The Cover

The art of the cover is from THE PEOPLE COULD FLY; AMERICAN BLACK FOLKTALES told by Virginia Hamilton. Art copyright © 1985 by Leo and Diane Dillon. Reprinted with permission of Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers.

Acknowledgments

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1. INTRODUCTION

Many perspectives on books for children and young teenagers are available to those associated with the Cooperative Children's Book Center of Wisconsin, a children's literature library for adults. The CCBC receives review copies of almost all of the trade and alternative press books published in English in the U.S. for children and young adults during the year. Each week during 1985, 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 elsewhere.

Publishing in 1985

In 1985 we saw the continuation of many publishing trends set in motion in the past few years. Books aimed at babies, including picture books, concept books and non-fiction, increased in both quantity and quality.

Co-publishing continues to serve as a practical means for keeping production costs down by allowing publishers in two or more countries to collaborate on the printing of large runs. An increasing number of children's books are being developed from start to finish through publishers' contracts with book packagers who handle all publication details and furnish the books ready for sale.

The early 1980s impact of the popular formulaic romances on the appearance and content of juvenile trade fiction seems to be diminishing; however, romantic notions and nostalgic themes still figure prominently in much of the fiction published in 1985.

Active participation continues to be encouraged by the themes and formats of many, many books. Fewer pop-up books appeared in 1985 than earlier in this decade.

Many long out-of-print titles became available once again. Some of these reissued books are decidedly quaint by contemporary standards. Others such as Paula Fox's PORTRAIT OF IVAN (Bradbury) and Louise Fitzhugh's HARRIET THE SPY (Harper & Row) will still ring true to young readers in the mid-1980s.

As usual, themes reflecting contemporary social concerns were presented in novels, picture books and books of information for children and teenagers; we particularly noticed more nonfiction and fiction treatments of global destruction, war, the Holocaust and topics about international understanding.

Only 18 children's books published in the U.S. in 1985 were either written or illustrated by black Americans, and books by and about Hispanics, Native Americans, Asians and other ethnic minorities were even fewer in number during the year. We find such a statistic appalling and hope to see a reversal in 1986.

Our Process

In making selections for CCBC CHOICES we used standard literary and artistic criteria. Accuracy, potential appeal to children and interest to librarians and teachers were essential considerations in our evaluation and selection process. In addition, we looked for high quality books reflecting nonsexist and multicultural values. We paid special attention to books of information, and we also gave careful scrutiny to translations. We appreciate books which are the first or second
published works of an author or illustrator. We applaud the efforts of publishers who dare to take financial risks by publishing hitherto unknown authors and artists, and who risk publishing books by established, as well as lesser known, authors and illustrators whose works are innovative in style, theme or format.

The most important book of the year, in our opinion, is Virginia Hamilton's THE PEOPLE COULD FLY, illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon (Alfred A. Knopf). It is exemplary in all aspects of the book arts, including writing, illustration, typography and design. The topic is significant, and its presentation is enormously appealing to children.

Six biographies for younger children met our standards, each being distinctive for different reasons. We chose several excellent bedtime books from those which appeared in great number. We were pleased to discover splendid original poetry in appealing editions.

In the face of increasing homogeneity, general conservatism and "safe" publishing, we were still able to find original and inventive work in books illustrated by artists such as Henrik Drescher, Satoshi Kitamura, Petra Mathers and Amy Schwartz and in writing by Eva Eriksson, Janni Howker, Mavis Jukes and George Ella Lyon, to name a few of the less well known creators of innovative and successful books.

Nearly one-third of the books in CCBC CHOICES 1985 were originally published outside of the U.S. or were co-published. Nine of the books we selected are translations. Ten percent of the titles represent the first published works of their authors or illustrators. Approximately one-half of the 146 books we recommend are not included on any other nationally distributed listing of the year's best books.

Kathleen T. Horning & Ginny Moore Kruse
March 1986
2. HISTORY, PEOPLE AND PLACES

Carrick, Donald. MILK. Greenwillow. 32 pages.
Large watercolor paintings show a modern dairy farm in operation with accurate details carefully chosen to inform young children about milk production. Both husband and wife are actively involved in farm work, and a child is seen in the care of the father. (Ages 2-7)

Finkelstein, Norman H. REMEMBER NOT TO FORGET; A MEMORY OF THE HOLOCAUST. Illustrated by Lois and Lars Hokanson. Franklin Watts. 32 pages.
A clearly stated introduction to the Holocaust, to anti-Semitism and to "Yom Hashoah" (Holocaust Remembrance Day) gives the essential historical information in a relatively easy to read narrative. Stark woodcut illustrations appear on each page of this sober, handsome volume. (All ages)

In a companion volume to HOMESICK; MY OWN STORY (1982), Fritz gives a sensitive, moving account of her return to Wuhan, China, the city where she was born and lived her first 13 years. Her skillfully constructed narrative interweaves details of Chinese history and culture with personal memories and impressions, giving readers a strong sense of contemporary China. Includes over 70 photographs, 30 of which are in full color. (Ages 9 to 14)

Gibbons, Gail. THE MILK MAKERS. Macmillan. 32 pages.
Well-defined shapes and use of bright 8" x 10" illustrations combine with clear prose to create an interesting, attractive explanation of how milk is produced and distributed in the 1980s. (Ages 3-9)

No other source so clearly interprets the several historical origins of the European St. Nicholas traditions. The author tells about the actual Bishop Nicholas and the traditions of Father Christmas, Christkindl and Sinter Claes. After he connects these figures and customs with later U.S. colonial practices, he then discusses the roles of John Pintard, Washington Irving, Clement Clarke Moore and Thomas Nast in the emergence of the popular Santa of today. A bibliography, index and captioned black and white illustrative material add depth, documentation and access to an interesting account. (Ages 7-14)

Innocenti, Roberto and Gallaz, Christophe. ROSE BLANCHE. Translated from the Italian by Martha Coventry and Richard Graglia. U.S. edition: Creative Education. 32 pages.
Symbolic reference to the anti-Nazi White Rose Movement in Germany heighten the impact of a brief allegory in which a village child secretly shares food with prisoners in a nearby concentration camp. A provocative and somber 11 1/4" x 8 1/2" book of paintings and a brief text chronicle the odyssey of an innocent child as she witnesses and subsequently responds to individual and corporate evils of the Hitler regime. (Age 9 and older)

Experiences of working class European immigrants to Canada and the U.S. during the late 19th and early 20th centuries are recorded in 28 full-color paintings by the late Canadian artist William Kurelek. His excerpted writings are integrated with Engelhart's carefully researched material on more than a dozen aspects of people's lives, including Finding Work, The Dream of Owning Land and Holding the Family Together. The book's non-standard organizational pattern requires concentration; those who read the text and actually look at Kurelek's paintings on every page spread will find memorable accounts of the lonely, harsh lives of most immigrants. (Age 11 and older)

Lauber, Patricia. TALES MUMMIES TELL. Thomas Y. Crowell. 114 pages.

