

CCBC CHOICES: 1981

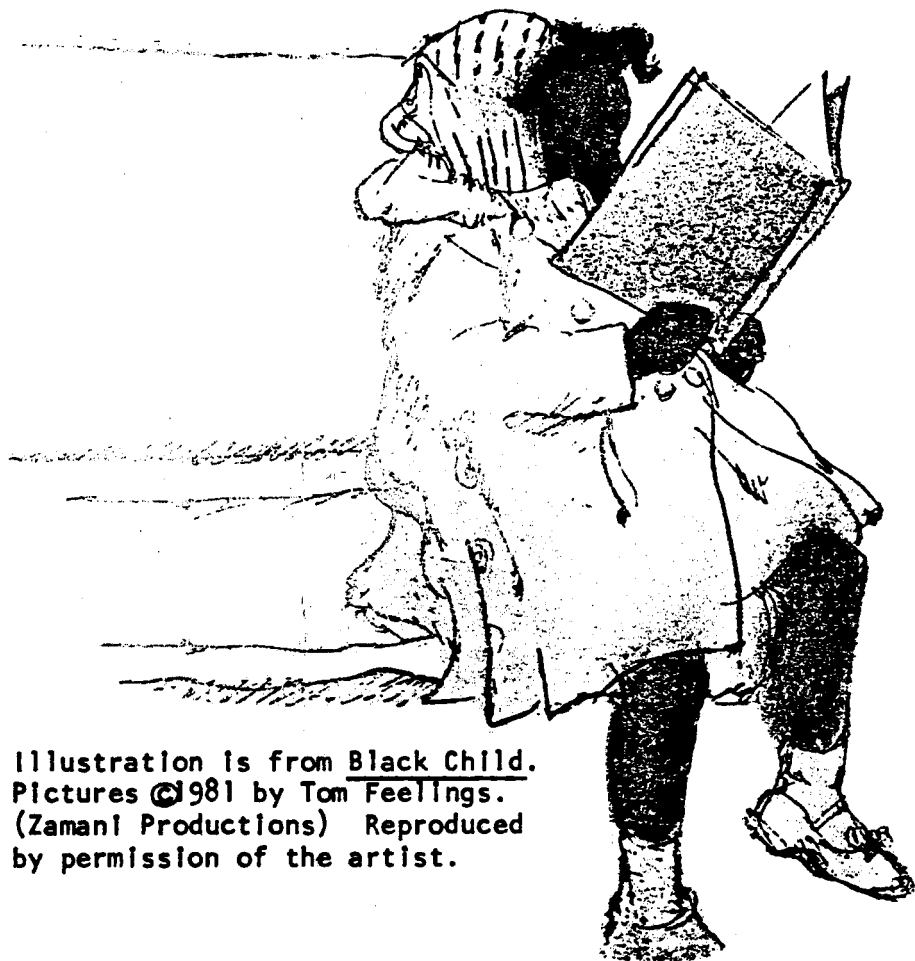


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CCBC CHOICES: 1981

Several perspectives on the books published in 1981 for children through fourteen years of age are available to those associated with the Cooperative Children's Book Center. Monthly CCBC book discussions, content evaluations by Wisconsin specialists, and our own participation on national and state book evaluation committees provide this basis for this selective listing developed in February, 1982.

The books are organized into eleven sections. Suggested interest levels are provided.

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Susan C. Griffith & Ginny Moore Kruse

HISTORY, PEOPLE AND PLACES

Aliki. Digging Up Dinosaurs. Crowell. 33 p. (A Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science Book)

An engaging and informative brief description of how scientists uncover, preserve and study fossilized dinosaur bones provides background for youngsters who see such skeletons reconstructed in museums.
(4-11 years)

Barton, Byron. Building a House. Greenwillow. 32 p.

A step-by-step outline of the process of building a house is illustrated with rudimentary drawings painted in solid, deep, bright colors.
(3-7 years)

Bober, Natalie S. A Restless Spirit; The Story of Robert Frost. Atheneum. 197 p.

An objective biography of Robert Frost reveals the importance of his farming experiences and his relationship with his wife Elinor in writing his poetry. The responsible notes include a Source Guide for Quoted Material, bibliography, two poetry indexes, and a standard index. (11 years and older)

Coerr, Eleanor. The Big Balloon Race. Pictures by Carolyn Croll. Harper & Row. 62 p. (An I Can Read Book)

Three easy-to-read chapters tell a story based on an actual family of balloonists: the Myers Family of whom Carlotta was the most expert and popular aeronaut in the 1880's. In this book, young Ariel first almost causes her mother to lose a balloon race and then is instrumental in gaining the victory. (4-9 years)

Curtis, Patricia. Cindy, a Hearing Ear Dog. Photographs by David Cupp. Dutton. 55 p.

The training of young dogs for use by people with hearing impairments is detailed in text and photographs in this account of such a training center. (7-14 years)

Fritz, Jean. Traitor, the Case of Benedict Arnold. Putnam. 192 p. Benedict Arnold's life is deftly and sensibly recounted in light of his personality and the temper of the times. The account of Major Andre's foray into enemy territory includes researched material found in no other biography of Arnold. A bibliography, notes, and index supplement a fine example of biography-writing in which the materials in quotation marks is taken from primary sources only. (11 years and older)

Giblin, James Cross. The Skyscraper Book. Illustrations by Anthony Kramer. Photographs by David Anderson. Crowell. 86 p.

A compact volume in a clear, easily-understood format relates the history of skyscrapers and the technical principles upon which their construction is based. The precise text integrates human interest details and anecdotes with information. Includes a list of "Fabulous Facts about Famous Skyscrapers." (9 years and older)

Hirsch, Karen. Becky. Pictures by Jo Esco. Carolrhoda Books. 36 p.

