CCBC Choices 1986

Kathleen T. Horning and Ginny Moore Kruse

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About the Compilers

Kathleen T. Horning is a librarian and coordinator of CCBC special collections. She frequently lectures at the CCBC and has planned CCBC workshops and conferences. In 1986, she began serving on the Notable Children's Books Committee of the Association for Library Service to Children, American Library Association. She has a B.A. in Linguistics and a Master's Degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This is the fifth annual CCBC CHOICES for which she read and selected books.

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

Many perspectives on books for children and young teenagers are available to those associated with the Cooperative Children's Book Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The CCBC is a children's literature library for adults, about which more information can be found at the end of this booklet. As a book examination center and a research library, the CCBC receives review copies of almost all of the trade and alternative press books published in English in the U.S.A. for children and young adults during the year. Each week during 1986, we examined newly published books. We subsequently read many of them. We discussed hundreds formally or informally with other librarians and educators in Wisconsin and elsewhere in the nation.

Publishing in 1986

Midst the plethora of bedtime stories; open-ended participation books; licensed books connected to television, video or action figures; brief episodic fiction either written for television or short attention spans, or both; we observed several distinct changes and trends in book publishing for children in 1986.

One of the most dramatic changes resulted from the shift in emphasis at Scholastic, previously known as a paperback publisher. The advent of hardcover publishing in a formerly paperback-only house added a new roster to the publishing output; more such changes are anticipated at other publishing houses, due to the increase of paperback publications at what were previously hardcover-only houses. Many publishers reprinted and reissued familiar titles from earlier decades, sometimes in hardcover, and often in paperback.

Familiarity is the keyword to describe publishing for children in 1986. We noticed more easily-recognized jacket designs and series books than ever before. The publishing trade now refers to “brand-name authors,” meaning established writers whose name familiarity with children and/or adults makes their older as well as their newer books easy to recognize in bookstores. The overall appearance of books—from jacket designs to themes or topics—represented familiarity, even instant recognition. Books published with audio-cassette and/or videocassette components were often narrated either by the author or by actors well-known to adult consumers. One of the most famous brand-name series underwent a complete overhaul again in 1986. Girl sleuth Nancy Drew looks different on the outside and has also been rewritten to bring the popular detective series into the 1980s on the inside as well.

Handsome book design, beautiful typography and overall superior book production are evident in at least some of the books from each of the leading publishing houses. Full-color picture books were numerous in 1986; an increasing number are being printed and bound outside of the U.S.A. each year. Sometimes lavish art overshadows a thin story. Pastel colors seemed more prevalent than usual in many of the books, although many short books aimed at babies and toddlers utilized bright colors in typical ways. Fewer toy books were published in 1986 than during the earlier 1980s.

Innovative story writing and exceptionally creative book concepts do appear midst all the familiar titles and books published in 1986. Contrary to general expectation, there were many first books published in 1986. Publishers in this country continue to acquire...
books from other countries, often as copublication projects, although original books for which U.S. publishers independently arrange translation into English for young readers are few and far between. Similarly, there is a dearth of good fiction for newly independent readers.

The most dismal area of publishing continues to be the minimal representation of minority group writers and artists for children. Last year we documented only 18 books by black Americans published for children. The number remains the same in 1986. Books by and about Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans and other people of color were even fewer in number. Considering that over 2,500 books were published during the year for children and young teenagers, these numbers are appallingly small. We conclude that minority children and teenagers are not seeing themselves, the familiarity of their cultures, their values or their lives in books published for them. Likewise, white children and teenagers are missing the full dimension of life in this multicultural society, or, at the least, this dimension is less visible for them, too, than it might be for all young readers.

Several of the serious concerns of our nation were addressed in books published during the year. War and the nuclear arms race continued to be a topic or theme in books for all ages. The Vietnam War era appears more frequently each year as the backdrop for novels or as significant in the development of a fictional adult character. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was the subject of at least two books of information and significant in the plot of a novel for young adults.

An unusually large number of seasonal books were published in 1986, most notably picture books associated in one way or another with Christmas. First person point of view has become even more prevalent this year in fiction, picture books and books of information. Two current national emphases were also apparent. Books about The Statue of Liberty appeared right up to July 4; we've selected three of the best to recommend. The upcoming Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution led to both reprinting and new publishing of books related to this observance.

Careful documentation of nonfiction and folktale sources seems more prevalent than in preceding years. Several serious nonfiction writers developed styles with attention-getting devices built in, and some were successful: THE MAGIC SCHOOLBUS AT THE WATERWORKS and VISITING THE ART MUSEUM are examples of excellent books in which the technique did not overwhelm the content. Even though some publishers are paying attention to biographies, we were disappointed with this year's output, finding very few which meet our standards, whether they highlight contemporary subjects or represent titles reprinted from obscurity.

Our Process

In making our selections of CCBC CHOICES 1986, we used standard literary and artistic criteria. Accuracy, potential appeal to children and interest to librarians and teachers were essential considerations in our evaluation and selection process. We paid special attention to books of information for all ages and to translated books. We looked very carefully at books which were the first or second published works of an author or illustrator. We looked for high quality books reflecting non-sexist and multicultural values. When we located books on topics or themes we know to be in demand by school media specialists, public librarians and teachers, we looked closely and made selections in favor of need whenever possible.

We recognize the efforts of publishers who dare to take financial risks by publishing books that are innovative in style, theme or format. In the face of increasing homogeneity,
overall conservatism and what might be called generally safe publishing, we were delighted to find original and inventive books. Established writers and illustrators such as Vera B. Williams, M.B. Goffstein, Margaret Mahy, E.L. Konigsburg and Henrik Drescher continue to bring a fresh vision to their works. It was also exciting to find outstanding books by relatively new authors and illustrators: Berniece T. Hiser, Yoko Kawashima Watkins, Dayal Kaur Khalsa, Brian Doyle and Molly McLaughlin, to name a few. Seventeen of the titles in CCBC CHOICES 1986 are the first published works of their authors or illustrators; their books measure up to the high standards expected of more experienced authors and artists.

We are happy to recommend a wide range of excellent books by Canadian writers. Nearly 14% of the books selected for CCBC CHOICES 1986 were originally published outside of the U.S.A. or were copublished; seven of the books are translations. Over 100 of the 179 books we recommend are not included on any other nationally distributed list of the year's best books.

The Friends of the CCBC, Inc., made possible the professional design, typesetting, printing and binding of this publication, which began in 1980. We appreciate their commitment to providing librarians, teachers and others with an attractive, easy to use edition of CCBC CHOICES 1986.

Kathleen T. Horning and Ginny Moore Kruse
Abells, Chana Byers. THE CHILDREN WE REMEMBER. Photographs from the Archives of Yad Vashem, The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, Jerusalem, Israel. Greenwillow. 48 pages.
A brief text accompanied by unforgettable black and white photographs documents the fate of Jewish children during the Holocaust, telling the story of children killed by the Nazis as well as that of survivors. The simple declarative sentences have a tremendous impact, making the reading and viewing of the book a powerful emotional experience, as well as a fitting tribute to the lives we lost. (Age 11 and older)

Brown, Tricia. HELLO, AMIGOS! Photographs by Fran Ortiz. Henry Holt. 48 pages.
A brief first-person narrative accompanied by marvelous black and white photographs describes Frankie Valdez's seventh birthday. Details of contemporary Hispanic family life abound in the universal story of a special day in a child's life. (Ages 5-9)

Coerr, Eleanor. LADY WITH A TORCH. Illustrated by Oscar de Mejo. Harper & Row. 84 pages.
A sprightly fictional account of Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi's creation of the Statue of Liberty is illustrated by de Mejo's 14 lighthearted full-page pen and ink drawings, shaded by pencil as well as ink washes. Factual material at the back of the book includes a chronology, Statue statistics, the full text of Emma Lazarus' poem at the Statue's base and a listing of other Bartholdi sculptures in the U.S. (Ages 5-11)

The avowedly strangest teacher in school takes her elementary school class on a trip that begins in the clouds and continues via raindrops through a stream and city reservoir right into the waterworks so that they learn first-hand about the water purification system Cole strikes a remarkable balance between fantasy and reality, simultaneously imparting information and spinning a good story. The author's notes following the story clearly point out the fantasy elements. (Ages 5-11)

Crews, Donald. FLYING. Greenwillow. 36 pages.
Two dozen different words in a 49 word text describe an airplane flight illustrated by full-color gouache and airbrush art. Shifting perspectives abound in the well designed airport to airport sequence, and so do visual references to several earlier books by the artist. (Ages 3-7)

The history of milk production exemplifies the struggle for consumer rights. Giblin wisely chose a product familiar to U.S. children and he engages the child reader as both a primary consumer and a potential activist. An outstanding book design makes the topic even more appealing. (Ages 9-14)

Hackwell, W. John. DIGGING TO THE PAST; EXCAVATIONS IN ANCIENT LANDS. Charles Scribner's Sons. 50 pages.
A first-hand description of an excavation in the Middle East accurately illustrates the methodology archaeologists use, the types of evidence they find and how they interpret what they uncover. Clear writing and numerous illustrations make the subject appealing without romanticizing the work, realistically focusing on the long, hard hours archaeologists work, rather than the relatively infrequent big discoveries. (Ages 9-13)
Hartley, Deborah. UP NORTH IN WINTER. Illustrated by Lydia Dabcovich. E. P. Dutton. 32 pages.
A father tells his son about the time when a fox may have saved Grandpa Ole's life while he walked for three hours across a frozen lake. Realistic full-color watercolor illustrations evoke the frigid winter landscape central to a story the author based on a 1911 incident recounted in her family's memoir. (Ages 5-9)

