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CCBC Choices 1988

**Kathleen T. Horning and
Ginny Moore Kruse**
with Deana Grobe

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About the Compilers

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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 has planned CCBC workshops and conferences. She reviews books for Wisconsin Public Radio and teaches continuing education courses for the UW-Madison Office of Outreach Development. 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.

Deana Grobe is the CCBC Office Coordinator. She was responsible for the word processing and formatting of the CCBC Choices 1988 bibliography.

1 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 and young adult 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 1988, 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 1988

At least 3,000 books were published in the U.S.A. for children and young adults in 1988, perhaps more. The word **color** characterizes many of them. The preponderance of full-color picture books earmarks the new books, especially those for preschoolers. Often these are lavishly illustrated books sometimes showcasing fine art usually seen only in galleries. The texts of such books too frequently lack substance, or style, or story power; some are overwritten and others are ineffective as entertainment and/or insight. Many, however, are excellent with respect to child appeal and style alike. Color photographs are being used in children's books more frequently. Where Tana Hoban once pioneered in the artistic creation of focused, delightful concept books for preschoolers utilizing black-and-white and also color photography, now many other book creators use this medium. *Artists of Handcrafted Furniture at Work* and *Painting Faces* are excellent non-fiction examples. Published late in 1988 with a 1989 copyright, *Inspirations* exemplifies the potential for the reproduction of art in full color and for the imaginative development of an outstanding highly visual book of information.

Participatory is another word characterizing some books of the late 1980s. Taking the choose-your-own-ending type of writing to new limits of excellence, *No Bones* incorporates this popular, often imitated device within an effective, handsome invertebrate identification guide. *Whose Shoes Are These?* and *Frank and Ernest* each offer entirely different ways to directly engage reader participation, as does the amazing book *Redbird*; the latter being notable for its use of raised images, making its illustrations accessible to children who have a visual impairment. **Entertaining** is a word one certainly might use to characterize recent books, including *Moon Jump*, *My Family Vacation* and *Herbert*. Entertainers with name visibility for children or for their adults sometimes link their names to books for the young. Fred (Mister) Rogers' solid television reputation inspires confidence in his books for children of the same age and stage of child development as his TV audience; the 1988 title we especially admire from his First Experiences series is *When a Pet Dies*. Raffi and Tom Paxton are associated with more than one children's book in *CCBC Choices 1988*.

Series is a key word in book publishing for young people, as it has been for more than a century. The sophisticated packaging of books in series is one of the hallmarks of the 1980s; examples include the elaborate, successful promotion of the American Girls Collection of historical fiction stories and related products; the quite different but also successful series packaging of teen and pre-teen paperback romances; and the extraor-

dinarily popular Babysitters Club books by Ann Martin. The Orphan Train Quartet is a relatively new fiction sequence with a series name linking each of the stories. **Familiarity** describes much of today's publishing. Reprints of books looking exactly as they did when first published include a 25th anniversary printing of *Where the Wild Things Are*, and the first hardcover printing of the enduring paperback *Clifford, The Big Red Dog*, also in its 25th year. Popular books long out of print reappeared, including *The Little Riders* and Marjorie Flack's *Angus* picture books. A much less successful reincarnation this year involved the reissuing of *Misty of Chincoteague* episodes as separate, illustrated, rewritten picture story books. We particularly appreciate the newly illustrated editions of Charlotte Zolotow's seamless, emotionally resonant picture book texts. Literary familiarity generally occasions some publishing for the young; both Virginia Woolf and Alice Walker's names appeared on books for young readers this year.

Brevity is also characteristic of today's new books. Betsy Byars' *Beans on the Roof* is a very short new novel for new readers from a popular writer for older children. *Cassie's Journey* condenses the saga of covered wagon trips West. *And Still We Rise; Interviews with Black Role Models* offers a collection of short columns written at a level perfect for young readers. Thematic poetry anthologies with greater substance in fewer pages are a welcome part of a poetry revival. Short and long biographies are once again appearing about various contemporary and historical individuals, some predictable as subjects and others rarely introduced by book to children, such as *Anthony Burns* and *Shaka*. **Important subjects** noticed frequently this year were doctor and dentist check-ups; the tragedies of AIDS and of chemical dependency; intergenerational relationships and activities; and the subject of war.

Innovation in the development of an idea using color is apparent in the several dynamic ways to enjoy *Planting a Rainbow*. The linking of a familiar story with wholly unexpected visual images can be found in *The Nativity*, winner of an Australian book award. *Hey, Willy, See the Pyramids* and *Lulu and the Flying Babies* are exciting new picture books. *Stringbean's Trip to the Shining Sea*, a stunning visual novella encompassing many types of interests, will no doubt inspire children to create and re-create their own trips and inspire future book creators to think newly of the potential of the book as a medium. **First authors** who show considerable promise include Heidi Chang, who wrote *Elaine, Mary Lewis and the Frogs*; Lyll Becerra de Jenkins, author of *Honorable Prison*; and Sarah Ellis, writer of *A Family Project*. Native American artist Shonto Begay's illustrations for *Mud Pony* distinguish his first book for children.

The impact of Walter Dean Myers' Vietnam novel *Fallen Angels* is already being noticed; it currently ranks first midst any writing for the young about the Vietnam era. Ann Cameron's brief novel, *The Most Beautiful Place in the World*, set in Guatemala nearly stands alone in interpreting any theme or topic concerning contemporary Central America. Modern Native American, Asian-American and Hispanic-American life and living are virtually unrepresented in the world of new children's books this year. Not so with African-American themes and subjects. We observed an increase in 1988 in the number of books by Black authors and illustrators: from 18 in 1985, 18 again in 1986, to 30 in 1987, and to 38 in 1988; it's important to keep in mind the overall number of published books for the young when reflecting upon these statistics. Even if we've missed 3-4 books by Black children's book creators since we began such documentation in 1985, the total number of Black writers and artists of books for young people is woefully small. While the newly translated books of substantial length continue to number well under a dozen, the varieties of copublishing projects and the U.S. publication of books first published in another country yield more books of note each year.

The year 1988 was the 25th year of the Cooperative Children's Book Center, an anniversary marked locally in several important ways by the Friends of the CCBC, Inc.;

and a year most certainly to be remembered nationally as the publication year for *The Way Things Work* and *Dear Mili*, to name two distinctive children's books whose sales reached the best seller lists. Perhaps exquisite picture books such as *Who Said Red?*, striking longer novels such as *Another Shore* and charming new editions such as *Godine's Casey at the Bat* will also have the chance to endure until their 5th, 10th, 25th year or more, to be enjoyed by young readers of the future. In part, this depends upon the adults who discover such books and find ways to share them with young readers. We hope this booklet provides one way for adults interested in finding new books for children and young teenagers to do so.

Our Process

In making our selections of *CCBC Choices 1988*, we used standard literary and artistic criteria. Accuracy, potential appeal to children and interest to librarians and teachers were essential considerations in our evaluation and selection process. We paid special attention to books of information for all ages and to translated books. We looked very carefully at books which were the first or second published works of an author or illustrator. We looked for high quality books reflecting non-sexist and multicultural values. When we located books on topics or themes we know to be in demand by school media specialists, public librarians and teachers, we looked closely and made selections in favor of need whenever possible.

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

Of the 226 titles listed in *CCBC Choices 1988*, 35 represent the first published works of their authors or illustrators; 46 were first published outside of the U.S.A.; 2 were published by alternative presses and 2 others originated with alternative presses; and 9 are translations. At least half of the books we recommend are not included on any other nationally distributed list of the year's best books.

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

The Friends of the CCBC, Inc., made possible the professional design, typesetting, printing and binding of this publication. We appreciate their continuing commitment to providing librarians, teachers and others with an attractive, easy-to-use edition of *CCBC Choices 1988*.

Kathleen T. Horning and Ginny Moore Kruse

2 HISTORY, PEOPLE AND PLACES

Ashabranner, Brent. **ALWAYS TO REMEMBER; THE STORY OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL.** Photographs by Jennifer Ashabranner. Dodd, Mead. 101 pages. (0-396-09089-3) \$13.95

A clearly written text and 53 black-and-white photographs document the history of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., including a summary of the events leading to its construction, a description of the Regional Storage Facility which houses the thousands of items that have been left at the memorial in the past several years and an interpretation of the Memorial's impact on the millions of people who have visited it since 1982. (Age 9 and older)

Cameron, Ann. **THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACE IN THE WORLD.** Illustrated by Thomas B. Allen. Alfred A. Knopf. 57 pages. (0-394-99463-9) \$10.95

Family changes and the opportunity to attend school figure prominently in an easy-to-read story about a seven-year-old Guatemalan boy who observes "where you love somebody a whole lot, and you know that person loves you, that's the most beautiful place in the world." (Ages 7-9)

Fleming, Alice. **THE KING OF PRUSSIA AND A PEANUT BUTTER SANDWICH.** Illustrated by Ronald Himler. Charles Scribner's Sons. 40 pages. (0-684-18880-5) \$12.95

After the exodus from Prussia to the Crimea for reasons of conscience in the 18th century, the Mennonites developed farming methods which were eventually brought to the U.S.A. A fictionalized account illustrated with black-and-white drawings tells of Mennonite negotiations to maintain religious freedom and of the Mennonite children who sorted a massive quantity of hybrid winter wheat seed to transport to this continent. (Ages 8-11)

Giblin, James Cross. **LET THERE BE LIGHT; A BOOK ABOUT WINDOWS.** Thomas Y. Crowell. 162 pages. (0-690-04695-2) \$14.89

The author masterfully integrates information about the subject from many documented sources concerning historical and contemporary facts and events. From information about slitted castle walls to that on energy requirements and maintenance implications of today's window-filled commercial structures, the narrative consistently penetrates beyond what readers typically know about windows. Eight color reproductions of stained glass masterpieces join many black and white photographs and prints which extend the well-written book. (Ages 10-14)

Harvey, Brett. **CASSIE'S JOURNEY; GOING WEST IN THE 1860s.** Illustrated by Deborah Kogan Ray. Holiday House. 37 pages. (0-8234-0684-9) \$12.95

Based on actual accounts from women's diaries, a first-person fictionalized narrative tells of one family's wagon trip from Independence, Missouri, to Sacramento, California. Black-and-white drawings offer a visual panorama of the arduous events in a journey which can be followed on the map at the book's beginning. (Ages 8-12)

Levinson, Nancy Smiler. **CLARA AND THE BOOKWAGON.** Illustrated by Carolyn Croll. (An I Can Read Book) Harper & Row. 64 pages. (0-06-023838-0) \$10.89

"Books are for rich people. Farm people like us do not have time to read," Clara's father tells her at the beginning of the 20th century. The free library in a nearby Maryland village is thus off-limits to the curious child, but Clara's chance encounter with librarian Mary Titcomb and the first horse-drawn "moving library" changes her father's response. A glimpse

of childhood without schools, libraries, literacy and books is presented in easy-to-read historical fiction. (Ages 5-9)

Levinson, Riki. **OUR HOME IS THE SEA.** Illustrated by Dennis Luzak. E.P. Dutton. 32 pages. (0-525-44406-8) \$13.95

On the last day of school, a young boy hurries through the busy streets of Hong Kong, home to the harbor and his family's house boat. A poetic text reveals his desire to be a fisherman, like his father and grandfather, while softly textured, earth-tone paintings capture the vitality of a boy who feels most at home on the sea. (Ages 4-8)

Macaulay, David. **THE WAY THINGS WORK.** Text written with Neil Ardley. Houghton Mifflin. 384 pages. (0-395-42857-2) \$24.95

An informative, entertaining compendium explaining the physical principles behind everyday technology unfolds one-and-two-page captioned visual explanations organized in four sections: Mechanics of Movement; Harnessing the Elements; Working With Waves; and Electricity and Automation. A fictional great woolly mammoth, several winged angels and other humorous devices add a dimension of whimsy without blurring the clear distinction between fantasy and fact. (Age 5-adult)

Meltzer, Milton. **RESCUE; THE STORY OF HOW GENTILES SAVED JEWS IN THE HOLOCAUST.** Harper & Row. 168 pages. (0-06-024210-8) \$12.89

Although six million Jews perished at the hands of the Nazis, thousands were saved by non-Jews who chose "an alternative to passive acceptance of evil." Meltzer's well-documented exposition of these admirable acts of heroism range from individual gentiles who hid Jewish neighbors to the entire nation of Denmark, where the official position was one of resistance. (Age 11 and older)

Roy, Ron. **WHOSE SHOES ARE THESE?** Photographs by Rosmarie Hausherr. Clarion. 40 pages. (0-89919-445-1) \$13.95

Who wears shoes with thick, rippled soles? of stretchy rubber? with wooden bottoms? Black-and-white question-captioned photographs on the right side of each page spread show girls and boys of diverse backgrounds trying on or holding the shoes. Explanations and other photographs from the work world and from leisure time are on the left-hand pages that follow. The format encourages participation, as did its companion **WHOSE HAT IS THAT?** (1987). (Ages 3-8)

Schwartz, Alvin, collector. **GOLD & SILVER, SILVER & GOLD; TALES OF HIDDEN TREASURES.** Illustrated by David Christiana. Farrar Straus Giroux. 128 pages. (0-374-32690-8) \$12.95.

