CCBC
CHOICES
1983
Acknowledgements

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The cover illustration is from the section "A Library/Une Bibliotheque" in LET'S GO/ALLONS-Y! by Lesley Fairfield (Kids Can Press, 1983) and is reproduced here with permission of the publisher.
1. Introduction

Many perspectives on books for children and young adults are available to those associated with the Cooperative Children's Book Center of Wisconsin, a children's literature library for adults supported by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Division for Library Services and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Education and Library School. The CCBC Current Book examination collection contains review copies of almost all the trade books published in the United States for children and teenagers during the previous 24 months. Each week during 1983 we examined newly published books; we subsequently read a great many of them; and we discussed hundreds formally or informally with other librarians and educators in Wisconsin and beyond.

Any observations about book publishing in 1983 would be incomplete without reference to trends in visual elements. The titles and jackets of recently published books for children of all ages generally aim for immediate identification and popular appeal; few are abstract or subtle. More books have moveable parts, showing increased innovation and sophistication in paper engineering. We recommend two high quality pop-up books which successfully convey scientific information. A photodocumentary approach is being used with greater frequency in nonfiction books. Many science books are carefully designed and finely illustrated. An increasing number of highly visual books of several types were simultaneously published in several nations.

A year ago we could not find any biographies which met our criteria for research, documentation and presentation. This year we recommend five biographies as exemplary works.

After evaluating the large number of 1983 books about computer-related topics, a specialist unequivocally recommended only three, although several others had qualities she appreciated. In addition to accuracy and currency, she looked for diagrams and other illustrations without a commercial identification. She looked carefully to see that girls and women as well as boys and men were included in all levels of historical development as scientists and users.

Cardboard books for babies and bedtime books for young children are numerous this year. Beginning readers have a wider range of formats from which to choose books to read by themselves. For older readers, themes of romance and of automation are more prevalent than a year ago. Fiction for all ages offers a variety of family structures and living styles; single parent families and remarried parents are more common within a story rather than being the impetus for plot. Few books by and about racial minorities and about people with disabilities were published in 1983. We found few high quality nonfiction books treating contemporary issues.

In making our selection for CCBC CHOICES 1983 we used standard literary and artistic criteria. Accuracy, potential appeal to children and usefulness to librarians and teachers were essential considerations in our evaluation and selection process.

Kathleen T. Horning and Ginny Moore Kruse
Cooperative Children's Book Center, March 1984
2. History, People and Places

Ancona, George. MONSTER MOVERS. E. P. Dutton. 48 pages.
Sixteen huge machines designed especially to move material from one place to another are pictured in black and white photographs and explained briefly. The monster movers carry grain, ore and even a space shuttle. Indexed. (Ages 4-13)

Ancona, George. TEAM WORK. Thomas Y. Crowell. 48 pages.
From mountain climbing to filmmaking, many activities depend upon people working together toward a common goal. Other teamwork depicted in black and white photographs shows a drilling crew, a nursing team, a pit crew for stock car racing, a sailing crew and a fashion design team. (Ages 7-13)

From the circular amusements of a 17th century Turkish village to the 18th century English "ups-and-downs" to the 19th century pleasure wheels of France and Ceylon, ferris wheels have a history of technical variations. A photodocumentary approach succeeds in relating the background of a traditional amusement park ride. (Ages 7-13)

Anno, Mitsumasa. ANNO'S U.S.A. Philomel. 52 pages.
A wordless, visual and intellectual pilgrimage eastward from Pacific coasts across mainland U.S.A. takes observant page-turners back through the centuries to 1492. Folklife and folklore are detailed; humorous visual references to history, literature and pop culture can be identified in the watercolor paintings. (All ages)

Bellville, Rod and Bellville, Cheryl Walsh. LARGE ANIMAL VETERINARIANS. Carolrhoda. 32 pages.
Animal doctors who treat wildlife, horses and food-producing animals like cattle, sheep and pigs are pictured providing "house" calls and clinic appointments for the preventive, maternity and emergency care needed by large animals. The author/photographers are Wisconsin farmers living in Dunn County. (Ages 4-13)

Bowers, Kathleen Rice. AT THIS VERY MINUTE. Illustrated by Linda Shute. Little, Brown. 32 pages.
An unusual bedtime narrative unfolds a long, illustrated listing of what may be happening at the same time somewhere else in the neighborhood, community, nation and world. Similarities and differences in economy and culture are explored. (Ages 4-9)

A thorough, serious study explores the legend of the lost island, Atlantis, and the numerous attempts through the ages to rediscover it. The dreamy, speculative nature of the legend is well balanced with an accurate presentation of modern archaeological methods and scientific inquiry. Indexed. (Age 11 and older)

CCBC Choices
Delton, Julie. MY UNCLE NIKOS. Illustrated by Marc Simont. Thomas Y. Crowell. 32 pages. Helena's annual summer visit to her uncle's village is told and pictured with details accurate to contemporary Greek life and living. Colorful illustrations indicate both a way of life and a special relationship through the story of Helena's days spent helping her uncle with his garden. The author once lived in Hudson, Wisconsin. The town of Drossia, north of Athens, became the setting for this book. (Ages 4-9)

Freedman, Russell. CHILDREN OF THE MILD WEST. Clarion/Houghton Mifflin. 104 pages. Splendid historical photographs and an accompanying text document the lives of white, black, native American and Asian children growing up in the American West during the 19th century. Frontier schools and celebrations are pictured and described as are the wagon train and "settling down" experiences - all from a child's perspective. Indexed. (Age 7 and older)

Gemmling, Elizabeth. THE CRANBERRY BOOK. Coward-McCann. 64 pages. Old prints and photographs illustrate the history and current status of the cranberry industry as well as providing information about this North American shrub important to the Wisconsin economy. Most of the details refer to New England cranberries. Indexed. (Age 9 and older)

Gibbons, Gail. NEW ROAD! Thomas Y. Crowell. 32 pages. The process of planning and constructing a new road is clearly explained in brief text and bold, full color illustrations. (Ages 4-9)

Goor, Ron and Nancy. SIGNS. Thomas Y. Crowell. 48 pages. Seventy-nine black and white photographs in varying sizes and sequences show two dozen different outside signs within the context of a child's experience: Bike Route, School Bus, Step Down, Keep Right, etc. Also useful in special education and ESL classes. (Ages 3-7)

Hoban, Tana. I READ SIGNS. Greenwillow. 32 pages. Twenty-nine full color photographs show ordinary outside signs containing words such as: Danger Keep Out, Bike Route and Beware of Dog. Also useful in special education and ESL classes. (Ages 3-7)

Hoban, Tana. I READ SYMBOLS. Greenwillow. 32 pages. Twenty-seven full color photographs depict common visual symbols on outdoor signs meaning Walk, School Zone, Ladies/Men, Pedestrian Crossing, etc. A visual key to meanings is at the end. Also useful in special education and ESL classes. (Ages 3-7)

Horwitz, Joshua. DOLL HOSPITAL. Pantheon. 58 pages. A New York City expert on doll repair is the "doll doctor," artisan and historian whose painstaking work is documented in a brief text and black and white photographs on every page. (Ages 7-11)
A young South African child expresses his emotions through metaphorical 
comparison with the actions of animals familiar to him. Pen and ink 
illustrations printed in brown show Jafta in his somber and high 
spirited moods. (Ages 3-7)

Macaulay, David. MILL. Houghton Mifflin. 128 pages. 
The imaginary textile mills of fictional Wicksburg are typical of 19th 
century New England mills and are shown from the planning stages in 
1810 to their construction and operation in later years. Pen and ink 
drawings and sketches of wheels, dams and buildings expand Macaulay's 
narrative prose. (Age 9 and older)

Moore, Patrick. THE SPACE SHUTTLE ACTION BOOK. Illustrated by Tom Stimpson. 
A brief text explains the workings of the space shuttle, but true under-
standing will come through observation of the three dimensional illus-
trations and manipulation of the movable parts. A small masterpiece of 
paper engineering. (Age 7 and older)

Pellowski, Anne. BETSY'S UP-AND-DOWN YEAR. Pictures by Wendy Watson. 
Philomel. 160 pages. 
Family events unfold in the story of 1960s rural Wisconsin Catholic 
family of Polish heritage. The story is drawn from the author's 
Trempealeau County family life. Betsy, first introduced in WILLOW WIND 
FARM, has a number of experiences, both universal and unique to her time, 
region and family against which today's readers can either parallel or 
contrast their lives and backgrounds. (Ages 6-9)

Pringle, Laurence. "THE EARTH IS FLAT" - AND OTHER GREAT MISTAKES. 
Illustrated by Steve Miller. William Morrow. 72 pages. 
It's human to make mistakes, and it's humanly encouraging as well as 
entertaining to read about the risks taken and discoveries made after 
some known mistakes. Indexed. (Ages 9-13)

Provensen, Alice and Martin. THE GLORIOUS FLIGHT; ACROSS THE CHANNEL WITH 
In 1901, Frenchman Louis Bleriot, an inventor and the father of a large 
family, dreamed of flying in his own airship. Eight years, eleven planes 
and several mishaps later, Bleriot, with his family cheering him on, 
became the first person to fly across the English Channel. The shifting 
perspectives of the bronze-tinted watercolor paintings give viewers a real 
sense of a truly glorious flight. Honor Book, CCBC Caldecott Straw Vote. 
(Ages 4-11)