Haskins, James. THE STATUE OF LIBERTY; AMERICA'S PROUD LADY. Lerner. 48 pages.
Unique to this account is an interpretation of the symbolic importance of the Statue now representing opportunity for all. The author points out that even though the ancestors of most black Americans today arrived here in chains, one of the reasons the people of France gave the Statue to the people of the U.S. was to honor America's abolition of slavery while preserving the Union. The factual material includes 17 black and white photographs, Statue statistics and an annotated diagram of the repairs completed in 1986. (Ages 9-14)

Hirschfelder, Arlene. HAPPILY MAY I WALK; AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES TODAY. Charles Scribner's Sons. 152 pages.
Comparisons and contrasts among distinct cultural groups are made as each chapter outlines one aspect of contemporary Native American life, such as language, religion, elders, dance and music, etc. The text describes life in cities as well as life on reservations and offers clear explanations of the complex relations between tribal authorities and the U.S. government. (Ages 11-14)

Kuklin, Susan. THINKING BIG; THE STORY OF A YOUNG DWARF. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 48 pages.
An engaging photo-essay details the day-to-day life of a bright, active 8 year old girl who is a dwarf. A concise yet thorough account presents Jamie as a confident individual who does some things (such as drawing and reading) with great ease and other things (such as climbing stairs or reaching the top shelf in the refrigerator) with great difficulty. Unposed black and white photographs document and expand information given in the text. Brief factual information at the book's end provides a general background for readers. (Ages 7-11)

Dynamic pen and ink watercolor paintings give visual information for young readers studying or planning to visit the Statue of Liberty. A handsome picture book format succeeds as a vehicle for a brief history of the Statue. Material at the end of the book includes a chronology, Statue statistics, important people, interesting facts, a summary of restoration work and the full text of Emma Lazarus' poem. (Ages 4-9)

Ride, Sally with Susan Okie. TO SPACE AND BACK. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 96 pages.
A fascinating first-hand account of life aboard a space shuttle gives insights into daily routines as well as the kind of work astronauts do. Ride's amiable tone throughout the text makes descriptions of such things as weightlessness and launching a satellite highly readable. The 52 full-color photographs are always informative and often breathtaking. (Ages 5-12)

Roop, Peter and Connie. BUTTONS FOR GENERAL WASHINGTON. Illustrated by Peter E. Hanson. Carolrhoda. 48 pages.
A short historical note precedes the easy to read story about what might have happened during one of the missions of a 14 year old Quaker boy whose Philadelphia family participated in coding and decoding as well as sending and receiving secret messages to General George Washington. Each page spread is illustrated with watercolor paintings, some in full color. (Ages 5-11)
Wolf, Bernard. **AMAZING GRACE; SMITH ISLAND AND THE CHESAPEAKE WATERMEN.** Macmillan. 76 pages.

Chesapeake Bay crabbing predominates in a photodocumentary narrative also showing the off-hours of the watermen and their families on Smith Island. Readers of Katherine Paterson's **JACOB HAVE I LOVED** may be particularly interested in the details of crabbing as well as in those concerning the role of religion for the islanders. (Ages 9-14)

See also: **ADVENTURE OF CHARLIE AND HIS WHEAT-STRAW HAT; BOTH MY PARENTS WORK; CHILDREN OF THE MAYA; JOSEFINA STORY QUILT; JUSTIN AND THE BEST BISCUITS IN THE WORLD; MY PRAIRIE YEAR; OUR MARTIN LUTHER KING BOOK; SOUND THE SHOFAR; THROWING THINGS AWAY; VISITING THE ART MUSEUM; WHEN I WAS NINE**

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3 **THE NATURAL WORLD**

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**Arnosky, Jim. DEER AT THE BROOK.** Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 30 pages.

Artist and naturalist Arnosky shows deer, other creatures and plants appearing in summertime on the bank of a sandy brook. His colored pencil and watercolor illustrations reveal details such as deer tracks. Thirty-four different words in a 68 word text impart information and set a lyrical tone in a picture science book for preschoolers. (Ages 2-5)


Stunning full-color photographs accompany a concise account of the trumpeter swan's life cycle. (Ages 9-12)

**Featherly, Jay. MUSTANGS; WILD HORSES OF THE AMERICAN WEST.** Carolrhoda. 48 pages. (A Carolrhoda Nature Watch Book).

A brief text explains the historical origins of wild horses in the United States, as well as describing how they live today, with a special emphasis on their social groupings. (Ages 9-12)

**Florian, Douglas. DISCOVERING FROGS.** Charles Scribner’s Sons. 32 pages.

Colorful watercolor paintings accompany a brief text which recounts the development from egg to tadpole to frog, explains the differences between frogs and toads and describes several varieties of frogs. (Ages 4-9)

**Gallant, Roy A. THE MACMILLAN BOOK OF ASTRONOMY.** Illustrated by Ron Miller, Don Dixon, Davis Meltzer and Brian Sullivan. Macmillan. 80 pages.

A well organized description of the solar system is based on cumulative knowledge, recent discoveries and current theories. The nicely designed pages include at least one full-color illustration on every double-page spread. (Ages 9-14)


The “lovable giant panda” of China is pictured in its natural habitat as well as in captivity. Unusual wildlife color photographs and pictures of an infant panda along with very recent scientific findings about pandas and panda preservation mark this absorbing book. (Ages 9-13)
Lauber, Patricia. VOLCANO; THE ERUPTION AND HEALING OF MOUNT ST. HELENS. Bradbury. 60 pages.

Beautifully clear color photographs illustrate a compelling prose narrative about why Mount St. Helens, "a home to many, many kinds of animals and plants," erupted in 1980, the effects of the volcanic activity on the surrounding area and the slow reemergence of plant and animal life. (Ages 9-14)

McLaughlin, Molly. EARTHWORMS, DIRT, AND ROTTEN LEAVES; AN EXPLORATION IN ECOLOGY. Illustrated by Robert Shetterly. Atheneum. 86 pages.

A basic introduction to ecology invites young readers to actively participate in scientific investigation with several simple experiments involving careful observation of earthworm behavior. The excellently written text imparts much information, not only about ecology and earthworms, but about science as a discipline. (Ages 9-14)

McNulty, Faith. PEEPING IN THE SHELL; A WHOOPING CRANE IS HATCHED. Illustrated by Irene Brady. Harper & Row. 58 pages.

The fragility of a species is unforgettably chronicled in a first-hand report of the fertilization, incubation and hatching of a whooping crane at the International Crane Center in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The author relates ornithologist George Archibald's pioneering efforts to breed and raise cranes in captivity and prepare them for eventual independence in the wild. The precise ink drawings with wash add information and grace to an astonishing narrative about the tenacity and commitment supporting a single crane chick's survival. (Ages 8-12)

Parnall, Peter. WINTER BARN. Macmillan. 32 pages.

Somber black and white drawings minimally accented with brown and red balance and illustrate the prose describing the typical as well as the seasonal inhabitants of a Maine barn. (Ages 5-11)


In 1957, 26 African honeybees were accidentally set free from a science lab in São Paulo, Brazil, and during the past 20 years their descendents have been growing in number and moving north as they adapt to new environments in the Western Hemisphere. Because of marked differences in their behavior as compared with European honeybees, these Africanized bees have acquired an undeserved reputation as "killer bees," making them legendary in recent years. Pringle's dispassionate text offers information in place of misinformation, as well as insights into bee behavior and adaptation. (Ages 9-14)

Simon, Seymour. STARS. William Morrow. 32 pages.

More than 20 full-color photographs complement a readable text explaining the varieties of stars. (Ages 7-11)

See also: COUNTING WILDFLOWERS; I'M IN CHARGE OF CELEBRATIONS; TO SPACE AND BACK

4 SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS

Bauer, Caroline Feller. SNOWY DAY; STORIES AND POEMS. Illustrated by Margot Tomes. J.B. Lippincott. 68 pages.

Well selected short fiction, poetry, tales and activities with the common theme of snow are reprinted in a large typeface and illustrated with black and white drawings. More reading
about snow is suggested in an annotated list at the end. A similar collection, RAINY DAY, is illustrated by Michele Chessare. (Ages 4-9)

Baylor, Byrd. I'M IN CHARGE OF CELEBRATIONS. Illustrated by Peter Parnall. Charles Scribner's Sons. 32 pages.
"Last year I gave myself one hundred and eight celebrations—besides the ones they close school for," states the narrator, who chronicles her observations in a notebook, telling readers about seeing seven whirlwinds of dust, a triple rainbow and meteor showers. Full-color illustrations employing negative space capture the spirit of a joyous tribute to the beauty, drama and order of nature in the open spaces of the U.S. Southwest. (All ages)

More than 40 distinctive blue relief prints offer a striking visual complement to this clearly written history of the traditional High Holidays celebrated by Jews all over the world. Symbols, legends and customs are explained as are the holidays during the Holocaust and Israel's wars. (Ages 5-12)

Damjan, Mischa. DECEMBER'S TRAVELS. Translated from the German by Anthea Bell. Illustrated by Dušan Kallay. U.S. edition: Dial. 32 pages.
Personified December journeys through March's storms, June's warmth and October's harvests before returning to create Christmas mangers for the beasts and feeding tables for the birds. An eclectic, imaginative and colorful picture story book offers a new view of the year's cycle. (Ages 5-9)