Both contemporary and historical treasure-seekers intermingle in an exceptionally well documented collection of true stories, legends and folklore about accidental and planned discoveries. Treasure maps, ciphers, and failed attempts add intrigue to a handsomely designed volume. (Ages 9-14)

Sobel, Harriet Langsam. **PET DOCTOR.** Photographs by Patricia Agre. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 32 pages. (0-399-21533-6) \$13.95

An engaging photo-essay details the daily routine of a veterinarian as he treats a variety of pets coming to the doctor for a variety of reasons, including a rabbit of which must undergo euthanasia. (Ages 5-9)

Steiner, Barbara. **WHALE BROTHER.** Illustrated by Gretchen Will Mayo. Walker. (0-8027-6805-9) \$12.95

Spending artist Omu, an Inuit boy, learns how to put spirit into his ivory carvings after spending five days and nights comforting a dying whale by singing and playing his harmonica for him. The somber poetry of Omu's songs is complemented by the sweeping blue-hued paintings which capture the solitude and stillness of Omu's northern world. (Ages 4-8)

Tsuchiya, Yukio. **FAITHFUL ELEPHANTS; A TRUE STORY OF ANIMALS, PEOPLE AND WAR.** Illustrated by Ted Lewin. Translated from Japanese by Tomoko Tsuchiya Dykes. U.S. edition: Houghton Mifflin. 32 pages. (0-395-46555-9) \$13.95

In the last stage of World War II, Tokyo zoo staff decided to allow large zoo animals to die to prevent the chance of additional danger to people if the city were bombed. This melancholy account of an actual tragic happening has seen 70 printings in Japan since 1951. It is broadcast annually every August on Japanese radio and TV. (Age 12-adult)

See also: *ABC Egyptian Art . . . ; Another Shore; Artists of Handcrafted Furniture at Work; Better Than a Brother; Boy From Over There; Children of Long Ago; Crutches; Digging Up Dinosaurs; First Freedom; Friends Forever; Granny Was a Buffer Girl; Henry; Hominids; I Want to be an Astronaut; Inside Nicaragua; Inspirations; Island Boy; Keeping Quilt; Looking Out; Looking the Tiger in the Eye; Mojave; Orphan Train; Out From This Place; On Camera; Painting Faces; Some Reasons for War; Somehow Tenderness Survives; Stringbean's Trip to the Shining Sea; Super String Games; Thief in the Village; and Sections on Biography and Folklore*

3 THE NATURAL WORLD

Aliki. **DIGGING UP DINOSAURS.** Thomas Y. Crowell. 32 pages. (0-690-04716-9) \$12.89

Engaging full-color, cartoonlike drawings and a brief first-person narrative interpret how fossil remains are located, moved, studied, reconstructed and copied for museum use all over the world. (Ages 4-9)

Arnosky, Jim. **SKETCHING OUTDOORS IN AUTUMN.** Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 46 pages. (0-688-06288-1) \$12.95

———. **SKETCHING OUTDOORS IN SUMMER.** Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 47 pages. (0-688-06286-5) \$11.95

———. **SKETCHING OUTDOORS IN WINTER.** Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 48 pages. (0-688-06290-3) \$12.95

Handsomely developed brief journals picture and describe outdoor observations leading to sketches and black-and-white drawings made during three seasons. Technical notes appear in a heavy, small typeface. These are companion books to **SKETCHING OUTDOORS IN SPRING** (1987), **DRAWING FROM NATURE** and **DRAWING LIFE IN MOTION**, all of which can be read for their narratives and/or followed for their instructive content. (Age 9-adult)

Billings, Charlene W. **THE LOON; VOICE OF THE WILDERNESS.** (A Skylight Book) Dodd, Mead. 48 pages. (0-396-09244-6) \$10.95

Full-color wilderness photographs illustrate a brief description of the seasonal activities of a pair of common loons. (Ages 5-12)

George, William T. and Lindsay Barrett George. **BEAVER AT LONG POND.** Illustrated by Lindsay Barrett George. Greenwillow. 26 pages. (0-688-07107-4) \$11.88

Exquisitely painted and drawn full-color illustrations show details of the activities and habitat of a beaver. (Ages 4-9)

- Hiscock, Bruce. **THE BIG ROCK**. Atheneum. 26 pages. (0-689-31402-7) \$12.95
The natural history of a granite boulder in the Adirondacks is described briefly in a combination of easily understood paragraphs and full-color illustrations and diagrams. An effective introduction to geology links what can be observed now with what occurred during the previous millions of years. (Ages 6-11)
- Johnston, Ginny and Judy Cutchins. **SCALY BABIES; REPTILES GROWING UP**. William Morrow. 37 pages. (0-688-07306-9) \$12.88
Color photographs of young snakes, lizards, crocodilians and turtles and brief descriptions of the special circumstances of each baby reptile discussed concludes with cautionary material about their precarious existence worldwide. (Ages 6-11)
- Lerner, Carol. **MOONSEED AND MISTLETOE; A BOOK OF POISONOUS WILD PLANTS**. William Morrow. 32 pages. (0-0688-07308-5) \$12.95
A selection of the flowering wild plants which cause people to become sick are pictured in jewel-like full color or black and white. Each plant is described in sections organized according to likely human contact: touching; tasting (berries, flowers); home plantings; and seasonal decorations. A wonderfully planned written and illustrated guide offers compelling reading as well as an expertly compressed wealth of essential information. (Ages 6-14)
- Parnall, Peter. **FEET!** Macmillan. 28 pages. (0-02-770110-7) \$13.95
Described with one word (fast, tough, thin, webbed, cool, etc.) and pictured in close-up drawings, thirteen pairs of animals' feet featured in the text are identified at the book's end along with the nine others which appear on the cover and title page of this unusual challenge to identification. (Ages 7-11)
- Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. **THE WHOOPING CRANE; A COME BACK STORY**. Photographs by William Muñoz. Clarion. 88 pages. (0-89919-455-9) \$14.95
Almost every page spread contains at least one or more color or black-and-white photographs which interpret the intriguing natural history of a bird that almost disappeared from Earth. George Archibald and the International Crane Foundation of Baraboo are mentioned. (Ages 9-14)
- Peters, Lisa Westberg. **THE SUN, THE WIND AND THE RAIN**. Illustrated by Ted Rand. Henry Holt. 32 pages. (0-8050-0699-0) \$13.95
By contrasting a child's beachside, sand-built mountain with the formation of an earth mountain throughout geologic time, the author and artist cleverly explain the origin as well as the impermanence of mountains. Full-color paintings create the visual story-within-a-story. (Ages 5-11)
- Powzyk, Joyce. **TRACKING WILD CHIMPANZEES**. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 31 pages. (0-688-06734-4) \$13.95
Powzyk's visit to a friend working as a biologist in a wildlife reserve in Burundi led to a rare opportunity for her to spend a few weeks tracking and observing chimps in the wild. A straightforward account of her experiences is accompanied by stunning full-color watercolor paintings of the flora and fauna she encountered. Her reverence for the rainforest and the life it supports is evident throughout. (Ages 8-13)
- Ryden, Hope. **WILD ANIMALS OF AMERICA ABC**. Lodestar/E.P. Dutton. 29 pages. (0-525-67245-1) \$12.95
Twenty-six creatures living within U.S.A. borders are pictured in color photographs arranged by the first letters of their names and identified by their full names. Short paragraphs at the end of the book describe each animal. (Ages 4-11)
- Ryder, Joanne. **STEP INTO THE NIGHT**. Illustrated by Dennis Nolan. Four Winds Press. 30 pages. (0-02-777951-3) \$13.95
A child imagines the nocturnal movements of creatures such as a field mouse, firefly, skunk, spider and bat. A poetic impression of nature's night activities is illustrated in full color. (Ages 4-8)

Sattler, Helen Roney. **HOMINIDS; A LOOK BACK AT OUR ANCESTORS.**

Illustrated by Christopher Santoro. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. (0-688-06061-7) \$15.95

The ancient forerunners of modern humans are pictured and described as they once lived on Earth. Two-color illustrations offer a globally inclusive perspective on the activities of the earliest humanlike creatures. Clear charts and notes increase the effectiveness of an extraordinarily well-presented account of how paleontologists and anthropologists learned what they know today. (Ages 8-11)

Shepherd, Elizabeth. **NO BONES; A KEY TO BUGS AND SLUGS, WORMS AND TICKS, SPIDERS AND CENTIPEDES, AND OTHER CREEPY CRAWLIES.**

Illustrated by Ippy Patterson. Macmillan. 90 Pages. (0-02-782880-8) \$13.95

Wonderfully planned content and well-designed pages distinguish a reader-participation book of information about the identification of invertebrates. Black-and-white drawings of life-size and magnified animals are incorporated into a highly original, effective book encouraging scientific thinking, exploration and discovery as well as respect for living creatures. (Ages 6-13)

See also: *Henry; Listen to the Rain; Planting a Rainbow; The Way Things Work; Winter Harvest; My Father Doesn't Know About the Woods and Me*

4 SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS

Aragon, Jane Chelsea. **WINTER HARVEST.** Illustrated by Leslie Baker.

Little, Brown. 28 pages. (0-316-04937-9) \$14.95

On a snowy evening, a child and parent carry grain and apples to a salt lick and observe the responses of the hungry deer. Delicate watercolor paintings evoke a winter landscape. (Ages 4-7)

Florian, Douglas. **A SUMMER DAY.** Greenwillow. 22 pages. (0-688-07565-7) \$11.88

"Sunrise./Blue skies./Out of bed./Cornbread." These lines exemplify the brief text accompanied by full-color pictures which suggest one way a city family might go by car to spend a summer day swimming, fishing and picnicking in the country. (Ages 2-5)

Goldin, Barbara Diamond. **JUST ENOUGH IS PLENTY; A HANUKKAH TALE.**

Illustrated by Seymour Chwast. Viking Kestrel. 26 pages. (0-670-81852-6) \$12.95

Even though Malka's family has barely enough kopeks to make Hanukkah latkes, they welcome a stranger who appears at the door. He first enchants the children by playing dreidel with real coins and then by reading stories "about kind people and cruel people, about angels and wonder-working rabbis, about beggars and miracles." The whole house seems to be filled with guests, and the unnamed stranger's generosity fulfills the tradition in more than one way. A note about Hanukkah closes a book illustrated with beautiful full-color paintings. (Ages 5-11)

Houston, Gloria. **THE YEAR OF THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREE; AN**

APPALACHIAN STORY. Pictures by Barbara Cooney. Dial. 29 pages.

(0-8037-0300-7) \$12.89

A tender family story set in the part of North Carolina known as the Christmas tree capital of the world takes place in 1918 when Ruthie's family takes its turn in providing the traditional community tree, even though Papa is away in the Great War. Evocative full-

color paintings show the place, time and people involved in a story about tradition and generosity. (Ages 4-8)

Martin, Bill, Jr., and John Archambault. *LISTEN TO THE RAIN*. Illustrated by James Endicott. Henry Holt. 32 pages. (0-8050-0682-6) \$13.95

"Listen to the rain,/The whisper of the rain,/The slow soft sprinkle,/The drip-drop tinkles,/The first wet whisper of the rain." Elegant, sophisticated full-color paintings and beautifully designed pages present the changing sounds and other effects rain can cause. (Ages 3-9)

Polacco, Patricia. *RECHENKA'S EGGS*. Philomel. 32 pages. (0-399-21501-8) \$13.95

Known for making prize decorated eggs for the annual Moskva Easter Festival, Babushka lives alone in her country "dacha", painting eggs all winter. One year, the magical goose befriended by Babushka accidentally breaks the basketful of eggs she's worked so hard to craft. Traditional objects and buildings add a cultural dimension to the fantasy; the monochromatic human faces contrast with the varied palette used for the eggs, church domes, icons and clothing in the story. (Ages 4-8)

Watson, Wendy. *TALES FOR A WINTER'S EVE*. Farrar Straus Giroux. 30 pages. (0-374-37373-6) \$10.95

A fox family and their friends share family and community stories one chilly night when Freddie Fox comes home after a minor ski accident. (Ages 5-7)

Zalben, Jane Breskin. *BEN'S FIRST CHANUKAH*. Henry Holt. 20 pages. (0-8050-0479-3) \$12.95

Detailed full-color illustrations picture a bear family's Chanukah preparations. They light candles, play dreidel and listen to stories. Non-Jewish neighbors are included in the celebration. (Ages 2-6)

See also: Baby's First Christmas; Better Than a Brother; Friends Forever; Grandma's Promise; Keeping Quilt; Nativity; Out and About; Planting a Rainbow; Sketching Outdoors in Summer; Sketching Outdoors in Winter; Sketching Outdoors in Autumn; Something is Going to Happen; Starting School; Tiger For Thomas; Yonder

5 ACTIVITIES

Bjork, Christina and Lena Anderson. *LINNEA'S WINDOWSILL GARDEN*.

Translated from Swedish by Joan Sandin. R&S Books/U.S. dist. by Farrar Straus Giroux. 59 pages. (91-29-59064-7) \$11.95.

A lively girl named after Carolus Linnaeus shows ways a garden can be managed and its produce enjoyed from inside an apartment or house. The directions are easy with many black-and-white diagrams and two-color drawings. (Ages 6-10)

Brinckloe, Julie. *PLAYING MARBLES*. William Morrow. 28 pages. (0-688-07144-9) \$12.88

The details of a marble game are explained through the dialogue and full-color illustrations of a picture story showing three contemporary children playing one game. (Ages 5-8)

Ehlert, Lois. **PLANTING A RAINBOW**. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 16 pages. (0-15-262609-3) \$14.95

Autumn bulb plantings, winter seed catalog selections and early spring sproutings open an array of specific activities pictured within uniquely designed pages offering accurate details for family gardeners. A bright spectrum of flowers emerges from the pictured cross-sections of soil. The rainbow is recapitulated by cleverly sized final pages showing the artist's genius with color, line and shape as well as the glorious colors one garden might yield. (Ages 5-11)

Gryski, Camilla. **SUPER STRING GAMES**. Illustrated by Tom Sankey. U.S. edition: William Morrow. 80 pages. (0-688-07685-8; pbk. 0-688-07684-x) \$10.88, \$6.95

Twenty-six string games are described and pictured with step-by-step directions. A global context emerges from the cultural notes preceding each. The figures are from many cultures, including South Pacific, Japanese, Navajo and Inuit people. An introduction to string figures and necessary practical advice precede the third book by this Toronto string artist. (Ages 9-14)

Haldane, Suzanne. **PAINTING FACES**. E.P. Dutton. 32 pages. (0-525-44408-4) \$13.95

"For thousands of years, around the world, people have felt the need to decorate their faces. The reasons why are as varied as the languages people speak." Well-labeled color photographs and a brief, easy-to-understand text convey substantial information about the face painting of Southeast Nuba people of the Sudan; Native Americans in North and Central America; opera and theatre performers in India, China and Japan; and clowns. Specific supplies and directions are listed. (Ages 5-12)

Raffi. **ONE LIGHT, ONE SUN**. Illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes. (Raffi Songs to Read) Crown. 30 pages. (0-517-56785-7) \$9.95

"One light, one sun/One sun lighting everyone./One world turning/One world turning everyone." Full-color illustrations picture three diverse families living harmoniously side-by-side, morning through night. Raffi's lyrics appear first as the brief text for a picture book and at the end with a simple musical notation. (Babies-age 8)

Solomon, Chuck. **OUR SOCCER LEAGUE**. Crown. 42 pages. (0-517-56956-6)

Easy-to-follow diagrams and color photographs explain soccer fundamentals and show two cub-league teams preparing for and holding their first game. Boys and girls from diverse families are depicted naturally and in action in a book with a minimal first person plural narrative. (Ages 4-8)

See also: *Basket Full of White Eggs; Feet!; Frank and Ernest; How Many Snails?; In the Night, Still Dark; Joyful Noise; No Bones; Sketching Outdoors in Autumn; Sketching Outdoors in Summer; Sketching Outdoors in Winter; The Way Things Work; Week of Lullabies; Whose Shoes Are These?*

6 ISSUES IN TODAY'S WORLD

Feldbaum, Carl B. and Ronald J. Bee. **LOOKING THE TIGER IN THE EYE; CONFRONTING THE NUCLEAR THREAT**. Harper & Row. 316 pages. (0-06-020415-X) \$14.89

A hefty examination of the history of the nuclear age begins with "Zero Hour" in 1945 where the first nuclear test explosion occurred in New Mexico. Chapter notes refer to an

extensive list of suggested readings; a chronology begins with the discovery of the "X-ray" in 1895; and a detailed index offers efficient access to the wealth of information the authors developed with feedback from high school students. (Age 12-adult)

Gelman, Rita Golden. **INSIDE NICARAGUA; YOUNG PEOPLE'S DREAMS AND FEARS.** Franklin Watts. 189 pages. (0-531-10538-5) \$13.90

Living in Nicaragua for eight months during 1987, the author recorded interviews and encounters with people of varying ages and walks of life. Her lively personal narrative coupled with the occasional black-and-white photographs throughout the book personalizes the headlines and offers perspectives of young people in a struggling Central American nation. (Ages 11-14)

Hentoff, Nat. **THE FIRST FREEDOM; THE TUMULTUOUS HISTORY OF FREE SPEECH IN AMERICA.** Delacorte, 1988, 1980. 363 pages. (0-385-29643-6) \$16.95