Roth, Harold. FIRST CLASS: THE POSTAL SYSTEM IN ACTION. Pantheon. 55 pages. 
Black and white photographs accompanied by brief textual explanations show 
the technical and human power behind the sorting, shipping and delivery 
of mail in the U. S. Postal System. (Ages 7-13)

CCBC Choices
Wolfe, Bob and Diane. EMERGENCY ROOM. Carolrhoda. 40 pages.
A fine photodocumentary follows nine people through their trips to the emergency room for reasons ranging from a broken bone to chest pains to a concussion, accurately demonstrating registration procedures, diagnoses and treatments, and the functions of the various professionals who perform them. (Ages 4-13)

3. Issues in Today's World

Ashabranner, Brent. THE NEW AMERICANS; CHANGING PATTERNS IN U.S. IMMIGRATION. Photographs by Paul Conklin. Dodd, Mead. 212 pages.
Recent trends in immigration to the United States are described and personalized with numerous first-hand accounts by new Americans, mostly of Asian and Hispanic origin, but from a great variety of socio-economic backgrounds. Problems such as loneliness, homesickness and maladjustment are discussed as well as the more positive aspects such as success, ethnic pride and opportunity in an attractively designed book, marvelously illustrated with black and white photographs of the speakers. Indexed. (Age 11 and up)

Newspaper headlines take on added meaning after reading this survey of historical and contemporary terrorism which investigates organizations and regimes and evaluates their political effectiveness as well as exploring their morality. An outstanding bibliography is included. Indexed. (Age 9 and older)

Pringle, Laurence. FERAL; TAME ANIMALS GONE WILD. Macmillan. 110 pages.
The economic, environmental, political and humane issues of domesticated animals living independently of human care are discussed in chapters on birds, pigs, dogs, cats, burros and horses. Numerous captioned photographs vary the layout and convey some of the information. Further readings are listed. Indexed. (Ages 9-13)

A balanced, informative text explores human understanding of both natural and unnatural causes of radiation and its effects on our world. Indexed. (Age 11 and older)

4. The Natural World

"Comets are about as close to nothing as something can get." Yet, throughout history, people have always been fascinated by the appearance of comets, particularly Halley's, which may first have been recorded by Chinese astronomers in 1057 B.C. Branley covers the scientific study.
as well as human superstitions, about comets, and outlines the plans that various nations have made in anticipation of Halley's return in 1986. Indexed. (Ages 9-13)


George, Jean Craighead. ONE DAY IN THE DESERT. Illustrated by Fred Brenner. Thomas Y. Crowell. 48 pages. Simple text and soft black and white line drawings follow several desert animals through one day, giving the reader a strong sense of desert ecology. (Ages 4-11)

Golden, Frederic. THE TREMBLING EARTH; PROBING AND PREDICTING QUAKES. Charles Scribner's Sons. 175 pages. Readable, interesting explanations of modern scientific theories and primitive ideas about the causes of quakes are illustrated with captioned archival prints, photos, diagrams and maps. People involved in seismology are featured through their visions and findings. Further reading is listed. Indexed. (Age 11 and older)

Holmes, Anita. THE 100-YEAR-OLD CACTUS. Illustrated by Carol Lerner. Four Winds. 32 pages. The saguaro cactus of the Arizona desert is accurately pictured in drawings and described clearly from a seedling through its growth to maturity a century later when a screech owl nests in a former woodpecker hole in the cactus trunk. Excellent science writing for younger readers by the author of CACTUS: THE ALL-AMERICAN PLANT and a remarkable use of space, line and two colors by the artist/author of SEASONS OF THE TALL GRASS PRAIRIE. (Ages 4-11)

Komori, Atsushi. ANIMAL MOTHERS. Illustrated by Masayuki Yabuuchi. Philomel. 32 pages. Marvelously realistic color drawings of eleven different animals and their young expand an easy, brief text in an exemplary nonfiction book for preschoolers. (Ages 2-6)

Miller, Jonathan. THE HUMAN BODY. Designed by David Pelham. Illustrated by Harry Willock. Paper engineering by Vic Duppa-White and David Rosendale. Viking. 6 double-page spreads. (A Studio Book) Scale model movable and three dimensional illustrations show the workings of the human body: the head, organs of sight and sound, life support, the lungs, circulation and joints and muscles. Textual comparisons of humans to a space capsule further enliven a visually dramatic book of information. (Age 7 and older)

Milne, Lorus J. and Milne, Margery. NATURE'S GREAT CARBON CYCLE. Atheneum. 84 pages. A clear narrative explains what carbon is, where it comes from and how it fits into the natural cycle of life and death. Indexed. (Age 9 and older)
On one side of the mountain range, the moist air breeds lush green plants while on the other side - in the rain shadow - all vegetation must adapt to an arid climate. Black and white pencil drawings depict wide expanses of natural scenery bordered by small detailed drawings of native plants in two different environments. (Ages 4-11)

An exciting introduction to botany goes beyond the usual presentation of facts to stress the uncertain, dynamic nature of scientific thought and theory. Clear line drawings enhance the finely written text. Indexed. (Age 11 and older)

Pringle, Laurence. WOLFMAN; EXPLORING THE WORLD OF WOLVES. Charles Scribner's Sons. 71 pages.  
"Wolf" means a wild animal which is loyal, cooperative, playful and intelligent to the world's foremost wolf biologist, David Mech, who has studied wolf behavior for over twenty-five years on Lake Superior's Isle Royale and in Superior National Forest. Pringle's incisive prose and carefully captioned black and white photographs portray the "Wolfman" and the wolf world in terms somewhat contradictory to popular ideas about wolves. This remarkable narrative concerns the pursuit of knowledge and stimulates curiosity about the natural world. Indexed. (Ages 9-14)

One hundred seventy-five black and white line drawings illustrate the over 300 kinds of dinosaurs from all over the world listed and described here. A location index of dinosaur discoveries, a bibliography for further reading and other related information add to the usefulness and interest of a unique resource. (Ages 4 and older)

Selsam, Millicent and Hunt, Joyce. A FIRST LOOK AT SEASHELLS. Illustrated by Harriet Springer. Walker. 32 pages.  
Brief descriptions and detailed black and white drawings encourage readers to identify specific types of univalves and bivalves. A good introduction to the science of classification for young children. Indexed. (Ages 5-11)

5. Seasons and Celebrations

One of the distinguishing features of native American thought is the belief that words said in proper combinations and at the proper moment carry the power to make things happen. English translations of North and South American Indian poetry associated with birth, puberty, love, travel,
sickness, weather, farming, hunting and death are handsomely arranged in order of life events. Includes superior interpretative notes for each text and a glossary of native American names. (Age 11 and older)

Chaitkin, Miriam. MAKE NOISE, MAKE MERRY; THE STORY AND MEANING OF PURIM. Illustrated by Demi. Clarion/Houghton Mifflin. 90 pages. The most merry and noisy Jewish holiday is based upon events written in "The Book of Esther" in the BIBLE. Purim customs and symbols are explained and a list of other books includes Howard Greenfield's excellent shorter explanation PURIM (Holt, 1982.) (Age 7 and older)

Drucker, Malka. SHABBAT; A PEACEFUL ISLAND. Illustrated by Brom Hoban. Holiday. 96 pages. (A Jewish Holidays Book) Shabbat celebrates the creation of the world as well as creativity in the human being. The origins, rituals and evening meal of the Jewish Sabbath are clearly told and illustrated with captioned archival prints, contemporary photographs and line drawings. Activities, recipes and a glossary are part of this excellent explanation. (Age 9 years and older)

Garfield, Leon. FAIR'S FAIR. Illustrated by S. D. Schindler. Doubleday. 32 pages. A rags to riches story set in 19th century England, in which two orphans are rewarded on Christmas Eve for their goodness and generosity, told with Garfield's usual quick wit and illustrated in full color by a former resident of Racine, Wisconsin. (Ages 5-9)

Giblin, James Cross. FIREWORKS, PICNICS AND FLAGS. Illustrated by Ursula Arndt. Clarion/Houghton Mifflin. 90 pages. A social history of U. S. Independence Day celebrations includes background information on the flag, the bald eagle, fireworks, the Liberty Bell, Uncle Sam and the 1876 & 1976 celebrations. A chronology is appended. Indexed. (Age 7 and older)

Willson, Robina Beckles. MERRY CHRISTMAS; CHILDREN AT CHRISTMASTIME AROUND THE WORLD. Illustrated by Satomi Ichikawa. Philomel. 72 pages. Christmas customs involving children are pictured and explained according to traditions in Great Britain, the U.S., Germany, The Netherlands, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Russia, France, Italy, Greece, Mexico, India, Japan and Australia. Music and words for six carols are included as are descriptions of activities for children. Luminous full-color illustrations distinguish this survey of Christmas observances. (Ages 5-13)

6. Activities

Ardley, Neil. COMPUTERS. Warwick. 77 pages. Basic, somewhat detailed, information about computers with discussions of industrial and telecommunication applications is illustrated with clear diagrams and various types of photographs. (Ages 9-13)

CCBC Choices
Activities

Arosky, Jim. SECRETS OF A WILDLIFE WATCHER. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 64 pages.
A well known naturalist shares his first-hand experience as a wildlife observer as he explains to readers the techniques he used in identifying and tracking wild animals such as owls, turtles, foxes, beavers and deer and in getting close enough to study their natural behavior. (Ages 7-13)