A young boy's participation in Christmas preparations and festivities is contrasted with the activities of his baby sister who is too young to help but old enough to get into everything. A realistic relationship between siblings in a British Jamaican family is lovingly depicted with amusing text and full-color paintings. (Ages 3-6)

McKissack, Patricia C. OUR MARTIN LUTHER KING BOOK. Illustrated by Helen Endres. Child's World/Children's Press. 32 pages. (Special Day Books)
Practical suggestions for preschool and kindergarten observances of the newest national holiday are interwoven with a brief background about the U.S. civil rights movement and Dr. King's life. Although the format is ordinary, the age-appropriate activities make the book both unusual and useful. (Ages 3-7)

A dramatic use of space within vibrant, bold, hand-colored linoleum block prints highlights a young family's calendar year in their rural setting. The "beasts" include "cottontail rabbits in April," "chipmunks in July" and "field mice in September." (Age 2-6)

See also: AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS (CHRISTMAS); ANGEL SQUARE (CHRISTMAS); GRANDPA & BO (CHRISTMAS); MAKE IT SPECIAL; OUR SNOWMAN; UP NORTH IN WINTER; WINTER BARN

ACTIVITIES

Arnosky, Jim. FLIES IN THE WATER, FISH IN THE AIR; A PERSONAL INTRODUCTION TO FLY FISHING. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 96 pages.
An artist/naturalist clearly describes the exhilaration and the exacting details of fly fishing. His black and white drawings and diagrams give the necessary specifics while his comments offer direction and recount personal episodes. (Age 11 and older)
Hautzig, Esther. MAKE IT SPECIAL; CARDS, DECORATIONS, AND PARTY FAVORS FOR HOLIDAYS AND OTHER SPECIAL OCCASIONS. Illustrated by Martha Weston. Macmillan. 86 pages.

Family milestones can be marked by uniquely folded paper napkins, and national or religious holidays can be observed by traditionally developed decorations. Hautzig's practical lists of necessary materials and step-by-step directions for over 50 projects are set within warm commentary about how and why low-cost decorations, favors, cards and "gifts of time" can create a celebratory atmosphere. (Ages 8-13)

James, Elizabeth and Carol Barkin. HOW TO WRITE YOUR BEST BOOK REPORT. Illustrated by Roy Doty. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 71 pages.

Well-structured brief instructions offer advice on choosing a book, reading it and getting organized as well as drafting and presenting book reports. (Ages 8-13)

Korty, Carol. WRITING YOUR OWN PLAYS; CREATING, ADAPTING, IMPROVISING. Charles Scribner's Sons. 116 pages.

A down-to-earth approach to playwriting and improvisation includes the distinction between a play and a story as well as examples of freezes as guides for novice playwrights. (Ages 9-14)

See also: EARTHWORMS, DIRT AND ROTTEN LEAVES; ONCE: A LULLABY; OUR MARTIN LUTHER KING BOOK; PETER AND THE WOLF; RAINY DAY; SNOWY DAY; SPORTS PAGES; VISITING THE ART MUSEUM

6 ISSUES IN TODAY'S WORLD

Ashabranner, Brent. CHILDREN OF THE MAYA; A GUATEMALAN INDIAN ODYSSEY. Photographs by Paul Conklin. Dodd, Mead. 97 pages.

Since 1980, thousands of Mayan Indians have left their mountain villages in Guatemala to escape the genocidal policies of the Guatemalan government. Of these, a handful of refugees found their way to a small town in southeastern Florida where they manage to balance fitting in with preserving their own cultural traditions. Ashabranner combines historical background and current events in Central America with personal accounts and interviews to show the difficulties faced by refugees before and after they left home. Forty-six black and white photographs succeed in conveying the mixed emotions of the refugees. (Age 11 and older)

Meltzer, Milton. POVERTY IN AMERICA. William Morrow. 122 pages.

A superbly organized study defines poverty, discusses its causes and effects and looks closely at several groups in contemporary society who are most strongly affected, including women, people of color and farmers. Meltzer's uncompromising style clearly indicates a distinct point of view, making the text exciting to read. (Age 11 and older)


A family crisis sends 13 year old Naledi and her nine year old brother Tiro to find Mma, who works as a servant in Johannesburg. The youngsters observe first-hand many manifestations of the official apartheid policy of South Africa's government. The short chapters and terse tone convey the urgency of a thought-provoking novel. (Ages 9-13)
Pringle, Laurence. THROWING THINGS AWAY; FROM MIDDENS TO RESOURCE RECOVERY. Thomas Y. Crowell. 90 pages.
A straightforward description of the inner workings of dumps, landfills, recycling centers and other methods people have used throughout history for disposing of leftovers calls special attention to the overall impact they have had on the environment. Pringle demonstrates once again that even the smallest detail plays a role in the delicately balanced cycle of nature, and that human beings create problems much more easily than they solve them. (Age 11 and older)

Vigna, Judith. NOBODY WANTS A NUCLEAR WAR. Albert Whitman. 40 pages.
Two youngsters build a makeshift, backyard hideaway "in case there's a nuclear war." Finding them in it, their mother explains different ways grown-ups are working to make the world safe for children to grow up in. Vigna's easy to read first person narrative is direct in style, honest in approach and constructive in factual presentation. An impending summer storm becomes a visual parallel to action and dialogue concerning the nuclear threat. A picnic blanket at first symbolizes the hideaway; next, the security of parental love; and finally becomes a means to express feelings. This ordinary looking little picturebook illustrated with sketchy pen and ink drawings and watercolor washes is an extraordinary tool for age-appropriate understandings about response and responsibility. (Ages 3-9)

See also: CHILDREN WE REMEMBER; CHILLY STOMACH; DIFFERENT DRUMMER; HAPPILY MAY I WALK; HERE COME THE KILLER BEES; MILK

UNDERSTANDING ONESELF AND OTHERS

Caines, Jeannette. CHILLY STOMACH. Illustrated by Pat Cummings. Harper & Row. 32 pages.
Three different cuddling situations present clear contrasts. Not all hugging is wrong, but neither is all hugging wanted by young children. Relatively few words set in large type unfold a multi-ethnic presentation of a universal dilemma which invites discussion through its open-endedness. Illustrated with full-color pastel drawings, the picture story uses the title phrase as a metaphor for the confusion and ambivalence resulting from unwanted touching. (Ages 3-9)

Fine, Judylaine. AFRAID TO ASK; A BOOK FOR FAMILIES TO SHARE ABOUT CANCER. U.S. edition, updated and revised: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 178 pages.
Accurate, up-to-date facts are organized for quick reference. Readers can easily locate needed information without reading the entire book. Over two dozen common cancers are detailed following sections on definition as well as prevention and on living with cancer as well as dying with cancer. (Age 11 and older)

Landau, Elaine. DIFFERENT DRUMMER; HOMOSEXUALITY IN AMERICA. Julian Messner. 103 pages.
A sympathetic yet objective account of one of America's least understood and least visible minority groups covers life styles, mental health, legal issues, homophobia, AIDS and coming out to parents and families. Three interviews with gay and lesbian teens are included as separate chapters in the text. (Age 14 and older)

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Leiner, Katherine. BOTH MY PARENTS WORK. Photographs by Steve Sax. Franklin Watts. 48 pages.
Ten children and teenagers are pictured in black and white photos and in their own words in a brief, upbeat photo-essay showing how their households require teamwork and organization involving all family members. (Ages 4-9)

An always sympathetic and straightforward tone underscores constructive insights on many facets of short term and long term parental illness. LeShan realistically reflects both a child's concerns and a child's capacity to respond to or cope with a situation. She suggests helpful actions or adjustments without raising expectations for more than is probable in most families. (Ages 7-14)

Paris, Susan. MOMMY AND DADDY ARE FIGHTING. Illustrated by Gail Labinski. The Seal Press (312 S. Washington St, Seattle, WA 98104) $6.95. 24 pages. (New Leaf Series)
The feelings and observations of two preschool-aged sisters who frequently witness domestic violence are sensitively portrayed in a picture story format, intended as a catalyst for discussion. The text is particularly notable for its honesty and authenticity. A helpful discussion guide and annotated bibliography of books for adults and children are included. (Ages 3-8)

Richter, Elizabeth. LOSING SOMEONE YOU LOVE; WHEN A BROTHER OR SISTER DIES. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 80 pages.
Sixteen young people describe what it was like for them when a sibling died. Although each of the personal statements are direct and concise, they are widely varied, as the author has carefully chosen informants of diverse backgrounds and experiences. (Age 11 and older)

Rogers, Fred. GOING TO THE DOCTOR. Photographs by Jim Judkis. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 32 pages. (First Experiences)
—. GOING TO THE POTTY. Photographs by Jim Judkis. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 32 pages. (First Experiences)
A clear, simple text addresses the toddler directly to explain two common, sometimes frightening, experiences. The reassuring words are accompanied by remarkably unposed full-color photographs, most of which are taken from a toddler's eye level. (Ages 18 months to 3 years)

See also: HAPPILY MAY I WALK; HELLO, AMIGOS!; NOBODY WANTS A NUCLEAR WAR; THINKING BIG

8 TECHNOLOGY

Billings, Charlene. FIBER OPTICS; BRIGHT NEW WAY TO COMMUNICATE. Illustrated with photographs. Dodd, Mead. 64 pages. (A Skylight Book)
In a beginning look into a new technology which is expected to revolutionize communications, general language clarifies the importance, the workings and the potential impact of fiber optics. Color and black and white photographs of varying quality illustrate the material. (Age 9 and older)
Heckman, Philip. THE MAGIC OF HOLOGRAPHY. Illustrated with diagrams by the author and photographs. Atheneum. 287 pages.