An important history of free speech in the U.S.A. has been revised to include nine pages on constitutional protection of conscientious objection to war and a newly written seven-page Afterword discussing the Supreme Court's Hazelwood ruling in 1988. More than 20 new citations were added to the already excellent bibliography; 4 were deleted. The index was not updated to cite Hazelwood or any other terms required to locate the added information. (Age 12-adult)

Madaras, Lynda. **LYNDA MADARAS TALKS TO TEENS ABOUT AIDS; AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND YOUNG PEOPLE.**

Illustrated by Jackie Aher. Newmarket Press. 106 pages. (0-55704-010-9; pbk. 1-55704-009-5) \$12.95; \$5.95

Taking the concerns, interests and information needs of today's teenagers seriously, the author writes about the sexual and other types of transmission of AIDS and of its prevention. Without moralizing or drawing value judgments on abstinence or on sexual activity, the author clarifies rumors about AIDS as well as offering accurate and explicit information about safer sex. The format of the book assists readability, and the index offers easy access to specific information. (Age 12 and older)

Mansfield, Sue and Mary Bowen Hall. **SOME REASONS FOR WAR; HOW FAMILIES, MYTHS AND WARFARE ARE CONNECTED.** Thomas Y. Crowell. 218 pages. (0-690-04666-9) \$13.89

Theories based on human psychology as to why wars have been waged throughout history challenge young teenagers to look at contemporary popular culture; historical roles of men and women in various societies; and research concerning parallels between certain types of war and family structures. The provocative, unusual book is a thoroughly documented introduction to a complex question. (Age 14-adult)

See also: *Faithful Elephants; Not My Family; Paper Knife; Rescue; Somehow Tenderness Survives; Thief in the Village; Winnie Mandela*

7 UNDERSTANDING ONESELF AND OTHERS

Banish, Roslyn. **LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY BABY.** Harper & Row, 1988. 61 pages. (0-06-020383-8; pbk. 0-06-446084-3) \$12.89, \$3.95

Black-and-white photographs document a preschooler's anticipation of the birth of a baby as well as his honest responses to his new brother's presence. First published by a small,

independent press, the book offers a marvelous first-person perspective on human birth and on becoming a sibling. (Preschool)

Brown, Fern G. **TEEN GUIDE TO CHILDBIRTH**. U.S. edition: Franklin Watts. 62 pages. (0-531-10573-3) \$11.90

Beginning with what a woman needs to consider and plan for in the last months of pregnancy, the author writes directly and constructively about the details of upcoming experiences, explaining options if they exist (type of childbirth class; hospital vs. birthing center; types of birth; physical changes after birth). The sentences are short and very easy to read. Color photographs show young women and men from several racial/ethnic backgrounds. A glossary and index are included. (Age 14 and older)

Joose, Barbara M. **BETTER WITH TWO**. Illustrated by Catherine Stock. Harper & Row. 33 pages. (0-06-023077-0) \$11.89

Occasionally Laura joins a neighbor and her dog Max for tea, or "elevenes" as Mrs. Brady calls her daily routine. The day after Mrs. Brady's dog dies, Laura finds a way to extend an expression of the comfort she experienced from her mother's sympathy. (Ages 3-6)

Kuklin, Susan. **WHEN I SEE MY DENTIST . . .** Bradbury. 28 pages. (0-02-751231-2) \$12.95

Four-year-old Erica's regular visit to the dentist is pictured in color photographs with special attention to explanations of instruments and equipment used in her check-up. (Ages 3-7)

———. **WHEN I SEE MY DOCTOR . . .** Bradbury. 28 pages. (0-02-751232-0) \$12.95

Four-year-old Thomas' routine checkup is documented in simple words and color photographs. Thomas is Asian although his mother is white. (Ages 3-7)

Lindgren, Astrid. **I WANT A BROTHER OR SISTER**. Translated from Swedish by Eric Bibb. Illustrated by Ilon Wikland. R&S/distributed in the U.S. by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 32 pages. (91-29-58778-6) \$10.95

Peter wants a brother or sister, but after Lena is born, his natural feelings become ambiguous. Details concerning sibling rivalry and increasing toddler maturity are seen as both similar to and different from those in U.S. children's picture books. (Ages 3-6)

Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. **ALWAYS GRAMMA**. Illustrated by Kimanne Uhler. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 29 pages. (0-399-21542-5) \$13.95

A grandchild is bewildered by increasingly frequent episodes in which Gramma seems confused and Grampap is worried. It becomes difficult for everyone involved to reconcile Gramma's increasing dependence with her formerly independent life. The child learns to make nursing home visits and to incorporate memories of her active Gramma within her own life. (Ages 4-8)

Rogers, Fred. **WHEN A PET DIES**. Photographs by Jim Judkis. (First Experiences) G.P. Putnam's Sons. 30 pages. (0-399-21504-2; pbk. 0-399-21529-8) \$12.95; \$4.95

Encouraged to create family discussion, this straightforward, caring approach to handling the death of a pet offers facts about death and empathy regarding feelings. Color photographs show preschoolers handling this experience. (Preschool-age 7)

Rosenberg, Maxine B. **NOT MY FAMILY; SHARING THE TRUTH ABOUT ALCOHOLISM**. Bradbury. 97 pages. (0-02-777911-4) \$12.95

Eight children (age twelve and under) and six adults talk about their experiences with dependency on alcohol. First-person narratives indicate something of the wide range of family circumstances in which alcoholism can occur. An index, a list of sources of help and a bibliography add to the book's usefulness. (Age 8—adult)

Talbert, Marc. **THE PAPER KNIFE**. Dial. 184 pages. (0-8037-0571-9) \$14.95

Jeremy and his mother flee to another community, hoping they can put her boyfriend George's physical abuse of her behind them. Jeremy's mother has no idea that George has

been sexually abusing her son. While staying with George's parents, Jeremy and his mother try to start over. The complex impacts of abuse, guilt and rumor unfold, chaotically out of control. Substantial information young people should know about safety and support is conveyed within the story by a teacher directly affected by the events. Jeremy's friendship with classmate Harriet adds a lighter touch to an otherwise serious book. (Ages 8-13)

Thomas, Jane Resh. SAYING GOOD-BYE TO GRANDMA. Illustrated by Marcia Sewall. Clarion. 48 pages. (0-89919-645-4) \$13.95

A fictionalized account of the rituals surrounding an elder's death involves the hectic gathering of the extended family, ambiguous responses to the funeral home visitation, church memorial service, cemetery interment, and reception for friends and family. Many of the emotions during such an experience are honestly and deftly detailed in the child's first-person narrative and reflected in pastel illustrations suggesting reminiscence. (Ages 4-9)

See also: *Lynda Madaras Talks To Teens About AIDS; Redbird*

8 ARTS

Fleischman, Paul. RONDO IN C. Illustrated by Janet Wentworth. A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 26 pages. (0-06-021857-6) \$13.89

The mental images evoked by individual listeners to a girl's piano rendition of Beethoven's "Rondo in C" express ways music can stimulate imagination. (Ages 5-10)

Hewett, Joan. ON CAMERA; THE STORY OF A CHILD ACTOR. Photographs by Richard Hewett. Clarion. 56 pages. (0-89919-469-9) \$13.95.

The eight-year-old actor who played the role Keith in the TV special "The Mouse and the Motorcycle" is shown working on commercials and auditioning for other jobs while balancing school and family life, too. Black-and-white photographs document the photo-essay showing off-camera aspects of television acting. (Ages 6-11)

Mayers, Florence Cassen. ABC EGYPTIAN ART FROM THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM. Harry N. Abrams. 32 pages. (0-8109-0888-3)

Forty-one museum objects from ancient Egypt are shown in color photographs briefly explained in a carefully documented book 14" tall and 4³/₄" wide. The book is part of series using the collections of particular museums to illustrate the ABCs. (Age 3 and older)

Rosenberg, Maxine B. ARTISTS OF HANDCRAFTED FURNITURE AT WORK. Photographs by George Ancona. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 64 pages. (0-688-06875-8) \$14.95

Four contemporary people, their designs and finished works are shown in color photographs accompanied by a short text telling about their inclinations and interests as children, ways in which their observations nourish their artistry and specifics concerning working with wood. An inspiring glimpse of influences and individuals involved in an art form about which little information is available. (Ages 7-14)

Rylant, Cynthia. ALL I SEE. Illustrated by Peter Catalanotto. Orchard. 32 pages. (0-531-08377-2) \$14.95

Young Charlie observes the painter Gregory working at his easel near the lake each day. Charlie is surprised to discover what Gregory is painting. The boy becomes the artist's protégé, also painting whatever he sees. A picture book tribute to creativity. (Ages 5-12)

Sills, Leslie. *INSPIRATIONS; STORIES ABOUT WOMEN ARTISTS.*

Albert Whitman, 1989. 56 pages. (0-8075-3649-0) \$16.95

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

See also: *AFRO-BETS Book of Black Heroes; And Still We Rise; Incredible Painting of Felix Clousseau; Little by Little; Lulu and the Flying Babies; Marian Anderson; One Light, One Sun; Our Prairie Home; Starting From Home*

9 POETRY

Adoff, Arnold. *FLAMBOYAN.* Illustrated by Karen Barbour. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 32 pages. (0-15-228404-4) \$14.95

"... Flamboyant sits under her favorite tree,/her flame tree . . . The red and orange flowers,/ flame flowers,/move in the warm breezes/above her head./This is the best shade. And always under this umbrella is a new world . . ." Culebra Island, Puerto Rico, is the setting for a unrhymed long poem about a child born in and of the island and named after the flame tree outside the window of her room. The bright reds, intense pinks, piercing blues and lush greens of Barbour's paintings perfectly extend Adoff's tribute to a people, a living style and a place and transform the imaginative text into a sophisticated, unusual picture book. (Ages 6-9)

Fields, Julia. *THE GREEN LION OF ZION STREET.* Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Margaret K. McElderry Books. 27 pages. (0-689-50414-4) \$13.95.

A group of African-American children, bored with waiting for a bus on a cold winter day, delight themselves with mock terror as they imagine a lion statue has come to life. Fields' free-form poem, written in Black English, is full of creative, childlike imagery: "in weather ten times colder than a rollerskate." Pinkney's pencil-and-watercolor paintings capture the exuberant spirit of the children's imaginative play. (Ages 4-9)

Fleischman, Paul. *JOYFUL NOISE; POEMS FOR TWO VOICES.* Illustrated by Eric Beddows. A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 44 pages. (0-06-021853-3) \$11.89

A companion volume to *I AM PHOENIX* (1985) presents 14 more two voice/choral group poems offering alliteration and image, humor and pathos, fact and reflection. The poems all concern insects from grasshopper and digger wasp to book lice and mayflies. The participatory possibilities are entertaining and challenging. The poems need to be heard to be fully appreciated. (Age 9-adult)

Greenfield, Eloise. *UNDER THE SUNDAY TREE.* Paintings by Mr. Amos Ferguson. Harper & Row. 38 pages. (0-06-022257-3) \$12.95

Twenty short, reflective poems accompany twenty paintings reproduced in full color which echo aspects of life in the Bahamas. (Ages 5-14)

Hughes, Shirley. *OUT AND ABOUT.* U.S. Edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 46 pages. (0-688-07691-2)

Eighteen original poems abundantly illustrated in full color represent young children playing in all types of weather during each of the seasons. Four double-page spreads suggest a

panorama of seasonal neighborhood activities. As always, Hughes excels at portraying toddlers acting their ages and people from diverse ethnic backgrounds and generations. (Ages 3-8)

Janeczko, Paul B., selector. **THE MUSIC OF WHAT HAPPENS; POEMS THAT TELL STORIES.** A Richard Jackson Book/Orchard. 188 pages. (0-531-08357-8) \$14.95
Seventy-five poems, some short and others long, represent the works of contemporary poets such as Robert Crum ("The Bat in the Bedroom"); George Ella Lyon ("The Courtship" and "Progress"); and Erika Mumford ("The White Rose"). A superior collection. (Age 14-adult)

Knudson, R.R. and May Swenson, selectors. **AMERICAN SPORTS POEMS.** Orchard. 206 pages. (0-531-08353-5) \$14.95
The subjects range from baseball to fishing and from skateboarding to being a spectator in over 150 poems by poets such as Damon Runyon, Delmore Schwartz, Lucille Clifton, E.B. White, Maxine Kumin, Arnold Adoff, Marge Piercy, Wallace Stevens and Muhammad Ali. (Age 12-adult)

Larrick, Nancy, compiler. **CATS ARE CATS.** Illustrated by Ed Young. Philomel Books. 80 pages. (0-399-21517-4) \$17.95
The compiler's selection of 42 fine cat poems and the artist's elegantly rendered charcoal and pastel cat illustrations handsomely reproduced on brown pages combine to create a distinctive book of excellent poetry on a popular subject. (Ages 4-14)

Little, Lessie Jones. **CHILDREN OF LONG AGO.** Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Philomel. 31 pages. (0-399-21473-9) \$13.95
The late Lessie Jones Little, the mother of poet and fiction writer Eloise Greenfield, was born in North Carolina in 1906. The 17 poems published here evoke images of the rural African-American family life of Ms. Little's younger years, as do the full-color illustrations which fill all the double-page spreads. (Ages 3-9)

Livingston, Myra Cohn, editor. **POEMS FOR MOTHERS.** Illustrated by Deborah Kogan Ray. Holiday House. 32 pages. (0-8234-0678-4) \$12.95
Twenty poems from several cultures include works by Lucille Clifton, Sam Cornish, Alonzo Lopez, Julia Fields and Emanuel di Pasquale. The illustrations are reproduced in black, browns and blues, suggesting a wide variety of contemporary individual living styles, families, homes and activities. (Ages 5-12)

Morrison, Lillian, selector. **RHYTHM ROAD; POEMS TO MOVE TO.** Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 148 pages. (0-688-07098-1) \$11.95
Ninety-four poems organized into ten sections concern themes such as dance, music, living things, sports and active entertainments. The poems range from the traditional "This Old Hammer" to Maya Angelou's "Times-Square-Shoeshine-Composition" and James Dickey's football poem "In the Pocket." This is a first-class anthology. (Ages 10-16)

Plotz, Helen, editor. **WEEK OF LULLABIES.** Illustrated by Marisabina Russo. Greenwillow. 30 pages. (0-688-06653-4)
Two poems and two full-color paintings designate each day of the week. The poets include Nikki Giovanni and Gwendolyn Brooks. Some of the paintings depict families of color. (Babies-age 4)

Siebert, Diane. **MOJAVE.** Paintings by Wendell Minor. Thomas Y. Crowell. 28 pages. (0-690-04569-7) \$13.89
The splendor of this desert's expanses, inhabitants and colors is expressed and celebrated in magnificent full-color paintings accompanied by untitled first-person poems. (Ages 7-12)

Swann, Brian. **BASKET FULL OF WHITE EGGS; RIDDLE POEMS.** Illustrated by Ponder Goemmel. Orchard. 31 pages. (00-531-08334-9) \$14.95

Fifteen original, brief riddles arranged in a morning to night cycle are drawn from sources such as Saudi Arabia, Yucatan, Alaska, the Philippines and the traditions of the Yoruba. Subtle visual clues are found in the striking full-color paintings illustrating each riddle. All sources are fully documented. (Ages 5-9)

See also: *Birches; Block City; Casey at the Bat; Listen to the Rain; Sing a Song of Popcorn; Voyages*

10 BIOGRAPHY

Gillies, John. **SEÑOR ALCALDE; A BIOGRAPHY OF HENRY CISNEROS.** (A People in Focus Book) Dillon. 127 pages. (0-87518-374-3) \$11.95

A concise biography of the Mexican American mayor of San Antonio shows him as dynamic, determined and ambitious. The author's research was based on personal interviews with Cisneros and his family, as well as secondary sources. Thirty-five black-and-white photographs accompany the clearly written text. (Ages 9-14)

Hamilton, Virginia. **ANTHONY BURNS; THE DEFEAT AND TRIUMPH OF A FUGITIVE SLAVE.** Alfred A. Knopf. 193 pages. (0-394-98185-5) \$11.95.

