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**CCBC Choices 1990**

Kathleen T. Horning, Ginny Moore Kruse and Merri Lindgren



## Acknowledgements

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### **About the Compilers**

Kathleen T. Horning is a librarian and coordinator of special collections at the Cooperative Children's Book Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is also a children's librarian at Madison Public Library. She is the editor of the 3rd and 4th editions of the ALTERNATIVE PRESS PUBLISHERS OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS; A DIRECTORY (Friends of the CCBC, Inc., 1988 and 1991) and the co-author with Ginny Moore Kruse of MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS (3rd edition, 1991). She served on the American Library Associations 1987 and 1988 Notable Children's Books Committee, the 1990 Newbery Award Committee and the 1989-91 Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee. She chairs the 1991-92 US/International Board of Books for Young People (IBBY) Hans Christian Andersen Awards Committee. She lectures and writes on children's literature subjects at the CCBC and elsewhere, including a quarterly book review column about small press children's books for the ALA journal BOOKLIST. This is the ninth annual CCBC CHOICES, for which she read and selected books. She has a B.A. in Linguistics and a Master's Degree in Library and Information Studies, both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Ginny Moore Kruse is a librarian and director of the Cooperative Children's Book Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a former classroom teacher,

school librarian, public librarian and college teacher of children's literature. As part of the CCBC's outreach services, she frequently lectures at the CCBC and elsewhere and teaches continuing education courses offered through the UW-Madison Office of Outreach Development. She is active on state and national Intellectual Freedom committees and is the founder of the award-winning CCBC Intellectual Freedom Information Services. She has chaired or served on national children's literature award and distinction committees including the Newbery, Caldecott, Batchelder, Arbuthnot, Coretta Scott King, Boston Globe-Horn Book, Jane Addams and Teachers' Choices committees. She is chair of the Editorial Advisory Board of BOOK LINKS (ALA). She writes book reviews and columns for national journals and is co-author with Kathleen T. Horning of MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS (3rd edition, 1991). She has read and selected books for CCBC CHOICES since 1980. She has a B.S. Degree in Education from UW-Oshkosh and a Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Merri V. Lindgren is a librarian and administrator at the Cooperative Children's Book Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She compiled and edited the CCBC RESOURCE LIST FOR APPEARANCES BY WISCONSIN BOOK CREATORS (2nd edition, 1990) and CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY WISCONSIN AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS ABOUT WISCONSIN; AN IDENTIFICATION RECORD OF TITLES PUBLISHED IN 1989 (1990). She reviews children's books for several publications and plans and conducts book-related programs for children and adults in public libraries and schools. She is an active member of the American Library Association. She worked with Katy and Ginny on MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS (3rd edition, 1991). Although this is the first CCBC CHOICES for which she read and selected books, she has participated in monthly and annual CCBC book discussions since 1988. She graduated from UW-Madison with a B.A. Degree in Psychology and has a Master's Degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She also works at a Madison children's bookstore.

#### **HISTORY, PEOPLE AND PLACES**

Anderson, William. LAURA INGALLS WILDER COUNTRY. Photographs by Leslie A. Kelly. Harper Perennial/HarperCollins. 119 pages. Paperback with perfect binding. (0-06-097346-3) \$19.95

Numerous color photographs and black-and-white documentary photographs picture the people and places of Laura Ingalls Wilder's well known series based on her early life in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, Iowa and South Dakota. Brief explanatory text and reproductions of Little House illustrations by Helen Sewell, Mildred Boyle and Garth Williams serve to link Wilder's fiction with the real people and places that

inspired her work. (Age 7 and older)

Bunting, Eve. THE WALL. Illustrated by Ronald Himler. Clarion. 30 pages.  
(0-395-51588-2) \$13.95

"This is the wall, my grandfather's wall. On it are the names of those killed in a war, long ago." So begins the picture book first visit of a young boy and his father to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D. C. The child experiences other "firsts," too: weeping adults and a wheelchair-mobile veteran. The father is quiet and moved; the boy has questions. The illustrations suggest that this family is Hispanic or American Indian. Four sentences on the final page tell about the Memorial. Restraint earmarks this strong evocation of the emotion people generally feel at the Memorial.  
(Ages 4-9)

Ellis, Veronica Freeman. AFRO-BETS FIRST BOOK ABOUT AFRICA. Illustrated by George Ford. Just Us Books (301 Main St., Suite 22-24, Orange, NJ 07050). 32 pages. (0-940975-12-2) \$13.95 (Paperback with perfect binding: 0-940975-03-3) \$6.95

A Ghanaian visitor to a classroom answers questions about his continent posed by a group of curious African-American children. Mr. Amegashi's natural-sounding conversation with the children provides a wealth of information about Africa's history, geography and cultures, stressing the diversity of this rich continent. Outstanding page designs use full-color illustrations and a combination of color and black-and-white photographs, all clearly reproduced and perfectly placed. (Ages 6-12)

Florian, Douglas. CITY STREET. Greenwillow. 32 pages. (0-688-09544-5) \$12.95  
"City street / jumping feet / traffic cop / bus stop / skateboards roll / hockey goal ... " Each phrase set in large typeface is the complete text for a double page spread picture of city neighborhood life and living. Simplicity of visual image earmarks this full-color representation of the diverse activities and people in a city. (Ages 2-5)

Giblin, James Cross. THE RIDDLE OF THE ROSETTA STONE; KEY TO ANCIENT EGYPT. Thomas Y. Crowell. 85 pages. (0-690-04799-1) \$13.89

In 1799 Napoleon's soldiers discovered an oddly shaped stone buried in an old fort near the town of Rosetta, Egypt. Because it was inscribed with the same proclamation transliterated into Greek, hieroglyphics and Egyptian demotic writing, it provided the key that scholars needed to break the code of the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic writing system. Giblin describes the efforts of scholars from France, Sweden and England who worked for over three decades to decipher the stone's message in hieroglyphics. Their successes eventually opened up the whole world of ancient Egyptian history as was preserved in the written records of the time. (Ages 9-14)

Golenbock, Paul. TEAMMATES. Illustrated by Paul Bacon. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 28 pages. (0-15-200603-6) \$15.95

This brief 11 1/4" x 8 3/4" account of segregation, racism, humiliation and personal courage takes place at a time in the U.S.A. "when automobiles were black and looked like tanks and the laundry was white and hung on clotheslines to dry ... " and features the former Negro Leagues, Brooklyn Dodgers General Manager Branch Rickey, Dodgers first baseman Jackie Robinson and shortstop Pee Wee Reese. Archival photographs and full-color

illustrations tell as much about the 1947 baseball season for Jackie Robinson, the first African-American Major League player, as does the short text. (Ages 5-10)

Hamanaka, Sheila. THE JOURNEY; JAPANESE AMERICANS, RACISM AND RENEWAL. Richard Jackson/Orchard Books. 40 pages. (0-531-08449-3) \$18.99