A youngster learns to live with her part-time sister, a child whose hearing impairment and resulting educational needs requires her to live in a foster home during school weeks. The author lives in Eau Claire. (4-9 years)

Howe, James. The Hospital Book. Photographs by Mal Warshaw. Crown. 94 p.

An up-to-date look at hospital experiences includes black-and-white photographs of modern hospital scenes and equipment as well as information about feelings which might be a part of a hospital experience. Photographs make it possible to use with younger children; the text makes it useful for older readers, as well. (4-13 years)

Ingalls, Robert P. Point of Order; a Profile of Senator Joe McCarthy. Putnam. 159 p.

A chronological account of the factors, incidents and influences instrumental in Joseph McCarthy's rise to power and eventual political downfall in the 1950's. Facts are presented within the context of opinion and of the time period. (11 years and older)

Loeper, John J. By Hook and Ladder: the Story of Fire Fighting in America. Atheneum. 74 p.

An interesting and readable perspective on firefighting includes information about equipment, techniques, personnel, and famous fires in U.S. history. (9-13 years)

Sadler, Catherine Edwards. Two Chinese Families. Photographs by Alan Sadler. Atheneum. 70 p.

The lives of two contemporary Chinese families are compared and contrasted in a short text and many photographs which capture the rhythm of life in China today. (7-11 years)

Sandin, Joan. The Long Way to a New Land. Harper & Row. 63 p. (An I Can Read History Book)

Four chapters chronicle a family journey from Sweden to the U.S. during the famine of 1868. Illustrations in three colors by the author provide visual information and interest on every page-spread. An author's note at the end gives historical background in this unusually fine, easy-to-read historical fiction. (7-11 years)

Sarnoff, Jane, and Reynolds Riffins. Words: a Book about the Origins of Everyday Words and Phrases. Scribner. 64 p.

A compendium of information about the origin of specific words is organized into categories such as family, ships at sea, mystery and names. Interestingly illustrated with black silhouetted figures and indexed by key word. (7-13 years)

Siegal, Aranka. Upon the Head of the Goat; A Childhood in Hungary 1939-1944. Farrar, Straus, Giroux. 214 p.

An autobiographical account of rural and urban circumstances relating to Hitler's take-over of Hungary and one family's subsequent fate in a concentration camp. Restraint and integrity mark this unique personal narrative told through young Piri's point of view. A 1982 Newbery Honor Book. (11 years and older)

Sobel, Harriet Langsam. The Interns. Photographs by Patricia Agre. Coward. 61 p.

An in-depth narrative with black and white photographs follows two interns through the intense responsibility of their first year of post-graduate medical education at the Babies Hospital of the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center. (11 years and older)

Tang, Yungmei. China, Here We Come! Visiting the People's Republic of China. Putnam. 64 p.

A photographic essay records a trip to China through the eyes of a group of thirteen-year-old New York City children. The impressions and actions of these children provide the connection and interest for young readers in the United States. (9-13 years)

Tax, Meredith. Families. Illustrated by Marilyn Hafner. Little, Brown. An Atlantic Monthly Press Book. 32 p.

Black and white drawings portray many kinds of family structures. Regardless of where or with whom you live, "families are who you live with and who you love." (4-9 years)

Thomas, Art. Merry-go-rounds. Pictures by George Overlie. Carolrhoda Books. 48 p. (A Carolrhoda On My Own Book)

An easy to read history and description of merry-go-rounds presents material already of entertainment interest to youngsters in a format they can approach and enjoy. (7-9 years)

Yates, Elizabeth. My Diary - My World. Westminster. 186 p.

Elizabeth's determination to become the woman she wants to be strikes the universal chord of experience in her diary, a journal of her life as a daughter and aspiring writer in a wealthy upstate New York family in the 1900's. The author is the author of the Newbery Award-winning Amos Fortune, Free Man. (11 years and older)

Zerman, Melvyn Bernard. Beyond a Reasonable Doubt; Inside the American Jury System. Crowell. 217 p.

Zerman discusses issues surrounding the jury system and tells how the system works. The clearly organized text uses understandable terminology and attention-getting (and appropriate) examples. (11 years and older)

Zisfein, Melvin B. Flight, a Panorama of Aviation. Illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker. Pantheon. 119 p. (available in hardcover and paperback) Watercolor paintings illustrate every page of this history of human flight which begins with early theories and concludes with the SST. The author is Deputy Director of the National Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian Institute. (all ages)

ISSUES IN TODAY'S WORLD

Bernstein, Joanne E. Dmitry: A Young Soviet Immigrant. Photographs by Michael J. Bernstein. Clarion/Houghton. 80 p.

A warmly-told account of the immigration of a Soviet family to the United States is a balanced and fair look at the awesomeness of adjustment to a new culture in contemporary times. Information about daily life in the Soviet Union and about the situation of Jews in the Soviet Union is carefully and clearly presented from the family's perspective. (9-13 years)

Booher, Dianna Daniels. Rape: What Would You Do If...? Messner. 159 p. Practical, helpful information about prevention and protection. (12 years and older, and parents)

Jacobs, Francine. Bermuda Petrel; The Bird That Would Not Die. Illustrated by Ted Lewin. Morrow. 38 p.

When Christopher Columbus sailed in 1492, there were probably more than a million cahows, or Bermuda petrels. By 1620 the bird was believed to be extinct, and not until 1906 was seen again. Then the work of Bermudian David Wingate on behalf of the cahows began, and with this individual effort, the dramatic comeback of an endangered species. Unusually-interesting drawings complement every page-spread. (7-13 years)

The Kids Book of Divorce: By, For and About Kids. By the Unit at the Fayerweather Street School. Lewis/dist. by Stephen Greene Press. 123 p. Children aged 11-14 discuss personal and legal impacts of divorcing(ed) parents. (10 years and older, and parents)

Kiefer, Irene. Poisoned Land; the Problem of Hazardous Waste. Atheneum. 90 p.