A well-organized, clearly written account tells how mummies have been made by nature and by human endeavor and explains the various procedures scientists use to study mummies, as well as presenting the sorts of information such studies yield. An attractive design and extensive use of black and white photographs make the intriguing subject matter all the more accessible to young readers. (Ages 9 to 14)


Black and white photographs of the Sadako statue in Hiroshima's Peace Park, of the "hibakusha" (survivors) and of the city today create a sober chronicle of past and present. This collaboration between the distinguished Japanese photographer and the U.S. author of RETURN TO HIROSHIMA (1970) updates their earlier book. (Age 11 and older)


A history of the war in Vietnam and the resulting turmoil in the U.S. outlines the major events and issues for a generation too young to have had first-hand experience during the Vietnam era. The author draws on a wide variety of sources, representing conflicting points of view, to introduce today's youth to a difficult subject which continues to haunt the American consciousness. (Age 13 and older)


A history of conscientious objection concentrates on events and individuals since colonial times in the U.S. with some material about earlier war resistance in European history. An index, long bibliography and occasional reproductions of photographs and other visual items are part of this singular, unparalleled book for young readers. (Age 11 and older)

Pringle, Laurence. NUCLEAR WAR; FROM HIROSHIMA TO NUCLEAR WINTER. Enslow. 121 pages.

After hearing the history of the development of the nuclear bomb and its effects on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Pringle outlines the projections various experts have made about the effects of a megaton bomb dropped on one city, of limited nuclear war and large scale nuclear war. Civil defense measures and nuclear winter are discussed as controversial issues about which there is much disagreement. (Age 13 and older)
Roop, Peter and Connie. KEEP THE LIGHTS BURNING, ABBIE. Illustrated by Peter E. Hanson. Carolrhoda. 40 pages. (Carolrhoda On My Own Books)
Abbie Burgess is one of the brave lighthouse keepers of U.S. history. In 1856, young Abbie assumed responsibility throughout a storm off the Maine coast which kept her father away and while illness prevented her mother from maintaining the lamps. Tension and excitement are well handled in short fiction based on an actual event. Each page is illustrated with watercolor paintings and a historical note precedes the text. (Ages 5-11)

St. George, Judith. THE MOUNT RUSHMORE STORY. Illustrated with photographs. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 128 pages.
A detailed account of the carving of the national monument, an ordeal which lasted from 1925 to 1941, is filled with personality clashes, controversy, fund raising difficulties, and occasional small triumphs. (Age 9 and older)

Smith, Samantha. JOURNEY TO THE SOVIET UNION. Little, Brown. Hardcover and paperback. 122 pages.
Ten-year-old Samantha's 1983 trip to the Soviet Union, following her heavily publicized letter to Andropov, is related in a first person narrative written from her travel journal. Numerous photographs in color and black and white convey this child's natural responses to the children she met and places she traveled. The book was published eight months before Samantha Smith's death in a U.S. plane crash. The tone is upbeat and hopeful. (Ages 7-13)

Thomson, Peggy. AUKS, ROCKS AND THE ODD DINOSAUR; INSIDE STORIES FROM THE SMITHSONIAN'S MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY. Thomas Y. Crowell. 120 pages.
The author's expertise on museum topics is evident in her explanation of how over a dozen and half specific museum exhibits were developed. The exhibits she selected are on subjects of high interest to children as readers as well as museum goers. (Ages 9-13)

Black and white drawings and a spare text express some of the harsh elements of prairie life in a sod house: "Dirt fell on our bed, snakes sometimes, too, and the buffalo hide door could not keep out the wind or the empty cries in the long grass." (Age 7 and older)

Walsh, Jill Paton. LOST AND FOUND. Illustrated by Mary Rayner. Andre Deutsch/E.P. Dutton. 32 pages.
Four short parallel stories take place on the same hillsides and riverbank during different centuries. Each story involves a parent giving an item (arrowhead, pitcher, coin, scissors) to a child to take to a grandparent. Each child loses the gift on route while finding an object, now valuable, which was once used in an ordinary way. The interconnectedness of human activity is expressed in these glimpses of pasts and futures. Watercolor and ink paintings add specificity to each story. (Ages 5-11)

See also: MYTHOLOGY OF NORTH AMERICA; TRUCKS YOU CAN COUNT ON

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3. THE NATURAL WORLD


Today more and more wild peregrines live in cities of the world as part of a program to save this powerful bird from extinction. Full-color photographs document the life span of the peregrine and the efforts being made to provide it with a better chance for survival. (Ages 9-14)


The activities of baby red foxes and their mother just outside their den were observed, noted and sketched by Arnosky early one spring. His finished watercolor and colored pencil art captures motion and life and is accompanied by less than a hundred words, written in short sentences and printed in a large typeface. (Ages 2-6)

Casey, Denise. *BLACK-FOOTED FERRET*. Illustrated by Tim W. Clark. Dodd, Mead. 64 pages. (A Skylight Book)

Because its prey, the prairie dog, has been widely destroyed, the black-footed ferret has become one of the rarest North American mammals. A study of the physical characteristics, habits, life cycle, history and future prospects of the ferret is illustrated with photographs in full color. (Ages 9-14)


In 1983 biologist/artist Powzyk spent several weeks living in a small hut at Wallaby Creek in eastern Australia, observing and sketching the animals indigenous to the area. Her stunning watercolor paintings of the animals accompany brief, lyrical descriptions of them, including a koala, kangaroo, dingo, platypus and kookaburra. (Ages 7-13)


An outstanding science writer examines how play behavior functions in the development of young animals, both domestic and wild. The dynamic nature of science, in general, and of ethology, in particular, is clearly demonstrated in an attractively designed volume which includes 50 black and white captioned photographs. (Ages 9-14)


The marsh, "an edge where water and land meet between cattails," teems with many forms of life above, on and in its "watery world." Sweeping gouache and ink drawings show the marsh: the great blue heron, muskrat, mallard, water lily, midge and mosquito. A subjective prose narrative describes this fragile habitat and asks that it be treated with care. (Ages 5-14)

See also: INSIDE TURTLE'S SHELL; ONCE THERE WAS A TREE

4. UNDERSTANDING ONESELF AND OTHERS


Black and white photographs, accompanied by brief text, show many of the different ways young children can help grownups in the yard, around the house, on the farm and at school. The author/photographer states in his
introduction that helping out allows children to participate in the adult world; he encourages child readers to think of other ways they might be of help. (Ages 3-9)

Clear, reassuring text and over 50 black and white photographs serve to introduce the preschooler to the changes he or she can expect with the arrival of a newborn sibling. The author includes a four page "Note to Parents", as well as an annotated list of further adult reading on how to deal with sibling rivalry. (Ages 2-7)

Rogers, Fred. GOING TO DAY CARE. Photographs by Jim Judkis. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 32 pages. (First Experiences)

The first two volumes in a series use outstanding full-color photographs accompanied by a simple text which addresses the young child directly and encourages him or her to approach these new experiences positively. Rogers' familiar, understated tone invites the child to think and to grow. (Up to age 5)

Concise profiles of seven young people who use wheelchairs stress the similarities between them and other youngsters, as well as the characteristics which make them unique individuals. Thirty-two black and white photographs show them engaged in daily activities at home, school and around the neighborhood. (Ages 5-13)