Children's book illustrator and art director Sheila Hamanaka is also a mural artist. Hamanaka's dramatic fove-panel, 25' x 8' mural depicts the World War II internment of her Japanese American, or Nisei, elders; the mural forms the basis for this distinctive distinguished and important book. As a child in the generation born after the war, or Sansei, Hamanaka and most other Americans - Sansei and non-Sansei alike, were unaware that 120,000 American male and female citizens and residents of all ages with up to one-sixteenth Japanese ancestry were abruptly rounded up and imprisoned in ten concentration camps early in 1942. The book witnesses to Hamanaka's journey through justifiable anger by providing 30 close-up glimpses of mural sections accompanied by a terse uncompromising account of the conditions of the imprisonment. One portion of the mural utilizes the Japanese Bunraki puppet tradition to show U.S. military personnel acting in the "theater of war", while a Noh drama pose is incorporated into the section about a challenge to the imprisonment in the U.S. Supreme Court. The full mural is reproduced on a double-page spread at the end. The 9 3/4" x 11 3/4" book begins and ends with the visual and intellectual connection of tradition (the tale of Momotaro, or Peach Boy), U.S. labor history (peach picker) and hope (a contemporary preschool-aged child offering a peach to the viewer of the artistic commentary). Readers, too, receive a new perspective of history, tradition and hope. (Age 9 and older)

Heide, Florence Parry and Judith Heide Gilliland. THE DAY OF AHMED'S SECRET. Illustrated by Ted Lewin. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages. (0-688-08895-3) \$13.88

As Ahmed drives a donkey cart through busy streets and delivers heavy canisters filled with butane gas, he thinks of his father's advice: "Hurry to grow strong...But do not hurry to grow old." Contemporary Cairo is the setting for a young "butagaz boy" to tell the story of the day on which he tells his family he learned to write his own name. Well patterned sentences shaped into a wonderfully paced narrative are extended with full-color watercolor illustrations detailing cultural information. (Ages 5-9)

Hewett, Joan. HECTOR LIVES IN THE UNITED STATES NOW; THE STORY OF A MEXICAN-AMERICAN CHILD. Photographs by Richard Hewett. Lippincott. 44 pages. (0-397-32278-X) \$13.89

Ten-year-old Hector Almaraz has lived in Los Angeles for most of his life, having come to the U.S. with his family from Guadalajara, Mexico, at age 2. This photodocumentary account traces events in Hector's life in the months preceding the deadline for application for permanent residency under the U.S. immigration's amnesty act in 1988, as Hector and his family face the difficult decision of whether to stay in Los Angeles or to follow their dream of returning to Mexico. (Ages 7-12)

..... LAURA LOVES HORSES. Photographs by Richard Hewett. Clarion. 40 pages. (0-89919-844-9) \$14.95

Eight-year-old Laura Santana grew up surrounded by the activities at the southern California boarding and riding stable where her father is employed and near



which the family lives. To this Mexican-American child's long-time pleasure in riding Sugar Baby bareback down to the creek are now added riding lessons which prepare her to compete in her first horse show. Thirty-five full-color photographs well placed on the pages picture Laura enjoying both kinds of riding, while the short text in a large typeface echoes this spirit. (Ages 4-9)

Huff, Barbara A. GREENING THE CITY STREETS. Photographs by Peter Ziebel. Clarion. 61 pages. (0-89919-741-8) \$15.95

A photo-essay using color photographs traces the history of the community garden movement in urban areas of the United States, focusing on the Sixth Street and Avenue B Garden in Manhattan to explain how community gardens are set up and why they're important to city dwellers. (Ages 8-11)

Katz, William Loren. BREAKING THE CHAINS; AFRICAN-AMERICAN SLAVE RESISTANCE. Atheneum. 208 pages. (0-689-31493-0) \$14.95

Autobiographies of formerly enslaved men and women, newspapers, nineteenth century antislavery and abolitionist publications and hundreds of oral histories on file at the Library of Congress and Fisk University offer testimony to slave defiance, endurance, resilience and bravery. In his introduction, the author states that slavemasters "bent history, truth, and the Bible to their purposes ... Central to the slaveholders' reasoning was the lie that Africans willingly accepted slavery and rejected rebellion." Katz counters the false information about bondage perpetuated throughout generations through school materials and mass media in a powerful account drawn mostly from testimonies and organized in four parts: Fighting Bondage on Land and Sea; Daily Toil; Perilous Struggle; and Marching to Freedom. Over 60 captioned black-and-white half- or quarter-page-size reproductions of photographs, drawings, posters and other visual material about the subject create part of the book's strong impact. (Age 12 and older)

Kudlinski, Kathleen V. HERO OVER HERE. Illustrated by Bert Dodson. (Once Upon America) Viking. 54 pages. (0-670-83050-X) \$11.95

When his father and older brother go off to fight in World War I, ten-year-old Theodore feels left behind and useless. His chance for heroism comes, however, when it is left to him to care for his mother, sister and a homeless stranger who become seriously ill with the flu. A short, historical novel is set against the backdrop of the 1918 flu epidemic which claimed the lives of 22 million people worldwide. (Ages 7-10)

McLain, Gary. THE INDIAN WAY; LEARNING TO COMMUNICATE WITH MOTHER EARTH. Illustrated by Gary McLain and Michael Taylor. John Muir Publications (P.O. Box 613, Santa Fe, MN 87504). 103 pages. Paperback with perfect binding. (0-945465-73-4) \$9.95

Two contemporary Arapaho children always look forward to times when there is a full moon because on those evenings their Grandpa Iron tells them a Full Moon Story. Each of Grandpa Iron's stories teaches reverence for nature and respect for Mother Earth. The thirteen stories are followed by suggestions for creative activities children can undertake to help them remember the ecological lesson inherent in each story. (Ages 7-11)

Meltzer, Milton. THE BILL OF RIGHTS; HOW WE GOT IT AND WHAT IT MEANS. Thomas Y. Crowell. 180 pages. (0-690-04805-X) \$14.89

The "historical forces and conflicting interests" leading to the creation of the Bill of Rights are explored, along with the meaning of each of these ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Applications and interpretations of the Bill of Rights during the past 200 years are discussed in sections such as: The Right to Dissent; Freedom - and the Witch-Hunt; Secrecy and Censorship; A Nation of Joiners; Gun Control; The Right to be Let Alone; The Right to Remain Silent; The Promise of a Fair Trial; The Law Should be Humane; and Powers That Belong to the People. A time line, bibliography and index add to the value of a timely analysis. (Age 11 and older)

Morimoto, Junko. MY HIROSHIMA. Translated from the Japanese by Isao Morimoto and Anne Bower Ingram. U.S. edition: Viking. 32 pages. (0-670-83181-6) \$12.95  
Based on childhood memories, the Japanese artist recalls her life in Hiroshima before and after the atomic bomb was dropped on August 6, 1945. A spare text combined with detailed pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations contrasts the daily life routines before the bomb with the devastation afterwards. (Ages 9-12)