A subject specialist describes EPA guidelines and new waste disposal systems for land and sea which can deal with chemical wastes. A glossary and index are included. (11 years and older)

LeShan, Eda. The Roots of Crime; What You Need to Know about Crime and What You Can Do about It. Four Winds. 166 p.

LeShan examines the criminal justice system, showing how people with few opportunities and little hope become victims of antiquated laws. A sobering look at the roots of crime - poverty, race prejudice, slum neighborhoods, the climate of corruption in society and strong feelings of anger and self-hatred born of unhappy families and inadequate schools - in a hopeful, commonsense manner. She integrates interviews with people who have committed crimes. (11 years and older)

Poynter, Margaret. Too Few Happy Endings: The Dilemma of the Humane Societies. Atheneum. 130 p.

An account of the daily life of Humane Society workers identifies and discusses issues caused by overcrowded shelters and overworked staffs. (9 years and older)

Pringle, Laurence. What Shall We Do with the Land? Land Choices for America. Illustrated with photographs. Crowell. 120 p.

Choices about land use presently facing the United States are all thoroughly explained and placed in ecological and political contexts. Division of chapters is by type and aids in the use of the book as a reference tool: farmland, rangeland, forests, wild places, and coasts. An excellent list of further reading is appended. Carefully-captioned occasional photographs add interest and value to this eloquent statement regarding responsibility and stewardship for land across time. (11 years and older)

SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS

Ancona, George. Dancing Is. Dutton. 48 p.

Dancing has different meanings depending on circumstances or culture. "Dancing is a skip and a hop and a kick and a stomp and just feeling good." One does not always need to take lessons to enjoy movement. Abundant black and white photographs expand the concept of dance and picture celebrations and entertainments in many parts of the world. (4-11 years)

Cohen, Barbara. Yussel's Prayer; a Yom Kippur Story. Retold by Barbara Cohen. Illustrated by Michael J. Deraney. Lothrop. 28 p.

A poor child's heartfelt, simple gift means more than the traditional gifts of the older, wiser and wealthier. Illustrated in soft pencil drawings in sepia tones. (4-9 years)

Cosman, Madeleine Pelner. Medieval Holidays and Festivals; a Calendar of Celebrations. Scribner. 136 p.

Medieval celebrations organized by month include material not easily located in other books for children: Twelfth Night customs, Lammas Day, Michaelmas and Catherining, along with unusual information about Valentine's Day and Halloween. Decorations, costumes and food are detailed. Further reading is listed, and source notes document archival photographs. The author is Director of the Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at City of College of City University of New York. (9 years and older)

Drucker, Malka. Passover: a Season of Freedom. Drawings by Brom Hoban. Holiday House. 95 p. (A Jewish Holidays Book)

The Exodus story, the meaning of the Seder meal and Passover preparations are clearly explained and illustrated with photographs from many museums and archives. (9 years and older)

Greenfeld, Howard. Bar Mitzvah. Illustrated by Helen Grove. Holt. 28 p.

The origin and importance of this significant Jewish ceremony are described in detail in a handsomely-designed book. (9 years and older)

THE NATURAL WORLD

Bonnors, Susan. A Penguin Year. Written and illustrated by Susan Bonnors. Delacorte. 44 p.

Blue and black watercolor paintings enliven 48 pages of fascinating material about the life cycle of the Adélie penguin of Antarctica. (7-11 years)

Cole, Joanna. A Horse's Body. Photographs by Jerome Wexler. Morrow. 45 p.

The parts of a horse's body and their functions are described in a brief text printed in large type. Black and white photographs and simple diagrams precisely illustrate the information.

Cole, Joanna. A Snake's Body. Photographs by Jerome Wexler. Morrow. 48 p.

Remarkable close-up black and white photographs illustrate a study of the functions and features of a snake's body.

Goldner, Kathryn Allen and Carole Garbuny Vogel. Why Mount St. Helens Blew Its Top. Illustrations by Robert Aggarwal. Dillon. 88 p.

An unusually large variety of photographs, charts, and other graphics - many in two-colors or full-color, illustrate and expand the information about one volcano as well as that about general characteristics of volcanoes, how eruptions can be predicted, and some famous eruptions. The author is a science teacher who grew up near Verona and Mount Horeb. (9 years and older)

Goor, Ron and Nancy. Shadows: Here, There, and Everywhere. Crowell. 47 p.

How shadows are formed, why they change, and their importance in the world are demonstrated in a series of black and white photographs with accompanying text. People interested in art and design as well as science topics will find this book to be of unusual interest. (7-11 years)

Isenbart, Hans-Heinrich. A Duckling Is Born. Illustrated by Othmar Baumli. Translated from the German by Catherine Edwards. Putnam. 38 p.

Full-color photographs trace the life cycle of mallard ducks. A stunning sequence of photographs shows the development of a duckling inside an unhatched egg. (4-11 years)

Lauber, Patricia. Seeds, Pop, Stick, Glide. Photographs by Jerome Wexler. Crown. 57 p.

A remarkable combination of photographs and text describe the ways seeds travel with animals and people, the wind and water. Seeds which scatter themselves are also described and pictured. (7 years and older)

McLoughlin, John C. The Tree of Animal Life; A Tale of Changing Forms and Fortunes. Dodd, Mead. 160 p.

The evolution of the major animal phyla from the first primitive cells is pictured in drawings and explained in text in a hefty, oversized book which also discusses transformations of animal life through natural selection processes acting on genetic material. A compelling conclusion reminds readers that evolution continues and that human decisions can affect the process drastically. An extensive glossary and many charts add to the value of this unusual book developed by a zoologist and scientific illustrator whose works for adults are widely respected. (for good readers 11 years and older)

Pringle, Laurence. Frost Hollows and Other Microclimates. Morrow. 62 p.