Two kinds of historical reconstruction are interwoven in a carefully written account of Anthony Burns' 1854 Boston trial based on the controversial federal Fugitive Slave Act. Documented from primary sources, the biographical portions concerning Burns' imprisonment and trial are interspersed with innovative fictional segments illuminating his youth as an enslaved child in Virginia. Source notes, a list of persons in the book, excerpts from the Fugitive Slave Act and the author's comments further increase the value of this unique book. Honor Book, 1988 CCBC Newbery Discussion. (Age 12 and older)

Haskins, Jim. **WINNIE MANDELA; LIFE OF STRUGGLE.** G.P. Putnam's Sons. 171 pages. (0-399-21515-8) \$14.95

A hard-hitting account of the childhood, education and adult activism of this South African anti-apartheid leader is drawn by necessity from secondary sources and from her autobiography. (Age 11 and older)

Hudson, Wade and Valerie Wilson Wesley. **AFRO-BETS BOOK OF BLACK HEROES FROM A-Z; AN INTRODUCTION TO IMPORTANT BLACK ACHIEVERS FOR YOUNG READERS.** Just Us Books (301 Main St., Suite 22-24, Orange, NJ 07050). 54 pages. (pbk. 0-940975-02-5) \$7.95

Fifty-one contemporary and historical Black men and women are each featured in a one-page format which includes a black-and-white photograph or drawing of the person, life date(s), birthplace, a summary phrase, an AFRO-BETS Kids re-enactment of the person's last name, a standard spelling of the full name and several brief easy-to-read paragraphs describing accomplishments. Mary McLeod Bethune, Matthew Henson, Jesse Jackson, Zora Neale Hurston, Thurgood Marshall, Kwame Nkrumah, Wilma Rudolph, Sojourner Truth, Leslie Uggams and Shaka Zulu are among the leaders represented. (Ages 5-11)

Little, Jean. **LITTLE BY LITTLE.** U.S. edition: Viking Kestrel. 233 pages. (0-670-81649-3) \$11.95

The Canadian novelist writes about her childhood and adolescence, detailing the physical and social impacts of her visual impairment in ways child readers can comprehend. This is

an autobiographical portrait of a determined creative person who integrates her disappointments with her satisfactions. Utilizing dialogue and a snappy pace effectively, the author's observations on human nature and on her own development as a writer are equally valuable. (Ages 9-14)

Lauber, Patricia. **LOST STAR; THE STORY OF AMELIA EARHART.**

Scholastic/Hardcover. 106 pages. (0-590-41615-4) \$10.95

Short chapters span the childhood, eventful adult life and ultimate disappearance of the famous pilot. Black-and-white photographs accompany the brief chapters. A list of books for further reading includes Earhart's autobiographical writings. (Ages 9-14)

Meltzer, Milton. **STARTING FROM HOME; A WRITER'S BEGINNINGS.**

Viking Kestrel. 145 pages. (0-670-81604-3) \$13.95

Meltzer's candid memoir of his childhood and youth is filled with details of urban life in the eastern United States in the 1920s and 1930s, as well as an awareness of the role family, friends, teachers and literature played in influencing his development as a writer. Photographs of Meltzer as a child, Babe Ruth, Lindbergh, a Cracker Jack box, etc., are set in scrapbook-like format to open each chapter. (Ages 11-14)

Patterson, Charles. **MARIAN ANDERSON.** (An Impact Book) Franklin Watts.

159 pages. (0-531-10568-7) \$12.90

From the time she was a small girl in Philadelphia, Marian Anderson was recognized as a gifted singer by people who had heard her. With the enthusiastic support of family and friends, she managed to rise above both poverty and racism to achieve fame doing what she liked to do best—singing. An engaging, readable biography traces the path of Anderson's success, first locally then to Scandanavia, to France and England, and finally back to her native country, the U.S.A. (Age 12 and older)

Reynolds, Barbara. **AND STILL WE RISE; INTERVIEWS WITH 50 BLACK ROLE MODELS.** USA TODAY Books. 216 pages. (pbk. 0-944347-02-9) \$14.95

An alphabetically organized collection of 50 newspaper columns offers a wide range of contemporary role models from the national child advocacy of Marion Wright Edelman and church leadership of Bishop Leontine Kelly to governmental leadership of Walter Fauntroy and contributions of medical doctor David Satcher. Achievers are profiled through a one-paragraph impression, two pages of questions and answers, a biographical chronology and a black-and-white photograph. Entertainment figures and athletes are included in balance with male and female representatives from many professions and businesses. (Age 9 and older)

Stanley, Diane and Peter Vennema. **SHAKA; KING OF THE ZULUS.** Illustrated by Diane Stanley. William Morrow. 40 pages. (0-688-07343-3)

A full-color picture-book account of the 19th century Zulu chief contains detailed visual information, a glossary and sources list. Although only a glimpse of the full measure of Shaka's power can be communicated here, readers will begin to realize the scope of this famous Zulu leader's deeds. (Ages 5-11)

See also: *Inspirations; Touch Wood*

11 FOLKLORE, MYTHOLOGY AND TRADITIONAL LITERATURE

Bierhorst, John. **THE MYTHOLOGY OF SOUTH AMERICA.** William Morrow.

269 pages. (0-688-06722-0) \$15.95

A comprehensive study of the elements found in the mythologies of the native peoples of South America draws on an extensive list of source materials. Bierhorst has divided the

continent into seven regions based on distinctive ethnic groups, allowing for a fascinating cross-cultural analysis of differences and similarities. Maps and black-and-white photographs of native art and artifacts illustrate an unparalleled work which is at once scholarly and readable. (Age 14 and older)

Bryan, Ashley. **SH-KO AND HIS EIGHT WICKED BROTHERS.** Illustrated by Fumio Yoshimura. Atheneum. 26 pages. (0-689-31446-9)

A rabbit tricked by Sh-Ko's eight vain older brothers repays the kindnesses of the youngest son. This old Japanese folktale was remembered from his youth by the artist, who now lives in the U.S.A. Traditional Japanese lines, figures and uses of space are utilized in the illustrations. The language and style of the tale rings with dialogue easy on the ear. (Ages 5-9)

Cohen, Caron Lee. **MUD PONY; A TRADITIONAL SKIDI PAWNEE TALE.** Illustrated by Shonto Begay. Scholastic/Hardcover. 30 pages. (0-590-41525-5) \$12.95

A boy-hero tale from a specific Plains Indian cultural group tells of a child whose inner strength gains him a real pony and guidance from Mother Earth throughout the passing years until he becomes a chief. Muted blues, browns and golds predominate in a full-color picture-book tale illustrated by a Navajo artist. (Ages 5-9)

Geisert, Arthur. **THE ARK.** Houghton Mifflin. 48 pages. (0-395-43078-X) \$15.95

The story of Noah and the flood is retold and newly envisioned here with subtle humor. Many wordless stories unfold as Geisert shows the creatures acting normally within their confined quarters while also showing the considerable human ingenuity to accomplish the watering, feeding and cleaning up the pairs require. Handsome printing in two colors on 9¼" x 12¼" pages also distinguishes the rendition of the old tale. (Ages 2-8)

Ginsburg, Mirra. **THE CHINESE MIRROR; A KOREAN FOLKTALE.** Illustrated by Margot Zemach. Gulliver Books/Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 30 pages. (0-15-200420-3) \$14.95

A Korean villager brings a mysterious object from China, causing an uproar for the individuals who, one after the other, each see in it someone to blame. The full-color illustrations are paintings reproduced on creamy, heavy paper stock and inspired by 18th century Korean-genre painters. (Ages 5-8)

Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm. **THE BREMEN TOWN MUSICIANS.** Illustrated by Josef Paleček. Translated from German by Anthea Bell. U.S. edition: Picture Book Studio. 31 pages. (0-88708-071-5) \$13.95

A sprightly, colorful tale of four animal friends who outwit robbers features characters setting out to play musical instruments in the Bremen Band. This original twist on an old tale is shown in humorous large and small illustrations adeptly placed on the pages. (Ages 4-8)

Grimm, Wilhelm. **DEAR MILI.** Illustrated by Maurice Sendak. Translated from German by Ralph Manheim. Michael di Capua Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 40 pages. (0-374-31762-3) \$16.95

In 1816, Wilhelm Grimm wrote a letter to a young girl, telling her a tale which remained undiscovered until 1983. Sendak's images develop the tale as an allegory with Holocaust references. Multiple visual meanings add depth without intruding upon little Mili's wartime journey to be with Saint Joseph in Paradise before she returns to her mother. A landmark book. (Age 7-adult)

Hamilton, Virginia. **IN THE BEGINNING; CREATION STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD.** Illustrated by Barry Moser. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 157 pages. (0-15-238740-4) \$18.95

Hamilton's extraordinary skill in retelling each of 24 creation myths "on a level of understanding for many readers" while still retaining each account's cultural specificity results in

an entertaining and enlightening anthology. Working with a theme which can be highly sensitive on several levels, Hamilton's succinct interpretative comments follow each account of how humans around the globe envision their world's creation. Moser's 42 paintings complement the tales' wonder and mystery and are reproduced in full color. The overall book design, typography and page layouts as well as the author's opening and closing notes and sources list contribute to the success of a stunning volume. (Age 9-adult)

Kimmel, Eric A. **ANANSI AND THE MOSS-COVERED ROCK**. Illustrated by Janet Stevens. Holiday House. 32 pages. (0-8234-0689-X) \$13.95

A marvelously paced Anansi tale involves the West African spider trickster's success in fooling Lion, Elephant, Giraffe and Zebra, but not Little Bush Deer! The bold, bright illustrations are especially effective in a group setting. (Ages 5-8)

Lattimore, Deborah Nourse. **THE PRINCE AND THE GOLDEN AX; A MINOAN TALE**. Harper & Row. 40 pages. (0-06-023716-3) \$12.89

When challenged by the goddess Diktyinna, the proud prince Akros first receives rewards but finally goes beyond the limits with his boasting. Minoan ruins include a statue of a goddess and a double-bladed ax referring to this early Greek myth. Full-color paintings contain cultural details. (Ages 4-8)

Lester, Julius. **MORE TALES OF UNCLE REMUS**. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Dial. 138 pages. (0-8037-0420-8) \$14.89

Thirty-seven tales comprise Lester's second volume of the Brer Rabbit tales first created by enslaved African-American people and now retold by a master storyteller and scholar using a modern idiom. In Lester's introduction, he comments upon widely held assumptions about the tales; he discusses why they hold such appeal today; and he interprets the role of Trickster in many cultures. The introduction is important in and of itself. Jerry Pinkney's full-color and black-and-white illustrations underscore the playful aspects of the collection. (Ages 4-12)

Lewis, Richard. **IN THE NIGHT, STILL DARK**. Illustrated by Ed Young. Atheneum, 1988. 32 pages. (0-689-31310-1) \$13.95

A Hawaiian creation chant, the Kumulipo, was once sung to bond a newborn to all other living creatures. A brief abridged excerpt appears in a negative or white typeface on glossy black pages illustrated with glowing images of evolving life forms. Honor Book, 1988 CCBC Caldecott Discussion. (All ages)

Marshall, James, reteller and illustrator. **GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS**. Dial. 31 pages. (0-8037-0543-3) \$10.89.

Ink and watercolor paintings show a bold Goldilocks doing exactly what she pleases when she tries out the porridge, chairs and beds of a bicycle-riding bear family. "I don't mind if I do" and "Patooiel!" are two of her favorite phrases. This madcap main character is pictured in an early 20th century setting. Marshall's fun-filled narrative matches the exuberance of his art. (Ages 3-7)

Moore, Inga. **FIFTY RED NIGHT-CAPS**. U.S. edition: Chronicle Books. 24 pages. (0-87701-520-1) \$12.95

Nico sets off down the hills and through the forest with the nightcaps his nan knitted, stopping to rest without noticing the monkeys nearby. They notice the nightcaps, however, taking them while Nico sleeps. The boy learns something about monkeys that day, and he sells all the caps at the market, too. Marvelous uses of color and page layouts distinguish a South American version of an old tale. (Ages 3-7)

Opie, Iona, compiler. **TAIL FEATHERS FROM MOTHER GOOSE**. U.S. edition: Little, Brown. 124 pages. (0-316-65081-1) \$19.95

The Opie Collection of Children's Literature to be established in Oxford, England, is the beneficiary of this collaborative project containing a double page spread from each of 60

children's book artists whose illustrations for previously unpublished rhymes appear in this unique book. The Who's Who of mostly British artists include Shirley Hughes, Jan Ormerod, Anthony Browne and John Burningham. (Ages 3-6)

Paxton, Tom, reteller. **AESOP'S FABLES**. Illustrated by Robert Rayevsky. William Morrow. 35 pages. (0-688-07361-1) \$12.95

Ten of Aesop's fables are recast in verse by a prominent musician and illustrated in full color. Carefully crafted, light-spirited renditions of animal personifications masterfully display human foibles. (Ages 4-8)

Snyder, Dianne. **THE BOY OF THE THREE-YEAR NAP**. Illustrated by Allen Say. Houghton, Mifflin. 32 pages. (0-395-44090-4) \$14.95

Beautifully rendered paintings show both Japanese tradition and contemporary innovation in visually representing the brief tale of a mother's years of efforts to reform the habits of her lazy son. The artist was born in Yokohama and the reteller also spent some of her childhood in Japan; both now live in the U.S.A. (Ages 5-9)

Treize, Percy and Dick Roughsey. **GIDJA THE MOON**. U.S. edition: Gareth Stevens. 32 pages. (1-55532-948-9) \$11.25

———. **TURRAMULLI THE GIANT QUINKIN**. Gareth Stevens. 32 pages. (1-55532-947-0) \$11.25

Two myths of the Stone Age people of the continent now called Australia are briefly retold and illustrated by Dick Roughsey and his collaborator Percy Treize. The paintings illustrating each suggest the red earth, red-orange sunset sky, blue mountains and white gum trees of Australia. The Gidja tale involves a moon myth, while Turramulli is a monster story. (Ages 7-10)

Troughton, Joanna, reteller and illustrator. **THE QUAIL'S EGG; A FOLK TALE FROM SRI LANKA**. (Folk Tales of the World) U.S. edition: Peter Bedrick Books. 28 pages. (0-87226-185-9) \$12.95

A mother quail seeks help in getting her egg from a rock crevice. She asks a stone mason, pig, thorny creeper, fire, water pool, elephant and a mouse before finding a cat who will help her. A cumulative tale with a Sri Lankan background will remind readers who are familiar with it of other variants, including British and Jewish versions. (Ages 4-9)