Murphy, Jim. THE BOYS' WAR; CONFEDERATE AND UNION SOLDIERS TALK ABOUT THE CIVIL WAR. Clarion. 110 pages. (0-89919-893-7) \$15.95  
Using excerpts from letters and diaries written by boys between the ages of 12 and 18 who served in the Confederate and Union armies, the author provides an intriguing history of the Civil War which focuses on the experiences of the War's youngest soldiers. Some of the boys were "tall 14 year olds who lied about their ages" and others were drummer boys who took up arms on the battlefield. The fifty accompanying documentary photographs were carefully chosen; in most of them, the youthfulness of the soldiers pictured is obvious, sometimes shockingly so. (Age 9 and up)

Oneal, Zibby. A LONG WAY TO GO. Illustrated by Michael Dooling. (Once Upon America) Viking. 54 pages. (0-670-82532-8) \$11.95  
Eight-year-old Lila is the pampered eldest daughter in an upper-class family living in New York City during World War I. Although she bristles under seemingly unreasonable rules about how she should behave, it has never occurred to her to question her father's authority until she finds out that her grandmother has been arrested at a Women's Suffrage demonstration. When her parents refuse to talk to her about it, Lila finds her own ways to learn more about her grandmother's political activity and even marches in a demonstration herself. An easy-to-read fictional account of one girl's awakening political consciousness introduces the historical struggle for women's voting rights. (Ages 7-10)

Pelz, Ruth. BLACK HEROES OF THE WILD WEST. Illustrated by Leandro Della Piana. Open Hand Publishing (P.O. Box 22048, Seattle, Washington 98122). 55 pages. Paperback with perfect binding. (0-940880-26-1) \$5.95  
Short biographical essays highlight the lives of African-American explorers, pioneers, entrepreneurs and cowboys who helped shape the West. Six men and three women are featured in a highly accessible volume which pulls together much hard-to-find information. (Ages 7-9)

Rappaport, Doreen. AMERICAN WOMEN; THEIR LIVES IN THEIR WORDS. Thomas Y. Crowell. 336 pages. (0-690-04819-X) \$14.95  
Using women's experiences throughout the recorded history of this continent, this easily readable compendium contains excerpts from interviews, articles,

speeches, journals and other writings by women. From the time before contact with Europeans to the late 20th century, the women speak for themselves about their perceptions of their roles. Much of the excerpted material was initially written for personal clarification or communication.

The compiler's point of view is unambiguous, as is her intention to include women with varying ethnic and racial heritages in this introductory overview. (Age 12 and older)

Ray, Deborah Kogan. MY DADDY WAS A SOLDIER; A WORLD WAR II STORY. Holiday House. 40 pages. (0-8234-0795-0) \$12.95

Accurately reflecting specifics of girlhood in the U.S.A. during the Second World War, Ray's fictional portrait features Jeannie, whose father was drafted in 1943 and who served in the Pacific before returning home after V-J Day.

The frankly sentimental account of domestic life on the home front is illustrated with more than 20 black and white drawings showing Jeannie tending a Victory Garden, collecting scrap metal with her wagon, food shopping using a ration book, trying to sleep during a blackout, writing and waiting for letters from her father, and finding things to do while her mother is at her defense plant shift. The text is set in a large typeface. (Ages 7-10)

Schmidt, Diane. I AM A JESSE WHITE TUMBLER. Albert Whitman. 40 pages. (0-8075-3444-7) \$13.95

Kenyon Conner tells about being a member of the Chicago-based tumbling team since he was five. The combination of personal discipline, tumbling expertise, team cooperation and showmanship required of all Jesse White Tumblers is clear in 34 color photographs showing the internationally respected Tumblers performing at city neighborhood events as well as in metropolitan arenas. Kenyon's directly expressed personal account interprets his African-American family circumstances. Kenyon's upbeat awareness of the far-reaching impacts of team activity for his life and for others develops an important dimension of an absorbing 8 1/4" x 9" photodocumentary book. (Ages 7-12)

Shemie, Bonnie. HOUSES OF BARK; TIPI, WIGWAM AND LONGHOUSE. U.S. edition: Tundra Books. 24 pages. (0-88776-246-8) \$12.95

Line drawings accompany a brief text which describes the three basic traditional types of shelters built by Woodland Indians. Pictures show both an exterior and interior view of each dwelling while the text explains how the structures were built and why they were particularly well suited to the environment. (Ages 6-9)

Skurzynski, Gloria. ROBOTS; YOUR HIGH-TECH WORLD. Bradbury. 64 pages. (0-02-782917-0) \$15.95

An engrossing overview examines the current impact of robotics in the medical, scientific, and entertainment fields. Dynamic color photographs show robotic applications, a time line summarizes milestones since 1515 when Leonardo da Vinci built a mechanical lion, and an index gives quick access to information. (Ages 9-12)

Strom, Yale. A TREE STILL STANDS; JEWISH YOUTH IN EASTERN EUROPE TODAY. Interviews and photographs by Yale Strom. Introduction by Sonia Levitin. Philomel. 111 pages. (0-399-22154-9) \$16.95

Prior to the Holocaust there were roughly five million Jews living in Eastern Europe; today there are fewer than 200,000. First-person

statements from over 50 Jewish children and teenagers currently living in Eastern Europe reveal a range of thoughts about their Jewish cultural and religious identities; some prefer not to think about it at all and others work hard to keep their traditions alive, mostly through connections with their grandparents. Says a Hungarian teenager: "Now many parents don't have any idea about religion and it is their children who teach them." Conducted at a time when Eastern Europe was just beginning to go through enormous social changes, Strom's interviews present youths who view their uncertain futures with a mixture of hope and fear. (Age 9 and older)

Treseder, Terry Walton. HEAR O ISRAEL; A STORY OF THE WARSAW GHETTO. Atheneum. 40 pages. (0-689-31456-6) \$13.95

Isaac, a boy in the Warsaw Ghetto, is certain of his family's love and of the respect of the Jewish community throughout their endurance of anti-Semitic acts during the Second World War. As Isaac begins to realize he will no doubt perish in a death camp, he resolves to die with the same pride he as always felt in being a Jew. The sober, powerful first-person novella is divided into four sections: Bar Mitzvah, Hunger, Train Ride and Treblinka. Bloom's five paintings reproduced in monochrome contribute to the bravery and nobility of a testament to love, faith and courage. (Age 13 and older)

Tresselt, Alvin. WAKE UP, CITY! Illustrated by Carolyn Ewing. Revised edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages. (0-688-08652-7) \$12.95

People stir and waken on an early morning in a city. "In a harbor a great freighter from across the world comes in on the morning tide ... " Food is unloaded at noisy markets. Buses run. A pajama-clad child notices birds at the window feeder. The cat goes inside. Nothing and everything happen. All children, workers, police officers, and others represent the ordinary busyness and racial diversity common to a city. New, full-color illustrations update a picture book text over 30 years old. (Ages 3-7)

Wheatley, Nadia and Donna Rawlins. MY PLACE. U.S. edition: Australia in Print. 48 pages. (0-7328-0010-2) \$14.95

A powerful cultural history of a fictional Australian neighborhood begins in 1988.