Small climates affect plants and animals; architects as well as farmers often use this knowledge of microclimates to advantage. "Whether you want to save energy, fly a kite, grow plants, or keep cool on a hot summer day, knowledge of the little climates that surround you will be helpful." The book is a good introduction to an aspect of the natural world to which increased attention is being given as people seek to

live harmoniously with nature. Pringle's reputation as a careful researcher and fine writer is upheld. The book contains excellent photographs and charts on almost every page-spread; each has an interesting caption. A glossary, further reading, and an index complete this excellent example of science writing and bookmaking. (7-13 years)

Sattler, Helen Roney. Dinosaurs of North America. Illustrated by Anthony Rao. Lothrop. 151 p.

Dinosaur history is told against a background of vast geological changes. More than 80 kinds of dinosaurs are described in accurate detail and shown in lifelike drawings. North American dinosaur discoveries are indexed by geographic region, state, province, etc. A topical and illustration index are included as is a list of further reading. (all ages)

Simon, Hilda. The Magic of Color. Lothrop. 55 p.

A concise, understandable explanation of color and color perception includes information about the difference between light color and paint color. The color separation process used in printing books is also outlined. (9-13 years)

Simon, Seymour. Einstein Anderson Tells a Comet's Tale. Illustrated by Fred Winkowski. Viking. 73 p.

A sequence of ten fictionalized science mysteries gives readers a chance to solve each puzzle before the story is concluded. Some prior information about each science topic is usually necessary. In this fourth book of a series, Adam "Einstein" Anderson solves puzzles related to astronomy, optics, rocketry, zoology, change of state, inventions, and motion. The author is a noted science writer who once taught science. An ideal "read-aloud" book for science classes; excellent for use with or by gifted/talented children. (7-11 years)

THE ARTS

Anno, Mitsumasa, and Masaichiro Anno. Anno's Magical ABC; An Anamorphic Alphabet. Philomel. 62 p.

A double treatment of upper and lower case letters introduces the negative perspective of reflected painting and drawing used by early Greek painters and sculptors. Younger children can make an entertainment of seeing the ABC's in a new perspective using foil around a small cylindrical object. Art educators and teachers in gifted and talented programs will appreciate the graphs and instructions which guide older children in experimentation with reverse drawing. (4-13 years)

Crane, Walter. An Alphabet of Old Friends; and, The Absurd ABC. Metropolitan Museum of Art and Thames and Hudson. 28 p.

Two of Crane's original, comical alphabets are handsomely and faithfully reproduced in an elegant and interesting single volume picture book first published in 1874. (up to 6 years)

Haddad, Helen R. Potato Printing. Crowell. 64 p.

Attractive potato prints accompanied by careful explanations of process and step-by-step instructions in words and drawings are arranged by increasing difficulty. Useful as a craft primer or as a design challenge to the knowledgeable craftsperson or adult leader or teacher. (7-13 years)

Lasky, Kathryn. The Weaver's Gift. Photographs by Christopher G. Knight. Warne. 64 p.

Carolyn Frye's respect for her medium and her technical skills are a basis for this personal and comprehensive photo essay about the weaving process, taken from the birth of a lamb to the weaving of a blanket for a child. (7-11 years)

POETRY

Adoff, Arnold. OUTside INSide Poems. Illustrated by John Steptoe. Lothrop. 32 p.

An original collection of free form poetry which can be read as a collection of individual poems or as a loose narrative explores the inner and outer life of a boy who aspires to be a baseball star. "OUTside my pants are torn and there is a scrape on my knee / INSide an eagle takes off from its nest and flies free." The illustrations convey the internal and external realities by emphasizing perspective. (7-13 years)

Baylor, Byrd, and Peter Parnall. Desert Voices. Scribner. 32 p. Nine desert creatures (Pack Rat, Tortoise, Coyote, etc.) speak for themselves in poems which convey their natural behavior. Drawings and paintings expand the ideas with the colors reminiscent of U.S. Southwest desert areas. A final poem features a desert person. (4-13 years)

Dusk to Dawn; Poems of Night. Selected by Helen Hill, Agnes Perkins, and Althea Helbig. Illustrated by Anne Burgess. Crowell. 49 p. Both the enchantment and the threat of night are balanced in this fine collection of thirty-five British and American poems illustrated with somewhat humorous black and white line drawings. Indexed by poet, first line and title. (9 years and older)

Hearn, Michael Patrick, editor. Breakfast, Books, & Dreams: A Day In Verse. With etchings by Barbara Garrison. Warne. 34 p. Stylized browntone etchings illustrate a well-balanced, cohesive selection of poems which take a child through a school day: breakfast, inside a lab, at the lunchroom, during recess, in the library, with the family, etc. An entertaining variety of poems in an unusual and beautiful book gives a new view of dailiness. (4-11 years)

Hughes, Ted. Under the North Star. Illustrated by Leonard Baskin. Viking. 47 p. A sophisticated sequence of poems accompanied by full-color drawings capture the barren and isolated environment in which 24 creatures survive: loon, wolverine, muskellunge, heron, brooktrout, skunk, and others are presented by an internationally-known poet and artist. (11 years and older)

Morrison, Lillian. Overheard in a Bubble Chamber and Other Sciencepoems. Paintings by Eyre de Lanux. Lothrop. 64 p. Human emotions are expressed with modern scientific terminology in this collection of original poetry, appropriately illustrated with abstract paintings in black and white. (14 years and older)

Thomas, Joyce Carol. Black Child. Illustrated by Tom Feelings. Zamani Productions (31 West 31st Street, New York, NY 10001) paperback. 34 p. A compassionate, haunting collection of poetry celebrates "the beauty and promise of the children." The poems and black-and-white portraits

of children in the United States, Ghana, Guyana, and Senegal express innocence and angst in the face of an uncertain, perhaps hostile, future. (9 years and older)

Willard, Nancy. A Visit to William Blake's Inn; Poems for Innocent and Experienced Travelers. Illustrated by Alice and Martin Provensen. Harcourt. 45 p.