Vivas, Julie, illustrator. **THE NATIVITY**. U.S. edition: Gulliver/Harcourt. 34 pages. (0-15-200535-8) \$13.95

An angel with ragged wings and unlaced boots crash lands into a tree when arriving to share food and news at table with a young woman of material poverty. So begins this joyously illustrated accompaniment to the standard King James Bible text typically referred to as "The Christmas Story." An Australian award-winning picture edition juxtaposes visual contradictions and surprises with familiar phrases. The artist's ingenious use of space and watercolors suggests the rural simplicity of the shepherds, the relative youth of a visibly pregnant Mary, the difficult trip Joseph guided to a truly crowded Bethlehem and the wonder of all at the miracle of the Birth. (All ages)

Zemach, Margot. **THE THREE LITTLE PIGS; AN OLD STORY**. Michael di Capua Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 28 pages. (0-374-37527-5) \$12.95

A humorous yet tough-spirited version of a familiar tale begins on the title page. Zemach's watercolors picture each pig distinctly from the beginning, excelling in character development and visual action. (Ages 3-7)

See also: Dawn Palace; Gold and Silver, Silver and Gold; Lion and the Puppy; A Promise is a Promise

12 BOOKS FOR BABIES

DePaola, Tomie. *BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS*. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 12 pages. (0-399-21591-3) \$4.95

Stiff board 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 7" pages picture familiar Christmas objects in full color: window candle, decorative holly, mantle manger scene, tree ornaments, stockings and cut-out cookies. Short sentences and questions invite participation. (Ages 6 months-3 years)

Miranda, Anne. *BABY WALK*. Illustrated by Dorothy Scott. (A Lift-and-Look Flap Book) U.S. edition: E.P. Dutton. 14 pages. (0-525-44421-1) \$8.95

"Go out/Hands up/Go bump/Big push . . ." indicate the words on four heavy stock pages that show a toddler and family eating breakfast (window can be opened); getting dressed (shirt is put on); giving the stuffed animal a stroller ride outside (curbside bump spills the toy); and being pushed on a baby swing (flap shows swing moving). (Ages 1-3)

Step toe, John. *BABY SAYS*. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 23 pages. (0-688-07424-3) \$9.95

A toddler continually drops a toy for an older brother to pick up. The two African-American siblings play side-by-side in an almost wordless scenario. The baby uses simple verbal expressions while learning to communicate. (Ages 1-3)

See also: *In the Night, Still Dark; One Light, One Sun; Week of Lullabies*

13 CONCEPT BOOKS

Giganti, Paul, Jr. *HOW MANY SNAILS? A COUNTING BOOK*. Illustrated by Donald Crews. Greenwillow. 28 pages. (0-688-06370-5) \$11.88

Precision in language use as well as in the counting of details is encouraged by questions such as ". . . how many clouds were big and fluffy? . . . big and fluffy and gray?" Color and pattern recognition, and similarity and difference can also be explored as children examine ten categories of brightly colored objects designed on double-page spreads especially for these purposes. (Ages 2-7)

Serfozo, Mary. *WHO SAID RED?* Illustrated by Keiko Narahashi. Margaret K. McElderry Books. 26 pages. (0-689-50455-1) \$12.95

A preschooler with Asian features expresses her ideas about red, green, blue and yellow by using examples: "cherry, berry, very red." As her younger companion repeats "I said red!", readers see the active two search a rural terrain for a red kite. Realistic detail and subtle movement from one visual idea to another characterize beautifully executed full-color watercolor spreads. (Ages 2-6)

See also: *ABC Egyptian Art; AFRO-BETS Book of Black Heroes A-Z; Planting a Rainbow; Sleepers; Wild Animals ABC*

14 PICTURE BOOKS

Agee, Jon. **THE INCREDIBLE PAINTING OF FELIX CLOUSSEAU.** Farrar Straus Giroux. 30 pages. (0-374-33633-4) \$13.95

An unknown artist achieves fame in Paris when it is discovered that his paintings come to life. His popularity is short-lived when paintings featuring such subjects as boas and volcanoes wreak havoc on the city. Agee's wry tone is evident throughout, particularly in the full-color illustrations which use a lot of heavy black line. (Ages 4-8)

Ahlberg, Janet and Allan. **STARTING SCHOOL.** U.S. edition: Viking Kestrel. 30 pages. (0-670-82175-6) \$11.95

Eight children's experiences are shown on their first and second school days, at the end of a week, after a while, and in December. Each child is always identifiable with parent(s) and in the classroom. Family backgrounds visible in the illustrations include Africa and Asia as well as India. A mixed-racial family is apparent throughout the tiny, full-color vignettes, several to a page. A full-page illustration shows the class Christmas pageant. Short, declarative sentences are printed in a large clear typeface. (Ages 2-6)

Allison, Diane Worfolk. **IN WINDOW EIGHT, THE MOON IS LATE.** Little, Brown. 28 pages. (0-316-03435-5) \$12.95

All through a busy, fun-filled summer day, Anna counts the sights she sees through the windows of her house. The light rhyming text is accompanied by full-color pastel paintings. (Ages 3-6)

Bang, Molly. **DELPHINE.** William Morrow. 26 pages. (0-688-05637-7) \$11.88

One visual surprise follows another in a colorful romp with mythic dimensions in the first-person story of a girl living in a pillared house on a mountain top with three companions: a wolf, a lion and a guinea pig. Delphine creates amazing conveyances as she braves self-imposed perils to pick up her grandmother's present at the valley post office. References to the oracle of Delphi, the sun god Apollo and the dolphins to which her name in Greek refers help to make Delphine and her robust revelry one of the most innovative books of the year. The fun of the fantasy will engage most children, while discovering the mythology can be a serendipitous bonus for older readers. (Ages 3-9)

Barton, Byron. **I WANT TO BE AN ASTRONAUT.** Thomas Y. Crowell. 32 pages. (0-690-04744-4) \$12.89

"I want to be an astronaut/a member of the crew/and fly on the shuttle/into outer-space . . ." proclaims the young female protagonist of this simple poetic story of high aspirations. Barton's bold figures of astronauts, shuttles, satellites and Planet Earth are set against a deep blue background suggesting the vastness of outer space. (Ages 3-6)

Bradman, Tony and Eileen Browne. **WAIT AND SEE.** U.S. edition: Oxford University Press. 27 pages. (0-19-520644-4) \$10.95

It's Saturday, and preschooler Jo goes out to the neighborhood shops with her mom. In a small vignette on each double page spread, readers will also follow the wordless picture story of her dad's lunch preparations at home. Pen-and-ink and watercolor images picture diverse people of all ages. Jo and her mom are Black, and her dad is white. The same family and neighborhood were featured in a similarly upbeat way in **THROUGH MY WINDOW** (1986). (Ages 3-7)

Caines, Jeannette. **I NEED A LUNCH BOX.** Pictures by Pat Cummings. Harper & Row. 33 pages. (0-060-20985-2) \$12.95

As a boy watches his sister Doris get a brand new lunch box, he thinks about all he could do if he had one, too. Cummings transforms an ordinary experience into a successful portrait of an African-American family and one child's strongly felt wish. (Ages 3-6)

- Cooney, Barbara. **ISLAND BOY**. Viking Kestrel. 30 pages. (0-670-81749-X) \$14.95
The youngest of twelve children in a family of settlers, Matthias grows up and grows old on a small island off the coast of New England. Cooney's luminous gouache paintings depict details of 19th century island life. (Ages 4-8)
- Cutler, Ivor. **HERBERT; FIVE STORIES**. Illustrations by Patrick Benson.
U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 44 pages. (0-688-08148-7) \$13.00
An imaginative boy is a chicken on Monday, an elephant the next day, then a Kangaroo and next a capybara. His mother and his teacher each acknowledge Herbert's daily make-believe, and so does his playmate Annie until the morning she becomes an anaconda! The straight-faced descriptions of Herbert's animal-appropriate meals add to the droll humor of the story as do the many full-color illustrations in this unusual and entertaining book. (Ages 5-8)
- Day, Alexandra. **FRANK AND ERNEST**. Scholastic/Hardcover. 36 pages.
(0-590-41557-3) \$12.95
As business partners, Frank and Ernest accept the challenge of managing a diner while the owner is gone. Because the bear and elephant duo use diner language, the human customers do not seem to notice the odd couple serving them. The story's invented diner lingo is continued on the endpapers encouraging readers to create other dialogue after the book ends: "Paint a bow-wow red . . . and I need a nervous pudding" = a hot dog with ketchup and a serving of jello! (Ages 6-10)
- Fleischman, Sid. **THE SCAREBIRD**. Pictures by Peter Sis. Greenwillow. 29 pages.
(0-688-07318-2) \$11.95
Lonesome John is content to live on his farm in solitude with only a scarecrow for company until the day a young man shows up, looking for work as a hired hand. A friendship develops slowly between the two in the understated story, illustrated with full-color oil paintings. (Ages 4-8)
- Fort, Patrick. **REDBIRD**. Translated from the French. (An Eyes on the Ends of Your Fingers Book) U.S. edition: Orchard. 16 pages. (0-531-05746-1) \$19.95
A small airplane in flight encounters a storm, wild ducks, a kite and another plane in an ingenious story with raised pictures that can be seen and felt. Text appears in both black type face and Braille. (Ages 3-9)
- Goffstein, Brooke. **OUR PRAIRIE HOME; A PICTURE ALBUM**. A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 26 pages. (0-06-022291-3) \$12.95
Two-inch wooden dolls carved by Goffstein in 1962 pose for full-color photographs in a dollhouse setting to create a unique photo album. A brief caption under each photograph describes the incident pictured, providing humor through the incongruity of a midwestern slice-of-life 40's melodrama and the inflexible woodenness of the dolls. (Age 6-adult)
- Gray, Nigel. **A BALLOON FOR GRANDAD**. Illustrated by Jane Ray. U.S. edition: Orchard. 32 pages. (0-531-08355-1) \$13.95
Sam's red and silver balloon blows on a breeze out the back door after lunch. His father helps the disappointed child imagine the balloon floating across the sea, the desert and a river to the island where his grandad Abdulla looks after his goats and date trees. The contemporary family appears to have a North African heritage. The full-color illustrations showing grandad Abdulla contain culturally and geographically specific details, although the picture story is a fantasy. (Ages 3-7)
- Greenfield, Eloise. **GRANDPA'S FACE**. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Philomel. 32 pages. (0-399-21525-5) \$13.95
Tamika's grandfather has an expressive face which can "ask a question without saying one word." One day she forgets he is a professional actor, thinking his stern face might be

directed at her. An upbeat glimpse of a three-generation urban African-American family. (Ages 4-8)

Haseley, Dennis. **MY FATHER DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THE WOODS AND ME.** Illustrated by Michael Hays. Atheneum. 32 pages. (0-689-31365-9) \$13.95

As he walks in the woods with his father a boy imagines he is the wolf, hawk, fish and antlered deer he glimpses in nature. He also finds that the closeness he feels to the creatures is shared by his father. Luminous full-color illustrations capture the essence of the text. (Ages 5-8)

Henkes, Kevin. **CHESTER'S WAY.** Greenwillow. 28 pages. (0-688-07608-4) \$11.95

Cautious friends Chester and Wilson are taken aback when rambunctious Lilly moves into the neighborhood. They gradually discover they have a few interests in common and can learn new ways to do things from each other, as the twosome becomes a threesome. Bright colors, droll humor and childlike animal characters distinguish a charming, wonderfully designed story of friendship. (Ages 3-7)

Hennessy, B.G. **THE DINOSAUR WHO LIVED IN MY BACKYARD.** Pictures by Susan Davis. Viking Kestrel. 29 pages. (0-670-81685-X) \$11.95

A child describes the attributes of his dinosaur friend, by drawing comparisons with familiar sights (eg. "By the time he was five he was as big as our car.") The more he talks, the clearer it becomes that the dinosaur he is talking about did live in his backyard--millions of years ago when his backyard was a swamp. Whimsical watercolor paintings provide the perfect blend of fantasy and reality in a fun story that's filled with comprehensible details for the youngest dinosaur enthusiasts. (Ages 3-7)

Howard, Elizabeth Fitzgerald. **TRAIN TO LULU'S.** Illustrated by Robert Casilla. Bradbury. 29 pages. (0-02-744620-4) \$13.95

In the 1930s two young African-American sisters take the train from Boston to Baltimore so that they can spend the summer with their grandmother Lulu. Furnished with everything they need for the trip, including crayons, books and boxed meals, the girls prove to be independent and self-reliant travelers, with caring adults responsible for them on both ends of the journey. All of the anticipation, boredom and excitement of their nine-hour trip is skillfully depicted in a first-person narrative and watercolor paintings. (Ages 4-8)

Isadora, Rachel. **PIRATES OF BEDFORD STREET.** Greenwillow. 29 pages. (0-688-05208-8) \$11.95

Still feeling the thrill of a pirate movie after a Saturday matinee, Joey makes up his own story which he illustrates all over neighborhood sidewalks and buildings with a piece of white chalk. Italicized typeface and childlike drawings in white tell the story going on in Joey's head, superimposed on glowing watercolor paintings of the real world of an earlier decade. (Ages 3-7)

James, Betsy. **WHAT'S THAT ROOM FOR?** E.P. Dutton. 30 pages. (0-525-44382-7) \$11.95

An active imaginative preschooler thinks of lots of things her bedroom is for, besides just picking up, as she plays at cleaning in the company of her baby brother. Full-color cartoon-like drawings show the high-spirited play of Natalie and the often co-opted Thomas. (Ages 2-4)

Johnston, Tony. **PAGES OF MUSIC.** Pictures by Tomie dePaola. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 28 pages. (0-399-21436-4) \$13.95

The shepherd's pipes Paolo heard as a boy on a Sardinian island inspire him as an adult composer to write beautiful music for the islanders. Brightly colored paintings illustrate the joyful story of giving. (Ages 4-8)

Johnston, Tony. *YONDER*. Pictures by Lloyd Bloom. Dial. 32 pages. (0-8037-0278-7) \$12.89

"Yonder is the farmer on a jet black horse./ Yonder are the hills that roll forever./ Yonder is the river that runs to sea./ Yonder. Way over yonder./ The continuity of life is beautifully expressed in a 9 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ " picture story spanning one man's lifetime. Full-color paintings show the ongoing generations, the seasons and trees planted to mark family events. (Ages 5-9)

Kalman, Maira. *HEY, WILLY, SEE THE PYRAMIDS*. Viking Kestrel. 32 pages. (0-670-82163-2) \$14.95

After the lights are out, a boy begs his big sister to tell a million stories and after brief negotiations, settles for five. His sister's stories are wild and short and filled with childlike non sequiturs. The accompanying full-color illustrations are equally wild, drawn in Kalman's weird, zany, wholly original style. (Ages 3-8)

Karlin, Bernie and Mati Karlin. *NIGHT RIDE*. Illustrations by Bernie Karlin. Simon and Schuster. 30 pages. (0-671-66733-5) \$12.95

The world looks different at night as Billy and his mother take a car trip that starts at dusk and ends at dawn. The bright colors of headlights, street lights and city lights contrast effectively with the dark hues of a nighttime landscape. (Ages 3-6)

Kasza, Keiko. *PIGS' PICNIC*. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 28 pages. (0-399-21543-3) \$13.95

