. Told from the alternating points of view of Osuqo and Christine, the harsh, impassioned novel uncompromisingly recounts the tragic clash of two cultures. (Age 14 and older)

Paulsen, Gary. *THE VOYAGE OF THE FROG*. Orchard. 141 pages. (0-531-08405-1) \$12.95

David and his Uncle Owen's close relationship is largely based on a mutual respect for the sea and a fascination with sailing. When Uncle Owen dies, he bequeaths to David his boat, the *Frog*, and leaves his nephew with a dying wish: that David should scatter his ashes far out on the open sea. In attempting to fulfill his uncle's wish, David gets caught in a storm that throws him far off course and puts his sailing skills to the test. The powerful survival story is filled with adventure and emotion. (Age 12 and older)

Rosen, Billi. *ANDI'S WAR*. Dutton. 136 pages. (0-525-44473-4) \$13.95

Andi and her brother Paul are left in the care of their grandmother when their parents go off to fight for the communist cause at the beginning of the Greek Civil War. The children understand little of the politics of the adult world, even though they overshadow every aspect of their lives, from intrafamily conflicts to altercations with other children in the neighborhood. Excellent characterization and a fully realized plot strengthen this fine historical novel. (Age 12 and older)

Sevela, Ephraim. *WE WERE NOT LIKE OTHER PEOPLE*. Translated from the Russian by Antonina W. Bouis. U.S. edition: Harper & Row. 216 pages. (0-06-025508-0) \$13.89

A hard-hitting, unforgettable novel recounts the experiences of a young Jewish boy in Russia, separated from his family at the outbreak of World War II, who must fend for himself. As he wanders across the bleak wartorn landscape, his life briefly touches those of others, all surviving as best they can. (Age 13 and older)

Shannon, George. *UNLIVED AFFECTIONS*. A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 135 pages. (0-06-025305-3) \$12.89

Seventeen-year-old Willie Ramsey has never known his parents. His mother died when Willie was two and his father disappeared before Willie was born. The grandmother who raised him refused to answer any questions about Willie's dad and now that she is dead, Willie feels even more lonely and cut-off from his family's past. Cleaning out the contents of his mother's old desk which has been left untouched since her death, Willie comes across a stack of letters written by his father to his mother. Through the letters, Willie and the reader gain a sense of who his father was and an understanding of why he left. Shannon skillfully combines two distinct forms of narrative to create a unified whole in a first novel about the challenges of familial love. (Age 14 and older)

Staples, Suzanne Fisher. *SHABANU; DAUGHTER OF THE WIND*. Alfred A. Knopf. 240 pages. (0-394-84815-2) \$13.95

As the youngest of two daughters living in a nomadic family of camel herders in contemporary Pakistan, eleven-year-old Shabanu has enjoyed a great deal of freedom but she knows, as she faces the prospect of marriage in the coming year, she must begin to conform to the rigid role proscribed for women in her culture. In the character of Shabanu, Staples created a spirited individual who internalizes conflict as a means of rebelling against a system in which she is powerless. The highly sensual novel is rich in cultural and geographical details, allowing readers to enter into Shabanu's world and experience her joys and her sorrows. (Age 11 and older)

Tapp, Kathy Kennedy. *THE SACRED CIRCLE OF THE HULA HOOP*. Margaret K. McElderry Books. 180 pages. (0-689-50461-6) \$13.95

Robin's older sister's suicide attempt is the latest and most dramatic occurrence in a series of unusual and inexplicable actions. The shock of it moves 13-year-old Robin to recall and examine what life with her sister has been like over the past three years. A realistic and gripping story set in the early 1960s portrays the difficulties faced by a family coping with mental illness. (Age 12 and older)

Voigt, Cynthia. *SEVENTEEN AGAINST THE DEALER*. Atheneum. 181 pages. (0-689-31497-3) \$13.95

In the last volume of the Tillerman family saga, Dicey at age 24 struggles to get her boat-building business off the ground. Dicey knows boats but her naïveté and inexperience in self-employment lead her to failure after failure, nearly bringing her to the brink of disaster. Voigt's lyrical descriptions of Dicey's day-to-day work and her devotion to it serve as an interesting counterpoint to her message that success does not come easily and sometimes does not come at all. (Age 14 and older)

Zindel, Paul. *A BEGONIA FOR MISS APPLEBAUM*. A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 180 pages. (0-06-026878-6) \$12.89

At the beginning of a new school year, Henry and Zelda are dismayed to learn that their favorite teacher, Miss Applebaum, has taken an early retirement. They seek her out and find her living in her cluttered apartment on Central Park West. Miss Applebaum, they learn, is dying. On their frequent visits to her apartment, Henry and Zelda get swept up in Miss Applebaum's unusual adventures through Central Park and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and learn to see their city and themselves differently through her eyes. Told in alternating points of view, this offbeat story is at once poignant and uproariously funny. (Age 12 and older)