Stylized illustrations in an array of textures and warm harmonious browns/golds/grays/blues complement and extend the logical nonsense in a collection of whimsical, original poetry. The poems were inspired by Willard's childhood experience with the poetry of William Blake. (1982 Newbery Medal Winner. 1982 Caldecott Honor Book) (Winner: CCBC Straw Caldecott Vote) (4-11 years)

FOLKLORE

Aardema, Verna. Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain; A Nandi Tale. Pictures by Beatriz Vidal. Dial. 32 p.

A tale discovered in Kenya, Africa, has been retold with a cumulative refrain bringing the rhythm of "The House that Jack Built," the English nursery rhyme to which the similarity of this variant was noticed more than seventy years ago. The artist is originally from Argentina, she used brilliant colors, stylized forms, and space to illustrate the story. (4-9 years)

Bang, Molly Garrett. Tye May and the Magic Brush. Adapted from the Chinese by Molly Garrett Bang. Greenwillow. 55 p. (A Greenwillow Read-Alone Book)

A six-chapter retelling of a Chinese tale about a child with no parents who dreams she has a brush which brings to life everything she paints. Careful use of red highlights details of the black and white drawings throughout the text. Short sentences and simple words relate the story of a girl whose name means "Iron Plum Flower." (4-9 years)

Billout, Guy. Thunderbolt & Rainbow; A Look at Greek Mythology. Prentice-Hall. 32 p.

Very brief retellings of 13 myths explaining the stars, moon, sun, dawn, wind, seasons, etc., are interpreted for today by bright and spare poster-like full-page illustrations. Readers' eyes will first see each unusual visual presentation and only after "seeing" the familiar urban or technological panorama will the earlier myth seem related. A remarkable and often humorous introduction to mythology. (7 years and older)

Diop, Birago. Mother Crocodile/Maman-Caiman. Translated and adapted by Rosa Guy. Illustrated by John Steptoe. Delacorte. 32 p.

When Mother Crocodile warns her children to swim away, they close their ears. Only later, in fact almost too late, do they realize the truth in her words. A cautionary Ovolof tale from Senegal, West Africa, illustrated with abstract drawings in a spectrum of underwater color can also be seen as a symbolic history. (Honor Book: CCBC Caldecott Straw Vote) (7-11 years)

Jaquith, Priscilla. Bo Rabbit Smart for True; Folktales from the Gullah. Retold by Priscilla Jaquith. Drawings by Ed Young. Philomel. 55 p.

Humorous, action filled cartoon-like frames vertically border each page of four trickster tales from the tradition of the coastal islands off Georgia and South Carolina. Gullah is the dialect mixing African usage with Elizabethan English and other linguistic elements. Source

notes, a brief explanation of Gullah culture, and a bibliography add to the value of this unusual and highly-entertaining book printed in two colors and designed in an original manner. (4-9 years)

Otsuka, Yuzo. Suho and the White Horse. Retold by Yuzo Otsuka. Adapted from the translation by Ann Herring. Illustrated by Suekichi Akaba. Viking. 48 p.

When a young Mongolian shepherd enters his beautiful white horse in a race and wins, a nobleman claims the horse for his own. An oversize format, spacious design and sensitive use of color capture the grandeur of the Mongolian landscape and the power of a treasured tale. (4-9 years)

Schwartz, Alvin. Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark. Drawings by Stephen Gammell. Lippincott. 111 p.

Gross, scary, frightening, silly, gory, creepy and well-told fully-documented tales are illustrated with black and white drawings of vague eerie tones which accentuate the gruesome detail. All stories were responsibly collected from contemporary American folklore. An extensive, thought-provoking bibliography is included. Solid scariness usually told by memory on overnights, camping trips, and at Halloween from generation to generation has a validity that the trendy horror or macabre of other recent books cannot match. (9 years and older)

Shannon, George. The Piney Woods Peddler. Pictures by Nancy Tafuri. Greenwillow. 32 p.

An amiable peddler will swap or trade almost anything to get a shiny silver dollar for his dear darling daughter. A lilting refrain links episodes pictured in bright, boldly-shaped paintings and drawings in this version by Eau Claire storyteller George Shannon of a tale some know as "The Twice-Bitten Stick." Detailed border designs give contrast as well as another way to see what's happening. (4-9 years)

Yagawa, Sumiko. The Crane Wife. Retold by Sumiko Yagawa. Translation from the Japanese by Katherine Paterson. Illustrated by Suekichi Akaba. Morrow. 32 p.

In one of the most beautiful books of the year, a heartbreaking Japanese tale unfolds in understated and evocative illustrations which reflect Japanese art and culture in line and form. The sadness resulting from the inevitability of events is conveyed without sentimentality in this translation which employs several Japanese onomatopoeic words. A note to readers says that The Crane Wife is perhaps Japan's most loved folktale and has been made into plays, movies, and even an opera. Every year thousands of Japanese will experience some version of the story. (ages 7 and older)

BOOKS FOR THE YOUNGEST

Ahlberg, Janet and Allan. Funnybones. Greenwillow. 32 p.

A big skeleton, a little skeleton and a dog skeleton spend a night on the town swinging and singing and scaring each other. White cartoon skeletons on dark backgrounds and white print on black backgrounds emphasize the nocturnal nature of this light-hearted adventure. (4-6 years)

Ahlberg, Janet and Allan. Peek-a-boo! Viking. 32 p.