A history of the science of optics involves the reader in the discovery process. Original charts and diagrams are utilized to explain a variety of principles associated with development of a hologram. Curriculum related subject headings are suggested to keep this one-of-a-kind book from being overlooked. (Age 13 and older)

O’Neill, Catherine. COMPUTERS; THOSE AMAZING MACHINES. National Geographic Society. 104 pages. (Books for World Explorers)

An excellent overview packed with information includes basic computer operations as well as an historical perspective. Clear color pictures emphasize the people behind the machines, which are seen as tools. The information relates to topics of interest, i.e., Disney World, farming, museum dummies, robotic toys, etc. (Ages 9-13)

White, Jack R. HOW COMPUTERS REALLY WORK. Illustrated with photographs and diagrams. Dodd, Mead. 112 pages.

A clearly written, well-organized narrative describes computer technology by explaining floppy discs, modems, DOS, ASCII code, etc. (Ages 9-13)

Aliki. HOW A BOOK IS MADE. Thomas Y. Crowell. 32 pages.

Detailed information, some of which is highly technical, explains book-making from the author’s idea to the arrival of the published book in libraries and bookstores. Whimsical cat characters assume the many roles necessary in the development of trade books. The comic strip format suits the bright watercolor and colored pencil illustrations. (Ages 6-11)

Bellville, Cheryl Walsh. THEATER MAGIC; BEHIND THE SCENES AT A CHILDREN’S THEATER. Carolrhoda. 48 pages.

Milwaukee artist Nancy Ekholm Burkert’s illustrations for Andersen’s THE NIGHTINGALE inspired the set and costume designs for the Minnesota Children’s Theatre Company’s dramatic adaptation of the tale. Color and black and white photographs document the many steps involved in a full-scale theater production. (Ages 9-12)


An ingenious light narrative reveals various stages of appreciation, or lack thereof, by five differently aged, lively family members during a day trip to a museum. Color photographs of actual art objects from world museums are superimposed on watercolor paintings. All the text appears as dialogue within balloons. A clever final double-page spread shows daily images echoing some of the museum objects. At the end of the book, notes with charts describe the period and art for each fictional gallery. Parents and teachers using this unique book will also be pleased with the list of practical tips for creating an enjoyable museum visit with children. (Ages 5-11)

Menotti, Gian Carlo. AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS. Illustrated by Michèle Lemieux. William Morrow. 64 pages.

Desert tones illuminate full-color paintings illustrating a readable fictionalized libretto for the tender, humorous Christmas opera about power and sacrifice involving a shepherd boy and his mother who host three distinctive kings and their churlish servant. (All ages)

Full-color, richly textured paintings, sometimes several to a page, relate the sequence of the famous musical story which also serves to introduce young children to instruments of the orchestra. This $12^{1/2}$ x $12^{1/2}$ edition is theatrically developed, containing pictures of the stage, the musicians with their instruments and the orchestra conductor in action. (Ages 4-8)

See also: GEORGIA O'KEEFFE; LADY WITH A TORCH; STATUE OF LIBERTY; STORY OF CHICKEN LICKEN; STORY OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY; WRITING YOUR OWN PLAYS

10 POETRY

Adoff, Arnold. SPORTS PAGES. Illustrated by Steve Kuzma. J.B. Lippincott. 79 pages.

Poems without rhyming lines express the feelings and experiences of young female and male athletes in a variety of team and other sports. Black and white wash drawings capture a sense of motion or a single moment to which the poem refers. (Ages 9-14)

Chorao, Kay. THE BABY'S GOOD MORNING BOOK. E.P. Dutton. 61 pages.

Brightly hued, full-color art combined with watercolors, colored pencil and ink lines create joyous wake-up images to accompany 26 short poems by Eleanor Farjeon, Walter Crane, A.A. Milne, Gertrude Stein, William Wordsworth and others. (Ages 2-6)


A short poem accompanied by abstract paintings expresses the artist's desire to know the names of everything in Nature. Text and illustrations work marvelously well together to support the basic theme of the book; illustrations of islands and deserts, rivers and oceans become clear to the viewer only after the text names what is pictured. The universal concepts of the importance of naming and the Earth as Home are presented in a manner which can be appreciated on many levels. (Age 4 and older)

Livingston, Myra Cohn, editor. POEMS FOR JEWISH HOLIDAYS. Illustrated by Lloyd Bloom. Holiday House. 32 pages.

Sixteen poems, all but two specially commissioned for this volume, honor 12 Jewish holidays. There is variety in the work of the 12 contemporary poets represented, and each poet expresses childhood reminiscences of celebrations. Bloom's striking black and white paintings create a sense of history and tradition. (Age 8 and older)

Lyon, George Ella. A REGULAR ROLLING NOAH. Illustrated by Steven Gammell. Bradbury. 32 pages.

A boy's job in a boxcar, tending animals being taken north, is related first-hand and, when read aloud, is enjoyed for the poetry of its narrative: "World's a big affair/I'm going to tell them in Pathfork/Be glad you have these mountains/to call home." The train's motion is recreated by the movement in the full-color watercolor illustrations filling every spread. (Ages 4-8)
McCord, David. ALL SMALL; POEMS. Illustrated by Madelaine Gill Linden. Little, Brown. 32 pages.
Twenty-five very short poems in a 7 1/4" x 6 1/4" book are illustrated with pen and ink with pale watercolor washes. A distinguished American poet’s large talent shines in brief poems for small listeners. (Ages 3-9)

Worth, Valerie. SMALL POEMS AGAIN. Illustrated by Natalie Babbitt. Farrar Straus Giroux. 41 pages.
Subjects from jacks to the library to a heron become tightly written images seen anew. A collection of 25 exquisite, delicate poetic observations is decorated with pen and ink line drawings. (Ages 9-14)

See also: HALF A MOON AND ONE WHOLE STAR; NIGHT STORY; RAINY DAY; SNOWY DAY

11 BIOGRAPHY

Fritz, Jean. MAKE WAY FOR SAM HOUSTON. Illustrated by Elise Primavera. G.P. Putnam’s Sons. 109 pages.
“All his life Sam Houston liked to do things in a big way or not at all.” These opening words set the tone for a carefully documented biography about one of the Founding Fathers of Texas. A full-page pencil drawing in each of the seven chapters adds visual detail to the human portrait drawn in words by a master biographer. (Ages 11-14)

Gherman, Beverly. GEORGIA O’KEEFFE; THE WIDENESS AND WONDER OF HER WORLD. Atheneum. 131 pages.
Born in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, a distinguished artist of this century broke conventional rules in her use of color and light, her recognition in a male-dominated field, her relationship with photographer Alfred Stieglitz and her spiritual kinship with New Mexico’s landscapes. All dialogue is documented, and the black and white illustrations show family, friends, sketches and paintings. (Ages 11-14)

Harvey, Brett. MY PRAIRIE YEAR; BASED ON THE DIARY OF ELENORE PLAISTED. Illustrated by Deborah Kogan Ray. Holiday House. 40 pages.
The hard life of a homesteading family on the Dakota prairie in the late 19th century is told from the perspective on their nine year old daughter. Harvey skillfully structured the story by recounting ordinary daily activities and extraordinary seasonal events. Powerful black and white pencil drawings capture the vast loneliness of the prairie. (Ages 7-12)

Stevenson, James. WHEN I WAS NINE. Greenwillow. 32 pages.
Stevenson’s autobiographical account of his ninth year in 1938 includes details such as his bicycle, his best friend and a family vacation to the Southwest. The text is understated and witty, and the accompanying impressionistic watercolors are soft-edged and hazy as memory. Most remarkable is the author/illustrator’s ability to recreate a mood on each page with just a line or two of text and a few splashes of watercolor. (Ages 4-9)
12 FOLKLORE, MYTHOLOGY AND TRADITIONAL LITERATURE

Bryan, Ashley. LION AND THE OSTRICH CHICKS, AND OTHER AFRICAN FOLKTALES. Atheneum. 87 pages.
A handsome volume contains four easy to read tales, each documented according to its specific cultural source in Africa and each told with a smoothly paced rhythm inviting reading aloud. Full of fun, drama and truth, the tales are abundantly illustrated on every spread with stylized black and white drawings, five of which are full-page in size with gold and red colors. (Ages 5-12)

Thirteen amusing tales from Greek mythology capture the spirit of Pan, the goat-legged, horned god of "noisy confusion." Gerstein's lively four-color pen and ink line drawings are controlled yet joyful and spontaneous. (Ages 4-11)

A young girl in a small village in Cameroon listens to Gran'ma Tika tell the story of how the men came to live in square houses, while the women live in round houses. "Each one has a place to be apart, and a time to be together..." says Gran'ma. Respect for the wisdom and experience of elders figures prominently in a boldly illustrated story of change and continuity. (Ages 4-9)

Richly textured, finely detailed oil paintings illustrate the familiar tale of the miller's daughter who bargains with a tiny man to spin straw into gold. Zelinsky's portrayal of Rumpelstiltskin as a proud, graceful elf with a pointed nose and chin, long fingers and bulging eyes is unforgettable. His notes on the sources he used and choices he made for this particular retelling are exemplary. (Ages 3-8)