5. ACTIVITIES

Brown, Marc. HAND RHYMES. E.P. Dutton. 32 pages.
Fourteen hand games accompany verses illustrated by the author in full color as well as with tiny black and white step-by-step diagrams of the necessary finger movements. (Ages 2-7)

A mathematician provides opportunities to solve word puzzles illustrated by a series of paintings of two children wearing red or white hats and of Shadowchild, whom the reader becomes. The book is an introduction to binary logic, the basis of artificial intelligence and mathematical problem-solving. A Note to Parents and Older Readers develops ideas about "if...therefore" as further ways to understand the reality of these engaging hat tricks. (Ages 7-11)

Shannon, George. STORIES TO SOLVE; FOLKTALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD. Illustrated by Peter Sis. Greenwillow. 56 pages.
Fourteen ingeniously developed tales retold as riddles pose questions answered visually as well as with words on the page following each one. Black and white pointillist drawings complement the whimsey of tales from many cultures. Numbered resource notes correspond to the tales and indicate story origins in an engaging book which invites participation. (Ages 7-14)

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8 Activities

Walker, David A. and Haskins, James. DOUBLE DUTCH. Enslow. 60 pages.
A brief history of Double Dutch rope jumping prefaces detailed instructions in basic and advanced techniques. Double Dutch is now an organized team sport for 5th-12th grade girls and boys in the cities of the U.S. By 1984, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was one of the cities holding official tournaments. Black and white photographs and drawings illustrate various aspects of this growing sport. (Ages 7-14)

See also: HELPING OUT; I AM PHOENIX; I MADE A MISTAKE

6. POETRY

An unusual, beautiful assembly of original poetry about birds placed in two columns on each page so that each poem may be read aloud as a duet by two readers or two groups of readers. Each of the fifteen poems can be read silently, as well. A handsome volume. (Ages 9-14)

Five exquisite prose poems pay tribute to five artists: Vermeer, Boudin, Cezanne, Monet and an anonymous Woodland Indian woman. Each poem reflects Goffstein's personal impressions of the artist and his or her art, and each one is accompanied by two reproductions. Together art and poetry function as a small gallery, encouraging the child to focus on details before stepping back for a broader view. (Age 9 and older)

Green, Hannah. IN THE CITY OF PARIS. Illustrated by Tony Chen. Doubleday. 32 pages.
Paris is very nice in every respect but one: its wonderful parks absolutely forbid dogs, "even those on leashes." Watercolor paintings show the parks' actual and imaginary wonders and, outside, the leashed canines. (Ages 3-7)

Kuskin, Karla. SOMETHING SLEEPING IN THE HALL. A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 64 pages. (An I Can Read Book)
Brief, original poems about real and imaginary creatures are illustrated by the poet's drawings reproduced in three colors. A unique page design assists beginners in seeing where one poem ends and the next begins. The light tone is a perfect match for the rhythms and rhymes of poetry that's easy to read. (Ages 5-8)

Few writers have used the English language as creatively as Edward Lear. Livingston has compiled and arranged some of his most delightful neologisms: bebothered, scroobious, partickly and many other bits of boshlobberbosh appear in their original contexts, excerpted from personal letters Lear wrote to his friends. Low's whimsical black and white line drawings are a tribute to Lear, the artist. (Age 5 and older)

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"Now I expect you've been wondering/how the days go by and all that./Well, Father Time - you've heard of him -/that's his business." Brilliant, clear colors in imaginatively developed ink and watercolor paintings convey the Time Vault and the boxes which are "windows time shines through." The short text is wonderful to read aloud. "Help yourself to this day...You can't come back for seconds." (Ages 4-11)

Morrison, Lillian. THE BREAK DANCE KIDS; POEMS OF SPORT, MOTION, AND LOCOMOTION. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 64 pages.

Exhilarating observations of a variety of forms of mobility, athletics and activity are captured in 35 vigorous unrhymed poems illustrated with black and white photographs. (Ages 9-14)


Engaging rhymed couplets based on a jump rope rhyme combined with delightful drawings expand the concept in the title. "I went to the laundry to wash my socks,/I made a mistake.../(turn the page)/and washed a fox." The same adventuresome, contemporary child is seen in a new situation with each couplet, undaunted by the creatures previously encountered. (Ages 5-9)

Ryder, Joanne. INSIDE TURTLE'S SHELL, AND OTHER POEMS OF THE FIELD. Illustrated by Susan Bonners. Macmillan. 64 pages.

Forty-one short unrhymed poems create a continuous narrative describing a day in the marsh. "Black snake/slides up/stealing/the sitting rock's/sun." Delicate black pencil drawings extend each poem visually and evoke realistic aspects of nature. Distinctive page layouts provide contrast and variety to a collection for individual sampling or reading aloud. (Ages 5-14)

See also: SPIN A SOFT BLACK SONG

7. BIOGRAPHY


When Hannah Senesh was 19, she wrote "whoever is aware of his Jewishness cannot continue with his eyes shut." A carefully documented account relates the open-eyed bravery of a Hungarian Jew who chose to leave the relative safety of Palestine and parachute into Yugoslavia to fight with the partisans. After Hannah Senesh was executed in prison, her diary, letters and other first-hand accounts of her determination and courage marked the heroism of this young martyr. (Age 11 and older)

Brown, Fern G. AMELIA EARHART TAKES OFF. Illustrated by Lydia Halverson. Albert Whitman. 61 pages.

A well written biography draws heavily on Earhart's own writing, focusing on her goals and accomplishments as an aviator, rather than her personal life or the mystery surrounding her disappearance. (Ages 7-14)

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10 Biography

Bulla, Clyde Robert. A GRAIN OF WHEAT; A WRITER BEGINS. David R. Godine. 49 pages.
The author of many books for young readers briefly relates a few incidents from his Missouri childhood including how he entered a writing contest at age ten. A beautifully designed small book with an inviting typeface. (Ages 8-12)

A distinctive biography for young readers stresses Thoreau's simple life as a naturalist. Every double-page spread includes a full-page black and white pencil drawing with ink wash, most of which have a soft, dreamlike quality that enhances the author's portrait of Thoreau as an idealist and a thinker. (Ages 9-14)

The athlete who excelled in basketball, track and field, and golf had to overcome many obstacles just to win the right to compete. Didrikson was always keenly aware of her remarkable giftedness. Knudson portrays her as a competitive, stubborn, egotistical non-conformist who made it to the top because of, not in spite of, these personal qualities. (Ages 7-14)

Sculpture is interpreted through black and white photographs of one sculptor at work and of his large finished wooden animal sculptures. A short text describes this Maine sculptor's career. An appendix lists awards, collections and a glossary as well as documenting each piece pictured in the 7 3/4" x 10 1/2" book. (Ages 7-14)