Perfectly-placed cut-out circles highlight the details of a baby's perspective on family happenings. Borders frame each full-color picture of one family's comfortably cluttered life. (up to 4 years)

- Crews, Donald. Light. Greenwillow. 32 p.
A presentation of daylight and nightlight(s) employs deep colors and broad shapes and invites comparisons which are most impressive from a distance or with a group. (up to 6 years)
- Henkes, Kevin. All Alone. Greenwillow. 32 p.
"No one looks just like me or thinks just like I do." A young child reflects upon the importance of time to imagine, think, and enjoy being by himself. A beautifully-designed jacket and endpapers introduce and conclude this carefully made book illustrated with drawings and paintings in blue, green, brown and rose hues. The author/artist grew up in Racine and developed this book when he was a freshman at UW-Madison. (up to 9 years)
- Hill, Eric. Spot's First Walk. Putnam. 20 p.
A pop-up story features a frisky puppy's foray into a garden, a puddle and other nearby places. Bright color, a large typeface, and sturdy page stock distinguish a "first" book. (up to 3 years)
- Knotts, Howard. The Summer Cat. Story and pictures by Howard Knotts. Harper. 32 p.
Ben becomes attached to a mysterious cat that appears in his year regularly on summer evenings. When he discovers that the cat is owned by a woman who lives on the other side of the woods during the summer only, he tries to make the cat "love me more than that summer lady." Black and white drawings give detail and reinforce the story with delicacy. (4-9 years)
- Le Tord, Bijou. Arf, Boo, Click; An Alphabet of Sounds. Four Winds. 52 p.
An ingenious concept book uses "sound words" such as "arf, boo, and click" to delineate the alphabet. Red, yellow, green and black line drawings and type of many sizes add variety to an unusual alphabet book. (up to 6 years)
- Lewin, Betsy. Cat Count. Dodd, Mead. 32 p.
Cartoon cats with mischievous grins participate in lively, silly activity accompanied by simple rhythmic lyrics. A continuing equation in the upper right hand corner of each page spread extends the use of the book beyond those children just learning to count. The surprise at the end is in keeping with the "up" beat of the book. (up to 9 years)
- Lobel, Arnold. Uncle Elephant. Harper. 64 p. (An I Can Read Book)
Nine chapters tell the story of an uncle's relationship to his nephew during an urgent time in the family. Readers will find a wonderful relationship revealed story by story. (4-9 years)
- Marshall, Edward. Three by the Sea. Pictures by James Marshall. Dial. 48 p.
Three children make up stories to entertain each other while spending a day at the beach. The three types of stories within one story are a welcome technique in an unusually fine beginning reader.
- Rabe, Berniece. The Balancing Girl. Pictures by Lillian Hoban. Dutton. 32 p.
Margaret can balance a book on her head and blocks in a tower. A determined and competitive child finds yet another way to be successful at the school carnival; the wheelchair and leg braces she uses are incidental to her full involvement in classroom and peer activities. The subdued colors of the drawings and paintings picture a contemporary classroom. (4-9 years)

- Sendak, Maurice. Outside Over There. Harper. 36 p.
Ida ventures into "outside over there" to rescue her baby sister from the goblins. A pastiche of images and artistic styles embodies the dreamlike nature of this fantasy. (A 1982 Caldecott Honor Book)
(all ages)
- Shannon, George. The Gang and Mrs. Higgins. Pictures by Andrew Vines. Greenwillow. 47 p. (A Greenwillow Read-Alone Book)
A tale he heard as a child in Kansas gave the author the idea for this story for beginning readers. Quick action and robust characters earmark an adventure for beginning readers to enjoy. (4-9 years)
- Shannon, George. Lizard's Song. Illustrated by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. Greenwillow. 32 p.
Bear discovers that singing his own song is much better than trying to copy that of a friend. A bright, flat, poster-like use of images and spaces suits this story by an Eau Claire writer. (up to 9 years)
- Van Allsburg, Chris. Jumanji. Written and illustrated by Chris Van Allsburg. Houghton. 32 p.
Striking black and white pencil drawings from shifting and unusual perspectives juxtapose daily detail with fantastic absurdity as two bored and restless children play Jumanji, "a jungle adventure game, fun for some but not for all." (1982 Caldecott Medal Winner) (4-9 years)
- Waterton, Betty. Pettrarella. With illustrations by Ann Blades. Vanguard. 28 p.
A Canadian prize winning book presents brightly colored paintings illustrating the brief story of a pioneer family's oxcart journey during which a child loses the bag of her grandmother's seeds she promised to plant at their new Wisconsin home. (4-9 years)
- Williams, Vera. Three Days on a River in a Red Canoe. Greenwillow. 32 p.
Childlike text and colored drawings report and record a canoe trip down a river. Details of preparation and practicalities of camping are interwoven with the adventure and fun of the trip. (4-9 years)

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

- Byars, Betsy. The Cybil War. Illustrated by Gail Owens. Viking. 126 p.
Simon and Tony vie for the attention of the same classmate: Cybil Ackerman. A light-hearted look at a classroom romance and at the nature of friendship and loyalty. (9-11 years)
- Cameron, Ann. The Stories Julian Tells. Illustrated by Ann Strugnell. Pantheon. 71 p.
Large typeface and frequent illustrations will invite new readers to try a chapter book of six family stories beginning with a pudding episode which is easy to enjoy and hard to forget! An especially sympathetic father is one of the memorable aspects of the series of episodic stories. The author grew up in Rice Lake. (4-9 years)
- Hautzig, Esther. A Gift for Mama. Illustrated by Donna Diamond. Viking. 56 p.
Ten-year-old Sara is determined to buy rather than make a gift for her mother. Her aunt helps her find a way to earn the money in a story with a universal theme of giving and receiving set in a particular time in

Vilna, Poland. Black and white monoprints illustrate a story for which extraordinary care has been taken to make a beautifully bound and designed book. (7-9 years)

Lewis, Naomi. The Silent Playmate; A Collection of Doll Stories. Edited and with an introduction by Naomi Lewis. Illustrated by Harold Jones. Macmillan. 223 p.