Cobb, Vicki and Darling, Kathy. BET YOU CAN! SCIENCE POSSIBILITIES TO FOOL YOU. Illustrated by Stella Ormaí. Avon/Camelot. 111 pages.
Want to hang a spoon from your nose? Can you make a full moon shrink? An ability to succeed in meeting these challenges is less dependent on skill than on understanding the related scientific principles behind the experimental fun. Indexed. (Ages 7-13)

D'Ignazio, Fred. MESSNER'S INTRODUCTION TO THE COMPUTER. Julian Messner. 288 pages.
The best book published so far about computers integrates important historical events with today's world and discusses the significant projects developed by pioneering women and men in this field. An excellent glossary contains full definitions and explanations. Indexed. (Age 9 and older)

The producer of the first operas ever seen on national television, including "Amahl and the Night Visitors," writes an authoritative, helpful guide for young or inexperienced opera goers and listeners. He covers the composer, librettist, singer, stage director, conductor, audience and critic as well as a brief history of opera. The excellent appendices include a discography, glossary and listings of leading composers, librettists and opera companies. (Age 11 and older)

A gas station, a library and a garage sale are just a few of the places we can go. Objects and people associated with these and other places are singled out, identified in French and English and shown together in a larger context on the opposing page. The book ends with puzzles and a matching game to test the reader's memory of words introduced in the preceding pages. (Up to 6 years)

Visual and verbal instructions for 28 string figures, as well as the 13 progressive phases of the Cat's Cradle game, are clearly presented. Notes about the origin and extent of each figure place this ancient art into a cultural context. (Ages 7-13)

Hawkes, Nigel. COMPUTERS; HOW THEY WORK. Franklin Watts. 32 pages. (The Electronic Revolution)
Simple and concise explanations, colorful generic diagrams and full color photographs address typical questions on computer operation. An easy

CCBC Choices
glossary and short index conclude this book which is one of three
books on the subject recommended by a content specialist. (Ages 7-11)

Henry, Edna/We-Cha-Pi-Tu-Wen, Blue Star Woman. NATIVE AMERICAN COOKBOOK.
Julian Messner. 95 pages.
Directions for preparing three dozen foods from Algonquin, Inupiat,
Iowa, Seminole and other traditions include food substitutions (corn or
cracker meal for acorn meal; chicken eggs for small birds' eggs, etc.)
Related cultural information and lore provide social studies possibilities.
The authenticity of the recipes outweighs the impractical format and
approach. (Age 9 and older)

Jackson, Jonathan. THE TEENAGE CHEF; A YOUNG ADULT'S GUIDE TO COOKING.
Photographs by Diane Tong. Frederick Warne. 86 pages.
A basic introduction to cooking which includes many interesting yet simple
recipes, written by a high school student. In addition to being an
excellent cook, Jackson is a fine writer and his straightforward, sophisti-
cated style will appeal to teenagers. (Age 9 and older)

James, Elizabeth and Barkin, Carol. HOW TO WRITE A GREAT SCHOOL REPORT. With
an introduction by M. Jean Greenlaw. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 79 pages.
A straightforward, step-by-step, easy-to-understand guide shows how to
choose a topic, locate facts, take notes, write and check a report.
(Ages 9-13)

Lord, Harvey G. CAR CARE; FOR KIDS AND FORMER KIDS. Photographs by Kathryn
J. Lord. Atheneum. 92 pages.
A basic manual of car maintenance and repair assesses the relative diffi-
culty of each project, lists necessary tools and indicates whether or not
help will be needed. Step-by-step descriptions are complemented by black
and white photographs showing each process as well as by easy to understand
drawings. Indexed. (Age 9 and older)

7. Poetry

Clifton, Lucille. EVERETT ANDERSON'S GOODBYE. Illustrated by Ann Grifalconi.
Holt, Rinehart and Winston. 28 pages.
The five stages of grief according to Elizabeth Kubler-Ross are set within
poetry when Everett Anderson faces the death of his father. Dramatic pencil
drawings complement the emotional power and honesty of the text. (Up to
age 8)

Hopkins, Lee Bennett, editor. THE SKY IS FULL OF SONG. Illustrated by Dirk
Thirty-seven short poems are arranged in four sections according to season.
Poets represented include Gwendolyn Brooks, David McCord, Lucille Clifton
and Richard Brautigan. Full color linocuts add remarkable beauty to a
6½'' x 7½'' anthology of short poems. (Ages 4-11)

CCBC Choices
Hopkins, Lee Bennett, compiler. A SONG IN STONE; CITY POEMS. Photographs by Anna Held Audette. Thomas Y. Crowell. 41 pages. Twenty short poems by such diverse poets as Maxine Kumin, Ruth Krauss, Langston Hughes and Norma Farber commemorate the city. Black and white photographs expand and vary the concept of this affirmation of urban elements and feelings. (Ages 4-11)

Janeczko, Paul B., compiler. POETSPEAK; IN THEIR WORK, ABOUT THEIR WORK. Bradbury. 238 pages. Sixty-two modern poets comment on their works, including Nikki Giovanni, X. J. Kennedy, Sam Cornish and Marge Piercy. From one to four poems representing each poet's work are included in a thematically organized, handsome collection. (Age 12 and older)

Larrick, Nancy, compiler. WHEN THE DARK COMES DANCING; A BEDTIME POETRY BOOK. Illustrated by John Wallner. Philomel. 79 pages. A beautifully developed collection of forty-five poems and folk lullabies contains both standard and new material from various cultures. Poets represented include Eleanor Farjeon, Robert Louis Stevenson, Margaret Wise Brown and Christina Rossetti. Wallner's watercolor paintings and colored pencil drawings unify the texts thematically. Helpful advice on bedtime reading and a list of other poetry/song books add to the book's value for family use. Indexed. (Up to age 6)

Bang, Molly. DAWN. William Morrow. 32 pages. A haunting presentation of the traditional Japanese legend of the Crane Wife in calligraphy and textured paintings in earth tones is set in a 19th century New England shipbuilding and sailing environment. Multiple meanings within quilt patterns, borders along with other visual details further enrich a beautiful, original adaptation of this tale of rescue, greed and sacrifice. (Age 7 and older)

Beach, Milo Cleveland. THE ADVENTURES OF RAMA. With illustrations from a sixteenth-century Mughal manuscript. Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution. (Museum Shop, Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20560) To rid the world of evil, ten-headed Ravana, the Hindu god Vishnu, appears on earth as a heroic prince named Rama whose encounters with giants, sages, demons and holy men are familiar to any Hindu child. This abbreviated version of one of Hindu India's oldest, greatest epics is illustrated with twenty-six magnificently reproduced full color paintings from the Freer Gallery of Art. A treasure from a cultural history perspective and exemplary of distinguished bookmaking. (Ages 7-13)

Cole, Joanna, reteller. BONY-LEGS. Illustrated by Dirk Zimmer. Four Winds. 48 pages. An easy-to-read version of the Russian folk witch Baba Yaga, nicknamed the Bony-Legged One, has many full color pictures to help tell the story. (Ages 5-9)

CCBC Choices
"Silver as a new coin, the cow was, from head to tail, glinting in the sun" and she came to Huw, a young harpist, while he was looking after his father's cattle up on the mountain. Clear blues and greens predominate in watercolor paintings illustrating a rhythmically recounted story of magic and avarice. (Ages 5-11)

In spite of the king's many attempts to undo the prophecy that a certain young peasant boy will grow up to marry the princess, the boy endures a number of tests, including a meeting with the devil himself, to fulfill his destiny. A lesser known tale from the Grimm Brothers, brightly illustrated in watercolor and colored pencil. (Ages 5-9)

On a bitter, snowy day a young girl is sent out into the woods to gather flowers for her lazy stepsister. She finds the 12 month brothers who agree to help her by letting brother March stand in for brother January. Her stepsister wets a different fate when she seeks out the month brothers herself. Detailed watercolor paintings in full color illustrate the Czechoslovakian folktale. (Ages 5-9)

McCunn, Ruthanne Lum. PIE-BITER. Illustrated by You-than Tang. Design Enterprises of San Francisco (P.O. Box 14695, San Francisco, CA 94114) 30 pages.
Rich California colors bathe a lavishly illustrated tale of a legendary Chinese man who came to work on the railroad just long enough to make a fortune. This legend in the tradition of Paul Bunyan and John Henry is also available in a Chinese language edition. (Ages 4-11)

Schwartz, Alvin, editor. UNRIDDLING; ALL SORTS OF RIDDLES TO PUZZLE YOUR GUESSERY. Illustrated by Sue Truesdell. J. B. Lippincott. 118 pages.
An entertaining collection with examples of 18 different kinds of riddles drawn from American folklore, including hidden-answer, neck, rebus and tricky-question riddles. Authoritative notes of folklife sources at the book's end provide an added intellectual dimension and might, for some, stimulate future explorations of folk humor. (Age 6 and older)

Thomson, Pat, compiler. RHYMES AROUND THE DAY. Illustrated by Jan Omerod. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages.
A busy young family is pictured from the moment the three children wake up in their bunk beds and crib until bedtime. The children and their parents are shown through contemporary visual references which successfully bring a fresh approach to familiar nursery rhymes. (Up to age 6)
Zemach, Margot, reteller. THE LITTLE RED HEN; AN OLD STORY. Farrar Straus Giroux. 32 pages.
The traditional tale of the industrious hen who is unable to interest the lazy goose, cat and pig in sharing the work is humorously illustrated in vivid pen and ink drawings with watercolor washes. (Up to age 6)

9. Books for the Youngest

A book which categorizes objects and people common to a baby's day actually is five wordless stories of families with babies. A funny as well as instructive look at life with a baby demonstrates differences as well as similarities between objects, life styles and personalities. (Up to age 4)