See also: AN ARTISTS ALBUM; THEY SOUGHT A NEW WORLD

8. FOLKLORE, MYTHOLOGY AND TRADITIONAL LITERATURE

Bang, Molly. THE PAPER CRANE. Greenwillow. 32 pages.
A gentle stranger, unable to pay cash for a meal, instead repays a poor restaurant owner by making an origami crane which comes to life and dances whenever the owner claps his hands. After reminding the owner that nothing lasts forever, so he should enjoy the crane while he can, the stranger leaves, returning weeks later to fly off with the crane. Above all people, the owner's young son, seen in the background throughout the story, feels the impact of the stranger's gift. The author/artist adapted a traditional Chinese folktale by placing it in an American setting. Her innovative use of paper cutouts, photographed to give the illustrations a three-dimensional quality, is at once playful and eloquent. Most remarkable, however, is the perfect synthesis of story, medium and theme, since paper, like the crane, is temporary. Winner, 1985 CCBC Caldecott Discussion. (Ages 5-11)

An extensively documented guide to Native American stories of gods and heroes written in Bierhorst's engaging style. Each group of stories is

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arranged according to geographical area, such as the Northwest Coast, Plains and the Midwest and includes black and white reproductions of paintings and sculpture by Native American artists. (Age 11 and older)

THE BOOK OF JONAH. Translated from the Dutch, retold and illustrated by Peter Spier. Doubleday. 36 pages.

The tale of Jonah is retold in its entirety, making it unique among picture book editions of the familiar story. This edition is also distinctive because of its extensive notes about the historical figure of Jonah, the ancient cities of Nineveh and Tarshish, typical Phoenician ships of the time, archeological excavations of Nineveh and other related subjects. (Age 5 and older)

Bryan, Ashley. THE CAT'S PURR. Atheneum. 42 pages.

Lively brown pencil drawings illustrate a West Indian folktale which explains how the cat got its purr. Bryan's fine retelling rings with alliteration and assonance, making it an excellent story for reading aloud. (Ages 4-9)

Climo, Shirley. SOMEONE SAW A SPIDER; SPIDER FACTS AND FOLKTALES. Illustrated by Dirk Zimmer. Thomas Y. Crowell. 133 pages.

Spiders play key roles in these nine traditional stories from diverse cultures. The stories are placed in the context of scientific observations about spiders, as well as fascinating bits of folk wisdom and superstitions. (Ages 5-11)


Based on a story she read as a child and subsequently told to her children and grandchildren, Freedman's short sentences and quiet tone convey the helpful acts within two brothers' lifelong friendship. Parker's luminous watercolor and ink paintings illustrate 8 1/4" x 7 1/4" book and underscore the simple, stark qualities of the legend without altering its universality. (Ages 4-9)


The first comprehensive anthology of American black folklore selected especially for children includes 24 exquisitely crafted, individually developed tales: trickster tales, tall tales, ghost and devil tales and stories of liberation and freedom. The author's impressive use of Black English from several cultures and her accessible historical notes for each tale distinguish this unique work. The artists' 40 stunning stylized black and white illustrations accompanying the tales, and the harmony of all book design elements provide a handsome presentation of stories for families to share, scholars to study and individuals of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy. Hamilton handles information about the Joel Chandler Harris texts with dignity, placing those versions of traditional tales into historical and cultural contexts. This may be the most important book published in 1985. Winner, 1985 CCBC Newbery Discussion. (All ages)

Lee, Jeanne M. TOAD IS THE UNCLE OF HEAVEN; A VIETNAMESE FOLK TALE. Holt, Rinehart and Winston. 32 pages.

During a drought on Earth, Toad decides to ask the King of Heaven to make rain come again. Today the toad symbolizes rain in Vietnam, so his plea
must have been respected. Distinctive uses of page space and bright colors mark Lee's illustrations for her short, effective retelling of an ancient tale. (Ages 5-9)

Martin, Rafe. FOOLISH RABBIT'S BIG MISTAKE. Illustrated by Ed Young. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 32 pages.

The retelling of an ancient Jataka tale will be more familiar to most American readers as Chicken Little, although the text here is considerably longer. Young's exciting pastel paintings seem bigger than life and nearly jump off the pages. The 11 1/4" x 10 1/4" book is perhaps most fully appreciated from a distance. (Ages 5-9)


April Fools' Day brings out the trickster in almost everyone, but few have gone to the same lengths as those in more than 20 preposterous episodes described by folk humor scholar Alvin Schwartz. Extensive notes, reliable source documentation and a list of related readings earmark all of Schwartz's books and here they provide the background necessary for knowing that such pranks have occurred. (Ages 9-14)

Westwood, Jennifer. GOING TO SQUINTUM'S; A FOXY FOLKTALE. Illustrated by Fiona French. U.S. edition: Dial. 28 pages.

The artist used watercolor and gouache to create bright images and bold shapes for the traditional repetitious tale of trickery. To each person with whom he leaves his pack, Fox admonishes, "WELL, JUST DON'T LOOK IN THE BAG." All but the last are fooled by Fox's orders to part with something valuable. (Ages 3-7)

See also: STORIES TO SOLVE

9. BOOKS FOR BABIES

Hoban, Tana. 1,2,3. Greenwillow. 10 pages.

----------. WHAT IS IT? Greenwillow. 10 pages.

Outstanding full color photographs show objects familiar to babies in two well designed concept books, printed on heavy laminated cardboard. (Up to age 3)


----------. WHEN WE WENT TO THE PARK. U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 20 pages. (Shirley Hughes Nursery Collection)

A toddler and her baby brother are the stars of three charming 6 1/2" x 7" volumes in which basic concepts -- opposites, noises and counting -- are placed in the context of a busy, lively family. Rhyming text, full color illustrations and occasional touches of wry humor add to the appeal. (Up to age 4)

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(Jan Ormerod Baby Books)
Baby wakes Dad up in the morning, helps him pick up toys, joins him reading a book and welcomes him home after a trip to the grocery store in four 6 1/2" x 7" volumes. Ormerod manages to develop satisfying stories with only a few words per page and her humorous three color line drawings depict a loving relationship between a man and an infant. (Up to age 3)

Wells, Rosemary. MAX'S BEDTIME. Dial. 10 pages. (Very First Books)
In 1979, Rosemary Wells developed the rabbit character Max and his sister Ruby in a series of brief humorous 6 3/8" x 5 5/8" books for toddlers. The bright colors and laminated stiff cardboard pages cause the Max books to be both appealing and practical, but it's the hint of a story for the youngest where Wells succeeds at what many attempt. This is the best of her new sequence in which Max tries to relax at bedtime, while Ruby finds he needs more than one of her stuffed animals in order to sleep. (Up to age 3)

See also: I HEAR; I SEE

10. CONCEPT BOOKS

Brightly colored collages show items beginning with the same letter grouped together to create a tiny scene in a 5" x 5" volume. (Ages 4-7)

Hoban, Tana. A CHILDREN'S ZOO. Greenwillow. 24 pages.
Full-color photographs of eleven creatures are each framed on a black double spread. Three adjectives or verbs appear in white print on the page facing each photograph, as does the noun naming the pictured animal. The book's striking design makes it unique while the animal chart on the final page adds to the book's information value and broadens the age appeal. (Ages 3-8)