Harris, Joel Chandler. JUMP!; THE ADVENTURES OF BRER RABBIT. Adapted by Van Dyke Parks and Malcolm Jones. Illustrated by Barry Moser. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 40 pages.
A skillful retelling of five of the Brer Rabbit tales is characterized by distinctive illustrations in full-color and black and white, including memorable portraits of the principal characters. High quality cream colored paper, excellent typography and the use of red and green as well as black ink in the text contribute to the lavish overall design. (Ages 4-9)

Fourteen tales from China but not from Chinese people include the Bai, Yi, Naxi, Tulong, Thai, Zhuang, Tibetan, Kazak and Uighur cultural groups within China's borders. Varying traditions and storytelling structures are suggested. Full-color illustrations and extensive notes assist readers in enjoying stories hitherto unknown in Western literature for the young. This important collection deserves attention, and the winged horses, golden fish, witches and wizards within it promise unique entertainment. (Ages 8-12)

Hiser, Berniece T. THE ADVENTURE OF CHARLIE AND HIS WHEAT-STRAW HAT; A MEMORAT. Illustrated by Mary Szilagyi. Dodd, Mead. 40 pages.
A folktale said by the teller really to have happened in Eastern Kentucky, Appalachia, involves a seven year old whose Granny and Mammy plait and wax him a hat which not
only keeps him cool but helps him scare off the rebel soldiers he meets along Frozen Creek. A charming tale embodies a child’s cunning along with details of the traditional artistry of mountain women during Civil War times. Crayon-like full-color drawings show the people and episodes of a true regional story. (Ages 5-9)

Rarely have illustrations enhanced a traditional story so dramatically, creating drama and movement as well as suggesting a child’s perspective for observation of the actions. Masterful design and use of color mark this 11” x 8½” picture book with few words and immediate visual power. (Ages 3-9)

A comprehensive collection of 306 nursery rhymes is so well organized that when two or more rhymes appear on the same page, they complement each other thematically, visually or structurally. Hundreds of lively, detailed full-color paintings illustrate the rhymes, and no two page layouts are the same. (Ages 1-6)

As school-aged children stage a dramatic interpretation of Chicken Licken, a baby in the silhouetted audience puts on her own act by crawling out of her basket and heading for the stage. One child in the audience notices what the baby is up to and his attempt to warn one of the adults next to him parallels the Chicken Licken story in a fresh, amusing retelling of a traditional tale. The layout of the dialogue suggests a script and the illustrations provide costume ideas. (Ages 3-9)

A Ukrainian folktale relates how a harmless cat came by his reputation as a fierce creature in the eyes of a bear, a boar and a hare, and how he unwittingly managed to live up to his reputation when the trio invited him for dinner. As the unpredictable comedy of errors unfolds, only the reader knows the truth. The animals are marvelously characterized by beautifully composed ink and watercolor illustrations, demonstrating expert use of line and white space. (Ages 4-8)

The intensely emotional hymn from the Apocrypha calling on all of creation to praise the Creator is stunningly illustrated with luminous full-color paintings reminiscent of medieval illuminated manuscripts. (Age 4 and older)

See also: CATALOGUE OF THE UNIVERSE; OUR SNOWMAN

13 CONCEPT BOOKS

Ernst, Lisa Campbell. UP TO TEN AND DOWN AGAIN. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 36 pages.
Two carloads of friends arrive at the park for a picnic and playtime bringing with them objects numbering up to nine until ten rainclouds gather, precipitating a quick countdown

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as everything is loaded back into the car. Detailed brown pen and ink line drawings combined with full-color watercolors tell a wordless story; the text consists solely of numbers and objects counted. (Ages 3-6)

Geisert, Arthur. PIGS FROM A TO Z. Houghton Mifflin. 64 pages.
A high aesthetic standard predominates in the full-page etchings which provide lots of interesting action along with hidden alphabet letters as they successfully illustrate a story about the building of a tree house. A clever idea in a handsome book invites repeated looking. (Ages 4-9)

Hoban, Tana. RED, BLUE, YELLOW SHOE. Greenwillow. 10 pages.
A red alarm clock, green leaf and black kitten are among the ten familiar subjects photographed to illustrate ten colors. Seldom do board books reach the level of perfection in art and concept that Hoban offers her young audience. (Birth-3)

Hoban, Tana. SHAPES, SHAPES, SHAPES. Greenwillow. 32 pages.
A variety of shapes appear in 29 full-color photographs of city scenes. Hoban's artistic sense imposes order on a seemingly disorderly world. She has a remarkable ability to pull concepts out of the concrete world so that the young child, after viewing her book, may begin to look at the outside world and impose his or her own order upon it. Honor Book, 1986 CCBC Caldecott Discussion. (Ages 3-6)


---. TWO SHOES, NEW SHOES. U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 20 pages. (Shirley Hughes Nursery Collection)
Daily activities of a small girl and her baby brother illustrate basic concepts such as getting dressed, sizes and colors. Hughes' pleasantly rhyming text is as droll as her full-color gouache paintings of a busy family, all shown in three small 7" x 6½" books. (Ages 1-5)

To prepare for an outing, a child transfers ten essential toys, one-by-one from toybox to tote bag. A view of the toybox on each page allows child readers to predict which toy is next in line for the tote bag. (Ages 1-5)

What do restless sheep count when they are wide awake? Humorous full-color watercolor paintings show owls, bats, fireflies and UFOs, among other subtly shown items to be counted while Woolly's story unfolds. (Ages 3-7)

MacDonald, Suse. ALPHABATICS. Bradbury. 56 pages.
Bright colors and bold graphics distinguish the playful metamorphoses of upper and lower case letters into animals, flowers and other items clearly pictured on each 9¼" x 11¼" page. (Ages 3-7)

McMillan, Bruce. COUNTING WILDFLOWERS. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 26 pages.
Clear full-color photographs of 22 species of wildflowers illustrate the numbers from one to twenty. Notes appended indicate both the common and scientific name of each wildflower pictured, as well as the locale where each is generally found, eg. vacant lots, meadows, along roadsides. (Ages 3-6)

---. **YOUNG JOE.** U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 20 pages. (Jan Ormerod’s Little Ones)

In four 7" x 6½" animal books for toddlers, very young children are shown at play: with a new sibling (JUST LIKE ME); in imagining actions like certain creatures (SILLY GOOSE and OUR OLLIE); and in counting (YOUNG JOE). The little boy in YOUNG JOE is black; he and the other children all look and act their toddler ages in Ormerod’s pen and ink line drawings with water color washes. (Ages 1-5)


Brilliant watercolors and pen and ink drawings characteristic of the innovative artist offer fresh images and lively action in four 7½" x 7½" books about animals. ALL CLEAN! shows creatures keeping clean; COCK-A-DOODLE DOO! indicates barnyard sounds; RUN! RUN! displays animal movements; and ALL GONE! features ways animals eat. Drescher’s paintings spill beyond conventional spreads, and his animals race and tumble inventively. His work here demonstrates that fine art can be found in playful, age-appropriate books for the youngest. (Ages 1-5)

See also: WHERE CAN IT BE?; A YEAR OF BEASTS

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**14 PICTURE BOOKS**


The Sunday hours stroller-aged Simon and his father share playing in the park, riding on a train, eating a packed lunch and enjoying a book indicate nurturing and warmth within the compressed time before the child returns to his mother’s home and care. Pencil drawings combined with full-color watercolor washes evoke this low-key bittersweet vignette of a loved child well cared for by separated parents. (Ages 2-6)


Her mom’s promised end-of-afternoon surprise comforts Jo throughout the day she has to stay home because she’s not feeling well. Through her apartment window, Jo watches familiar comings and goings: the mail carrier, the milk delivery, neighbors. A fresh glimpse of a biracial family in a multicultural urban neighborhood is illustrated with pen and ink and watercolor images of daily life shown in an upbeat way. (Ages 3-7)


A father places a very long ladder on top of a very high mountain in an attempt to fulfill his daughter’s wish for the moon. Carle moves beyond the bounds of the conventional picture book format with his ingenious use of pages that fold out in all directions to show graphically the lengths Papa goes to reach the moon. (Ages 3-7)

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Carrick, Carol. WHAT HAPPENED TO PATRICK'S DINOSAURS? Illustrated by Donald Carrick. Clarion. 32 pages.
Patrick's fertile imagination is active again. This time he entertains his older brother Hank with stories of a distant past when humans and dinosaurs co-existed, and offers his own theory of dinosaur extinction. Whimsical full-color paintings successfully blend reality and fantasy to extend Patrick's creative vision. (Ages 4-8)

Coerr, Eleanor. THE JOSEFINA STORY QUILT. Illustrated by Bruce Degen. Harper & Row. 64 pages. (An I Can Read Book)
Should young Faith's pet hen Josefina be allowed to come in the covered wagon headed for California? She does, and later Faith stitches a square for her pet for the family memory quilt. A brief historical note at the story's end adds background about westward migration in the mid-1800's and indicates that handmade quilts sometimes became diaries recording the events of wagon train living. (Ages 5-8)

Cummings, Pat. C.L.O.U.D.S. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 36 pages.
In a wonderfully original fantasy, weather is completely dependent upon an artistic bureaucracy called Creative Lights, Opticals, and Unusual Designs in the Sky and, as the newest employee, young Chuku is given the most unrewarding position as weather artist for New York City where "no one ever looks up." Cummings' use of sharp angles, shifting perspectives and electric colors suit the fantasy perfectly. (Ages 4-8)