An Australian Picture Book of the Year invites participation through the visual and verbal action of a cow, donkey, sheep, pig and mouse attempting to go out rowing on a boat in the bay. Bold, bright watercolor washes with pen and ink drawings combine well with sepia tone drawings in a beautifully designed book printed in full color. (Up to age 4)

Bang, Molly. TEN, NINE, EIGHT. Greenwillow. 28 pages.
A little girl is rocked and readied for bed by her father's counting rhyme. The full color outlined paintings and low key warmth projected by a black family's cozy and loving bedtime ritual are reminiscent of Margaret Wise Brown. A beautifully conceived and developed idea and design. Honor Book, CCBC Caldecott Straw Vote. (Up to age 4)

Chast, Seymour. TALL CITY, WIDE COUNTRY; A BOOK TO READ FORWARD AND BACKWARD. Viking. 28 pages.
The perspectives and horizons of city and country are pictured in bold, full color art in a tall, wide book which can be read in two directions. (Up to age 5)

Crews, Donald. PARADE. Greenwillow. 32 pages.
Full color paintings show the events before, during and after a parade. The bright colors and striking designs that earmark other works by Crews dominate a minimal descriptive text. (Up to age 4)

Harry teases his little sister most of the time and she insists that she hates him, even though adults keep telling her that she doesn't. An honest portrayal of tension between siblings ends realistically with a combination of hope and acceptance. (Ages 4-6)

Outstanding, poetic prose captures the personal exhilaration of Katie, who takes an early morning walk and discovers a morning that is hers alone. (Ages 3-9)

CCBC Choices
Drescher, Henrik. SIMON'S BOOK. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages.
Simon is a drawing who comes to life one night and has adventures with his friends the pens and pencils and his "enemy" the monster. Pen and ink drawings and watercolors predominate in another visually exciting, imaginative fantasy by the creator of THE STRANGE APPEARANCE OF HOWARD CRANEBILL, JR. Winner, CCBC Caldecott Straw Vote. (Ages 4-9 years)

Melinda's difficult day ends with a milk and cookie treat her mother brings - once she and Melinda have hugged and kissed each other in Melinda's surprising hiding spot. Ink drawings with wash develop unique images to accompany the story. (Up to age 6)

Cully Cully the hunter and the bear he hunts chase each other around the same tree until they can chase no more. A funny story illustrated with humorous watercolor paintings to enjoy aloud and over. (Up to age 6)

Gammell, Stephen. GIT ALONG, OLD SCUDDER. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages.
A canny mountaineer sets off to make a map so he'll know where he is. The watercolor paintings add humor to a western spoof. (Up to age 6)

The life story of Charles Augustus Favershams, a proper Victorian gentleman, is told in verse, accompanied by a parody of his life story told in distinctive watercolor paintings. The hilarious illustrations skew the proportions of the human body just enough to push Favershams and his contemporaries into the realm of the absurd. (Age 4 and older)

Gerrard, Roy and Jean. MATILDA JANE. Farrar Straus Giroux. 32 pages.
Intricate watercolors of Edwardian England and lilting rhyme describe Matilda Jane's "astonishing" vacation at the seashore. (Ages 4-6)

Higgins, Stephanie. ONE, TWO, THREE; A COUNTING BOOK. A Star & Elephant Book/Green Tiger Press (P. O. Box 868, LaJolla, CA 92038) 30 pages.
Tiny black relief prints with a nature motif of creatures and flowers create a simple counting experience from one to ten. The bright red pattern of the jacket is reproduced in an envelope of the same paper for mailing the 5" x 6" book as a gift greeting. (Up to age 4)

Hoban, Tana. ROUND & ROUND & ROUND. Greenwillow. 32 pages.
Full color photographs express the concept of "round" presented in both obvious and subtle ways. (Up to age 6)

Hughes, Shirley. ALFIE'S FEET. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages.
Because Alfie loves to splish, splash, splosh in puddles, his mother buys him shiny yellow boots. The first time Alfie puts them on by himself, he makes an interesting discovery. The richly hued, detailed drawings represent ordinary British middle class life in a fresh way. (Up to age 4)

CCBC Choices
15 Books For the Youngest

Jonas, Ann. ROUND TRIP. Greenwillow. 32 pages.
A day-long trip from a country home to the city and back can be read
and seen upside down as well as right side up due to strikingly
composed black and white graphics which are effective both ways.
(Up to age 6)

Joosse, Barbara M. SPIDERS IN THE FRUIT CELLAR. Illustrated by Kay Chorao.
Alfred A. Knopf. 32 pages.
A Hartford, Wisconsin, author's story of little Elizabeth's determination
to get the jar of peaches her mother needs is reinforced and expanded
by ingeniously designed page spreads. Pen and ink illustrations are
washed with subtle shades of red. (Up to age 6)

Kheredian, David and Hogrogian, Nonny. RIGHT NOW. Alfred A. Knopf. 28 pages.
Each thought of past and future events inspires a young girl to compare
these real and imagined experiences to what is happening "right now."
Past and future are illustrated in black and white while the present is
shown in full color, accompanied by a bright, poetic text. (Ages 4-9)

Lindgren, Barbro. SAM'S LAMP. Illustrated by Eva Eriksson. William Morrow.
32 pages.
A small sized picture book with very short sentences conveys a toddler's
attempt to reach an object beyond his grasp and his resulting minor
accident. (Up to age 4)

Lindgren, Barbro. THE WILD BABY GOES TO SEA. Illustrated by Eva Eriksson.
Adapted from the Swedish by Jack Prelutsky. Greenwillow. 24 pages.
"Baby Ben was twice as wild as any other ten," but his unflappable
mother understands it's natural for this active preschooler to imagine
a fanciful adventure using ordinary items: a broom for a mast, an
apron for a sail, and stuffed animal friends for the crew. (Ages 2-5)

Newfield, Marcia. WHERE DID YOU PUT YOUR SLEEP? Illustrated by Andrea
Pen and ink drawings show Annie's nighttime attempts to fall asleep in
the believable story of a contemporary child and her father. (Up to
age 6)

Oxenbury, Helen. FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. Dial/E. P. Dutton. 18 pages.
(Out-and-About Books)
A toddler's first day at nursery school is developed in an easy text
with droll, realistically detailed watercolor paintings that tell the
whole story of an important first experience. Similarly, a child's
first dinner in a restaurant is portrayed by Oxenbury in EATING OUT,
also in this series. (Up to age 3)

Ray, Deborah Kogan. FOG DRIFT MORNING. Harper & Row. 32 pages.
A young girl and her mother gather blackberries in a quiet, private
time shared by a mother and daughter. (Ages 3-9)

CCBC Choices
Sometimes the best present you can give is the gift of yourself, especially on your mother's birthday. Animal characters and bright, poster colors and shapes make a well told tale by an Eau Claire, Wisconsin, author with a surprise ending into a story well suited to group use. (Up to age 6)

Steptoe, John. JEFFREY BEAR CLEANS UP HIS ACT. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages.
Jeffrey thinks he can liven up Miss Gloria Bearfacts' class if he plays teacher but discovers that it's easier to stick to his side of the desk. Bright, full color drawings utilize a comic strip format and encapsulate a spoof adults can appreciate on another level. (Ages 7-9)

Stevenson, James. WHAT'S UNDER MY BED? Greenwillow. 32 pages.
As two wakeful children hear their grandpa's story about the scary things he remembers from his childhood bedtimes, they think of comforts and reassurances for themselves. A comic strip format is used along with other watercolor spreads in a funny story about bedtime fears. (Up to age 6)

When questioned about the wreck of a small sailboat found on the edge of a high cliff, an old sailor tells a strange tale of a proud young boy who wanted to be the world's greatest sailor; he also tells of a mysterious storm that carried the boy and his boat to a place where boats glide like seagulls high above the water. Full color paintings emphasize imaginative uses of forms within space. Honor Book, CCBC Caldecott Straw Vote. (Ages 4-11)

Walter, Mildred Pitts. MY MAMA NEEDS ME. Illustrated by Pat Cummings. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 16 pages.
Jason feels left out when his mother comes home from the hospital with a new baby. But a chance to help bathe the baby, plus a warm hug from mother, reassure Jason that he is loved and needed. The pop art is 1980's in style, but the realistic pictures contain a softness appropriate to the subject. Variety in patterns and perspectives distinguishes Cummings' approach to illustration. (Ages 4-6)

Wildsmith, Brian. PELICAN. Pantheon. 62 pages.
Bright full color paintings highlight the story of Paul and the problems he has teaching his pet pelican to fish. As the half page inserted between each full page spread is flipped, observers gain a sense of change and movement. (Ages 3-7)
The moon, jealous of Ellen Fitzpatrick's nightgown, comes down to earth to shop for a nightgown of her own in an original fantasy, marvelously illustrated with lush full color watercolor paintings. (Ages 3-9)

Williams, Vera B. **SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR ME.** Greenwillow. 32 pages.
It's Rosa's turn to spend the coins in the money jar: coins from Mama's tips, coins Grandma can spare and coins Rosa earns now and then at the Blue Tile Diner. The child in **A CHAIR FOR MY MOTHER** looks at roller skates, tries on clothing and imagines using a knapsack before she finds something which is exactly right on which to spend her birthday money. Bright watercolors and bordered pages illustrate the text of a family story full of love. (Ages 4-9)