This and subsequent double-page spreads are written, designed and illustrated according to a pattern: "My name's Laura, and this is my place ... Our house is the one with the flag on the window ... This is a map of my place. We've got a McDonalds right on the corner. In the ... yard, there's this big tree ... There's a canal ... Mum said it must have been a creek once. It's too dirty to swim in ..." The visual chronology moves backward ten years at a time through 21 decades of Australian immigrations (e.g., Asian, German, Irish, English prisoners); world events (e.g., Vietnam War, World Wars, U.S. gold rush); and economic changes (e.g., land ownerships and uses, Labor movement) affecting ordinary families. Differences and effects of cultures and classes are suggested. The tree and the water represent steady points of reference and subtle change in each decade. The people indigenous to Australia claim the dramatic final double page spread showing a rural sunset before contact with the British. This stunning intellectual and political reiteration of the Aboriginal flag mentioned and seen at the beginning of this outstanding, award-winning 10 1/4" x 9 3/4" book invites already-intrigued readers into repeated experiences with the narrations and detailed images. (Ages 6-12)

See also: All Aboard ABC; Arctic Memories; Becoming Gershona; Big Book for Peace; Chain of Fire; Eleanor, Elizabeth; Families; Hand Full of Stars; Home Place; House on Walenska Street; In the Eye of War; Kate Shelley and the Midnight Express; Middle of Somewhere; Mississippi Bridge; My Prairie Christmas; Other Bells for Us to Ring; Rice Without Rain; Riverkeeper; Road to Memphis; Scarecrow; Shepherd Boy; Shining Company; Sky Is Falling; Sugaring Season; Thank You, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.!: Totem Pole; Two Short and One Long; Where Angels Glide at Dawn; and the sections on Biography and Autobiography; Folklore, Mythology and Traditional Literature.

#### THE NATURAL WORLD

Arnold, Caroline. DINOSAURS DOWN UNDER; AND OTHER FOSSILS FROM AUSTRALIA.

Photographs by Richard Hewett. Clarion. 48 pages. (0-89919-814-7) \$14.95

The fossilized bones, or plaster casts of bones, for more than sixty vertebrates indigenous to prehistoric Australia were recently displayed at the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles. The exhibit, called Kadimakara (derived from an aborigine legend), featured fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Arnold provides fascinating details of the museum staff's preparations prior to the exhibit opening, from building platforms and display panels, to laboriously checking in each piece unpacked, to assembling the plaster casts used for display. Intriguing photographs of the fossils exhibited, and the captivated children and adults viewing them, accompanied by clear descriptions of how the living creatures would have appeared and behaved, bring extinct animals to life. (Ages 7-10)

Bash, Barbara. URBAN ROOSTS; WHERE BIRDS NEST IN THE CITY. Sierra Club

Books/Little, Brown. 32 pages. (0-316-08306-2) \$14.95

Pigeons, sparrows, finches, barn owls, nighthawks, killdeers, barn swallows, crows, starlings and peregrine falcons are among the species discussed in this look at birds which have successfully adapted to urban environments. The text is direct and informative, but the imaginative and well designed illustrations steal the show. A house finch perched in its nest crowning a statue, and a house wren nested in a work glove hanging on a clothesline are only a few of the many original scenes depicted. (Ages 7-10)

Cole, Joanna. THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS LOST IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM. Illustrated by

Bruce Degen. Scholastic/Hardcover. 40 pages. (0-590-41428-3) \$13.95

An amazing school field trip involves a first hand look at the Sun and each planet of our solar system after the school bus driven by the inimitable Ms. Frizzle becomes a space ship. Janet, a visitor this day, adds a humorously competitive outside view on all matters to the classroom of racially diverse children. Readers can enjoy the classmates' repartee while finding out information in a cartoon format. Fantasy and fact are distinct and separate, just as they are in other books in the Scholastic series: MAGIC SCHOOL BUS AT THE WATERWORKS (1986;) ...INSIDE THE EARTH (1987); and ...INSIDE THE HUMAN BODY (1989). (Ages 7-10)

Dorros, Arthur. RAIN FOREST SECRETS. Scholastic/Hardcover. 32 pages. (0-590-43369-5) \$13.95

Colorful watercolor sketches and text illustrate the immense diversity of plant and animal life indigenous to the rain forest. Species and conditions of

lowland and montane rain forests in tropical and temperate climates are included. Simple descriptions of the flora and fauna are followed by an explanation of the rapid, devastating effects of massive rain forest clearing on the land and animals as well as its contribution to the greenhouse effect. A chart lists names and addresses of sixteen organizations which can provide further information about rain forests. (Ages 7-10)

Esbensen, Barbara Juster. GREAT NORTHERN DIVER; THE LOON. Illustrated by Mary Barrett Brown. Little, Brown. 32 pages. (0-316-24954-8) \$14.95  
Striking composition and carefully detailed, clear illustrations are combined with intriguing factual information about the loon. Migration patterns, historical records, call interpretation, and mating, nesting, and chick-rearing habits are discussed. (Ages 7-10)

Facklam, Margery. AND THEN THERE WAS ONE; THE MYSTERIES OF EXTINCTION. Illustrated by Pamela Johnson. Sierra Club/Little, Brown. 56 pages. (0-316-25984-5) \$14.95  
Discovered by 16th century sailors, the news of Galapagos tortoises soon brought ships crossing the southern Pacific Ocean to the Galapagos Islands where the crews gathered tortoises for their journey. Tortoises were stored alive in the ships' holds for up to a year as a valuable source of fresh meat. Along with harvesting thousands of the creatures, the ships left behind black rats that sought out and ate tortoise eggs and infants. Eventually a colony of island settlers provided additional dangers to the tortoises in the form of imported domestic animals that also ate eggs and young, as well as grazing on plants the tortoises needed and trampling their nests. Although recent intervention has saved most of the Galapagos tortoise species from disappearing, extinctions of many species, including mammoths, passenger pigeons, bison, and dodo birds, are directly linked to a human cause. Explanations for other extinctions, such as that of the dinosaurs, provoke speculation. Currently, many people and organizations are working to preserve threatened animals, but the rate of disappearance due to oil spills, nuclear wastes, pesticide use, rain forest and wetland destructions, and acid rain continues to escalate. (Ages 8-11)