Malusi, a black South African child, accompanies his grandmother on a shopping trip downtown and finds that, while others always complain about him lagging behind, he moves at just the right speed for his slow-walking grandma. Full-color watercolor paintings are strong in characterization and patterning, while the understated writing style depicts a loving relationship between a child and grandparent entirely through actions set in the context of every-day life experience. (Ages 3-7)

Dragonwagon, Crescent. HALF A MOON AND ONE WHOLE STAR. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Macmillan. 32 pages.
"Sleep, Susan, sleep" echoes the peaceful, lulling refrain of a rhyming poem effectively employing alliteration and onomatopoeia. Dramatically developing visual themes in color, pattern and space, Pinkney's full-color watercolor paintings of the yard and neighborhood at night reiterate the images of Susan's stuffed animals and bedroom. This warm homage to family and to a multicultural society superbly expresses security and love. (Ages 3-8)

A washing machine mistakenly delivered to Molly's house by two rabbits inspires Molly and three animal friends to dance wildly to the music of the wash cycle. Bizarre characters and events placed in a mundane setting give the unusual story a surreal quality. The extraordinary full-color gouache paintings jump with energy and movement. (Ages 4-8)

After a snowfall, a girl and her brother play "out on our white lawn." After showing him how to build a snowman, the sister-narrator observes, "year after year, these things work!" When dusk and their mother's call to supper brings them inside before they shape a second snow figure, the girl worries. The mother warns, "you're going to have a hard life if you cry over things like that," before she turns on the porch light so the children and their father can see to form a companion for the snowman. While holding quiet appeal for young children in its story and abstract pastel images, the book's creation theme may frame thoughts about artistry or myth for older readers. Honor Book, 1986 CCBC Caldecott Discussion. (All ages)

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Graham, Bob. FIRST THERE WAS FRANCES. U.S. edition: Bradbury. 32 pages. A relaxed, expanding family accumulates a canary, billy goat, alley cat, guinea pigs and more. They cheerfully accommodate each new pet by adjusting their activities accordingly. Lively drawings done in pen and ink with colored pencil and watercolor contribute vitality to a humorous cumulative story with a punchy conclusion. (Ages 3-8)

Henkes, Kevin. GRANDPA & BO. Greenwillow. 32 pages. Young Bo spends the summer on his grandfather's Wisconsin farm, sharing activities important to both of them: fishing, taking walks, telling stories, playing ball and even—because they can only be together once a year—celebrating a summer Christmas. Touches of wit spark a warm story, illustrated with black and white pencil drawings. (Ages 3-7)

Henkes, Kevin. A WEEKEND WITH WENDELL. Greenwillow. 32 pages. A young weekend guest monopolizes little Sophie's toys and her parents' attention until she figures out how to make some of the rules for imaginary play, too. Bright, full-color watercolor paintings combined with a black pen and ink line illustrate a cleverly written story with animal characters. (Ages 4-7)

Hest, Amy. THE PURPLE COAT. Illustrated by Amy Schwartz. Four Winds. 32 pages. Gabrielle wants her tailor grandfather to make her a coat that's purple instead of boring navy blue and, after a brief discussion, the two of them reach a compromise. Gabrielle's determination and energy, subtly tempered with caution, is skillfully depicted in both the text and the illustrations. Schwartz's distinctive pencil and watercolor illustrations show fine detail, right down to Gabrielle's chronically sagging knee socks and misbuttoned sweater. (Ages 4-8)

Hutchins, Hazel J. LEANNA BUILDS A GENIE TRAP. Illustrated by Catharine O'Neill. Annick Press (5519 Yonge St, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 5S3, Canada.) 4.95. 24 pages. Even though Leanna's mother thinks the building block is missing because she neglected to put it carefully away, Leanna knows a genie has it. Leanna's plans to trap the trickster culminate in a solution recognizable in most households. Deliberately skewed visual perspectives complement Leanna's robust imagination in this original 7½" x 8" paperback picture story illustrated with full-color drawings. (Ages 4-8)

Hutchins, Pat. THE DOORBELL RANG. U.S. edition: Greenwillow. 24 pages. Individual shares of a large platter of cookies get smaller and smaller as successive groups of neighbor children enter the kitchen needing a snack. Each double page spread cleverly places the door just off the right-hand edge of the page, so that the reader's attention is drawn to it. (Age 3-6)

Jonas, Ann. WHERE CAN IT BE? Greenwillow. 32 pages. Containing watercolor and colored pencil illustrations, ingeniously designed narrow pages alternate with wider ones so child readers can "search" with the fictional preschooler in a closet, cupboard, bed, etc., for the missing security blanket. (Ages 2-5)

Kellogg, Steven. BEST FRIENDS. Dial. 32 pages. The possibility of a new puppy changes Kathy's initial jealous, angry feelings toward her friend Louise for having such a good vacation without her. Kellogg's ink and pencil lines with watercolor washes in comic strip frames capture the ambiguities of friendship expressed in his story. (Ages 5-8)

Keyworth, C.L. NEW DAY. Illustrated by Carolyn Bracken. William Morrow. 32 pages. The progressive stages of a young girl's adjustment to a new environment when she and her family move to a different town are skillfully described using only thirteen nouns, each preceded by the adjective "new": new house, new neighbors, new school, etc. (Ages 3-6)
Khalsa, Dayal Kaur. TALES OF A GAMBLING GRANDMA. U.S. edition: Clarkson N. Potter. 32 pages.
A child's account of her grandmother's life is based on her own observations and grandma's exaggerations and elaborately embroidered memories. Grandma's unique and delightful character is marvelously portrayed with an original use of point of view, giving her a depth of character rarely seen in a 32 page book. Khalsa has chosen an entertaining variety of visual and textual details to bring Grandma's colorful past to life. (Ages 4-9)

Dad is such an efficient house-husband that he runs out of housework and turns to making jam from the ripe plums falling from the tree in their yard. Long before the family finishes the year-long supply of jam, their enthusiasm wanes. Lively pen and ink line drawings with pale watercolor washes add humor to a witty tale of excess. (Ages 3-7)

Life changes for a rather stuffy, dull little man when he accompanies his flamboyant mother (a former pirate) to her beloved sea. A wonderfully absurd story is made even wilder with hilarious full-color illustrations. A rich text combines rollicking humor with poetic language. Mahy's descriptions of the sea are lyrical, giving readers a strong sense of the ocean's powerful pull in the midst of a fun story. (Ages 4-7)

A visual surprise on the final page caps a two-voice narrative concerning a rodeo rider and his excited child's responses before, during and after he rides White Dynamite. The full-color watercolor paintings express the action of a rodeo event while the story reveals the elements of character as well as plot. (Ages 5-9)

McQueen, John Troy. A WORLD FULL OF MONSTERS. Illustrated by Marc Brown. Thomas Y. Crowell. 32 pages.
"A long time ago ... there weren't any electric lights ... cars ... big machines. But there were monsters." Everywhere. A humorous, original approach to the fears of nocturnal sounds is accomplished within a comic strip format containing illustrations done in full-color watercolors, colored pencil and pen and ink lines. (Ages 4-8)

A soothing repetitive four-line stanza invites a young child to say or sing along, predicting the next animal character and animal sound. Each page spread is designed as a proscenium stage on which night time and day time activities appear in whimsical full-color watercolor paintings with and pen and ink lines. All 18 variations of the rhyme are included along with musical notation by Adam Lobel. (Ages 1-5)

Oppenheim, Joan. YOU CAN'T CATCH ME! Illustrated by Andrew Shachat. Houghton Mifflin. 32 pages.
A bothersome fly buzzes past several other animals, taunting them with "No matter how hard you try, try, try, you can't catch me!" Distinctive full-color paintings show the fly with large bright eyes and a wide grin that make him look particularly pesky. (Ages 3-7)

A popular neighborhood bagelmaker creates unusual bagels at night. When the renegade Glimville Bagelunculus threatens to destroy "the incredibly nutritious lox" stored in a warehouse nearby, its creator remembers an eternal truth about all bagels. A fantastic spoof defying categorization is illustrated with colorful computer graphics. (Ages 5-9)
Plantos, Ted. HEATHER HITS HER FIRST HOME RUN. Illustrated by Maureen Paxton. Black Moss Press (P.O. Box 143, Station A, Windsor, Ontario N9A 6L7, Canada) $3.95. 24 pages.

The bases were loaded and there were two outs when Heather came to the plate to bat for her T-ball team and hit her first home run—never mind that it rolled past three graceless players on the opposing team. The ambiance of amateur athletics is deftly captured in a clear, simple text and bordered full-color illustrations. (Ages 4-7)


A conflict over vegetables develops between a small gardener and a hungry giant but it is eventually resolved with a kettle of steaming soup and the promise of friendship. The economical use of line in the four color pen and ink drawings conveys a great deal of motion and personality. (Ages 4-8)

Russo, Marisabina. THE LINE UP BOOK. Greenwillow. 24 pages.

Sam finds it so difficult to tear himself away from his toys when his mother calls him for lunch that he makes the task of heading for the kitchen part of his imaginative play. Full-color poster-like gouache paintings illustrate a familiar childhood experience. (Ages 3-5)

Schoberle, Cecile. BEYOND THE MILKY WAY. Crown. 32 pages.