Mr. Pig is so anxious to impress Miss Pig that, on his way to a picnic with her, he follows other animals' advice on spiffing himself up, making himself completely unrecognizable by the time he reaches Miss Pig's front door. Kasza's gentle humor plays throughout the story in her lively watercolor paintings. (Ages 3-6)

Khalsa, Dayal Kaur. *SLEEPERS*. U.S. edition: Clarkson Potter/Crown. 23 pages. (0-517-56917-5) \$7.95

A determinedly wide-awake little girl claiming "I can't sleep" names the ways people, animals and certain workers sleep or nap: on the living room couch, under the baby grand, in the fire house, etc. She then counts sheep—and falls asleep. A 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ " square book is illustrated with full-color paintings which, occasionally, intentionally suggest the works of other artists. Khalsa's unique visual humor may keep some sleepy adults awake and chuckling, but it never interferes with the focus of her wee book. (Ages 2-5)

———. *MY FAMILY VACATION*. U.S. edition: Clarkson Potter/Crown. 22 pages. (0-517-56697-4) \$12.95

May's family vacation starts at dawn on a snowy day in an earlier decade as the family heads south by car, stopping at hotels and tourist traps en route to Miami. Her childlike fascination with such souvenirs as sugar packets, miniature soaps and parrot feathers will strike a chord of recognition in children, as car trouble and backseat fighting will ring true to adults. Khalsa's brilliantly colored illustrations are perfectly suited to May's tropical paradise. (Ages 4-9)

Lindgren, Barbro. *A WORM'S TALE*. Translated by Dianne Jonasson. Pictures by Cecilia Torudd. R&S Books/U.S. distributed by Farrar Straus Giroux. 29 pages. (91-29-59068-X) \$12.95

When a lonely man named Arthur meets a personable talking worm the two become fast friends and soon, local celebrities. Charles the worm's endearing character is communicated largely through the lines of Torudd's amusing full-color illustrations. (Ages 3-6)

Loh, Morag. *TUCKING MOMMY IN*. Illustrated by Donna Rawlins. U.S. edition: Orchard. 31 pages. (0-531-08340-3) \$12.95

Bedtime activities usually involve Mommy's made-up story, but tonight Sue wants to tell one, causing her especially tired parent to fall asleep. Sue and Jenny help their mother get

undressed for bed, just as she usually assists them. When Daddy arrives, the girls are too sleepy for his story. An Australian writer from a multicultural family, who is interested in stories that reflect Australia's ethnic diversity, collaborated with an Australian illustrator in creating this glimpse of a loving family from an unspecified ethnic background. (Ages 3-6)

Lyon, David. **THE BIGGEST TRUCK**. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages. (0-688-05514-1) \$12.95

It's night. Everyone is turning out the lights and going to sleep except for Jim the truck driver, who's just getting up to start his work. Onomatopoeic words abound in a simple story which follows Jim on his nightly rounds. Bold full-color paintings show the highway, passing towns and truck stops at night. (Ages 2-5)

McKissack, Patricia. **MIRANDY AND BROTHER WIND**. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Alfred A. Knopf. 32 pages. (0-394-98765-9) \$12.95

Mirandy overlooks her obvious partner for her first cakewalk as she tries to find Brother Wind. Set in the rural South of the early 20th century, the exuberant story is full of humor and joy. The full-color illustrations offer an abundance of complementary details. The African-American origins of the cakewalk are explained in the author's brief autobiographical note. (Ages 4-8)

Martin, C.L.G. **THE DRAGON NANNY**. Illustrated by Robert Rayevsky. Macmillan. 29 pages. (0-02-762440-4) \$14.95

After being fired by the King, an elderly woman finds employment as a nanny to a dragon family, a job filled with such challenges as daily fire-breathing lessons. The marvelous absurdity of the tale is matched by Rayevsky's rich ink and watercolor paintings, filled with character and vitality. (Ages 4-8)

Mathers, Petra. **THEODOR AND MR. BALBINI**. Harper & Row. 30 pages. (0-06-024144-6) \$11.89

Life changes for Mr. Balbini the day his faithful mutt, Theodor, starts talking. The dog complains about every aspect of his master's quiet daily routine. Detailed full-color illustrations aptly characterize the unhappy pair in an original, off-beat story. (Ages 4-8)

Matura, Mustapha. **MOON JUMP**. Illustrated by Jane Gifford. U.S. edition: Alfred A. Knopf. (0-394-81976-4) \$9.95

Cayal loved to jump so much that one night he dreamed he and his teddy bear playmate jumped to the moon, played with the moon man and jumped back home. A lighthearted story shows an energetic child's carefree life and his happy dream. Visual details reveal space age images both in the fantasy and in the Middle Eastern child's down-to-earth personal world. (Ages 3-6)

Moore, Elaine. **GRANDMA'S PROMISE**. Pictures by Elise Primavera. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 29 pages. (0-688-06741-7) \$11.95

Although Kim has had many summer visits to her grandma's country home, this week after Christmas marks her first winter stay. Activities such as ice skating, feeding the birds and exploring the attic fill their days together while Kim basks in the cozy familiarity of Grandma's company. (Ages 4-8)

Munsch, Robert and Michael Kusugak. **A PROMISE IS A PROMISE**. Pictures by Vldyana Krykorka. Annick Press Ltd. (15 Patricia Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario, M2M 1H9 Canada) 28 pages. (pbk. 1-55037-008-1) \$4.95

Allashua fishes under the sea ice, despite her mother's warning about the legendary Qal-lupilluit. An engaging story involves a contemporary family and creatures from Inuit folk tradition. (Ages 4-8)

Nerlove, Miriam. *I MEANT TO CLEAN MY ROOM TODAY*. Margaret K. McElderry Books. 26 pages. (0-689-50438-1) \$12.95

A young girl gives a dozen two-line rhymed excuses for not getting her room cleaned, all involving animals and a big imagination. Each couplet is accompanied by a full-color illustration depicting her various predicaments. (Ages 3-6)

Nunes, Susan. *COYOTE DREAMS*. Illustrated by Ronald Himler. Atheneum. 32 pages. (0-689-31398-5) \$13.95

"... They come by night when the moon is full and city lights are far away.../Whisper their name the ancient way,/"Coyotl. Coyotl." A child imagines being at one with the desert creatures once inhabiting the desert stretches where now the family's suburban home and garden are. Delicately beautiful full-color paintings fill the whole pages picturing the child's dreams, while white borders frame moon-filled pages of the present time. (Ages 3-7)

Polacco, Patricia. *THE KEEPING QUILT*. Simon and Schuster. 29 pages. (0-671-64963-9) \$14.95

Four generations in a Jewish immigrant family use the same fabric. First it's a babushka, then a quilt border, picnic throw, wedding canopy, baptismal wrap, tablecloth, pretend cape, comforter, etc. The red print fabric stands out on each page amidst brown tone drawings showing families in all stages of life, observance and celebration. (Ages 4-9)

Schwartz, Amy. *ANNABELLE SWIFT, KINDERGARTNER*. Orchard. 28 pages. (0-531-08337-3) \$12.95

A crisp, humorous, original twist to first-day-of-school stories begins with older sister Lucy's rigorous training of Annabelle: "This is the world... This is not red... a nickel's worth five pennies..." A male kindergarten teacher and an interesting conception of an elementary school environment create interest but Annabelle herself is the best part of a terrific story, wonderfully illustrated and designed. (Ages 3-6)

Simmonds, Posy. *LULU AND THE FLYING BABIES*. U.S. edition: Alfred A. Knopf. 21 pages. (0-394-89597-5) \$9.95

Unruly Lulu, made to sit on the sidelines during a museum visit, is joined by two cherubim (escapees from a Baroque painting) who take her on a flying tour through several museum paintings. In contrast to the paintings, Lulu's amusing fantasy story is told in comic book format. (Ages 4-7)

Steig, William. *SPINKY SULKS*. Farrar Straus Giroux. 28 pages. (0-374-38321-9) \$13.95

Nothing pleases Spinky, the youngest child in a family of six—not even the clown his parents hired to cheer him up. It is only after he has had some time to himself to think the situation over that he manages to snap out of his sulky state. Exaggeration and the permanent scowl on Spinky's face provide much of the story's humor. (Ages 3-7)

Stolz, Mary. *STORM IN THE NIGHT*. Illustrated by Pat Cummings. Harper & Row. 30 pages. (0-06-025913-2) \$12.89

Grandfather's lively recollections about his own childhood fear of a storm occupies young Thomas' attention during an electrical power failure and helps Thomas to overcome his worries. A visual story-within-a-story assists readers with the flashbacks. Cummings' ability to challenge the eye with color and perspective is as effective as her portrayal of this African-American grandfather and grandson on a summer night in the rain-drenched neighborhood of their single family home. (Ages 4-8)

Thiele, Colin. *FARMER SCHULZ'S DUCKS*. Illustrated by Mary Milton. U.S. edition: Harper & Row. 32 pages. (0-06-026183-8) \$12.89

Every day the ducks on Farmer Schulz's busy farm walk to and from the Onkaparinga River, crossing a road and eluding predators. The increased traffic on the road requires

thinking about how to maintain the ducks' safety. Alas, the problem must be solved more than once. Rich language full of surprises and beautiful paintings of ducks distinguish the story. (Ages 4-8)

Zolotow, Charlotte. **SOMETHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN.** Illustrated by Catherine Stock. Harper & Row. 26 pages. (0-06-027029-2) \$12.89

A mother, father, boy and girl slowly awaken one morning, each feeling unidentified anticipation as they dress, eat breakfast and prepare for the day. Even the dog and cat expect a change. Skillfully integrated repetitive phrases with homey details utilize the senses and convey the security of daily family routines. The artist's watercolors suggest what the text implies, perfectly complementing the re-creation of the quiet drama of the first snowfall. (Ages 3-8)

See also: All I See; Always Gramma; Beaver at Long Pond; Beni's First Chanukah; Better With Two; Block City; Cassie's Journey; Flamboyant; Green Lion of Zion Street; I Want a Brother or Sister; Just Enough is Plenty; Listen to the Rain; Mojave; One Light, One Sun; Our Home is the Sea; Playing Marbles; Rechenka's Eggs; Rondo in C; Saying Goodbye to Grandma; Sleepy Book; Step Into the Night; Summer Day; Tiger Called Thomas; Whale Brother; Who Said Red?; Winter Harvest; Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree

15 FICTION FOR NEW READERS

Byars, Betsy. **BEANS ON THE ROOF.** Illustrated by Melodye Rosales. Delacorte. 63 pages. (0-440-50055-9) \$13.95

To entertain themselves and each other, each member of the Bean family composes a poem on the roof of their apartment building. A large typeface and easy vocabulary make this tribute to poetry and family accessible to newly independent readers. (Ages 7-9)

Chang, Heidi. **ELAINE, MARY LEWIS, AND THE FROGS.** Crown. 64 pages. (0-517-56752-0) \$8.95

Third-grader Elaine Chow's experiences on her first day in her new Iowa school cause her to feel different from when she lived in San Francisco. Once she's involved in a classroom science project, Elaine's cultural growing pains subside and her pride in her Chinese-American heritage expands. A short, illustrated chapter book relates a happily realistic story about middle class contemporary family and school life. (Ages 5-9)

Williams, Vera B. and Jennifer Williams. **STRINGBEAN'S TRIP TO THE SHINING SEA.** Greenwillow. 48 pages. (0-688-07162-7) \$11.88

"Stringbean" Cesar Joseph Coe and his older brother Fred camp one summer as they drive to and from the Pacific, writing a postcard a day to their family in Jeloway, Kansas. As Stringbean himself gradually gains pride in his family heritage, readers may notice that the brothers have a Hispanic background. The postcard greetings and the cards themselves bearing innovative postage become the book's pages, representing a variety of natural wonders, tourist stops and historic places. Superior characterization and plotting earmark the writing. A virtual showcase of art styles and humor distinguish the varied visual elements of a book which can be either randomly looked at and enjoyed or read from beginning to end and enjoyed. Subsequent reading and browsing reveals additional depths. Winner, 1988 CCBC Caldecott Discussion. (Ages 5-10)

See also: *Cassie's Journey*; *Clara and the Book Wagon*; *King of Prussia and a Peanut Butter Sandwich*; *Lion and the Puppy*; *Most Beautiful Place in the World*; *Tales for a Winter's Eve*

16 FICTION FOR YOUNG READERS

Alcock, Vivien. *THE MONSTER GARDEN*. U.S. edition: Delacorte. 134 pages. (0-440-50053-2) \$13.95

The bright-eyed, good natured, whistling shape changer she enables to grow is a greater responsibility than Frances (Frankie) Stein expected before she began her genetic engineering project. (Ages 10-13)

Boutis, Victoria. *LOOKING OUT*. Four Winds. 139 pages. (0-02-711830-4) \$11.95

Most parents seem embarrassing to their 12-year-olds, but Ellen Gerson's are especially so. Ellen's new 7th grade friends' comments reinforce her worry that someone will find out her parents are active members of the Communist Party. Ellen understands little about her parents' ideology and busy lives, but this "red diaper baby" is confident she's loved. The national turbulence concerning personal freedom and political prejudice is well re-created as are mundane details of girlhood in 1953: Eddie Fisher, *Modern Screen Magazine*, the songs of the Weavers and poodle skirts. (Ages 11-14)

Chaikin, Miriam. *FRIENDS FOREVER*. Illustrated by Richard Egielski. A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 119 pages. (0-06-021204-7) \$11.89

The fifth book in the Molly sequence involves a Jewish girl from Brooklyn, her family and friends just as she's preparing to enter junior high. Molly worries about whether or not to cheat on an exam. The family hears radio news about Nazi suppression of Jews in Germany as they sit down for their Passover seder. The earlier books are *I SHOULD WORRY, I SHOULD CARE* (1979); *FINDERS WEEPERS* (1980); *GETTING EVEN* (1987); and *LOWER! HIGHER! YOU'RE A LIAR!* (1984). (Ages 9-12)

Ellis, Sarah. *A FAMILY PROJECT*. U.S. edition: Margaret K. McElderry Books. 137 pages. (0-689-50444-6) \$12.95

Each family member is particularly distinctive in a well-crafted novel centering upon 11-year-old Jessica, her relationships to her friends and to each person in her family, including the new baby Lucie. Expert foreshadowing of a family's tragedy and an authentic replication of their personal grief earmark a first book interlaced with humor and event. (Ages 9-12)

Fox, Paula. *VILLAGE BY THE SEA*. Orchard. 147 pages. (0-531-08388-8) \$13.95

Elegant language, superior character development and expert utilization of imagery characterize a textured novel involving the two weeks 10-year-old Emma must stay with unfamiliar relatives while her father undergoes surgery. The elaborate make-believe world Emma creates with a new companion on the beach offers emotional respite from the tensions of struggling to comprehend what Aunt Bea and Uncle Crispin expect of her. Deciphering family history and its interrelationships is one challenge of growing up, and Emma succeeds. (Ages 10-14)

Henkes, Kevin. *THE ZEBRA WALL*. Greenwillow. 147 pages. (0-688-07568-1) \$10.95

The Vorlob family expected chaos when the new baby arrived, but 10-year-old Adine didn't count on Aunt Irene's extended visit to set off her own stormy responses. Adine discovers a new aspect of family give-and-take, as she realizes difference can mean possibility. A natural mixture of short and long sentences evokes a point of view and builds confidence for young

readers. Contemporary details add interest to a short novel designed in several ways as encouragement. (Ages 8-11)