Goor, Ron and Nancy Goor. INSECT METAMORPHOSIS; FROM EGG TO ADULT. Atheneum. 26 pages. (0-689-31445-0) \$13.95  
Sharp and colorful photographs of insects exhibiting complete metamorphosis (each level of development appears completely different from the previous one) and incomplete metamorphosis (egg-hatched young look like miniature adults) at each stage of development are accompanied by a simple text. Among the species included are monarch butterflies, cecropia moths, mosquitoes, paper wasps, praying mantids, dragonflies and cicadas. (Ages 8-11)

Lauber, Patricia. SEEING EARTH FROM SPACE. Orchard Books. 80 pages. (0-531-05902-2) \$19.95  
Dramatic photographs taken by astronauts and satellite remote sensing radar and infrared Landsat images provide a striking visual perspective of the earth as one planet. Each photograph is accompanied by a concise and thoughtful explanation of the image depicted. A portion of the book demonstrates how different types of remote sensing are used by geographers, oceanographers, botanists, geologists, meteorologists and others. The potential consequences of the greenhouse effect and ozone depletion are also

discussed. (Ages 7-12)

McNulty, Faith. WITH LOVE FROM KOKO. Illustrated by Annie Cannon.  
Scholastic/Hardcover. 32 pages. (0-590-42774-1) \$12.95

Raised by humans since she was six months old, Koko was the first gorilla taught to "talk" using American Sign Language. Scientist Penny Patterson's history of teaching ASL to Koko and general information about gorilla behavior are interspersed with lively anecdotes of Koko's interactions with the author during her visit with the gorilla. Koko is presented with respect and integrity, and a brief afterword discusses the human threat to gorilla habitats in Africa. Softly shaded, large illustrations are generously scattered throughout the text. (Ages 8-10)

Rogers, Paul. WHAT WILL THE WEATHER BE LIKE TODAY? Illustrated by Kazuko. U.S. edition: Greenwillow. 32 pages. (0-688-08950-X) \$13.95

"What will the weather be like today? / Will it be windy? / Will it be warm? / Will there be snow? / Or a frost? / Or a storm?" Birds and animals speculate about the day's weather, while the visual images depict each of the possible conditions. A wide range of climates and locales are featured. (Ages 3-6)

San Souci, Daniel. NORTH COUNTRY NIGHT. Doubleday. 32 pages. (0-385-41319-X) \$14.95

A seemingly tranquil winter's night in a northern forest becomes the backdrop for the vital activities of several animals. Predators and prey alike move purposefully through the woods. Each double page spread features one animal's movements while linking their relationship to one another: a coyote follows a fox's trail, while a long-tailed weasel paddles across a stream to avoid a hunting bobcat; nearby a raccoon devours a rainbow trout. The illustrations capture the quiet mood of a habitat teeming with animals engaged in their normal nocturnal activities. The landscape and animals composed of shades of blue, gray, brown and black appear to glow with reflections off the falling flakes and snow-covered ground in this 11" x 11" volume. (Ages 4-8)

Sattler, Helen Roney. GIRAFFES, THE SENTINELS OF THE SAVANNAS. Illustrated by Christopher Santoro. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 80 pages. (0-688-08284-X) \$14.95

Twelve-inch-long hoofprints warn the author of their presence; she soon encounters five Masai giraffes in the Samburu Game Reserve in Kenya. "They scattered and galumphed off into the bush in a curious slow-motion gallop, their hind legs coming well ahead of their forelegs. Their long tails, swishing like windshield wipers, looked as if someone had tied three-foot-long tassels to them." Sound factual information is presented in this captivating and thorough study of giraffes. Elegant brown-toned illustrations are complemented by warm tan paper. The final chapter speculates on the creature's future, citing nineteenth century sport hunting as the main factor in the population decline. Current threats include habitat encroachment and poaching for meat; the possibility of raising giraffes as a legal food source is mentioned. (Ages 8-12)

..... THE NEW ILLUSTRATED DINOSAUR DICTIONARY. Illustrated by Joyce Powzyk. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 363 pages. (0-688-08462-1) \$24.95  
Sattler's dictionary is an up-to-date reference book and readable guide

incorporating recent archeological discoveries from Argentina, China, Mongolia and Brazil. Fifty new entries bring the total to more than 350 dinosaurs for which name pronunciation and derivation, size and other pertinent information are cited. Over 60 small black and white drawings are interspersed throughout the hefty volume. A full-color, two-part visual chronology opens the book, while a location index and reading list are at the end. (Ages 5-12)

Simon, Seymour. DESERTS. Morrow. 32 pages. (0-688-07415-4) \$13.95  
While most people would define a desert as dry, hot, and sandy, deserts actually vary quite dramatically from one to another as demonstrated by the four primary North American deserts: the Great Basin, the Mojave, the Sonoran, and the Chihuahuan. A succinct text offers information about the plants, animals, land and sand formations, rain and temperature ranges, and erosion patterns of these regions. Charts, maps, and stunning color photographs of desert landscapes highlight the features discussed. (Ages 7-10)

Smith, Roland. SEA OTTER RESCUE; THE AFTERMATH OF AN OIL SPILL. Cobblehill/Dutton. 64 pages. (0-525-65-41-5) \$13.95  
It's unique method of thermoregulation (blowing air into clean fur where it acts as insulation) makes the sea otter particularly vulnerable to hypothermia due to oil spills. Sea otters may also ingest the toxic crude oil while attempting to clean their fur. The efforts of animal rescue specialists to combat these problems following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound are described as rigorous and exhausting. Treatment may include a two-hour wash and rinse requiring four workers per animal, a high-power blow dry, and an internal "wash" of activated charcoal to absorb swallowed oil. After a lengthy recovery period, healthy sea otters still pose a problem: where can they be safely released? The aftermath of this disaster is clearly and deliberately reviewed, illustrated with large color photographs. (Ages 8-12)

See also: Feathers for Lunch; Global Warming; Indian Way; Is This a House for a Hermit Crab?; Weather Watch; Woodsong; Zebra Talk.

#### **SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS**

Branley, Franklyn M. THE CHRISTMAS SKY. Illustrated by Stephen Fieser. Revised edition: Thomas Y. Crowell. 48 pages. (0-690-04770-3) \$14.95  
This substantially rewritten and revised edition of an important book by a reliable science writer suggests contemporary scientific interpretations for a Star of Bethlehem during the beginning of the Common Era. The easily read and understood text is accompanied on every spread by dramatic full-color one- and two-page illustrations. (Ages 6-11)

Burns, Diane L. SUGARING SEASON; MAKING MAPLE SYRUP. Photographs by Cheryl Walsh Bellville. Carolrhoda. 48 pages. (0-87614-422-9) \$12.95  
Scenic and close-up color photographs, charts and maps augment a ten-part explanation of a late 20th century maple sap harvest: the trees, sap, sugar bush, preparations, tapping, run, cooking, grading, packaging and the season's end. A glossary and author's note concerning the relative health and future of sugar maple trees in the U.S.A. and Canada add a helpful



dimension. (Ages 6-10)