A fine collection of stories about all kinds of dolls includes excerpts from longer works of fiction, folktales, short stories and poetry from several cultures. Lewis' excellent introduction broadly interprets dolls to include tin soldiers, wind up toys, and stuffed animals. A list of more doll stories is appended. Authors represented include Charles Kingsley, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Robert Louis Stevenson, E. Nesbit, Katherine Mansfield, Laurence Housman, and Kenneth Grahame. (4-11 years)

Pellowski, Anne. Stairstep Farm: Anna Rose's Story. Pictures by Wendy Watson. Philomel. 176 p.

Episodic stories of rural Wisconsin living in the 1930's tell of cookie baking, ghostly games, dress up, thistle chopping, a tornado and holiday customs in a large, happy, Catholic, Polish-American family. The author grew up in Trempealeau County where this and other books in a generation-by-generation sequence are set. She gathered information for them from archival records in Wisconsin and even in Poland as well as from people living there at the time. The first book to be published Willow Wind Farm, is set in the 1960's. Two other books will be published next year and are set early in the 20th Century and late in the 19th Century. (7-11 years)

FICTION FOR MIDDLE READERS

Alexander, Lloyd. Westmark. Dutton. 184 p.

Theo, a fugitive from the law, becomes embroiled in adventures with a roguish doctor and in incendiary plots of revolutionaries in Westmark, a land ruled by villainous Chief Minister Cabbarus. Episodic chapters with cliff hanging endings and plenty of action make this exciting as a read-aloud. (9-13 years)

Ames, Mildred. Anna to the Infinite Power. Scribner. 198 p.

A twelve-year-old math whiz who almost seems to be a human computer accidentally finds out that she is a clone and that she is part of an experiment with somewhat ominous overtones. The time is the 1990's. (9-13 years)

Baker, Olaf. Where the Buffaloes Begin. Drawings by Stephen Gammell. Warner. 46 p.

A legend-like story features 10-year-old Little Wolf who could run the tastest, catch and ride the wildest pony and knew no fear. As he goes to "where the buffaloes begin" he is catapulted into riding to save his people. Black and white drawings perfectly complement the story which was first published in the magazine St. Nicholas in February, 1915. Excellent and accurate drawings of objects from Little Wolf's life and culture divide sections of the story. (A 1982 Caldecott Honor Book) (7-11 years)

Bond, Nancy. The Voyage Begun. Atheneum/A Margaret K. McElderry Book. 319 p.

Set in a not-too-distant future on an almost deserted Cape Cod, a long novel unfolds the impact of energy resource depletion. Eleven-year-old

Mickey is defiant and independent as she learns to work for an old boat builder. An older brother is in a gang "The Salvages" which burns the boat and gives trouble to 16-year-old Paul, a thoughtful newcomer to the area. Parents and other adult characters are as powerfully drawn as children and teenagers. Threads of subplots and lives intersect in a remarkably well written, original work which thrusts readers into considering what might happen next in the book as well as in real life. Gifted readers will enjoy the depth and scope of the story. (Winner: CCBC Straw Newbery Vote) (9 years and older)

Donnelly, Elfie. So Long, Grandpa. Translated by Anthea Bell. Crown. 90 p.

Childhood perceptions of life and death are interwoven with the practical, daily routine of living with a terminally-ill person. A touching first person narrative notable for the warmth and humor of ten-year-old Michael's relationship with his grandpa, a character who is extremely well developed. (Winner: 1979 German Children's Book Prize) (9-13 years)

Heide, Florence Parry. Treehorn's Treasure. Drawings by Edward Gorey. Holiday House. 64 p.

The unforgettable boy of The Shrinking of Treehorn returns in a similarly-designed book. One day Treehorn notices the leaves on a tree changing into dollar bills. Since this occurs shortly after Treehorn's father announces that money doesn't grow on trees, and they must save for a rainy day, Treehorn tries but fails to get the attention of adults to what he is saying. Puns, irony, and droll social observation mark the witty text by a Kenosha writer and "Goreyesque" illustrations enhance each page spread. (9 years and older)

Keller, Beverly. The Sea Watch. Four Winds. 134 p.

A funny, punny mystery filled with outlandish events, dastardly deeds and unlikely heroes. (9-13 years)

Lively, Penelope. The Revenge of Samuel Stokes. Dutton. 122 p.

A washing machine smells of roast venison. Tobacco smoke comes from the television. A greenhouse turns into a Greek temple. The ghost of Samuel Stokes asserts itself when Charstock Park, a housing estate, is built on the site of an eighteenth century garden he'd designed. (9-13 years)

McGraw, Eloise Jarvis. The Money Room. Atheneum/A Margaret K. McElderry Book. 182 p.

Shortly after moving onto the Oregon property their great-grandfather left their mother, Scott and Lindy determine to find his near-legendary Money Room. A series of unusual and baffling incidents soon has them wondering just who else is looking for the Money Room. (9-13 years)

Rodowsky, Colby. The Gathering Room. Farrar. 186 p.

The self-imposed isolation of nine-year-old Mudge and his parents as caretakers of Edgemount Cemetery begins to change when Aunt Ernestus comes for a visit. (9-13 years)

Sargent, Sarah. Secret Lies. Crown. 118 p.

Thirteen-year-old Elvira Judson travels to stay with relatives she barely knows in Virginia and finds the distinction between her romantic fantasies and the realities of her life and theirs. The author lives in Oshkosh. (9-13 years)

Uchida, Yoshiko. A Jar of Dreams. Atheneum/A Margaret K. McElderry Book. 131 p.
 Eleven-year-old Rinko lives in California during the Depression. She discovers the nature of racism and the prejudice against people born in Japan like her parents and aunt. (9-13 years)

Wiseman, David. Jeremy Visick. Houghton. 170 p.
 Twelve-year-old Matthew begins a school assignment by observing epitaphs in a local cemetery and is drawn to find out more about and even to assist a boy lost in a mining disaster a century earlier in Cornwall where they both live(d). (9-13 years)