Jones, Diana Wynne. *THE LIVES OF CHRISTOPHER CHANT*. U.S. edition: Greenwillow. 230 pages. (0-688-07806-0) \$11.95

Christopher's inherited gift of being able to bring real objects with him from his dreams thrusts him into an increasingly complex web of adventures and ambitions. The fantasy tells of Crestomanci's boyhood and precedes the published novels about the famous magician: *CHARMED LIFE* (1977); *WITCH WEEK* (1982); and *THE MAGICIANS OF CAPRONA* (1980). (Ages 11-14)

Jukes, Mavis. *GETTING EVEN*. Alfred A. Knopf. 163 pages. (0-394-99594-5) \$11.95
Maggie and her girlfriend Iris attempt to foil a peer prankster in a story laced with middle school events bursting and with superficially noticed people and young adolescent humor. The substantial parallel story involves family relationships and Maggie's survival of her parents' stormy divorce. In addition to creating closely observed family interrelationships, Jukes' other strength here is her ease with language which enables her to tap gardening imagery as well as mythic elements concerning an ark, a flood and a dove. (Ages 11-13)

King-Smith, Dick. *THE FOX BUSTERS*. U.S. edition: Delacorte. 117 pages. (0-440-50064-8) \$13.95

In the Foxworth Farm chicken yard, chickens can think, run and fly. The youngest, smartest foxes try and catch these delicious chickens, but they don't count upon the new chick trio called "The Fox Busters." The author is skilled at personification and the utilization of natural characteristics to invent an original plot full of action and humor. (Ages 9-12)

Lapp, Eleanor J. *ORPHANED PUP*. Scholastic/Apple. 139 pages. (pbk. 0-590-40885-2) \$2.50

Sara and her brother each adjust differently to their new home, school and neighbors. Twelve-year-old Sara doesn't feel as natural as Petey in thinking of their mother's new husband Al as Dad, even though Sara knows she's part of a newly constituted loving family. Sara's discovery of an abandoned newborn mutt leads her from one small miserably deception into another, until a resolution emerges for both struggles. Details of contemporary family and school life in northern Wisconsin woods and lake country are expertly woven into a well-paced, easy-to-read story. (Ages 7-12)

Lively, Penelope. *A HOUSE INSIDE OUT*. Illustrated by David Parkins. U.S. edition: E.P. Dutton. 127 pages. (0-525-44332-0) \$12.95

First-hand versions of what life is like inside the Dixon household come from Willie the terrier, Sam the mouse and Nat the pill bug living in the drain, to name several of the home's inhabitants. Small pen and ink drawings help human readers to gain the creatures' perspectives, including those in an unforgettable episode in which sleepy Mr. Dixon tries to watch late night TV. A rollicking delight to read aloud. (Ages 8-12)

McCall, Edith. *BETTER THAN A BROTHER*. Walker. 133 pages. (0-8027-6783-4) \$13.95

Hughie must make a decision whether to tell about the threat one of the seasonal ice-cutters represents to her personal safety. Set on the shore of Lake Monona during the winter of 1899, a fast-paced family story features a lively female protagonist. Abundant details of the period never detract from the plot involving a lost locket and a turn-of-the-century New Year's Eve celebration. Writing in part about her family's Madison, Wisconsin, history, the author succeeds in creating a good story within which she also explains the ice harvesting business and many winter activities of an earlier time. (Ages 9-13)

Mazer, Norma Fox. *SILVER*. William Morrow. 261 pages. (0-688-06865-0) \$11.95
Silver, a working class teenager who lives in a trailer with her mom, transfers to a middle school in an upper class neighborhood and immediately becomes obsessed with a sophis-

ticated girl named Grant Varrow, who seems perfect in every way. Overjoyed when Grant wants her for a friend, Silver finds it difficult to fit comfortably into Grant's small circle of friends, the "in-crowd." In an absorbing novel with a subplot concerning sexual abuse, Mazer deftly handles the complexities of friendship and loyalty among young teenagers. (Ages 11-14)

Moore, Emily. *WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?* Farrar Straus Giroux. 134 pages. (0-374-38409-6) \$11.95

Barbara finds a serious side to pesty T.J., the sixth grader who is assigned to tutor her in math. She learns more than math when she attempts to rectify what she thinks is an injustice to him. Barbara's supportive African-American family is contrasted with T.J.'s more complex situation. The setting is urban. (Ages 11-14)

Myers, Walter Dean. *ME, MOP, AND THE MOONDANCE KID.* Illustrated by Rodney Pate. Delacorte. 154 pages. (0-440-50065-6) \$13.95

This fast-moving, lighthearted short novel concerns a boy's experiences on a baseball team with his brother, Moondance, and Mop, a girl they know from the Catholic orphanage from which the two boys were recently adopted. From the protagonist's perspective, Myers adeptly shows a newly constituted, loving African-American family in an integrated, urban neighborhood, the intricacies of a youth baseball league and the complex combinations of emotions of several well-characterized children and adults. The author's superior plotting earmarks a memorable story about a boy who doesn't play baseball well but never gives up on himself. (Ages 7-11)

Nixon, Joan Lowery. *A PLACE TO BELONG.* (The Orphan Train Quartet) Bantam Hardcover. 147 pages. (0-553-05803-7) \$13.95

A sequence of novels based on the true experiences of New York City children sent between 1854-1929 on orphan trains to live with foster families in the West concludes with Danny and Peg's story. The author's uses of archival material is coupled with her skill in developing believable characters in unusual situations. The device of opening and closing the novel with a short contemporary scene links present-day children with their ancestors. Other books about the Kelly children are *A FAMILY APART* (1987); *CAUGHT IN THE ACT* (1988); and *IN THE FACE OF DANGER* (1988). (Ages 10-13)

Park, Barbara. *ALMOST STARRING SKINNYBONES.* Alfred A. Knopf. 108 pages. (0-394-99831-6) \$10.95

Alex "Skinnybones" Frankovitch is an irrepressible optimist and a great first-person narrator for a light-hearted story about a 12-year-old who gains the dubious honor making a TV catfood commercial and maybe even a chance for fleeting fame at school, as well. (Ages 9-11)

Riddell, Ruth. *HAUNTED JOURNEY.* Atheneum (0-689-31429-9) 215 pages. \$13.95

Few people are brave enough to enter the purportedly haunted ancient burial grounds in the Tennessee wilderness. But Obie and his friend Bas are determined to find the mussel beds which, according to legend, are rich in pearls. Excellent plotting and the steady build-up of tension mark an original adventure/survival story, enriched by a cast of complex characters. (Ages 11-14)

Tapp, Kathy Kennedy. *DEN 4 MEETS THE JINX.* Margaret K. McElderry Books. 118 pages. (0-689-50453-5) \$11.95

Adam's Cub Scout experiences and other opportunities, as well, are continually jinxed by his five-year-old sister Jessie. The author succeeds in creating an instantly recognizable yet distinctive family who live in a trailer park. Without taking sides in humorous incidents involving the two siblings, she writes crackling dialogue within well-paced incidents. Never heavy-handed, the story offers authentic insights about how children interact within families and peer groups today. (Ages 5-9)

Thiele, Colin. *SHADOW SHARK*. U.S. edition: Harper & Row. 214 pages. (0-06-026179-X) \$12.89

The high adventure of assisting a professional shark hunter on his uncle's boat off the South Australian coast is one thing, but getting marooned on Wayward Island with cousin Meg and a severely injured uncle following a freak accident is another matter altogether. Twelve-year-old Joe's family problems seem insignificant compared to his life-and-death survival experiences in and near shark-inhabited waters. (Ages 10-13)

Walsh, Jill Paton. *TORCH*. U.S. edition: Farrar Straus Giroux. 176 pages. (374-37684-0) \$12.95

A stunning novel begins on a Greek island in a primitive future when the Ago time Olympiad has become legendary and "marble fields" conceal the single remaining Olympic torch. Young Cal, Dio, Peri and Niko leave their village with the torch without comprehending its magical properties. Going from one settlement to another, they witness and sometimes participate in competitions held for various reasons: to honor the god who controls the food supply; to limit a nomadic population to winners; to live only to train and race, and race and train only to live; and to do one's best for the sheer joy of using one's gifts to the fullest. The nature of freedom, competition and community are deftly explored, as is the importance of story, literacy and books in human history. The youths each represent the Greek forbears their names suggest. (Ages 11-16)

Walter, Mildred Pitts. *MARIAH LOVES ROCK*. Illustrated by Pat Cummings. Bradbury. 118 pages. (0-02-792511-0) \$11.95

Lively eleven-year-old Mariah has many things to think about, including a pending local appearance by her rock star idol Sheik Bashara and the upcoming change when her daddy's oldest daughter from his first marriage moves into the household. Distinctly developed characters and well-written dialogue mark the easy-to-read chapter book about a loving African-American family undergoing change. (Ages 8-11)

See also: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland; Henry; Paper Knife; Pinocchio

17 FICTION FOR TEENAGERS

Bawden, Nina. *HENRY*. Illustrated by Joyce Powzyk. U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 119 pages. (0-688-07894-X) \$13.00

The narrator reflects on her World War II youth when the family, minus father, was evacuated from London to a home in Wales. They sheltered a homeless baby red squirrel, finding out about the practical aspects and larger questions involved in bringing a wild creature into a human environment. A beautifully designed book illustrated and decorated by art reproduced in black and white, is a read-aloud consideration. (Age 12-adult)

Bergman, Tamar. *THE BOY FROM OVER THERE*. Translated from Hebrew by Hillel Halkin. U.S. edition: Houghton Mifflin. 181 pages. (0-395-43077-1) \$12.95

A complex novel about relationships more than war involves Avramik, who hopes to be reunited with his mother, and Rina, who is unwilling to accept the report of her father's death. An increasingly tense situation emerges for all living on Kibbutz in Israel in 1946 and 1948. (Ages 12-16)

- Berry, James. *A THIEF IN THE VILLAGE, AND OTHER STORIES*. U.S. edition: Orchard. 148 pages. (0-531-08345-4) \$12.95
 Nine original short stories eloquently convey contemporary Jamaican culture from the fictional perspective of children of poverty. Details express sounds, aromas and sights; the cadence of the written speech suggests authentic language. (Age 14-adult)
- Bond, Nancy. *ANOTHER SHORE*. Margaret K. McElderry Books. 316 pages. (0-689-50463-2) \$16.95
 A seventeen-year-old summer employee of the Louisbourg National Historic Park on Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, slips back into the summer of 1744 which the park re-creates daily for tourists. Because of her extensive park training, Lyn knows the destiny of some of the 18th century villagers and of the village itself. Keeping her apartment key as a talisman, Lyn finds two other time travelers, each from different late 20th century summers; all three are marooned back in time. A complex plot involving culture conflict is managed adroitly with a large cast of well developed characters and skillfully introduced historical details. This open-ended saga demands and offers more than a quick read. Honor Book, 1988 CCBC Newbery Discussion. (Ages 12-16)
- Bunting, Eve. *A SUDDEN SILENCE*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 107 pages. (0-15-282058-2) \$13.95
 A suspenseful melodrama begins when Jesse Harmon's hearing-impaired brother is killed by a drunken hit and run driver one night. Readers may suspect who the driver is before Jesse figures it out. The California surfing scene provides good entertainment, meanwhile, as well as an important relief from the genuine grief encompassing the actions of the surviving brother and his family. (Ages 14-16)
- Doherty, Berlie. *GRANNY WAS A BUFFER GIRL*. U.S. edition: Orchard. 131 pages. (0-531-08354-3) \$12.95
 A distinctly British novel involves Jess being told family stories from two earlier generations before she leaves for college. Class distinctions based on education and/or economics; long-ago romance; past tragedy; and time-resolved differences extend a wholeness to Jess for her future beyond the childhood she's leaving. Expertly drawn characters and snappy dialogue raise the events above melodrama. (Ages 14-16)
- Erlich, Amy. *WHERE IT STOPS, NOBODY KNOWS*. Dial. 212 pages. (0-8037-0575-1) \$14.95
 Nina and her mother live a nomadic life, moving in the middle of the school year from Fairbanks, Alaska, to Montpelier, Vermont; leaving for Madison, Wisconsin; and going from there to Logan, Utah; and then to Venice, California. Nina's mother is inconsistent. Obsessed with managing Nina's every hour and not allowing penpals or team sports on some days; and on others, permitting a freedom of movement and choices unusual for someone Nina's age. The two remain close until their move to Brooklyn, New York, where life falls apart to the extent that Nina isn't allowed to start school. When the truth is revealed to Nina and to readers, the strong impulse is to reread the novel with the revelation as well as the question in mind of what it means to be a parent or a daughter. The author succeeds in crafting a credible, original plot and in placing many minor characters within distinct regions of the U.S.A. (Ages 12-16)
- Hansen, Joyce. *OUT FROM THIS PLACE*. (Walker's American History Series for Young People) Walker. 134 pages. (0-8027-6817-2) \$13.95
 Continuing the family saga begun in *WHICH WAY FREEDOM?* (1986), the author uses Easter's perspective to show one aspect of the turbulent post-Civil War Reconstruction times. Through the experiences of this determined young African-American woman come glimpses of the concurrent quests for literacy and for a viable all-Black economic community in the Charleston/Sea Island region. The author's keen understanding of mid-19th century African-American culture and Black-White relationships in the South is evident. Effective

dialogue, characterizations and plotting shape historical events into a compelling story and an important book for today's readers. Easter's personal changes within a vastly changed and changing society are shown against the backdrop of voluntary interdependence experienced as one aspect of liberation by formerly enslaved African-Americans. (Age 12 and older)

Härtling, Peter. *CRUTCHES*. Translated from German by Elizabeth D. Crawford. U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 163 pages. (0-688-07991-1) \$11.95

An apolitical boy and an embittered wounded veteran nicknamed "Crutches" form an unlikely and initially uneasy alliance while Thomas tries to locate his mother during the months following World War II in war-ravaged Europe. One of the novel's strengths is the author's creation of an intergenerational relationship which Thomas and Crutches later realize was closer to father-son feelings than they had acknowledged. The portrayal of minor characters, each representing part of the post-war population represents another important aspect of this stark, unique novel. (Ages 12-16)

Hawks, Robert. *THIS STRANGER, MY FATHER*. Houghton Mifflin. 226 pages. (0-395-44089-0) \$13.95

Patty's father has a past involving an uncompleted prison term for an espionage conviction. She finds this out suddenly when he is arrested by FBI agents outside her high school. Just as suddenly, he and she are heading west with a stolen car, aliases and dyed hair. A fast pace, brisk dialogue and dramatic plot devices mark a novel exploring identity and trust. (Ages 14-16)

Hoover, H.M. *THE DAWN PALACE; THE STORY OF MEDEA*. E.P. Dutton. 244 pages. (0-525-44388-6) \$15.95

Teenaged Medea is obsessed with handsome Jason. Using the powers she learned from Circe to help him, she abandons her people, is betrayed and exacts a violent revenge. Hoover re-creates an invincible legendary character in a strong novel for which she lists her background sources. Hoover's notes are almost as compelling as her fiction. In the afterword, she discusses varying versions of the Medea myth, indicating that Euripedes was paid by the citizens of Corinth to write a play absolving them of any guilt in the murders of Medea's children. Hoover writes that in none of the pre-Euripedes stories is the learned herbalist and healer Medea said to have killed her children. (Age 14-adult)