Chaikin, Miriam. MENORAHS, MEZUZAS, AND OTHER JEWISH SYMBOLS. Illustrated by Erika Weihs. Clarion. 102 pages. (0-89919-856-2) \$14.95

Striking black graphics illustrate well developed explanations of Jewish symbols from the importance of certain garments and worship elements to the symbolic meaning of the State of Israel. The section on Number Symbols and the documentation in Scripture and other sources are unique to this fine resource for both Jewish and non-Jewish readers. (Ages 6-13)

Delacre, Lulu. LAS NAVIDADES; POPULAR CHRISTMAS SONGS FROM LATIN AMERICA. English lyrics by Elena Paz. Musical arrangements by Ana-Maria Rosado. Scholastic/Hardcover. 32 pages. (0-590-43548-5) \$12.95

Thirteen songs associated with Latin American celebrations of Christmas, New Year's Eve and Epiphany are presented in their original Spanish versions as well as English translations. Full-color illustrations and brief notes accompany each song, depicting traditional activities, most from the author's Puerto Rican background, associated with the holidays. Musical notations are included. (Ages 4-9)

DePaola, Tomie. MY FIRST PASSOVER. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 14 pages. (0-399-21784-3) \$5.95

Objects and activities specific to a family Passover Seder are named and pictured in full color. Although the content is more advanced than that typically found in a board book, the stiff, laminated 7 1/2" x 7" format is practical for use by toddlers and preschoolers preparing for or being at a Seder. (Age 18 months-3 years)

Florian, Douglas. A BEACH DAY. Greenwillow. 32 pages. (0-688-09104-0) \$12.95  
"Car ride. / Seaside. / Parking lot / Find a spot..." These lines exemplify the brief text set in a large typeface accompanying the full-color, double-page spreads which visually tell the story of a beachside Fourth of July.

Fourteen labeled drawings of shells which might be found on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts end the picture story and perhaps offer useful information to an older child or adult sharing the book with a very young beach-goer. (Ages 2-4)

Goldin, Barbara Diamond. THE WORLD'S BIRTHDAY; A ROSH HASHANAH STORY. Illustrated by Jeanette Winter. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 32 pages. (0-15-299648-6) \$13.95

After Daniel thinks a bit about the birthday of Creation, he plans a birthday party for the world to coincide with the family Rosh Hashanah observance. Mama gives him money for a bakery cake, Grandpa provides advice and Daniel draws a special card. A sudden backyard breeze completes the celebration. Full-color watercolor paintings and a handsome book design evoke the security of a mid-20th century city neighborhood and the warmth of Daniel's extended family. A short explanation of one of the holiest of all Jewish holidays follows the picture story. (Ages 4-6)

Harvey, Brett. MY PRAIRIE CHRISTMAS. Illustrated by Deborah Kogan Ray. Holiday House. 32 pages. (0-8234-0827-2) \$14.95

"...I loved our new home on the prairie, sitting in the middle of its ocean of grass. But how would we celebrate Christmas?..." Mama knows. Cornhusks are be twisted into decorations. Popcorn strings become a substitute for

the cranberries strung for past Christmas trees in Maine. Mama and the three children trudge through deep snow to get a cottonwood even though they are frantic because Papa didn't return home before a blizzard began. Full-color illustrations evoke the open prairie, late-19th century homesteading life and the loving family of young Eleanore's first prairie December. The companion book MY PRAIRIE YEAR (Holiday, 1986) is also based on a diary written by Eleanore Plaisted. (Ages 4-8)

Hughes, Shirley. THE SNOW LADY. (A Tale of Trotter Street) U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 24 pages. (0-688-09874-6) \$13.95

Until Mum returns each day, Samantha spends the time after school with their next door neighbor Mrs. Dean. Sam's dog Micawber is definitely not welcome near the clean, orderly home and neither are any other lively Trotter Street children or their pets. One afternoon before Christmas, Sam and her friend Barney create a snow lady and name it "Mrs. Mean." Sam later realizes that the labeled snow figure is hurtful and makes a valiant effort to keep Mrs. Dean from seeing it. The neighborhood community of ANGEL MAE (Lothrop, 1989) and BIG CONCRETE LORRY (1990) is the locale for the small, ordinary incident from which Sam grows in a big way. (Ages 3-7)

Koralek, Jenny. HANUKKAH; THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS. Illustrated by Juan Wijngaard. U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages. (0-688-09329-9) \$13.95

Full-color art reminiscent of candlelight and shadows pictures the historic events leading to the miracle of the Temple candles which once burned for eight days despite the lack of adequate oil. The short narrative explains the origin of the Hanukkah observance. Both art and text conclude with the image of a contemporary family looking into the flames of a lighted menorah. (Ages 4-7)

Lagerlof, Selma. THE LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS ROSE. Retold by Ellin Greene. Illustrated by Charles Mikolaycak. Holiday House. 32 pages. (0-8234-0821-3) \$15.95

The Robber Family witnesses the transformation of a forest into a beautiful garden in remembrance of the Christ Child. The dramatic tale has lasting appeal with its parallels to the changing of a hardened heart. As initially retold by the Nobel prize-winning Swedish writer, the legend explaining the origin of the Christmas Rose first appeared in a U.S. magazine in 1907. (Ages 9-12)

Maass, Robert. WHEN AUTUMN COMES. Henry Holt. 32 pages. (0-8050-1259-1) \$15.95

Boats are pulled up on shore, birds fly south, wood is cut and stacked and other indications of preparation for a new season are shown in more than three dozen color photographs emphasizing autumn activity. The book concludes with Thanksgiving and new snow. (Ages 3-7)

Manushkin, Fran. LATKES AND APPLESAUCE; A HANUKKAH STORY. Illustrated by Robin Spowart. Scholastic/Hardcover. 32 pages. (0-590-42261-8) \$12.95

Long ago in a village far away, a "tremendous blizzard - as if all heaven's featherbeds had burst!..." begins on the first night of Hanukkah. Snow covers the potatoes and hides the apples needed to make the traditional foods. A stray dog and cat are welcomed into the increasingly hungry Menashe family household. After the storm subsides, each creature acts according to its own nature in helping the parents and two children. Each

subsequently receives a name which fits like a glove. A brief explanation of Hanukkah, a latke recipe, directions for playing dreidel, and a three-book reading list conclude the whimsical story which is effectively illustrated in full color. (Ages 4-7)

Metropolitan Museum of Art. THE CHRISTMAS STORY; TOLD THROUGH PAINTINGS. Commentary by Richard Muhlberger. Gulliver/Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 39 pages. (0-15-200426-2) \$16.95

Nineteen Renaissance paintings from Museum of Modern Art collections are reproduced in full color to tell the Christmas Story for which the King James translation is provided. Commentaries on each painting by the former MMA Vice Director for Education are unique to this book, as are the occasional additional close views of small segments of the larger masterpieces. (Ages 7-adult)