See also: *Christmas Memory*; *Proud Knight*, *Fair Lady*

18 NEW EDITIONS

Brown, Margaret Wise. **BABY ANIMALS**. Illustrated by Susan Jeffers. Random House. 32 pages. (0-394-92040-6) \$10.95

A bedtime story first published in 1941 in a slightly longer version reappears in a 11½" x 9¼" full-color picture book edition featuring an African-American family living comfortably on a family farm. Brown's cozy text seems effortless but actually employs intricately developed, repetitive responses. (Ages 2-6)

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. **THE SECRET GARDEN**. Illustrated by Shirley Hughes. U.S. edition: Viking Kestrel. 256 pages. (0-670-82571-9) \$18.95

An unabridged text, 16 color plates and more than 75 black and white line drawings offer a spectacular edition of the classic story of Mary Lennox, the people and the gardens of Misselthwaite Moors. (Ages 5-12)

Capote, Truman. **A CHRISTMAS MEMORY**. Illustrated by Beth Peck. Alfred A. Knopf. 38 pages. (0-679-80040-9) \$12.95

First published in 1956 as a short piece for adults, Capote's autobiographical masterpiece appears here in a 10½" x 8½" edition with 18 works of watercolor and ink art. Seven-year-old Buddy, Queenie the dog, their special elder friend and "fruitcake weather" cannot be easily forgotten. Set in the 1930s in rural Alabama, this eloquently expressed remembrance of Capote's adult companion is a tribute to her individuality and generosity and to the healing qualities of anticipation and appreciation. (Age 9-adult)

De la Mare, Walter. **PEACOCK PIE; A BOOK OF RHYMES**. Illustrated by Louise Brierley. Henry Holt. 111 pages. (0-8050-1124-2) \$17.95

Published and reprinted several times since it first appeared in 1913, this edition contains de la Mare's complete revised and expanded 1924 collection of 92 poems. Brierley's twelve full-color, full-page paintings and 37 black-and-white illustrations of varying sizes add a subtle contemporary tone to the classic poems. (Ages 6-12)

Greenfeld, Howard. **BOOKS; FROM WRITER TO READER**. Crown. 197 pages. (0-517-568403; pbk. 0-517-56841-1) \$19.95; \$12.95

Updated written information, new visual materials and a short new chapter on desktop publishing bring this clearly written, invaluable explanation of where books come from into the late 1980s. (Age 9-adult)

Thayer, Jane. **THE POPCORN DRAGON**. Illustrated by Lisa McCue. William Morrow. 30 pages. (0-688-08876-7) \$12.95

Dexter the dragon with hot breath and a show-off personality first appeared in a 1953 edition of this popular story, reillustrated with appealing full-color pictures. (Ages 3-7)

Zolotow, Charlotte. **NOT A LITTLE MONKEY**. Illustrated by Michele Chessare. Harper & Row. 32 pages. (0-06-026981-2) \$12.89

First published in 1957, Charlotte Zolotow's masterfully crafted picture book text is newly illustrated in full color to show a contemporary mother and father's busy domesticity and a little girl's attempts to get their attention. "... she tried to put her feet into her mother's scrub pail. / 'Oh no,' said her mother, 'you are not a mop.'" Zolotow's gentle repetition and tenderly expressed understanding of preschoolers' feelings are timeless. (Ages 1-5)

See also: Children's Chorus; Matt's Mitt and Fleet-Footed Florence; Mommies At Work; My Five Senses; Nuclear Energy; Proud Knight, Fair Lady; Valentine & Orson; What Is a Boy? What Is a Girl?

19 THE COOPERATIVE CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER (CCBC)

4290 Helen C. White Hall, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 600 North Park Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706, 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 books for children and young adults; 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 by 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. CCBC records are entered in the WISCAT statewide database.

Author, title, illustrator, translator and subject card catalog entries are made for children's and young adult books. Any known national 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 noncirculating.

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, usually 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 and school book selection groups and school inservice groups coming to the Book Center. 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 to new books and are open to any student, faculty member, librarian, teacher or other interested adult who reads some of the scheduled books beforehand, as are the annual awards discussions.

Continuing education courses are taught via the UW-Madison Office of Outreach Development. As possible, the CCBC participates in statewide and regional conferences through the provision of book examination exhibits and/or leadership in scheduled sessions. A two-day children's literature conference is cosponsored every other year with CCBC funding units and the UW-Madison Office Of Outreach Development. The next conference will be held on April 5-6, 1991. 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 quarterly flyer briefly listing CCBC current information and program services.

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 course schedules as well as out-of-town users' arrivals and departures.

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