Hoban, Tana. IS IT LARGER? IS IT SMALLER? Greenwillow. 32 pages.
Size perception and comparison are possible in 29 full color photographs of objects, animals and people. The well composed photographic studies also offer opportunities to name and count the items within them. Some of the photographs might stimulate the development of original narratives, as well. (Ages 2-7)

Isadora, Rachel. I HEAR. Greenwillow. 32 pages.
First associations with sounds, their origins and possible responses are presented in simple words a toddler can repeat and typical experiences a young child can recognize. "I hear my cat./Meow, meow." A similar pattern is followed in a companion book I SEE. (Up to age 3)

Dynamic gouache and ink paintings of interior and exterior scenes contain pairs of alphabet letters for which predictions can be made before turning
14 Concept Books

each page. The fantastic wordless story contains surprises and delights: a flying iguana, a literate rat, a musical hippo and a sensible bat. An innovative ABC book and more. (Ages 3-8)

Magee, Doug. TRUCKS YOU CAN COUNT ON. Dodd, Mead. 32 pages.
After the text briefly introduces the tractor-trailer, young children are encouraged to participate by counting various trucks parts: one steering wheel, two air filters, three windshield wipers, etc. The more than 50 black and white photographs will excite, as well as inform, young truck enthusiasts. (Ages 5-9)

See also: ANNO'S HAT TRICKS; BATHWATER'S HOT; NOISY; 1,2,3; WHAT IS IT?; WHEN WE WENT TO THE PARK

11. PICTURE BOOKS

Asch, Frank. BEAR SHADOW. Prentice-Hall. 32 pages.
Bear tries many ways to make Shadow go away: running away, hiding and climbing high. He finally finds an activity he and Shadow can do together. Another Bear story in terms easy to understand, colors soothing to the eye and with a twist guaranteed to delight. (Ages 3-7)

Young Chip calls on the forest animals to assist him when his sister needs medicine from Wise Raven. The text of Baumann's original story has folkloric qualities. Carle's collages are reproduced in full color in this 11 1/2" x 8 1/2" picture story. (Ages 5-8)

Hannah celebrates her birthday with a midnight outing to the zoo, the movies and an ice cream parlor, accompanied by an amiable gorilla who bears an uncanny resemblance to Hannah's father. Blatant and subtle gorilla images add depth and humor to the full color illustrations. (Ages 3-9)

Willy the chimpanzee wouldn't hurt a fly, but in order to counteract the nickname given him by the suburban gorillas, Willy sends for a mail order muscle-building program. After yoga, jogging, a banana diet, aerobics, boxing lessons and weight-lifting, Willy gets a chance for heroics. Wry humor is combined with an appealing contemporary theme. (Ages 5-9)

Completely integrated visual and written stories parallel each other and occasionally coincide as a child and grandparent share experiences. The double spreads have emotional power, and some are bittersweet. Children may want to imagine what was said/done before and after each episode. Life continues, uphill at times. (Ages 5-8)

The pages of this multi-sensory book are printed with colorful scenes done in collage and raised lines which allows for a tactile exploration of story elements. The text involves questions posed by animals to a spider "very busy spinning her web." The story response will be quickly learned by young listeners. (Ages 2-7)

CCBC CHOICES 1985
Drescher, Henrik. LOOK-ALIKES. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 36 pages.
A full-color adventure of the imagination offers new possibilities to think about and new things to see with each rereading of the book. Drescher plays outside of artistic conventions while creating unique ways for readers to participate with Buster and Rudy in the fun of moving from day to night in more than one dimension of the universe. A handsome and conceptually exciting book. (Ages 3-9)

Sophie recounts her daily life at home in letters to her father who is away at sea, while his day-to-day activities are shown in a wordless series of small, framed illustrations at the top of each page. An original design highlights the contrasts between the lives of a father and daughter who, though separated, are connected by their thoughts and letters. (Ages 5-9)

Four separate volumes recount episodes in the lives of Victor and Rosalie, two energetic young friends who never tire of playing alone, with their parents or with each other. Slight exaggeration and a quick pace mark these very funny stories from Sweden which are illustrated with amusing line drawings. (Ages 4-7)

Flournoy, Valerie. THE PATCHWORK QUILT. Illustrations by Jerry Pinkney.
Dial. 32 pages.
Resonating with universal experience, the story is a rich example of a supportive contemporary black family: mother, father, two children and their grandmother. When Grandma cannot work on the patchwork memory quilt into which she's been stitching colorful fabric from all family members, Tanya helps continue the creation of her beautiful family record. She even finds a new way to link the present and the past. (Ages 5-9)

Dauntless Emily is a master of disguises; in her imagination she can be a tight rope walker one minute and a traffic director the next. Her cat Libby and her dog Oscar participate in Emily's actively conducted play-times which are drawn with verve and vitality and reproduced in full color. (Ages 3-7)

Hearn, Emily. GOOD MORNING FRANNY, GOOD NIGHT FRANNY. Illustrations by Mark Thurman. Women's Press (16 Baldwin St., Toronto, Ontario, M5T 1L2, Canada). 32 pages. Paperback.
Franny and her companion Ting Kim enjoy their days in the park together flying kites, playing frisbee and printing words in English. While Franny is hospitalized, the Kim family moves from the neighborhood. But Ting finds a way to say good-bye to her high-spirited friend Franny who requires a wheelchair but clearly is not confined. Bright colors and an upbeat tone mark a unique story about a friendship. (Ages 5-9)
16 Picture Books

Henkes, Kevin. BAILEY GOES CAMPING. Greenwillow. 24 pages.
Little Bailey Rabbit's Mama and Papa encourage him to imagine himself camping after his older brother and sister leave for a camp-out. Watercolor pictures expand the narrative by showing what Bailey finds to do right at home. Careful pacing and judicious use of repetition mark the text. (Ages 2-5)

A child drifting off to sleep imagines how it would feel to sleep in a soft nest, a cozy cave and a number of other places where animals settle down for the night. Vivid color illustrations rely on drooping eyelids and the power of suggestion to induce a true sense of drowsiness, making this a wonderful bedtime book. (Up to age 5)

A burst pipe causes a brief domestic flood while Maureen MacNally is babysitting for 4-year-old Alfie and his little sister Annie Rose. A subtle visual subplot paralleling the Noah story foreshadows and underscores the robust story. The fourth highly appealing, action-filled Alfie story once again involves his family and the MacNallys across the street. (Up to age 5)

On her way to school in the morning, a city child imagines that she's walking through a jungle. She sees all sorts of wild animals in the shapes of rocks, bushes, trees and buildings. Children will delight in playing along with her by finding the animals for themselves. (Ages 3-9)

Joyce, William. GEORGE SHRINKS. Harper & Row. 32 pages.
Young George manages to do all of the chores his parents expected of him, in spite of the fact that he shrunk during the night and awakens to find that he is only three inches tall. Full-color illustrations show George facing his enormous tasks with a great deal of creativity and humor. (Ages 4-7)

Lyon, David. THE RUNAWAY DUCK. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages.
A child ties his pull-toy duck onto the back of his father's car, and so begins a long series of misadventures for the duck who eventually ends up in France before being reunited with his original owner. Improbability -- and the duck's unchanging facial expression -- account for most of the humor in a colorfully illustrated, clever story. (Ages 4-7)

Mathers, Petra. MARIA THERESA. Harper & Row. 32 pages.
Maria Theresa, a dreamy chicken, leaves her comfortable coop on a New York City rooftop to seek her fortune and ends up with a starring role in a circus act. A marvelously ridiculous story, full of sweeping exaggerations and dry humor, is made all the more distinctive by its original, highly detailed, full-color paintings. (Ages 5-9)

Moore, Elaine. GRANDMA'S HOUSE. Illustrated by Elise Primavera. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages.
For Kim, summer is a special time that she shares every year with her grandmother, an active woman who wears levis and drives a pickup truck.