Schotter, Roni. HANUKKAH! Illustrated by Marylin Hafner. Joy Street/Little, Brown. 32 pages. (0-316-77466-9) \$13.95

"In darkest December / Night steals in early / And whisks away the light. / But warm inside, / Mama, Papa and Grandma Rose / Light the sun..." So opens a full-color picture book rendering of the way each person in a family with five children contributes to a contented Hanukkah evening together somewhere and sometime in the mid-20th century. A half-page explanation of Hanukkah follows the picture story noteworthy for the language of its text and for the depiction of intergenerational activity during a ritual celebration. (Ages 2-5)

Serfozo, Mary. RAIN TALK. Illustrated by Keiko Narahashi. Margaret K. McElderry Books. 24 pages. (0-689-50496-9) \$12.95

Full-color watercolor illustrations and a short onomatopoeic text express the small wonders a young African-American girl notices during a gentle rain. "On the old tine roof of the garden shed the drops all try to talk at once ... Ping Ping Ping a Ding / Ping Ping Ping Ping Ping ... and they chuckle together as they run down the drain." A peaceful, uncomplicated, idyllic, rural family snapshot. (Ages 2-6)

Stock, Catherine. CHRISTMAS TIME. Bradbury. 24 pages. (0-02-788403-1) \$11.95

Buying a tree in the snow, making paper chains, visiting a department store Santa, baking cookies, singing carols and leaving a treat for Santa's reindeer are all part of the secular preparations in which a little white girl participates with Daddy and Mommy. Watercolors highlighted by colored pencil show the activity. Short sentences displayed in a large typeface and delicate seasonal endpapers convey the mood of the happy, first-person account of the season. (Ages 18 months-3 years)

.....THANKSGIVING TREAT. Bradbury. 24 pages. (0-02-788402-3) \$11.95

Everyone is busy preparing something traditional for Thanksgiving dinner - everyone but a child too young to help other relatives in this extended white family which is variously busy stuffing a turkey, baking pies, shucking corn, peeling vegetables and chopping firewood. No one wants a little boy in the way. No one but Grandpa. They gather chestnuts together and later on, everyone else enjoys roasting them! The text and visual material are similar in appearance to CHRISTMAS TIME, the only other book in Stock's Festive Year sequence recommended in CCBC CHOICES to date. (Ages 18

months-3 years)

Tornqvist, Rita. THE CHRISTMAS CARP. Illustrated by Marit Tornqvist. Translated from the Swedish by Greta Kilburn. U.S. edition: R & S Books. 32 pages. (91-29-59784-6) \$13.95

In Czechoslovakia, a traditional Christmas repast includes carp. After young Thomas names and plays with the large carp he buys at the market, he can no longer imagine relinquishing his new pet for the dinner Grandpa is preparing. The story is wonderfully illustrated with full-color, detailed watercolors of the Prague market, the Moldau River, streets and courtyards and the interior of Grandpa's apartment. (Ages 5-8)

Waters, Kate and Madeline Slovenz-Low. LION DANCER; ERNIE WAN'S CHINESE NEW YEAR. Illustrated by Martha Cooper. Scholastic Hardcover. 32 pages. (0-590-4306-7) \$12.95

Clear color photographs illustrate a short photo-essay focusing on two days in the life of a young Chinese-American boy living in New York City. Readers see Ernie Wan preparing for his role as a lion dancer in a New Year's celebration in Chinatown. Both family and community celebrations of the Chinese New Year are detailed. (Ages 4-11)

Zalben, Jane Breskin. HAPPY PASSOVER, ROSIE. Henry Holt. 24 pages. (0-8050-1221-4) \$13.95

..... LEO & BLOSSOM'S SUKKAH. Henry Holt. 24 pages. (0-8050-1226-5) \$13.95

Detailed full-color illustrations picture a bear family's Passover and Sukkot preparations and observances. The same characters appear here as in BENI'S FIRST CHANUKAH (Holt, 1988), but each wee book features a different character. (Ages 3-5)

See also: Christmas Carol; Do Like Kyla; Esmeralda and the Pet Parade; Family Pictures; Gone Fishing; Indian Way; Legend of Sleepy Hollow; Let's Go Fishing!; North Country Night; Other Bells for Us to Ring; Snow Toward Evening; Totem Pole; Under Your Feet

## ACTIVITIES

Breslow, Susan and Sally Blakemore. I REALLY WANT A DOG. Illustrated by True Kelley. Dutton. 40 pages. (0-525-44589-7) \$12.95

A breezy summary of the reasons children typically want to get a dog (best friend, never be lonely, etc.) and the responses parents then perennially make about continuing responsibility for the pet (who will feed, walk, train, etc.) are expressed in an engaging way. The picture book format may appeal to readers unwilling to pay attention to similar information in a conventional "how to decide whether or not to get a dog" article or book. (Ages 4-6)

Cassedy, Sylvia. IN YOUR OWN WORDS; A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO WRITING. Revised edition: Thomas Y. Crowell. 219 pages. (0-690-04821-1) \$13.95 (Paperback with perfect binding: 0-06-446102-5) \$7.95

After suggesting ways to "take notice" and commenting on using the five senses, the author suggests methods for writing in different forms: myths, tall tales, ghost stories, science fiction, editorials, school reports and

poetry. A helpful revision of a substantial guide to writing prose and poetry was created by a writer who taught creative writing to children for 14 years and whose highly acclaimed published works demonstrate that she knows about her subject firsthand. Cassidy wrote LUCIE BABBIDGE'S HOUSE (Crowell, 1989), BEHIND THE ATTIC WALL (Crowell, 1983), M.E. AND MORTON (Crowell, 1987) and a collection of original poetry ROOMRIMES (Crowell, 1989). (Age 9 and older)

Earthworks Group. 50 SIMPLE THINGS KIDS CAN DO TO SAVE THE EARTH. Illustrated by Michele Montez. Andrews and McMeel (4900 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64112). 156 pages. Paperback with perfect binding. (0-8362-2301-2) \$6.95  
An easy-to-read guide provides background information and practical suggestions for things children can do in their own homes and neighborhoods to recycle, conserve water and energy, protect animals and keep the earth green. Many of the entries include addresses of organizations readers can write to for further information. Instructions for how to make recycled paper and how to be a junk food detective constitute two of the seven eco-experiments appended. (Age 7 and older)

Grosshandler, Henry and Janet Grosshandler. EVERYONE WINS AT TEE BALL. Cobblehill Books/Dutton. 32 pages. (0-525-65016-4) \$12.95  
A brief first-person narrative describes the experiences of a tee ball team during a typical game. Clear color photographs show active boys and girls as teammates, while the child-centered text acknowledges aspects of the game that are most difficult for young children: hitting, catching and waiting for a turn at bat. (Ages 5-8)