Irv Irving was a shoe salesman with a peaceful life, a comfortable apartment, nice clothes and a telephone. But he was discontented until...the day he lost his head. After that day, he hardly ever complained again. Drawings with full color watercolor paintings picture Irv with a strong resemblance to Maurice Sendak. (Ages 5-11)

10. Fiction for Younger Readers

William and Pippin Plumtree want only to lead quiet, simple lives but when the carrots in their garden begin to grow at first as big as Cub Scouts and then as big as trees, they must think of creative uses for not only the carrots but for the holes they leave in the garden. An original tall tale, fast paced, funny and completely unpredictable. (Ages 7-11)

Yossi, an orthodox Jew, must find a way to overcome the Evil Urge which is making it impossible for him to concentrate in school. Many details of Chassidic family life are captured in both the text and the striking naive illustrations. (Ages 7-11)

Henkes, Kevin. **MARGARET & TAYLOR.** Greenwillow. 64 pages.
Domineering, bossy Margaret thinks she's in control of every situation but her patient and resourceful little brother, Taylor, always wins in the end. A warm, funny story of sibling rivalry unfolds in seven short episodic chapters, generously illustrated with fine pencil drawings. Tight, crisp prose and innovative design are striking features in an outstanding book for young readers by a Racine native who is now a Junior at UW-Madison. (Ages 4-9)

CCBC Choices
In his imagination, a young boy becomes Sir Dauntless and sets off to slay dragons and rescue a damsel in distress—until his mother calls him home for supper. A refreshing intertwining of a traditional folktale and a realistic story of a contemporary child at play. (Ages 5-9)

Jukes, Mavis. NO ONE IS GOING TO NASHVILLE. Illustrated by Lloyd Bloom. Alfred A. Knopf. 48 pages.
Sonia, a future vet, wants to keep a stray dog needing a home. After a series of attempts to locate a permanent home for the dog, Sonia's stepmother resolves this issue. A marvelously realistic, loving, moving family story illustrated on every page with paintings reproduced in black and white. (Ages 6-11)

Pomerantz, Charlotte. POSY. Illustrated by Catherine Stock. Greenwillow. 48 pages.
"Tell me a story about me. About when I was little." A father tells his daughter a true story and then three more at bedtime. Pinks and yellows predominate in a profusely illustrated sequence of family memories. (Ages 3-9)

Rockwell, Anne and Harlow. THE NIGHT WE SLEPT OUTSIDE. Macmillan. 48 pages. (Ready-to-Read)
Pen and ink drawings with blue overlays illustrate the overnight adventure of two brothers who watch and listen to nighttime sights and sounds while camping out on their deck in sleeping bags. (Ages 6-9)

Tom is a con man who preys on the greed of wealthy farmers until he is outsmarted by Holly McCullough in a lavishly illustrated, humorous story. (Ages 7-11)

11. Fiction for Middle Readers

Bauer, Marion Dane. RAIN OF FIRE. Clarion/Houghton Mifflin. 53 pages. 
Twelve year old Steve, Becca and the twins spent most of the summer of 1946 digging a foxhole in the woods near their small Illinois town. A new boy from Chicago challenges their way of playing war as well as their assumption that Steve's older brother Matthew is a war hero. A taut, attention riveting story moves inexorably and logically from one suspenseful incident to the next. Strong characterizations, superb dialogue and authentic details of time and place mark this provocative novel. The author once taught English in Waukesha. Honor Book, CCBC Newbery Straw Vote. (Ages 9-13)

Cassedy, Sylvia. BEHIND THE ATTIC WALL. Thomas Y. Crowell. 315 pages.
Maggie, a sad, withdrawn foster child, finally comes to live with her two great aunts in a lonely, musty mansion and finds friends in two talking dolls who live behind the attic wall. As the novel unfolds, CCBC Choices
the line between Maggie's real and fantasy worlds grows less and less distinct. The reader is left to decide how much of the story takes place in Maggie's mind and how much really happens. (Ages 9-13)

Conford, Ellen. LENNY KANDELL, SMART ALECK. Illustrated by Walter Gaffney-Kessell. Little, Brown. 120 pages.
Growing up in New York City after World War II, Lenny Kandell dreams of being a world-famous stand-up comic and spends every waking hour perfecting his act. His life takes a turn toward the serious when he is continually threatened by the school bully; through perseverance and humor, Lenny manages to come out on top. A fast paced, funny novel, full of wonderfully corny jokes and amusing, true to life situations. (Ages 9-13)

Davies, Andrew. MARMALADE AND RUFUS. Illustrated by Bert Dodson. Crown. 84 pages.
"The only thing to do is to tell the truth from the start. Marmalade Atkins was not a nice girl, and Rufus was a pretty diabolical donkey. There. If you only like books about sweet little girls and gentle, lovable donkeys, then you had better pack it in now, and go and read some other book." Somewhat sarcastic humor predominates in an original British fantasy starring an impolite girl and a talking donkey. By the author of CONRAD'S WAR. (Ages 9-13)

Derman, Martha. AND PHILIPPA MAKES FOUR. Four Winds. 150 pages.
Sixth grader Philippa's life becomes increasingly complicated as her widowed father becomes romantically involved with a divorced architect who is the mother of a girl Philippa does not like at all. A contemporary situation with believable characters. (Ages 9-13)

Donnelly, Elfie. TINA INTO TWO WON'T GO. Translated from the German by Anthea Bell. Four Winds. 118 pages.
When 11 year old Tina's father invites her to see him off at the airport before Christmas, she doesn't realize he plans to take her along without her mother's permission or knowledge. Four poignant, human portraits are revealed in the parallel narratives of two children and their parents, all confused and saddened by the impact of divorce upon their lives.
(Age 11 and older)

Green, Phyllis. EATING ICE CREAM WITH A WEREWOLF. Illustrations by Patti Stren. Harper & Row. 121 pages.
A familiar contemporary Madison setting gives added appeal to a humorous spoof about an imaginative, somewhat eccentric adult baby sitter and her book of spells which amuse 12 year old Brad and young Nancy while giving rise to a series of mysterious coincidences. The author once lived in Madison. (Ages 9-12)

Greene, Constance C. ASK ANYBODY. Viking. 150 pages.
Nell is someone 11 year old Schuyler will always remember for her green fingernail polish as well as her devastatingly persuasive leadership during the short time Nell lived nearby in the Maine village where Schuyler and her divorced parents have their home. Flip humor and observant responses to peer pressure and family change mark this first person narrative.
(Ages 9-13)

CCBC Choices
Hahn, Mary Downing. DAPHNE'S BOOK. Clarion/Houghton Mifflin. 177 pages. Jessica is furious when her English teacher assigns her to work on a class project with Daphne, the sullen girl whom everyone teases. As Jessica becomes better acquainted with Daphne and the harsh environment in which she lives, she begins to value their friendship more than winning acceptance among her other peers. A fast moving, painfully realistic novel about 7th grade conformity and conflict. (Ages 9-13)

Hamilton, Virginia. WILLIE BEA AND THE TIME THE MARTIANS LANDED. Greenwillow. 208 pages. Set in rural Ohio during late October in 1938, Willie Bea and her family become caught up in two days of confusion and fear generated by Orson Welles' celebrated Halloween broadcast, "War of the Worlds." A remarkable exploration of universes: personal, familial, community, cultural and ... beyond? Willie Bea tries to maintain her balance at the center as all of her universes tilt for a short while. Hamilton writes with great insight and humor, brilliantly recreating a time and a place. Honor Book, CCBC Newbery Straw Vote. (Ages 9-13)

Haynes, Mary. WORDCHANGER. Illustrated by Eric Jon Nones. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 252 pages. When 12 year old William discovers that his power-hungry stepfather has evil intentions, he and his physicist mother flee from New York City and travel cross-country by car, taking with them the stepfather's bizarre, dangerous invention - a radioactive machine capable of changing the printed word. A highly original, often frightening, often humorous, fast paced science fiction adventure explores power, censorship and the responsibility of the scientific community for their discoveries. A page-turner perfect for reading aloud. (Ages 9-13)

Holman, Felice. THE WILD CHILDREN. Charles Scribner's Sons. 151 pages. When his family is arrested after the Bolshevik Revolution, 12 year old Alex survives in the only way he can - by joining a gang of "wild children," homeless orphans who live by their wits in abandoned buildings and in caves, begging or stealing the bare necessities. Although their situation is grim, Alex and his friends cling to each other and to the hope for a better future. Based on her research into the plight of the countless children left homeless after the Revolution, Holman gives a fictionalized account, as harsh as the lives they led and as strong as those who survived it. (Age 11 and older)

Kidd, Ronald. SIZZLE & SPLAT. Lodestar/E. P. Dutton. 122 pages. Prior to his death, Hans Kleiman wrote a trumpet concerto to be played at a fund-raising concert by the Pirelli Youth Orchestra; he left in addition, a riddle to be solved by members of the concert audience. When the orchestra gets threats demanding that the concert not be played, Sizzle and Splat, two youthful individualistic high school musicians, take it upon themselves to solve the mystery. A riveting story, chock full of great one-liners and funny characters. (Age 9 and older)
Fiction for Middle Readers

Fedya, the lonely son of an alcoholic father, and Lena, a bright young girl who requires a wheelchair, draw closer together in friendship in a contemporary novel which offers fascinating glimpses of modern Soviet family life. (Age 11 and older)