CCBC CHOICES 1985
Lush green watercolor paintings with touches of purple, orange and red evoke the mood of long, calm, relaxing summer days. (Ages 4-9)

"I had a million toys but I was bored." A child playing on an attic rug imagines many worlds and activities. As the fantasy shifts, the rug remains securely visible midst unique angles and shapes in the gouache and ink illustrations. (Up to age 5)

When humans are ready to sleep, nocturnal creatures begin their activities. Nighttime events are paralleled for two children and an owl outside their home. The text of this bedtime book is quiet in tone and its soothing colors are harmonious with the security the narrative evokes. (Ages 3-7)

Life in a small European town is disrupted by the arrival of a con-artist who rents a room from the town butcher, Mendel. Lively color illustrations and a droll text each have an Old World flavor, and tell how the townspeople work together to outsmart the newcomer. (Ages 5-9)

Porte, Barbara Ann. HARRY'S MOM. Illustrated by Yossi Abolafia. Greenwillow. 55 pages. (Greenwillow Read-Alone)
Harry has no memories of his mother who died when he was a baby but his father, aunt and grandparents are only too happy to share their memories of her with him. Harry's mom is remembered fondly as a scuba diver, race car driver, parachute jumper, animal lover and bee fearer by those who knew her best, and Harry hopes to grow up to be like her one day. (Ages 5-9)

"Once there was a tree. It had grown for many years and now it was growing old." But even an old tree stump can be useful to a beetle, ants, bear, titmouse, frog, earwig and a man. Soon a new shade tree grows. To whom does the tree belong? "... to all, because it grows from the earth that is home for all." Exquisite paintings and an elegant design make an unusually beautiful book memorable. (Ages 3-9)

Root, Phyllis. MOON TIGER. Illustrations by Ed Young. Holt, Rinehart and Winston. 32 pages.
Interesting composition and good drawing are combined with striking colors in a dramatic bedtime story. (Ages 5-8)

Ryder, Joanne. THE NIGHT FLIGHT. Illustrated by Amy Schwartz. Four Winds. 32 pages.
In her dream Anna floats through the black night sky and rides through a city park-turned-jungle on a lion's back. Lyrical language expresses the familiar childhood fantasy of flying. Schwartz's rounded forms suit the carefree feeling of the text. Honor book, 1985 CCBC Caldecott Discussion. (Ages 3-7)
Saltzberg, Barney. **THE YAWN.** Atheneum. 32 pages.
A 6 1/8" x 6 3/8" wordless pen and ink story shows the contagion of one yawn as it travels full circle beginning with a waking child one morning. The yawn even reaches another planet. (Up to age 7)

Solomon the rabbit discovers that he has a rare talent -- he can turn himself into a rusty nail whenever he wants to. Although no one in his family seems to appreciate his gift, it does come in handy one day when Solomon faces a cruel cat who wants to eat him. Steig combines both visual and verbal humor in a well-paced, funny story. (Ages 5-9)

Van Allsburg, Chris. **THE POLAR EXPRESS.** Houghton Mifflin. 32 pages.
An adult's memory of one Christmas Eve in childhood involves his trip on a magical train to choose the first gift. He asks for a silver bell from Santa's sleigh. The bell still rings for the narrator "as it does for all who truly believe." The distinctive composition of each full color painting and the skillful use of color mark this fantasy. Honor Book, 1985 CCBC Caldecott Discussion. (Ages 5-8)

Walter, Mildred Pitts. **BROTHER TO THE WIND.** Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages.
Walters draws on symbolic elements of traditional African tales to create an original story about a boy who asks Good Snake to assist him in learning to fly. Striking full color illustrations enhance the mystical, magical qualities of the text. (Ages 5-9)

Wolff, Ashley. **ONLY THE CAT SAW.** Dodd, Mead. 32 pages.
Because the family is busy eating supper, getting ready for bed and, finally, sleeping, their cat is the only one who sees many goings-on in the natural world: a sunset, fireflies, a rain storm, etc. Vibrant full color illustrations provide an imaginative introduction to the concepts of simultaneous action and co-existence. (Up to age 5)

See also: **DAKOTA DUGOUT; FATHER TIME AND THE DAY BOXES; FOOLISH RABBIT'S BIG MISTAKE; GOING TO SQUINTUM'S; PAPER CRANE; PRINCESS AND THE PEA; TOAD IS THE UNCLE OF HEAVEN; WHAT'S INSIDE?**

12. FICTION FOR YOUNG READERS

A contemporary mystery with a feeling for another time involves eleven-year-old Alex who was found as a baby near a statue in London. Eerie rather than realistic in both tone and events, the novel's heightened action suits the plot. (Ages 11-13)

Boyd, Candy Dawson. **BREADSTICKS AND BLESSING PLACES.** Macmillan. 210 pages.
The second published novel by a relatively new black writer who grew up in Chicago concerns Toni's sixth grade efforts to qualify for a better school. Her struggle to accept the accidental death of her friend rings with emotional power; authenticity and an upbeat tone mark this family story. (Ages 9-13)
Yossi is ready for Hannukah, the annual Festival of Lights, because he has enough coins in his pocket to buy family gifts. After losing the money, Yossi hopes for a miracle but finds he can use his head. A universal story is briefly related and imaginatively illustrated with eight stylized paintings reproduced in black and white. (Ages 7-13)

The children in these seven short vignettes are less than perfect — in fact, they behave so badly that other children seem perfect by comparison. Tongue-in-cheek humor and droll illustrations of beastly children highlight an attractively designed volume. (Ages 7-9)

Five well-developed short stories which feature the subtle complexities of relationships between adult and child introduce an exceptional new British author to U.S. children. Excellent characterization, unusual settings and a fine command of language are the outstanding qualities shared by each of the stories. (Age 11 and older)

Austin's first visit to his grandmother's house after the death of his grandfather is filled with painful memories and an acute sense of loss. After he and his grandmother make a few groping attempts to comfort each other, they finally manage to reach each other and share their grief by engaging in one of grandpa's favorite activities — fly fishing. Jukes uses imagery to convey deep emotions and seemingly simple acts to create character, giving remarkable depth to a brilliant short story. Honor Book, 1985 CCBC Newbery Discussion. (Ages 5-11)

Karl, Jean. STRANGE TOMORROW. E.P. Dutton. 135 pages.
Two separate times are linked by two young women named Janie, one a distant descendant of the other. The pre-Clordian-Sweep-Janie struggles to maintain life in a complex underground government shelter, assuming leadership when her father cannot. The post-Clordian-Sweep-Janie belongs to one of the several diverse communities seeking to create the sustenance for a new civilization's survival. (Ages 11-14)