A little girl looking out of her window at bedtime imagines what she might see beyond the buildings, clouds and Milky Way. She wonders if there's a little girl on another planet imagining seeing her. Increasingly large in scope, full-color watercolor illustrations move from realism to fantasy and back. (Ages 4-7)


The dressmaker's daughter battles snow, cold and wind to deliver an evening gown to the duchess in time for the ball. Plucky Irene is a wonderfully determined character in a funny, melodramatic story. The black line drawings with full-color watercolor washes blanket pages with soft white snow against grey skies, truly evoking a sense of winter. (Ages 4-8)


A small child "takes the night train to the country where nothing lasts ... all is given ... nothing is given for keeps." A bedtime vision, a wild chase and a poetic story unfold in hand-lettered, swooping lines of type and full-color drawings done in colored pencil. (Ages 4-7)

Williams, Vera B. CHERRIES AND CHERRY PITS. Greenwillow. 40 pages.

A young girl tells and draws stories about four people she observes in her neighborhood. Each becomes a distinct individual, illustrating—and celebrating—human diversity, although each one is ultimately linked by common experience. The child's sense of story, visual and textual, accompanies the adult's stunning watercolor paintings of a creative child bent over her work in concentration. Williams successfully creates "story" on several levels simultaneously, and yet another layer will be added to the story-within-a-story when it is shared with children. Winner, 1986 CCBC Caldecott Discussion. (Ages 4-9)


Al and his faithful dog, Eddie, leave their mundane lives behind for a taste of Paradise and find there is a price to pay. Excellent use of color and shading shows the contrasts between Al's dreary one-room apartment and a fantastic paradise populated by exotic birds. (Ages 4-7)
Little brother Timmy's constant after-school presence is missed by older sibling John once Timmy gets a friend his own size. Four-color preseparated art depicts an active household comprised of two brothers and their mother, each with distinctive interests. (Ages 3-6)

15 FICTION FOR YOUNG READERS

A young black child recounts five events in his life which involve his parents, his younger brother and his best friend, Gloria. Each of the episodes is a short, but fully developed, story with a satisfying ending. Writing, illustration and design all work together to make the stories completely accessible to newly independent readers. (Ages 7-9)

Little, Jean. LOST AND FOUND. Illustrated by Leoung O'Young. U.S. edition: Viking Kestrel. 82 pages.
A chapter book easy to listen to or read independently incorporates plot elements of Lucy's moving to a new town, finding a stray dog and making a necessary decision about her new pet. (Ages 5-9)

Nine witty short stories about animals, as both pets and protagonists, blend elements of realism and fantasy to capture a distinctly childlike view of the world. (Ages 7-9)

See also: BUTTONS FOR GENERAL WASHINGTON; JOSEFINA STORY QUILT; RAINY DAY; SNOWY DAY

16 FICTION FOR OLDER READERS

Bauer, Marion Dane. ON MY HONOR. Clarion. 90 pages.
An honestly portrayed tragic episode is caused by the combination of foolish judgment coupled with seemingly ordinary actions. The author heightens suspense while enabling readers to draw independent conclusions about irrevocable decisions in the brief, powerful novel. Honor Book, 1986 CCBC Newbery Discussion. (Ages 7-14)

When Junior Blossom gets caught in his own coyote trap, he is rescued by the notorious Mad Mary, an eccentric recluse who lives in a cave among vultures. The humor and characterization which mark THE NOT-JUST-ANYBODY FAMILY, the first volume about the Blossom family, are also strong elements in this sequel. (Ages 8-12)
Byars, Betsy. THE NOT-JUST-ANYBODY FAMILY. Illustrated by Jacqueline Rogers. Delacorte. 149 pages.
Three children who live with their grandfather are temporarily separated from him and each other due to a series of unexpected events. Byars’ funny, episodic story is told from all four points of view, in addition to that of the family dog, as each family member struggles to be reunited with the others. (Ages 8-12)

The marvelous animal characters and cliff-hanging chapter endings of her father’s notable novel MRS. FRISBY AND THE RATS OF NIMH are employed by the author of this fantasy adventure involving a rat community living by its own moral, ethical rules. The rats employ violent means to achieve preservation in the face of human alterations to their habitat. An enjoyable and discussible story stands on its own as well as being a sequel to its famous predecessor. (Ages 7-12)

A staunch protagonist matter of factly expects to fist-fight his daily way across the town square, simultaneously making war and keeping peace with Irish Catholics, French Canadians and Jews alike. Tommy, a.k.a. The Shadow, is likewise as dauntless in his quest for Margot Lane’s attention as he becomes in pursuit of the bigot whose anti-Semitic acts pervade the neighborhood. Exacting details of blue collar city and family life in 1945 along with a wildly humorous, strangely tender tone earmark an unconventional novel. A unique first-person voice relates a story of which the theme and style invite reflection, rereading and discussion as blatant stereotypes are transformed by individual responses. (Ages 9-14)

The affectionate nickname Jellybean sticks for Geraldine, whose life as the only child of a single parent cellist provides the plucky girl with insights about her mother’s career. An unfolding drama concerns a somewhat mysterious adult man who seems to know about both music and her family. (Ages 9-13)

Fleischman, Sid. THE WHIPPING BOY. Illustrated by Peter Sis. Greenwillow. 89 pages.
The loathsome Prince Brat and his whipping boy, Jemmy, are caught up in a series of adventures and misadventures when the two run away from home and exchange identities for a while. The familiar plot devices of a prince and pauper tale are revitalized with tongue-in-cheek humor. Although Fleischman uses a relatively simple vocabulary and simple sentence structure, the text is marked by eloquence, and numerous distinctive black and white drawings add to the overall richness of a fine, episodic novel. (Ages 8-12)

A fast-moving fantasy involves a boy with extraordinary magnetic powers and malevolent forces seeking to make his secrets theirs. Broadly drawn characters, shifting points of view and high adventure coalesce within an enjoyable thriller. (Ages 9-12)

Hansen, Joyce. YELLOW BIRD AND ME. Clarion. 155 pages.
As 11 year old Doris adjusts to having lost her best friend, she gets better acquainted with a classmate whom she has always regarded as annoying. A sequel to THE GIFT GIVER stands on its own as a story of friendship and loyalty. Hansen creates a strong city setting within a busy, thriving neighborhood. The characterization of both Doris and Yellow Bird is well done, and the author’s use of Black English in both dialogue and narrative is skillful. (Ages 9-12)

Two middle school children living in a trailer park become invisible. They meet a ghost named Tallulah whose quest for her missing Regina Stone thrusts them on missions from
which they ultimately begin to distinguish between generosity of spirit and self-absorbed accomplishment. The children occasionally behave outrageously according to their immaturity, all of which is balanced by their ghost's outrageous, yet mature pronouncements: "The difference between going to school and getting an education is the difference between picking an apple and eating it." (Ages 11-14)

During her mother's absence due to a family emergency, Amy the worrier must accompany her good-natured, new stepfather on his week-long truck driving rounds up north. Mark depicts the awkwardness of the stepfather/stepdaughter relationship almost entirely through the actions of the characters, and she does so with a great deal of warmth and humor. The setting for the story—the cab of a "lorry" or semi—is both appealing and unusual, and the unstereotypical portrayal of working class characters is commendable. (Ages 9-13)

Jenny, a 10 year old girl living in a children's home, dreams of having a wealthy, glamorous foster family. She is terribly disappointed with the "Sunday mommy" to whom she is assigned: an off-beat, struggling writer named Laura who lives in a cluttered apartment in a rundown building. As a strong friendship between Jenny and Laura develops, Jenny's perceptions of love and lovelableness change dramatically. A fast-paced, colorful story blends elements of the problem novel and the romanticized domestic novel, always fulfilling the child reader's wishes. (Ages 8-12)

Mohr, Nicholasa. GOING HOME. Dial. 192 pages.
When Felita turns 12, her mother becomes increasingly strict with her, insisting on having her brother accompany her visits with her first boy friend Vinny. Felita's summer with relatives on a Puerto Rican island make her long for her New York City home and family and helps her to understand them as well as herself a little more fully. (Ages 11-14)

Seidler, Tor. A RAT'S TALE. Illustrated by Fred Marcellino. Farrar Straus Giroux. 186 pages.
A modern fantasy satirizes those who profit from the creative work of others. A humorous story about two communities of New York City rats, one more upscale than the other, appears in an elegantly illustrated, designed and printed book about Montague Mad-Rat, the Younger, painter of seashells collected for him by world travelling Aunt Elizabeth. (Ages 7-12)

Together Erin and Heather develop imaginary extended play based on their love of Edgar Rice Burroughs' novels, while at home Erin simultaneously writes fantasy as one way to remove herself from the family's struggle to endure her father's dependence on alcohol. These three story strands are neatly interwoven in a believable plot undergirded by a compassionate, yet realistic tone. (Ages 9-12)

Thomas, Joyce Carol. THE GOLDEN PASTURE. Scholastic/Hardcover. 136 pages.
A horse-crazy 12 year old, Carl Lee, spends the summer on the Oklahoma ranch of his adored grandfather, a former rider in the Black Rodeo Circuit. Amidst all the activity centering on horseback riding, his grandfather's cowboy stories and the upcoming Boley Rodeo, Carl Lee begins to understand the long-standing rift between his father and grandfather. A skilled use of metaphors and imagery give the beautifully rhythmic prose an eerily mystical sense. (Ages 8-12)

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Justin learns about the racist acts endured by black cowboys of the past during a summer on Grandpa's ranch. He also sees that even Grandpa makes his own bed, bakes and takes charge of the same daily household chores Justin used to hate doing when his mother said he had to. Typical stereotypes of today's males and females dissolve for Justin in this relatively easy to read novel about family ties, family heritage and black history in Kansas ranch country. Black and white pencil drawings illustrate the book. (Ages 7-12)

See also: AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS; JOURNEY TO JO'BURG

17 FICTION FOR TEENAGERS

Aaron, Chester. LACKAWANNA. J.B. Lippincott. 210 pages.