Lorentzen, Karin. LANKY LONGLEGS. Illustrated by Jan Omerod. Translated from the Norwegian by Joan Tate. A Margaret K. McElderry Book/Atheneum. 90 pages.
Nine year old Di's insights expand: her dog has puppies; her brother's illness will prevent him from becoming old; adults differ in their understandings of life after death; and a boy in her class teases her as well as sharing an important gift. A subtle, perceptive, tender exploration of ideas in an easy story of a loving family. (Ages 7-11)

Because the villagers in Miersk are living in fear of the wolf, Blood Prince, Pasha and Lisette set out to seek the aid of Baba Yaga. A bright, original story based on elements of Russian folklore. (Ages 7-11)

Selling poems, recess snacks, insurance for school bags and a secret anti-lose formula are just a few of the money-making schemes dreamt up by Stacey, a budding young businesswoman, in a hilarious, episodic award-winning novel from France. (Ages 9-13)

A young American boy visiting his relatives in Ireland sets out to prove that his grandfather's stories about leprechauns are true. A marvelous mixture of realism and folklore evokes a true sense of a place and its people. (Ages 7-11)

From ear piercing to a first girl-boy party, this humorous novel contains the ingredients of a genuine first romance without the "fantasy" of the trendy formulaic fiction for young teens. The characters have rare substance, a boy-girl childhood friendship is pictured and 13 year old Joss is shown in a realistic relationship to parents currently having a rough time together. (Ages 11-13)

Teenage George and his 23 year old Uncle Hib both seem to be misfits, cut off from the mainstream, until they meet Lolly, a troubled adolescent girl who travels with a carnival. Hib comes to see the carnival as his chance for escape. George, a brilliant technician and musician, must then cope with the fear and anger of losing his uncle and with the difficulty of making new friends. The complexity of human emotions and relationships is marvelously depicted in a highly readable novel, full of original and unforgettable characters. (Age 11 and older)

CCBC Choices
Smith, Doris Buchanan. THE FIRST HARD TIMES. Viking. 137 pages.
A girl’s refusal to accept her mother’s remarriage following the ten years that her father was missing in action in Vietnam leads to a self-imposed isolation. The sincere, continuing efforts of her stepfather, her friendship with classmate Lloyd and her grandparents’ understanding are factors in 12 year old Ancil’s reconciliation to a new stage of her life. A convincing novel by the author of LAST WAS LLOYD. (Ages 9-13)

Townsend, John Rowe. DAN ALONE. J. B. Lippincott. 214 pages.
When his grandfather dies and his mother abandons him, Dan survives by joining a gang of thieves. Dan never relinquishes his dream of finding a real family. An intricately plotted novel, reminiscent in tone of Dickens. (Ages 9-13)

One family helps another through a troubled time, which means to young Rinko that she has to spend the summer of 1935 in East Oakland with widowed Mrs. Hata and her two pesky sons. Three personal life styles, each true to Japanese-American culture in that decade, are pictured in a novel which continues the family story begun in the book A JAR OF DREAMS. (Ages 9-13)

Voigt, Cynthia. A SOLITARY BLUE. Atheneum. 189 pages.
Jeff Greene learned to live without his mother Melody after she left him and his dad, the Professor, when Jeff was seven. After he visits Melody for the summe some years later, Jeff finds he must learn to live more fully with his dad. Jeff’s moods parallel seasonal changes. Dicey Tillerman, the protagonist in two other novels by Voigt, adds an important dimension to a spectacular story with a well developed central theme, several subplots and marvelously crafted multi-dimensional contemporary characters. Winner, CCBC Newbery Straw Vote. (11 and older)

It’s a battle of wits and wills when feisty Mrs. Tucker and a possessive old gnome each lay claim to the same property in a fast moving, funny story by one of Australia’s outstanding writers. (Ages 9-13)

12. Fiction for Older Readers

Baer, Frank. MAX’S GANG. Translated by Ivanka Roberts. Little, Brown. 298 pages.
At the end of World War II, five German school children who have been evacuated to Czechoslovakia become separated from their schoolmates and must find their own way home. Their long journey across wartorn Europe depicts the horrific destruction, misery and loss, as well as the strength of the human spirit and the will to survive and move onward. (Age 14 and older)
What was it that drove 16 year old Hal to desecrate the grave of his best friend who was killed in a motorcycle accident? Through newspaper clippings, official reports made by a social worker and Hal’s own telling of the story, the intriguing mystery slowly unravels to reveal the complex relationship between two witty, intelligent high school boys who are strongly attracted to one another. Daring both in style and theme, Chambers rivals Cormier for his flawless, artistic treatment of a difficult subject and for his enormous respect for the young adult mind. (Age 14 and older)

Myth and legend are woven into a dramatic fantasy with two teenaged protagonists. Cally and Westerly, a boy and girl separated by language and culture, are brought together in a parallel world which is not bound by time. Knowing only that they must reach the sea, the two find strength in each other as they confront hatred, fear and death in their struggle to survive and find the answers they seek. (Age 12 and older)

Sixteen year old Barney Snow is one of several patients in a medical unit for terminally ill teenagers for whom experimental treatments are developed and administered. The tragic, bleak circumstances do not confine the idealism of youth who know they have little remaining time. In other novels, Cormier has examined elements of evil or destruction in society; the only enemy in this novel is death. Involvement and action on behalf of others contribute to the survival of the human spirit under otherwise intolerable circumstances. The myth of Sisyphus, the Dumas novel THE CORSICAN BROTHERS and the philosophy of Nietzsche, Camus and Sartre are internal references for readers wishing to explore parallels, symbols, metaphors and ideas beyond the absorbing, moving and memorable story. (Age 13 and older)

God child Pretty Pearl, younger sister of John de Conquer and John Henry, comes down from Mount Kenya to try life as a human child in the Post-Civil War American South. After a long journey through the South with a cast of characters from American and African folklore, as well as with Mother Pearl, the adult aspect of the god child herself, she comes upon the Inside Folks, a clandestine self-supporting community of Free Blacks, linked to the outside world only through their connections with Cherokee and Shawnee Amerinds. Drawn to the humans and their “winning ways”, Pearl must eventually choose between her own immortal power and her newly emerging identity within a struggling mortal community. Hamilton skillfully weaves myth, legend and history into a complex pattern of hopes and dreams to create a truly American odyssey. (Age 12 and older)

The 1920's story of three Standfield women involves their move from Atlanta to Hollywood during the aftermath of the divorce which changed their lives drastically. Young Blainey and Margery live with their mother in a theosophical colony where they encounter a movie star, a hermit, a psychic and a holy man. This somewhat autobiographical novel is best appreciated after reading its predecessor WHISTLE DOWN A DARK LANE. Both novels are demanding because of their reminiscent style and tone; both evoke time and place superbly; both portray three distinctive female characters and finely etched minor characters, as well. (Age 14 and older)

Mazer, Norma Fox. SOMEONE TO LOVE. Delacorte. 283 pages.

Nineteen year old Nina is a relatively serious college freshman when she meets Mitch, a college dropout. Their romance involves sharing an apartment and subsequently discovering they are less ready than they first thought for a continuing relationship. Mazer is a skillful writer and observer of contemporary life who is true to her believable characters as well as to a popular theme too often treated sentimentally. (Age 14 and older)


When Wang Lee, a 15 year old peasant boy, meets Mei Lin, a strong intriguing young woman, he becomes caught up in the fervor of the Taiping Rebellion. Paterson once again proves her mastery as a writer of powerful historical fiction in a gripping novel that focuses on the internal and external struggles of two unforgettable characters living in 19th century China. She explores the obsessions possible when one gives complete allegiance to an idea, a person or a group. An action-filled, passionate picture of a relationship, a time and a culture. (Age 13 and older)


When the Plague comes to Eyam in a package of dress patterns ordered from London by the new pastor's wife, the townspeople take an oath to close the parish boundaries, so that none shall leave and none shall enter. Sixteen year old Mall Percival, trapped within the town while the man she loves waits outside, bears witness to the death and suffering of family, friends and neighbors while the Plague rages from September 1665 to October 1666. Stark, compelling prose gives power to the brilliantly executed story of common people faced with extraordinary and incomprehensible circumstances. (Age 14 and older)

Westall, Robert. THE HAUNTING OF CHAS MCGILL, AND OTHER STORIES. Greenwillow. 181 pages.