A naturally gentle demeanor and polite behavior make Babe the pig an outstanding "sheep dog" on a small English farm. King-Smith is a master at anthropomorphizing barnyard animals by exaggerating a few of their best-known animal traits. The witty, original story is illustrated with numerous black and white line drawings. (Ages 7-11)

Lisle, Janet Taylor. SIRENS AND SPIES. Bradbury. 169 pages.
Elsie is convinced that there is something mysterious about her violin teacher, Miss Fitch, but her older sister, Mary, thinks she is imagining things. Her suspicion becomes such an obsession that she begins spying on
Miss Fitch and eventually unlocks the secret to the woman's past. Wonderfully drawn characters and an unusual, quirky tone mark the suspenseful novel. (Ages 11-14)

During and following his father's illness and death, Jeremy is overwhelmed by his own confusion and grief. His growing friendship with Tess causes his universe to widen. Although often melancholic in tone, the story is realistic in important ways often overlooked in novels with this theme. (Ages 11-14)

Lively, Penelope. UNINVITED GHOSTS. Illustrated by John Lawrence. U.S. Edition: E.P. Dutton. 120 pages.
Eight appealing short stories contain a Martian, dragons, magicians, ghosts and an abundance of eerie and humorous adventures. (Ages 7-13)

As their potential stepmother tries out her new role, Anna and her younger brother Caleb watch Sarah's every move anxiously, constantly afraid that independent, homesick Sarah will leave them and return to Maine. The story takes place in the West during the late 19th century. The spare text is filled with longing: of Sarah, for a home and of the children, for a mother. (Ages 7-11)

Erica Timperly, an English city girl and avid motorcycle buff, creates her own alternatives to boredom while visiting rural relatives. A teacher-turned-cycle-expert shows Erica that giving someone a nickname or "handle" requires keen, precise and thorough understanding. A wholly original, humorous, challenging novel is marked by memorable characterizations and word play as well as by the successful development of its theme on the power of identifying and naming. (Age 11 and older)

Paterson, Katherine. COME SING, JIMMY JO. Lodestar/Dutton. 197 pages.
The spotlight shines more brightly on James Johnson than on his youngish mother Olive, a.k.a. Keri Su, after the Johnson Family's manager hears the eleven-year-old sing and play his guitar. External events such as moving to the city and to another school while confronting the downside of celebrity are the means for exploring the theme of identity in a novel rich in characterization, insight and humor. Paterson asks "Who am I?" on several levels while telling a unique story about Jimmy Jo and his gift. Honor Book, 1985 CCBC Newbery Discussion. (Ages 9-13)

After Roland's hit and run accident in a stolen car, he flees into a rural countryside. The officer in pursuit injures himself so badly that he becomes dependent upon the teenager for survival. Several individuals face ethical decisions throughout this contemporary story set in Australia. (Ages 11-14)

CCBC CHOICES 1985
Twelve-year-old Rinko attempts to intervene in an arranged marriage when a family friend comes to California from Japan. This indomitable girl is the protagonist in two earlier novels on the Japanese American experience in the U.S., A JAR OF DREAMS (1981) and THE BEST BAD THING (1983). (Ages 9-13)

Two children of two missionaries to China are twice evacuated from their boarding school. Ruth and Simeon's encounters with new school-mates, a harrowing plane trip and anxiety over imagined changes at home are recounted in a fresh style in a commendable addition to World War II literature for children. (Ages 9-13)

Voigt, Cynthia. JACKAROO. An Argo Book/Atheneum. 291 pages.
A young woman living in the distant past takes on the role of a legendary character, Jackaroo, a mysterious, masked do-gooder who gives money to people in need. The fast paced, intricately plotted novel is especially notable for its portrayal of the high-spirited, individualistic heroine. (Age 11 and older)

Anne and James rush from their high-rise apartment into the night and the streets to search for their pet bird. Through encounters with a junk collector, a bag lady and others, the children are momentarily drawn into considerations of people doing things others have no time for, of bravery on a minute by minute basis, of Eternity. A noted Australian writer's novella evokes tenderness and avoids sentiment. (Ages 9-13)

See also: LOST AND FOUND; KEEP THE LIGHTS BURNING, ABBIE

13. FICTION FOR TEENAGERS

Fourteen year old Shem runs away from home to join a fur trading expedition and ends up stranded in the Michigan wilderness where he befriends an old Ottawan woman who teaches him the necessary survival skills. An outstanding work of historical fiction uses letters, journal entries, historical documents and standard narrative prose to recreate a time and place. (Age 11 and older)

The ten science fiction stories collected here were written by authors such as Jan Mark, Robert Westall, Joan Aiken, Monica Hughes and Jill Paton Walsh. (Age 13 and older)

Cormier, Robert. BEYOND THE CHOCOLATE WAR. Alfred A. Knopf. 278 pages.
"Ray Bannister started to build the guillotine the day Jerry Renault returned to Monument." Suspense builds, beginning with the first words of a powerful sequel to THE CHOCOLATE WAR (1974), which stands on its own
merits as a sharp analysis of good and evil. "Choice is always possible..." says Archie Costello. "Terrible things happen because we allow them to happen." Archie, Ray, Jerry and others exemplify responses to moral choices and the exercise of free will in the brutal society of Trinity High School. (Age 14 and older)

Hamilton, Virginia. JUNIUS OVER FAR. A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 274 pages. Junius feels a strong connection between himself and his grandfather who has recently returned to his Caribbean island homeland. When Grandfather's letters to Junius are suddenly filled with obscure references to pirates and kidnapping, Junius convinces his father that they must go to Grandfather's aid. Shifting points of view give readers insights into the thoughts and feelings of both the teenager and the old man, celebrating the strength of the black family. Hamilton's lyrical language is full of Caribbean cadences and rhythms, thereby creating a rich ambiance. (Age 11 and older)

Howker, Janni. THE NATURE OF THE BEAST. U.S. edition: Greenwillow. 137 pages. A small working class community in contemporary Great Britain faces the difficulties of unemployment when the local mill closes. To make matters worse, a mysterious beast is roving the countryside, killing livestock. Teenager Billy Coward is determined to win fame and fortune by tracking down the beast but his mounting sense of failure and frustration sets him further and further away from reality. The gripping story of a teenager's alienation from society is sometimes bleak, sometimes funny, and always provocative. (Age 14 and older)

Jones, Diana Wynne. WARLOCK AT THE WHEEL, AND OTHER STORIES. U.S. edition: Greenwillow. 156 pages. Humor and originality mark eight unconventional short stories of the supernatural by one of Britain's best known writers of fantasy for children. (Age 11 and older)

Kerr, M.E. I STAY NEAR YOU; 1 STORY IN 3. A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 182 pages. Friendship, love and class differences are explored in a three-generation, three-part novel demonstrating the cyclical nature of human experience. Strongly developed maverick characters and the skillful use of irony earmark a novel involving high school romance, the rock music scene and what the same ring might represent to its different wearers. (Age 14 and older)