Zaring, Jane. The Return of the Dragon. Illustrated by Polly Broman. Houghton. 146 p.
 The dragon Carador must prove he is no longer the terror of Wales by doing twelve good deeds. Unlikely facts in the Carador stories are historically true, but the adventures are more firmly rooted in geography than history. (9-13 years)

FICTION FOR OLDER READERS

Childress, Alice. Rainbow Jordan. Coward. 123 p.
 Women of four generations are portrayed as 14-year-old Rainbow attempts to find hope and promise in her life. Rainbow's mother was a child herself when she became a parent. Rainbow's involvement with other women of differing social and economic classes helps her to figure out who she is with respect to demands on her from a foster parent, a social worker, a boyfriend and others. The syntax of Black English is used skillfully and the characterizations are splendid. (Honor Book: CCBC Straw Newbery Vote) (14 years and older)

Hamilton, Virginia. The Gathering. Greenwillow. 179 p.
 In the third and final book of The Justice Cycle, four modern day children return to Dustland, the world of the distant future, bringing with them The Watcher, a genetic gift necessary to the survival of all future life forms. The author has created an extraordinary fantasy world within the framework of modern evolutionary theory in which she explores the concepts of time, change, power, and responsibility. (14 years and older)

Hunter, Mollie. You Never Knew Her As I Did. Harper. 216 p.
 Young Will Douglas is devoted to the imprisoned Mary, Queen of Scots. His role in plotting and carrying out her escape is fascinating adventure. A genealogical chart at the end of the book assists in unraveling the web of royal and political interrelationships which are essential to the story. (14 years and older)

Kerr, M. E. Little Little. Harper. 183 p.
 Narratives from the alternating viewpoints of 18-year-old Little Little LaBelle and Sydney Cinnamon provide the vehicle for an outrageous satire on contemporary middle class U.S. mores and customs: conventions, personalized cars, and television evangelists - to name a few targets of the author. A perspective which, astonishingly, does not ridicule the American Diminutives and other dwarfs who are central to the novel. (14 years and older)

Kullman, Harry. The Battle Horse. Translated from the Swedish by George Blecher and Lone Thygesen-Blecher. Bradbury. 183 p.

A poor public school kid in Sweden during the Depression is thrilled to become involved in the popular jousting tournaments in which upper class teenagers are the knights riding on the shoulders of the lower class participants who become horses. A sombre, compelling, important novel examines conflicts between classes and sexes. Literary allusions from Call of the Wild, Gulliver's Travels and Ivanhoe develop themes of survival, justice, and romance. The author was runner-up for the 1980 Hans Christian Andersen Medal, which honors a total body of writing; Kullman has written 19 novels for young readers in Sweden. (1982 Batchelder Award Winner) (14 years and older)

McHargue, Georgess. The Horseman's Word. Delacorte. 259 p.

Champion rider Leigh Powers leaves Boston for the summer to manage her ailing uncle's pony-trekking business in Scotland. Her growing friendship with neighboring Rob Tinto ultimately leads to her participation in the secret, for males only, ceremony, the Horseman's Word. (14 years and older)

Nostingler, Christine. Luke and Angela. Translated by Anthea Bell. Harcourt. 144 p.

As two lifelong friends and neighbors approach adolescence, changes inevitably occur in their relationship. Their school life and apartment house community in Vienna are pictured well as are the dilemmas of being caught between childhood and adulthood. Humor marks a story which, in its hardcover edition, looks much "younger" in appeal than its content actually is. (14 years and older)

Schlee, Ann. The Vandal. Crown. 188 p.

Paul's violent outbursts and continual questions disrupt a repressive society dependent on its members retaining memory for no longer than three days. A psychologically suspenseful novel of the future. (Winner: 1980 Guardian Award in England) (14 years and older)

Skurzynski, Gloria. Manwolf. Houghton/Clarion. 174 p.

As he reaches adolescence, Adam realizes that people think he is a werewolf. The details of life in medieval Poland are well-developed as is a plot based on knowledge of an actual inherited disease so rare that only seventy cases are recorded. Victims of this incurable disease have an excess of porphyrins or red dyes in their blood, causing their bones, teeth and urine to become red. (14 years and older)

Slepian, Jan. Lester's Turn. Macmillan. 139 p.

Lester, a teenager with cerebral palsy, struggles to bring warmth and friendship to his institutionalized friend Alfred. The narrative, a story set in the 1940's is marked with the cynicism and hope typical of adolescents approaching adulthood. (14 years and older)

Taylor, Mildred. Let the Circle Be Unbroken. Dial. 394 p.

The Logans find strength and support in their family and their community as they and other blacks encounter the racism and the impact of government policy in rural Mississippi during the Depression of the 1930's. (Honor Book: CCBC Straw Newbery Vote) (14 years and older)

Tolan, Stephanie S. No Safe Harbors. Scribner. 184 p.

Sixteen-year-old Amanda Sterling's safe, middle class world is challenged when her father, the mayor of an Ohio river city, is indicted for accepting a bribe. Her unexpected friendship with Jo Schmidt, a mechanic

working to finance the college education for which his father refuses to pay, helps her look beneath the surface and begin to accept differences and weaknesses in others. The author grew up in Kenosha. (14 years and older)

Westall, Robert. The Scarecrows. Greenwillow. 185 p.

Thirteen-year-old Simon's perceptions of reality are drastically altered by his rage and jealousy at his mother's remarriage to a sloppy, good-hearted artist, so unlike his soldier father. A powerful and frightening account of one boy's struggle to accept the circumstances around him. (14 years and older)

Noteworthy new editions of classic novels:

Twain, Mark. The Annotated HUCKLEBERRY FINN: Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. By Mark Twain (Samuel L. Clemens), with an introduction, notes, and bibliography by Michael Patrick Hearn. Clarkson N. Potter, Inc./distributed by Crown. 378 p.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. Treasure Island. Illustrated by N. C. Wyeth. Reissued by Charles Scribner's Sons to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the story's original publication. First published in this edition in 1911. 273 p.

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