Eight chilling short stories of the supernatural by one of Britain's most outstanding storytellers will appeal to young adults who have a taste for the eerie. (Age 14 and older)
13. Biography

Fritz, Jean. THE DOUBLE LIFE OF POCAHONTAS. Illustrations by Ed Young. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 96 pages.
Pocahontas lived in both the world of her village and that of colonial Jamestown until hostility between the new settlers and the Indians caused her to leave the English world for a time. Her conflict of identity and subsequent kidnapping to England are related in a reliable, low-key account containing both drama and tragedy. With detailed notes, a bibliography and an index. (Age 9 and older)

Jacobs, William Jay. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT; A LIFE OF HAPPINESS AND TEARS. Coward-McCann. Indexed. 108 pages.
Each stage of Eleanor Roosevelt's life is treated, from her unhappy childhood to her active and satisfying life in her later years. Franklin Roosevelt's affair with Lucy Mercer is not overlooked and is, in fact, shown as the major impetus for Eleanor's search for fulfillment in political and social arenas. Indexed. (Ages 11-14)

Kerr, H. E. ME ME ME ME ME; NOT A NOVEL. Harper & Row. 212 pages.
A candid memoir of her own adolescence reveals the sources for many of Kerr's novels for young adults and is every bit as funny and insightful. (Age 12 and older)

Her life spanned most of the 19th century and Jessie Benton Frémont took an active role in some of the most significant American events of her time, including Westward Expansion, the formation of the Republican Party and the Civil War. So numerous and exciting were her adventures that, in her later years, she earned her living by selling bits and pieces of her life story to magazines. Careful primary research and clear writing make the story of this spirited American woman accessible to young readers. Indexed. (Age 11 and older)

O'Kelley, Mattie Lou. FROM THE HILLS OF GEORGIA; AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN PAINTINGS. Atlantic Monthly/Little,Brown. 32 pages.
In the tradition of Grandma Moses, Mattie Lou O'Kelley is a primitive painter whose intricate, brilliantly colored paintings tell details of her childhood in the rural south. This joyful book invites examination of daily experience as a step prior to journal or other writing. (All ages)

Selden, Bernice. THE MILL GIRLS; LUCY LARCOM, HARRIET HANSON ROBINSON, SARAH G. BAGLEY. Atheneum. 191 pages.
Reconstructs the lives and work of three 19th Century American women who started their careers as mill workers in Lowell, Massachusetts: Lucy Larcom, who achieved fame as a poet, writer and editor; Harriet Hanson Robinson, who, along with her daughter, Hale, became an influential leader in the Woman Suffrage Movement; and Sarah G. Bagley, a labor organizer who devoted her own life to improving the lives of her sister textile workers.
An exemplary work of nonfiction, drawing heavily on primary sources such as letters, journals and newspaper articles characterizes the three as distinct individuals who chose different careers, but who were united by the mill experience, instrumental in instilling in each a strong sense of self-worth and a desire to change the world they lived in. Indexed. (Age 11 and older)

Siegel, Beatrice. LILLIAN WALD OF HENRY STREET. Macmillan. 192 pages. Extensive footnotes document the personal papers and other sources used by the biographer of an early leader in the movements for peace, women's and children's rights, labor and world health. The author interviewed former members of the Henry Street Nurses Settlement on New York's Lower East Side as well as some of Wald's descendants to develop this biography of the pioneer who conceived of and developed public health nursing and who fought to build provisions for justice and human welfare into the social structure of the nation. Indexed. (Age 14 and older)

14. New Editions

Dickens, Charles. A CHRISTMAS CAROL; A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS. Illustrated by Michael Foreman. Dial. 128 pages. A profusely illustrated, compact edition with a comparatively small type face contains an abundance of full color illustrations and black and white crosshatched line drawings. The design of the book jacket and illustrated endpapers invite participation and convey the setting of the classic tale first published in 1843. Size: 8 1/4" x 6 3/8". (Age 9 and older)

Dickens, Charles. A CHRISTMAS CAROL; IN PROSE, BEING A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS. Illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman. Holiday House. 118 pages. Occasional full color illustrations and black and white drawings illustrate the text which is printed in a larger typeface than the preceding edition. Two pages of notes from the 1983 editor offer a brief publishing history of the text since 1843. Personal preference will determine which of these two editions to choose. Size: 9 1/2" x 6 3/8". (Age 9 and older)

Grahame, Kenneth. THE HIND IN THE HILLOWS. Illustrated by John Burningham. Viking. 240 pages. A worthy edition of the classic first published in 1908 contains a profusion of full color and black and white drawings. (Age 7 and older)

Kipling, Rudyard. THE BEGINNING OF THE ARMADILLOES. Illustrated by Charles Keeping. Peter Bedrick. (Distributed by Harper & Row) 31 pages. (A Just So Story). To trick a young jaguar, Tortoise teaches Hedgehog to swim and Hedgehog teaches Tortoise to curl himself up into a ball, the end result being that both turn into armadilloes. Distinctive full color paintings appearing on every page spread illustrate the classic story. The four books published in this handsome new series in 1983 are each uniform in physical size; each has a different illustrator and varying visual interpretations of the Kipling stories. (Ages 5-11)
Keeping's provocative, emotional, stylized ink drawings for a handsome 11 1/4" x 8 3/8" edition of Noyes' lyric poem overshadow any other edition. Available for the first time in the U.S., this edition won the 1981 British Kate Greenaway Medal for distinguished illustration. A haunting presentation of the tragic tale of the captive woman who takes her own life in an attempt to warn her lover of the trap set for him by the King's men. (Age 9 and older)

From the time he was a new baby, Billy's mother called him little duck or little fish - anything but his own name, until the day Billy learned to say his first word. A warm story of a loving relationship between mother and child is newly illustrated with 3 color pencil drawings. The author was a student of Helen C. White at UW-Madison some years ago. (Up to age 3)

A simple rhyming text points out things which go together naturally, such as "Moon with night/Sun with light," accompanied by delightful full color pen and ink drawings. The author is a former UW-Madison student. (Up to age 7)

Activities and natural events associated with the four seasons are described in brief text and newly illustrated with 4 color pencil drawings. The illustrator and author both studied at UW-Madison. (Up to age 4)
15. Index

Abrams, Kathle, 21
ADVENTURES OF RAMA, 11
Ahlberg, Allan, 13
Ahlberg, Janet, 13
ALFIE'S FEET, 14
Allen, Pamela, 13
ALLONS-Y!, 9
Ancona, George, 2
AND PHILIPPA MAKES FOUR, 19
Anderson, Norman D., 2
ANIMAL MOTHERS, 6
Anno, Mitsumasa, 2
ANNO'S U.S.A., 2
 Ardley, Neil, 8
Arndt, Ursula, 8
Arnosky, Jim, 16
Ashabranner, Brent, 5
ASK ANYBODY, 19
AT THIS VERY MINUTE, 2
ATLANTIS, 2
Audette, Anna Held, 11
BABY'S CATALOGUE, 13
Baer, Frank, 22
Bang, Molly, 11, 13
Barkin, Carol, 10
Barton, Harriet, 6
Bauer, Marion Dane, 18
Beach, Milo Cleveland, 11
BEGINNING OF THE ARMADILLOES, 26
BEHIND THE ATTIC WALL, 18
BEING A PLANT, 7
Bell, Anthea, 19
Bellville, Cheryl Walsh, 2
Bellville, Rod, 2
Bensusen, Sally J., 5
BEST BAD THING, 22
BETSY'S UP-AND-DOWN YEAR, 4
BET YOU CAN!, 9
Bierhorst, John, 7
Bloom, Lloyd, 18
Bodecker, W. M., 17
Bonners, Susan, 7
BONY-LEGS, 11
Bornstein, Ruth Lercher, 27
Bowers, Kathleen Rice, 2
Branley, Franklyn M., 5, 6
Brammer, Marjorie, 2
Brenner, Fred, 6
Brickman, Robin, 7

Brown, Walter R., 2
BUMBLEBEE FLIES ANYWAY, 23
Burningham, John, 26
BUT NOT BILLY, 27

CAR CARE, 10
Carroll, Pamela, 7
CARROT HOLES & FRISBEE TREES, 17
Cassedy, Sylvia, 18
CAT'S CRADLE, OWL'S EYES, 9
Chatkin, Miriam, 8, 17
Chambers, Aldan, 23
CHILDREN OF THE WILD WEST, 3
Chorao, Kay, 15, 27
CHRISTMAS CAROL, 26
Chwast, Seymour, 13
Clifton, Lucille, 10
Cobb, Vicki, 9
Cole, Joanna, 11
COMPUTERS, 8
COMPUTERS; HOW THEY WORK, 9
Conford, Ellen, 19
Conklin, Paul, 5
Cooper, Susan, 12, 23
Cormier, Robert, 23
CRANBERRY BOOK, 3
Crews, Donald, 13
CULLY CULLY AND THE BEAR, 14
Cummings, Pat, 16

DAY ALONE, 22
DANCE ON MY GRAVE, 23
DAPHNE'S BOOK, 20
Dariff, Andrea, 15
Darling, Kathy, 9
Davies, Andrew, 19
DAWN, 11
Day, Betsy, 13
Delton, Julie, 3
Deml, 8
Dermer, Martha, 19
DEVIL WITH THE THREE GOLDEN HAIRS, 12
Dewey, Ariane, 16
Dickens, Charles, 26
DIFFICULT DAY, 14
Di'ignazio, Fred, 9
Dodson, Bert, 19
DOLL HOSPITAL, 3
Donnelly, Elfie, 19
DOUBLE LIFE OF POCAHONTAS, 25
Dragonwagon, Crescent, 13
DREAM STEALER, 21
Drescher, Henrik, 14
Drucker, Malka, 8
Duppa-Whyte, Vic, 4, 6

EARTH IS FLAT, 4
EATING ICE CREAM WITH A WEREWOLF, 19
EATING OUT, 15
Egelski, Richard, 17
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, 25
EMERGENCY ROOM, 5
Englander, Roger, 9
Eriksson, Eva, 15
EVERETT ANDERSON'S GOODBYE, 10
Fairfield, Lesley, 9
FAIR'S FAIR, 8
FAVERSHAMS, 14
Fernandes, Eugenie, 14
FERAL, 5
FERRIS WHEELS, 2
FIREWORKS, PICNICS AND FLAGS, 8
FIRST CLASS!, 4
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, 15
FIRST HARD TIMES, 22
FIRST LOOK AT SEASHORES, 7
FOG DRIFT MORNING, 15
Foreman, Michael, 26
Freedman, Russell, 3
Fritz, Jean, 25
FROM THE HILLS OF GEORGIA, 25