An authentic tone earmarks a novel about children fending for themselves during the U.S. Depression. From the description of what it's like to hop a train to the distinctive slang, readers can sense the mood of a time which, for many, was desperate and desolate. (Age 13 and older)


Fifteen year old Kate has always lived under the shadow of her parents' memory of her elder sister, kidnapped before Kate was born. Her parents' easy acceptance of a streetwise stranger who shows up claiming to be the long-lost daughter is as difficult for Kate as her own adjustment to no longer being an only child. Excellent characterization of the two sisters highlights a suspenseful, funny novel set in England. (Ages 11-14)


Sixteen year old Vesper is a lively, determined girl, bent on hunting for treasure and solving mysteries. Her less enthusiastic guardian, an amiable retired gentleman, narrates the compelling historical fantasy. His wry, understated account of Vesper's adventures add depth and humor to a gripping story. (Ages 11-14)

Calvert, Patricia. HADDER MacCOLL. Charles Scribner's Sons. 134 pages.

The fictional account of an actual 18th century young teenager whose family tragedy before and after the Scotch Battle of Culloden is paralleled by both bloodshed and romance. (Ages 11-14)

Fox, Paula. THE MOONLIGHT MAN. Bradbury. 179 pages.

Fifteen year old Catherine gets to know her alcoholic father during a summer vacation she spends with him in Nova Scotia. Using moonlight imagery, Fox has created one of the truest portraits ever of an alcoholic. Catherine's growing understanding of the problem is sensitive and realistic. THE MOONLIGHT MAN transcends the problem novel genre: it is a genuine exploration of a life situation. The text is relatively simple but it doesn't lie. (Age 11 and older)

Frank, Rudolf. NO HERO FOR THE KAISER. Translated from the German by Patricia Crampton. Illustrated by Klaus Steffens. U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 222 pages.

The horrors of war are shown from the point of view of a 14 year old Polish boy who is adopted by a German battery during World War One. First published in Germany in 1931,
the novel with a strong anti-war consciousness was publicly burned by the Nazis in 1933. The author uses the child's "naive" point of view to give a blow-by-blow account of the fighting, with no sense of glory and heroism, no we/they mentality. Because the account is so detailed, it has appeal for readers who like war stories. (Age 11 and older)

Gehrts, Barbara. DON'T SAY A WORD. Translated from the German by Elizabeth D. Crawford. Margaret K. McElderry Books. 169 pages.
The memorable events of this unusual autobiographical novel substantiate the personal horror and suffering of individuals struggling to survive on a moral as well as a physical level in Hitler's Germany. The moving account of a family's courage during the erosion of their lives in a Berlin suburb encompasses first love, the tragic suicide of a Jewish friend and the bravery of an imprisoned father. (Age 13 and older)

Hansen, Joyce. WHICH WAY FREEDOM? Walker. 120 pages. (Walker's American History Series for Young People)
Although the characters are fictional, authenticity rings throughout this outstanding novel depicting events and places in rural South Carolina in the 1860s and representing the diversity of persons, experiences and opinions during the Civil War. The double-edged title refers to trust and decisions as well as to the escapes of African Americans from bondage. This historical novel accurately documents the military participation of blacks in the Civil War. (Age 13 and older)

A witch's curse places the mind and soul of a resourceful teenage heroine into the body of an 80 year old woman and she discovers, to her surprise, that the advantages of age far outweigh the disadvantages as she attempts to unravel the intricate mystery surrounding Wizard Howl. Touches of rare wit mark the carefully plotted fantasy novel. (Age 11 and older)

With the support and assistance of her best friend, Tycho Potter, teenager Angela May finds and confronts the father who abandoned her before she was born. As her romanticized ideas about her father change, so too does her less than romanticized relationship with Tycho. CATALOGUE is unique in that it is a teen romance that actually explores the concepts of love and romance. Brilliant characterization and beautiful use of language set it apart from other works of its genre. Mahy's use of astronomical imagery gives an aura of fantasy to the realistic story, creating a subtle but persistent tension between the ideas of "true love" and "romance." Readers familiar with mythology will recognize Dido. (Age 13 and older)

As 14 year old Win gets closer to his adult friend Elliott, he must struggle with his best friend's assertion that Elliott is gay. Elliott's true sexual preference is never revealed, a wise move on the part of the author, as it helps the novel maintain its focus: homophobia, rather than homosexuality. The issue is well-developed in the context of the novel which has as its themes fear of the unknown, the pressure to conform and the discovery and acceptance of differing values. (Age 13 and older)

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. THE KEEPER. Atheneum. 212 pages.
A remarkable development of realistic characters predominates in a well-paced, suspenseful novel about a family's response to their father's mental illness. The family's slow movement through stages of denial and acceptance, and their feelings of helplessness once they realize the situation is beyond their control are authentically portrayed in the midst of typical daily routines. (Age 14 and older)

The ghost of a 3,500 year old Egyptian princess calls upon Blossom to use her special time-travelling talents to help her retrieve lost treasures from her pillaged tomb. Particularly remarkable in this fast-paced, funny novel is Peck's use of imagery and symbolism. The subplot concerning Blossom's history teacher, a suffragist newly arrived in Bluff City, parallels the story of the princess, adding depth and meaning to the novel. (Age 13 and older)


Thirteen year old Annie finds more than she expects to learn about heroism while visiting and reading to convalescing World War One veterans in the Kansas City area hospital where her physician father works. Believable adults and strongly developed personal relationships are hallmarks of this fine first novel. (Age 13 and older)

Sender, Ruth Minsky. THE CAGE. Macmillan. 245 pages. 

A teenager becomes the guardian for her brothers within the Lodz ghetto. She is deported to Auschwitz where her original poetry helps her to maintain her sanity and selfhood. A stark autobiographical memoir illuminates the importance of personal dignity reinforced by acts of bravery on behalf of others. (Age 14 and older)


Thirteen year old Whitney's accidental choice of THE FATE OF THE EARTH as reading to fulfill an assignment thrusts her into despair over impending nuclear disaster, emphatically focused as she witnesses her younger brother's transformation of a benign game into one of destruction. A neighboring sculptor whose personal lifetime losses have not reduced her commitment to intrinsic beauty and goodness provides Whitney with the optimism and stability she requires beyond her family and friends' support. (Age 13 and older)

Watkins, Yoko Kawashima. SO FAR FROM THE BAMBOO GROVE. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 183 pages. 

A Japanese mother and her two daughters make the difficult journey from North Korea to Japan at the end of World War Two. An absolutely gripping first novel, based on the author's childhood experiences, recreates the aftermath of war as a time when society, with its rules and conventions, has completely deteriorated; what remains are individual acts of honor and dishonor. The strength of the family is evident, as a mother and her daughters stay together and act as a group, staking out their territory in box cars and train stations as they make the arduous journey home. Winner, 1986 CCBC Newbery Discussion. (Age 12 and older)


Fourteen year old Tyler develops a strong friendship with Mitzi, an independent, opinionated 15 year old girl who shares a common interest in wildlife photography. Just by being her quirky self, Mitzi broadens Tyler's narrow world view. He begins to come to terms with a difficult family situation: his parents have banished a beloved older brother who is gay. Tyler's family problems are neither easily resolved nor over-simplified, although Tyler himself finds a way to reach out. Witty dialogue and likeable, believable characters are outstanding features in a complex novel. (Age 14 and older)


A companion volume to the anthology AN OVERPRAISED SEASON contains ten works of short fiction exploring loss, separation, unrequited or unspoken love, and other major turning points from which families and/or youth are not shielded. The writers include Reynolds Price, Carson McCullers, E.L. Doctorow, Elizabeth Enright, Elizabeth Bowen, Stephen Vincent Benét and Katherine Mansfield. (Age 14 and older)
Purpose

The Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison 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. CCBC records are entered in the WISCAT statewide database.

Services

Reference assistance from student employees is available to anyone on a walk-in basis. Reference assistance from a professional librarian/children’s literature specialist is available to students, faculty, Wisconsin librarians and teachers on call and by advance arrangement. Specialized reference assistance and children’s literature consultation is also available by mail and phone to the above constituents anywhere in the state. Intellectual freedom information is available to anyone serving minors in Wisconsin libraries and schools. Tours and/or lectures are arranged as possible for university classes, library book selection groups and school inservice groups coming to the CCBC. CCBC bibliographies on selected children’s literature topics are available 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 techniques and are open to any student, faculty, librarian, teacher or other interested adult. Continuing education courses are taught via the UW-Madison Division of University Outreach. As possible, the CCBC participates in statewide and regional professional conferences through the provision of book examination exhibits and/or leadership in scheduled sessions. A two-day children's literature conference is co-sponsored every other year with CCBC funding units and the UW-Madison Division of University Outreach. Persons interested in attending lectures, workshops or conferences are encouraged to send a self-addressed, stamped envelope when they write requesting “The CCBC This Season,” a flyer listing CCBC and Friends of the CCBC, Inc., information.

Public Service Schedule

The CCBC is open twelve months a year for public service to adults interested in children's literature. The CCBC is open 49 hours weekly during the Fall and Spring semesters: M-TH 10-8, F 10-4 and S 10-1. Professional reference assistance is available on call 30 hours weekly. During Intersession, Summer School and University breaks, the CCBC is open 30 hours weekly: M-F 10-4. 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 supports special projects at the CCBC. Friends 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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