Macaulay, David. BAAA. Houghton Mifflin. 64 pages. "There is no record of when the last person disappeared. The only person who could have recorded when the last person disappeared was the last person to disappear." But the sheep survived, found the deserted houses and supermarkets, and "learned to speak and eventually to read" by watching videos. The sheep generally acquired the habits and customs of humans - with one notable exception. Macaulay's examination of society in briefly captioned pen and ink drawings may be called "wit with a bite" by some and gallows humor by others. Reminiscent of his MOTEL OF THE MYSTERIES (1979). (Age 13 and older)

CCBC Choices 1985
Oneal, Zibby. IN SUMMER LIGHT. Viking Kestrel. 149 pages. Precise language laden with images of warmth and growth unfolds 17-year-old Kate's odyssey from illness to health and from misdirected anger at her father, a painter, to her personal artistic awakening. During a summer at her parents' island home, Kate places her relationships under scrutiny and begins to make distinctions between romance and friendship as well as between the development of talent and a calling to use one's gifts. (Age 14 and older)

Pierce, Meredith Ann. THE WOMAN WHO LOVED REINDEER. Atlantic Monthly. 242 pages. Caribou is a wisewoman and seer whose quest to save her people is undertaken with her unearthly companion Reindeer, who can assume both stag and human forms. A Nordic-like double-mooned world is the locale for this cinematic fantasy. (Age 14 and older)

Swindells, Robert. BROTHER IN THE LAND. U.S. edition: Holiday House. 151 pages. A novel written and published in England recreates Danny's post-nuclear-holocaust experiences from the first few days during which the survivors expected someone to come from outside with news and instructions to the resulting difficult seasons of toil and dangers. Danny's courage and determination are reflected by Kim; they develop a friendship and romance unlike anything possible or necessary before the blast. The tone is neither brutal nor anti-war. The plot is not trite in its portrayal of the best responses of which one might be capable under such circumstances. (Age 14 and older)

Voigt, Cynthia. THE RUNNER. Atheneum. 181 pages. Stubborn high school senior Bullet Tillerman equates freedom from home and school with cross-country running until the distant civil rights movement and Vietnam War begin to shape his days and his destiny. Readers who met Bullet's relatives in HOMECOMING (1981), DICEY'S SONG (1982) and A SOLITARY BLUE (1983) may be surprised by the harsh, tragic tone and realistic elements in this novel set a generation earlier. As in the novels above, THE RUNNER also bears Voigt's superb characterizations and symbolic uses of names, events and writing styles. (Age 14 and older)

See also: BADGER ON THE BARGE; HANDLES; HIT AND RUN; JACKAROO; SIRENS AND SPIES; STRANGE TOMORROW; TALES OF TERROR

14. NEW EDITIONS

Andersen, Hans Christian. THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA. Illustrated by Dorothee Duntze. U.S. edition: North-South Books. 24 pages. A succinct retelling of the story about the sensitive princess, especially notable for its rich color illustrations which are full of intricate patterns and sweeping vertical lines. The book itself is nearly 13 inches tall so that when the wakeful princess peers down from atop 20 mattresses and 20 quilts, one truly feels a sense of height. ( Ages 5-9)
Giovanni, Nikki. SPIN A SOFT BLACK SONG; POEMS FOR CHILDREN. (1985, c1971) 
57 pages. 
The poet's volunteer activities for the "Reading Is Fundamental" program 
led to the writing of these poems now available again in a new edition 
illustrated with black and white drawings. Thirty-five poems about black 
children observe, celebrate and lament their lives and ultimately empower 
all readers and listeners. (Ages 7-14)

Poe, Edgar Allan. TALES OF TERROR. Selected and illustrated by Neil Waldman. 
Prentice-Hall. 186 pages. 
The ten tales here were selected from the 1902 edition by Professor James 
A. Harrison, University of Virginia. Minor changes have been made to 
update nineteenth century spelling and punctuation. The stories include 
An appropriately eerie black and white illustration accompanies each story 
and a second one decorates each title page. (Age 11 and older)

Thomas, Dylan. A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES. Illustrated by Trina Schart 
Hyman. Holiday House. 47 pages. 
The noted poet's classic Christmas memory appears in a handsome volume with 
45 illustrations, half of which are in full-color. Hyman's artwork evokes 
the nostalgic mood; at the same time her illustrations enliven the snow-
filled, uncle-filled, escapade-filled reminiscence for an audience younger 
than that previously able to appreciate it. (Age 5 and older)
16. ABOUT THE COOPERATIVE CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER (CCBC)

4290 Helen C. White Hall - 600 North Park Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706
608-263-3720

Purpose

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

Collection

The 23,000 title library collection contains review copies of newly published juvenile trade books (15%); recommended children's trade books (50%); historical children's books (19%); contemporary and historical reference/bibliographic materials related to children's literature (7%); books by Wisconsin authors and illustrators (4%); and alternative press books for children (3%).

Access

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

Services

Reference assistance from student employees is available to anyone on a walk-in basis. Reference assistance from a professional librarian/children's literature specialist is available to students, faculty, Wisconsin librarians and teachers on call and by advance arrangement. Specialized reference assistance and children's literature consultation is also available by mail and phone to the above constituents anywhere in the state. Intellectual Freedom information is available to anyone serving minors in Wisconsin libraries and schools. Tours and/or lectures are arranged for university classes, library book selection groups and school inservice groups coming to the CCBC. Public lectures are offered on children's literature topics each semester and summer session. CCBC bibliographies on selected children's literature topics are available at no cost within the state along with selected award and distinction lists and annual CCBC Wisconsin related records. Children's literature displays can be seen by walk-in library users. Monthly book discussions apply literary standards and book evaluation

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techniques and are open to any student, faculty, librarian, teacher or other interested adult. Continuing education courses are taught annually at the CCBC and semi-annually via UW-Extension telecommunication networks for Wisconsin librarians and teachers. Annual workshops on book evaluation topics for librarians originate at the CCBC and are often offered in other parts of the state. The CCBC participates in statewide and regional professional conferences through the provision of book examination exhibits and/or leadership in scheduled sessions. A two-day children's literature conference is co-sponsored every other year with CCBC funding units and UW-Extension. Persons interested in attending lectures, workshops or conferences are encouraged to send a self-addressed, stamped envelope when they write requesting information.

Public Service Schedule

The CCBC is open twelve months a year for public service to adults interested in children's literature. The CCBC is open sixty hours weekly during the Fall and Spring semesters: M-TH 8-5, F 8-4 and S 10-2. Professional reference assistance is available on call forty hours weekly. During Intersession, Summer School and University breaks, the CCBC is open forty hours weekly: M-F 8-4. Extended hours are arranged to fit campus schedules and out-of-town users' schedules.

The Friends of the CCBC, Inc.

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

Kathleen T. Horning is the coordinator of Special Collections at the Cooperative Children's Book Center, where she is a frequent lecturer and has planned workshops and conferences. She has a B.A. in Linguistics and a Master's Degree in Library & Information Studies from UW-Madison. This is the fourth annual CCBC CHOICES for which she has read and selected books.

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