Gackenbach, Dick, 13
Gaffney-Kessell, Walter, 19
Gage, Wilson, 14
Gammell, Stephen, 14
Garfield, Leon, 8
Gemming, Elizabeth, 3
George, Jean Craighead, 6
Gerrard, Jean, 14
Gerrard, Roy, 14
Gibbons, Gail, 3
Giblin, James Cross, 8
GIFT, 21
GET ALONG, OLD SCUDDER, 14
Glass, Andrew, 21
GLORIOUS FLIGHT, 4
Golden, Frederic, 6
Goor, Nancy, 3
Goor, Ron, 3
Graham, Kenneth, 26
Green, Phyllis, 19
Greene, Constance C., 19
Griñalconi, Ann, 10
Grimm Brothers, 12

Gryski, Camilla, 9
Gundersheimer, Karen, 27
Hahn, Mary Downing, 20
HALLEY: COMET 1986, 5
Hamilton, Virginia, 20, 23
HAUNTING OF CHAS MCGILL, 24
Hawkes, Nigel, 9
Haynes, Mary, 20
Henke, Kevin, 17
Henry, Edna, 10
Higgins, Stephanie, 14
HIGHWAYMAN, 27
Hoban, Brom, 8
Hoban, Tara, 3, 14
Hoproglan, Nonny, 12, 15
Holman, Fellese, 20
Holmes, Anita, 6
Hopkins, Lee Bennett, 10, 11
Horwitz, Joshua, 3
HOW TO WRITE A GREAT SCHOOL REPORT, 10
HOW YOSSI BEAT THE EVIL URGE, 17
Hughes, Shirley, 14
HUMAN BODY, 6
Hunt, Joyce, 7
Hunter, Mollie, 18
Hutton, Warwick, 12
Hyman, Trina Schart, 26

I HATE MY BROTHER HARRY, 13
I READ SIGNS, 3
I READ SYMBOLS, 3
Ichikawa, Satomi, 8
ILLUSTRATED DINOSAUR DICTIONARY, 7
IT HAPPENED IN PINSK, 17
IT'S NOT FAIR, 21

Jackson, Jonathan, 10
Jacobs, William Jay, 25
JAFTA, 4
James, Elizabeth, 10
Janezcko, Paul B., 11
JEFFREY BEAR CLEANS UP HIS ACT, 16
Jonas, Ann, 15
Jones, Adrienne, 24
Joosse, Barbara H., 15
Jukes, Mavis, 18
JUST GOOD FRIENDS, 21

KATIE IN THE MORNING, 13
Keeping, Charles, 26, 27
Kerr, M. E., 25
Kherdian, David, 15
Kidd, Ronald, 20
Kipling, Rudyard, 26
Index

KNIGHT OF THE GOLDEN PLAN, 18
Komori, Atsushi, 6
Kopper, Lisa, 4

LANKY LONGLEGS, 21
LARGE ANIMAL VETERINARIANS, 2
Larrick, Nancy, 11
LENNY KANDELL, SMART ALECK, 19
Lerner, Carol, 6
LET'S GO!, 9
Lewin, Hugh, 4
Likhanov, Albert, 21
LILLIAN WALD OF HENRY STREET, 26
Lindgren, Barbro, 15
LITTLE FEAR, 22
LITTLE RED HEN, 13
Lord, Harvey G., 10
Lord, Kathryn J., 10
Lorentzen, Karin, 21
Lourie, Richard, 21
McCunn, Ruthanne L., 12
McPhail, David, 17
Macauley, David, 4
MAGICAL ADVENTURES OF PRETTY PEARL, 23
Maguire, Gregory, 21
MAKE NOISE, MAKE MERRY, 8
MARGARET & TAYLOR, 17
MARHALADE AND RUFUS, 19
Marshak, Samuel, 12
MATILDA JANE, 14
MATTER OF SPUNK, 24
Matthews, Petra, 17
MAX'S GANG, 22
Mazer, Norma Fox, 24
ME ME ME ME ME, 25
Meltzer, Milton, 5
MERRY CHRISTMAS, 8
MESSNER'S INTRODUCTION TO THE COMPUTER, 9
MILL, 4
MILL GIRLS, 25
Miller, Jonathan, 6
Miller, Steve, 4
Milne, Lorus J., 6
Milne, Hargery, 6
MOLLY, McCULLOUGH, & TOM THE ROGUE, 18
MONSTER MOVES, 2
MONTH BROTHERS, 12
Moore, Patrick, 4
Morgenstern, Susie Ioch, 21
Morrison, Dorothy Nafus, 25
MY MAMA NEEDS ME, 16
MY UNCLE NIKOS, 3

NATIVE AMERICAN COOKBOOK, 10
NATURE'S GREAT CARBON CYCLE, 6
NEW AMERICANS, 5
NEW ROAD, 3
Newfield, Marcia, 15
Newton, James R., 7
NIGHT OF THE BOZOS, 21
NIGHT WE SLEPT OUTSIDE, 18
NIGHTGOWN OF THE SULLEN MOON, 17
Nixon, Joan Lowery, 21
NO ONE IS GOING TO NASHVILLE, 18
Nones, Eric Jon, 20
Noyes, Alfred, 27
O'Connor, Jane, 21
O'Kelley, Mattie Lou, 25
Omerod, Jan, 12, 21
ONE DAY IN THE DESERT, 6
ONE TWO THREE, 14
OPERA, 9
Ormia, Stella, 9
Oxenbury, Helen, 15
PARADE, 13
PARCEL OF PATTERNS, 24
Paterson, Katherine, 24
Pelham, David, 6
PELICAN, 16
Pellowski, Anne, 4
PIE-BITER, 12
POETSPEAK, 11
Pomerantz, Charlotte, 18
POSY, 18
Prelutsky, Jack, 15
Pringle, Laurence, 4, 5, 7
Provensen, Alice, 4
Provensen, Martin, 4
RADIATION, 5
RAIN & HAIL, 6
RAIN OF FIRE, 18
RAIN SHADOW, 7
Ray, Deborah Kogan, 15
REBELS OF THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM, 24
RHYMES AROUND THE DAY, 12
RIGHT NOW, 15
Roberts, Ivanka, 22
Rockwell, Anne, 18
Rockwell, Harlow, 18
Rosendale, David, 6
Roth, Harold, 4
ROUND & ROUND & ROUND, 14
ROUND TRIP, 15

CCBC Choices
SACRED PATH, 7
SÄH'S LAMP, 15
Sankey, Tom, 9
Sattler, Helen Roney, 7
Schindler, S. D., 8
Schwartz, Alvin, 12
SEAWARD, 23
SECRETS OF A WILDLIFE WATCHER, 9
Selden, Bernice, 25
Selsam, Millicent, 7
SHABBAT, 8
SHADOWS ACROSS THE SUN, 21
Shannon, George, 16
Shute, Linda, 2
Siegel, Beatrice, 26
SIGNS, 3
SILVER COW, 12
SIMON'S BOOK, 14
Simont, Marc, 3, 18
SIZZLE & SPLAT, 20
SKY IS FULL OF SONG, 10
Slepian, Jan, 21
Smith, Doris Buchanan, 22
SOLITARY BLUE, 22
SOME THINGS GO TOGETHER, 27
SOMEONE TO LOVE, 24
SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR ME, 17
SONG IN STONE, 11
SPACE SHUTTLE ACTION BOOK, 4
SPIDERS IN THE FRUIT CELLAR, 15
Springer, Harriet, 7
Stanley, Diane, 12
Steptoe, John, 16
Stevens, Kathleen, 18
Stevenson, James, 14, 16
Stimpson, Tom, 4
Stock, Catherine, 18
Stren, Patti, 19
SUMMER IS..., 27
SURPRISE, 16

TALL CITY, WIDE COUNTRY, 13
Tang, You-shan, 12
Tate, Joan, 21
TEAM WORK, 2
TEENAGE CHEF, 10
TEN, NINE, EIGHT, 13
TERRORISTS, 5
Thomson, Pat, 12
TIMA INTO TWO WON'T GO, 19
Tong, Diane, 10
Townsend, John Rowe, 22
TREMBLING EARTH, 6
Truesdell, Sue, 12

Uchida, Yoshiko, 22
UNDER A STRONG WIND, 25
UNRIDDING, 12

Van Allsburg, Chris, 16
Voigt, Cynthia, 22

Wallner, John, 11
Walsh, Jill Paton, 24
Walter, Mildred Pitts, 16
Watson, Wendy, 4
Westall, Robert, 24
WHAT'S UNDER MY BED?, 16
WHEN THE DARK COMES DANCING, 11
WHERE DID YOU PUT YOUR SLEEP?, 15
Whitney, Thomas P., 12
WHO SANK THE BOAT?, 13
WILD BABY GOES TO SEA, 15
WILD CHILDREN, 20
Wildsmith, Brian, 16
Willard, Nancy, 17
Williams, Vera B., 17
WILLIE BEA AND THE TIME THE MARTIANS LANDED, 20
Willock, Harry, 6
Willson, Robina Beckles, 8
WIND IN THE WILLOWS, 26
Winters, Nila, 17
Wolfe, Bob, 5
Wolfe, Diane, 5
WOLFMAN, 7
WORDCHANGER, 20
WRECK OF THE ZEPHYR, 16
Wrightson, Patricia, 22

Yabuuchi, Masayuki, 6
Yorinks, Arthur, 17
Young, Ed, 25

Zemach, Margot, 13, 18
Zimmer, Dirk, 10, 11
Zolotow, Charlotte, 27
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