Jenkins, Lyll Becerra de. *HONORABLE PRISON*. Lodestar/E.P. Dutton. 199 pages. (0-525-67238-9) \$14.95

A complex political situation in an unnamed South American city forces a father, mother, brother and the teenaged narrator Marta to house arrest in a rural military outpost, because of the father's journalistic activities. A wide range of events unfolds, from which readers can determine the gravity of the family's circumstances just as Marta gradually realizes this. The language of the narrative crackles with sharp images and understated terror; the phrasing seems to be from another culture. The novelist grew up in Colombia and now lives in the U.S. where she wrote this absorbing story which offers an exploration of principled response to repression. (Age 12 and older)

Klein, Robin. *Laurie Loved Me Best*. U.S. edition: Viking Kestrel. 203 pages. (0-670-82211-6) \$11.95

Two girls facing family difficulties are drawn together by their desire for a private space away from home, and the abandoned house near the school yard is perfectly suited to their needs. That is, until an enigmatic boy named Laurie takes up residence in their hideout, causing conflicts between the girls. Told from both girls' points of view in alternating chapters, the serio-comic story of friendship unfolds. (Ages 11-14)

Koertge, Ron. *THE ARIZONA KID*. Joy Street/Little, Brown. 228 pages. (0-316-50101-8) \$14.95

Billy Kennedy spends the summer with his gay uncle in Arizona, working with horses on a ranch to raise money for college. He falls in love and develops a relationship with Cara

Mae, a feisty racehorse rider. Both Billy and Cara Mae are unforgettable characters—complex, funny adolescents struggling with some difficult issues in a less-than-perfect adult world. (Age 14 and older)

Levitin, Sonia. *INCIDENT AT LORING GROVES*. Dial. 199 pages. (0-8037-0455-0) \$14.95

A haunting novel involves high school cliques, teenage allegiances, partying, and the use of controlled substances. Ultimately Ken and Cassie must decide whether or not to tell parents and law enforcement officers what they know concerning the disappearance and murder of a classmate. Peer pressure is explored from male and female perspectives in a suburban murder mystery. (Ages 14-16)

Mahy, Margaret. *MEMORY*. U.S. edition: Margaret K. McElderry Books. 278 pages. (0-689-50446-2) \$13.95

In the middle of the night, Jonny finds himself in an almost deserted part of the city with little but a hangover to remind him how he got there. He encounters Sophie, whose confusion stems from her advanced age. Because they need one another for entirely different reasons, Jonny takes refuge in Sophie's place. Midst the daily chaos of Sophie's existence, he begins to confront some realities of his sister's earlier death. The technical brilliance of Mahy's earlier fiction shines in this wholly original novel: superior characterizations, effective dialogue, subtle uses of imagery, and judiciously interwoven elements of romance and of wit. Set in New Zealand, some contemporary societal concerns are apparent for readers to consider or overlook, just as in life. The life insights realized by Mahy's characters emerge no more easily or less authentically than in reality. (Age 14-adult)

Mazer, Harry. *CITY LIGHT*. Scholastic/Hardcover. 202 pages. (0-590-40511-X) \$12.95

After his longtime girlfriend breaks up with him, George has to create new patterns for his days. He accidentally develops an ongoing computer conversation with someone in New York City. She's named Top Hat at first; before long, the conversation develops into a relationship which cannot be ignored. (Ages 14-16)

Myers, Walter Dean. *FALLEN ANGELS*. Scholastic/Hardcover. 309 pages. (0-590-40942-5) \$12.95

A landmark book offers a logical, gripping, easy-to-follow story about the illogic of war, using Vietnam for the setting and U.S. teenagers as most of the characters. Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry is the African-American protagonist whose medical papers don't catch up with him before he's shipped overseas. Although the war at home is revealed in letters the soldiers send and receive, almost all of the episodes occur in the jungle during tedious hours occasionally interrupted by minutes of sheer terror and chaos. Realistic elements include graphic scenes of military/civilian violence; tragic events of loss or betrayal; and a mild representation of the language of soldiers experiencing these events. Myers chose not to emphasize drug use and sexual activity in what seems to be an effortlessly woven plot peopled with believable characters and relieved with interludes of humor. He also resisted moralizing, but the highly moral core of the novel is evident throughout; along with Richie Perry's humanity and bravery, this morality will be remembered long after readers finish the book. Winner, 1988 CCBC Newbery Discussion. (Age 11 and older)

Myers, Walter Dean. *SCORPIONS*. Harper & Row. 216 pages. (0-06-024365-1) \$12.89

Twelve-year-old Jamal Hicks lives in a contemporary Harlem neighborhood in which male peer tension and values can outweigh other influences, even family, church and school. Tension in the superbly plotted novel mounts once Jamal possesses a gun. Characterizations of Jamal, his best friend Tito, and his remarkably strong mother are powerful. The author allows readers the freedom to draw conclusions regarding Jamal's future, after reading the memorable final pages, which are certain to stimulate speculation. However, Myers leaves no doubt that he knows a boy can grow in courage and personal strength, even if the institutions he trusts fail him. (Age 11 and older)

Rochman, Hazel, selector. **SOMEHOW TENDERNESS SURVIVES; STORIES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.** A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 147 pages. (0-06-025023-2) \$12.89

"Somehow we survive/and tenderness, frustrated, does not wither . . ." This poem by Dennis Brutus opens an unparalleled collection of short fiction and excerpts from autobiographical writing by Gcina Mhlope, Mark Mathabane, Doris Lessing and others whose voices speak powerfully of struggle and heroism under apartheid. Brief biographical notes on contributors, a glossary and an introduction by Rochman anticipate some of the questions young readers may have. (Age 12-adult)

Roth-Hano, Renée. **TOUCH WOOD; A GIRLHOOD IN OCCUPIED FRANCE.** Four Winds Press. 297 pages. (0-02-777340-X) \$15.95

Endangered during World War II because they are Jewish, Renee's family moves from Alsace to Paris. Because they are still in danger, the children are subsequently sent to hide within a Catholic women's institution in Normandy, where they stay safe under the guise of being Catholic. Beginning when she's nine, diary entries tell Renee's story, revealing hardships unique to her childhood Holocaust experiences. (Ages 11-14)

Schwandt, Stephen. **HOLDING STEADY.** Henry Holt. 161 pages. (0-8050-0575-7) \$13.95

Set in the summer community on Washington Island off Wisconsin's Door County peninsula, this novel involves 17-year-old Brendon, who, with his brother and his mother, is away for the first vacation since the winter car accident that killed their father/husband. Realistic portrayals of grief, of teen subculture and summer romance earmark a novel with plot elements shaped by a real place. (Ages 14-16)

Thesman, Jean. **THE LAST APRIL DANCERS.** Houghton Mifflin. 206 pages. (0-395-43024-0) \$13.95

Living with her father's mental illness most of her life and with her mother's denial of this reality for just as long, a sixteen-year-old girl relies on her longtime friendship with the neighbor boy with whom she's now romantically involved to see her through the events of her father's suicide. (Ages 14-16)

Walker, Alice. **TO HELL WITH DYING.** Illustrated by Catherine Deeter. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 28 pages. (0-15-289075-0) \$13.95

Spanning almost two decades and told from a graduate student's outlook, this reflective autobiographical short fiction expresses a family's complex relationship to Mr. Sweet, the man down the road. He drinks heavily, routinely coming close to "kicking the bucket." Only the girl and boy, for whom Mr. Sweet often plays "Sweet Georgia Brown" on his guitar while telling of a lost love, can cajole him into revival. Frank, mysterious adult insight about human imperfection and love is offset and possibly even contradicted by the lavish, full-color paintings on every page spread of the 10¹/₄" x 11¹/₄" book. (Age 13 and older)

Williams-Garcia, Rita. **BLUE TIGHTS.** Lodestar/E.P. Dutton. 138 pages. (0-525-67234-6) \$12.95

After Joyce's teacher excludes her from the high school ballet show, she slowly grows in self-esteem in an African dance group. Class divisions in an integrated urban high school, the daily tensions in avoiding neighborhood assault, and personal encounters with Black Muslim values are shown through Joyce's honest, realistically presented adolescent point of view. (Ages 14-16)

See also: Haunted Journey; Lives of Christopher Chant; Torch

18 NEW EDITIONS

- Carroll, Lewis. **ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND.** Illustrated by Anthony Browne. U.S. edition: Alfred A. Knopf. 118 pages. (0-394-80592-5) \$19.95
The off-beat surprises of Anthony Browne's full-color art seem perfectly suited to the oft-illustrated classic published handsomely here in a 11¼" x 7¾" edition. (Ages 5-11)
- Collodi, Carlo. **THE ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO.** Translated by E. Harden. Illustrated by Roberto Innocenti. U.S. edition: Alfred A. Knopf. 144 pages. (0-394-82110-6) \$18.95
Innocenti's uses of browns and reds and his skill in lighting an illustrated scene create a suitably ominous feeling in this dignified, well-designed 11¼" x 8¾" edition of a story familiar to many children as a film distinctly different from the book. (Ages 7-12)
- DeRegniers, Beatrice Schenk with Eva Moore, Mary Michaels White and Jan Carr. **SING A SONG OF POPCORN; EVERY CHILD'S BOOK OF POEMS.** Illustrated by Marcia Brown, Leo and Diane Dillon, Richard Egielski, Trina Schart Hyman, Arnold Lobel, Maurice Sendak, Marc Simont and Margot Zemach. Scholastic/Hardcover, 1988, 1974. 142 pages. (0-590-40645-0) \$16.95
Nine Caldecott medalists illustrate sections of a favorite anthology. Organized well, the poems are divided by types (rhymes; story; short) and themes (weather; spooky; animals; people; nonsense; and seeing, feeling, thinking). A fine introduction to high quality poems and excellent artists. (Ages 3-9)
- Frost, Robert. **BIRCHES.** Illustrated by Ed Young. Henry Holt. 30 pages. (0-8050-0570-6) \$13.95
A dignified calm emanates from Young's full-color nature portraits accompanying lines of the famous poem which is printed in its entirety at the book's end. (Age 9-adult)
- Hopkins, Lee Bennett, selector. **VOYAGES; POEMS BY WALT WHITMAN.** Illustrated by Charles Mikolaycak. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 73 pages. (0-15-294495-8) \$15.95
An elegantly produced introduction to Whitman contains 53 poems grouped in five sections and ranging throughout forty years of Whitman's writing. In his introduction Hopkins says the sections encompass the poet's views of his youth; his strong sense of self; vivid thoughts about his various journeys; a profound depiction of war, death and mourning; his portraits of people whom he met; and his musing about old age and coming to terms with death. Powerful black-and-white drawings and decorations accompany rather than illustrate the poems. (Age 10-adult)
- Sand, George. **THE MYSTERIOUS TALE OF GENTLE JACK AND LORD BUMBLEBEE.** Translated from French by Gela Jacobson. Illustrated by Gennady Spirin. U.S. edition from Germany: Dial. 76 pages. (0-8037-0538-7) \$14.95
Stunningly detailed, beautifully painted illustrations by a Russian artist are reproduced in full-color in a 10¾" x 8" volume which draws attention by its visual elegance to this first published English translation of a fairy tale novel by the important French writer. A one-page biographical note precedes the lavishly presented complex story about a lad who refuses to learn to be wicked and escapes to an island where only goodness is known. (Ages 8-11)
- Stevenson, Robert Louis. **BLOCK CITY.** Illustrated by Ashley Wolff. E. P. Dutton. 31 pages. (0-525-44399-1) \$12.95.
"Let the sofa be mountains, the carpet be sea, There I'll establish a city for me . . ." Bold shapes and primary colors show a child playing imaginatively with building blocks. A delightfully developed reincarnation of an enduring poem. (Ages 3-7)

Thayer, Ernest Lawrence. *CASEY AT THE BAT*. Illustrated by Barry Moser. David Godine. 31 pages. (0-87923-772-8) \$12.95

A gem of a volume utilizes color illustrations rendered from historic photographs and drawings from the archives of the National Baseball Library in Cooperstown, New York. Poet and baseball enthusiast Donald Hall's eloquently expressed afterword offers background on Thayer and the ballad and reasons for its endurance. Hall reflects on why hero-worship is dangerous and needs correction, and on how Casey's failure nurtures common humanity. (Age 7-adult)

Tolstoy, Leo. *THE LION AND THE PUPPY*. Translated from Russian by James Riordan. Illustrated by Claus Sievert. Seaver/Henry Holt. 61 pages. (0-8050-0735-0) \$15.95

Twenty-five short pieces innovatively created for reading by the Russian peasant children Tolstoy taught in the mid-century include Aesop's fables, folktales, nature studies and original writing by his students. Thirteen full-color illustrations accompany this collection of easy reading newly available in the U.S.A. (Ages 4-9)

Zolotow, Charlotte. *A TIGER CALLED THOMAS*. Illustrated by Catherine Stock. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1988, 1963. 26 pages. (0-688-06697-6) \$11.95

New full-color illustrations accompany a time-tested story about a shy child so new to his neighborhood he won't play anywhere but on his porch . . . until he puts on his Halloween trick or treating costume. (Ages 3-6)

Zolotow, Charlotte. *SLEEPY BOOK*. Illustrated by Ilse Plume. Harper & Row, 1988, 1958. 28 pages. (0-06-026968-5) \$12.95

A newly illustrated reissue of a book first published in 1958 rhythmically recounts the ways various animals sleep (eg. "Fish sleep among the green water ferns with their eyes and mouths wide open."), concluding with a dog, a cat and two children. Full-color illustrations in which soft golds and lavenders predominate quietly reinforce the gentle tone of the text. (Ages 2-5)

See also: First Freedom

19 THE COOPERATIVE CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER (CCBC)

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

Purpose

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

Collection

The 25,000 title library collection contains review copies of newly published juvenile trade books (15%); recommended children's trade books (50%); historical children's books (19%); contemporary and historical reference/bibliographic materials related to children's literature (7%); books by Wisconsin authors and illustrators (4%); and alternative press books for children (3%).

Access

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

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 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 member, librarian, teacher or other interested adult. Continuing education courses are taught via the UW-Madison Office of Outreach Development. As possible, the CCBC participates in statewide and regional conferences through the provision of book examination exhibits and/or leadership in scheduled sessions. A two-day children's literature conference is cosponsored every other year with CCBC funding units and the UW-Madison Office Of Outreach Development. Persons interested in attending lectures, workshops or conferences or in obtaining bibliographies are asked to send a self-addressed, stamped envelope when they write requesting a list of CCBC Free Materials or "The CCBC This Season," a 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: Monday-Thursday 10-8, Friday 10-4 and Saturday 10-1. Professional reference assistance is available on call 30 hours weekly. During Intersession, Summer School and University breaks, the CCBC is open 30 hours weekly; Monday-Friday 10-4. For advance requests, extended hours can be arranged to accommodate campus schedules as well as 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 events open only to members, news about CCBC publications and services, and opportunities for adults who share an interest in children's and young adult literature to get together. The Friends distribute selected CCBC publications out-of-state and provide other types of volunteer assistance to the CCBC. For Friends' information, write: Friends of the CCBC, Inc., Box 5288, Madison, WI 53705.

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