Schmidt, Gerald D. LET'S GO FISHING! A BOOK FOR BEGINNERS. Illustrated by Brian W. Payne. Roberts Rinehart (P.O. Box 666, Niwot, CO 80544). 85 pages. Paperback with perfect binding. (0-911797-84-X) \$10.95  
Basic information about common kinds of fish, fishing tackle, bait, lures and flies is provided in this accessible introduction to freshwater fishing in North American. Also included are chapters on ice fishing, "reading the water" and fishing ethics. Captioned diagrams show readers how to tie knots and rigs and how to clean and cook fish. (Age 8-14)

Solomon, Chuck. PLAYING HOCKEY. Crown. 40 pages. (0-517-57414-4) \$9.95  
Informal ice hockey on a shoveled section of a rural lake and team practice and competition at a city rink are shown in 74 full-color action photographs accompanied by a very brief first-person narrative. One of the coaches is Black and some of the boys on the predominantly white teams have diverse racial backgrounds. An inviting overview of this winter activity for future players or spectators. (Ages 4-9)

Wyatt, Valerie. WEATHER WATCH. Illustrated by Pat Cupples. U.S. edition: Addison-Wesley. 95 pages. Paperback with perfect binding. (0-201-15404-8) \$8.95  
A highly visual guide encourages young readers to make observations about different kinds of weather by giving them pointers for the sorts of things they can look for outside and by suggesting experiments they can do indoors and out. Most of the 22 experiments included require common household implements and could be done by children independently. (Ages 8-11)

See also: Indian Way; Las Navidades; Pretend You're a Cat; Shake It to the One That You Love the Best; Toddler Time

#### ISSUES IN TODAY'S WORLD

Ancona, George. RIVERKEEPER. Macmillan. 48 pages. (0-02-700911-4) \$13.95  
A photo-essay describes the day-to-day life and work of John Cronin, hired by the Hudson River Fishermen's Association to protect the river from polluters in order to keep its wildlife strong and healthy. Black-and-white photographs and numerous first-person statements from Cronin convey his deep sense of commitment, as well as the great pride and satisfaction he derives from his work. (Ages 7-11)

THE BIG BOOK FOR PEACE. Edited by Ann Durell and Marilyn Sachs. Dutton. 120 pages. (0-525-44605-2) \$15.95

A unique family anthology offers an album of pieces by 31 contemporary children's book creators, including writers Mildred Pitts Walter and Yoshiko Uchida; reteller John Bierhorst; and artists Leo and Diane Dillon, Jerry Pinkney and Allen Say. Walter's powerful short account concerning a nonviolent African-American civil rights demonstration in Washington, D.C., and Uchida's epistolary fictional narrative originating in a Japanese-American internment camp extend the concept of peace to embrace social justice issues. Jacket art by Maurice Sendak introduces a compilation with the intent of offering alternate resolutions to various barriers to understanding and justice. (All ages)

Burningham, John. HEY! GET OFF OUR TRAIN. U.S. edition: Crown. 48 pages. (0-517-57638-4) \$14.95

At night, when most children are sleeping, a little boy and his stuffed dog take a dreamlike journey by train, making stops along the way to have a picnic, play ghosts, go for a swim, fly kites and "muck about with umbrellas." At each stop, an unwelcome animal passenger boards their train and begs to be allowed to go with them: each is an endangered animal running away from human threats and each is eventually added to the ever-growing passenger list. Burningham combines whimsical, scratchy pen-and-ink drawings with abstract mixed media paintings in a complex, multilayered contemporary fantasy that can be understood and enjoyed on many different levels. (Ages 3-7)

McKissack, Patricia and Fredrick McKissack. TAKING A STAND AGAINST RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. Franklin Watts. 157 pages. (0-531-10924-0) \$13.40

An eight-chapter examination of racism and racial discrimination in the U.S.A. approaches motivations for doing so first. Other subjects covered include forms of racism; race issues and the U.S. governments; past and present leaders and activists in resisting racism; and national groups organized against racial injustice. An immediately applicable chapter addresses name calling, racial slurs, derogatory jokes and "problem attitudes." The substantial bibliography, detailed source notes and index extend the resources of this direct, constructive book. (Ages 11-14)

Pringle, Laurence. GLOBAL WARMING. Arcade/Little, Brown. 46 pages. (1-55970-

012-2) \$14.95

In a concise, clearly written text, Pringle describes global warming, the factors contributing to it and the possible solutions to the worldwide problem.

Color photographs and diagrams illustrate this readable account and a glossary defines scientific terms used. (Ages 7-10)

Scholes, Katherine. PEACE BEGINS WITH YOU. Illustrated by Robert Ingpen. U.S. edition: Sierra Club/Little, Brown. 40 pages. (0-316-77436-7) \$10.95

Beginning on a personal level, Scholes explains the concept of peace as having the things you need and at least some of the things you want. She then extends the metaphor to define conflict and the various means used to resolve it.

The personal tone of the book is well balanced by softly hued full-color illustrations showing children around the world at work and at play. (Ages 4-7)

Vargo, Vanessa. ZEBRA TALK. Child's Play. 20 pages. Paperback with stapled binding. (0-85953-395-6) \$3.95

A young Grevy's zebra asks her mother, "What was it like when you were young like me?" In response her mother tells her about a time when thousands of zebras roamed the savannahs in Africa, before the time of "men with guns."

Alternating black-and-white pages are cut to progressively shorter lengths for a layered effect so that upon reaching the wordless double-page spread at the center, one sees an impressive display of zebra stripes. The spare text and unique artistry combine to make an eloquent plea for protecting an endangered species. Notes at the end of the book give factual information about the four zebra species. (Ages 3-6)

See also: And Then There Was One; Chain of Fire; 50 Simple Things Can Do to Save the Earth; Hand Full of Stars; John Muir; Journey; Middle of Somewhere; My Hiroshima; My Place; People Who Hugged the Trees; Rain Forest Secrets; Rice Without Rain; Sea Otter Rescue; Seeing Earth From Space; Tree Still Stands; Woodsong

#### UNDERSTANDING ONESELF AND OTHERS

Alexander, Sally Hobart. MOM CAN'T SEE ME. Photographs by George Ancona. Macmillan. 48 pages. (0-02-700401-5) \$14.95

Leslie, a nine-year-old girl, describes day-to-day life living with her mom who's been blind since age 26. While Leslie describes how her family does things differently to accommodate her mom's special needs and speaks candidly about times her mom has embarrassed her, the overall focus of this photo-essay is her mom's active life, as she takes Leslie shopping, volunteers at her school, takes her to dance and gymnastic classes, attends soccer games and plays baseball with her kids. (Ages 6-11)

Boyd, Lizi. SAM IS MY HALF BROTHER. Viking. 32 pages. (0-670-83046-1) \$11.95

Now that baby Sam has joined the family, HESSIE has trouble sharing parental attention with him when she goes to spend the summer with her father and stepmother. Distinctive full-color illustrations accompany this universal story of sibling rivalry with a contemporary twist. (Ages 3-6)

Jenness, Aylette. FAMILIES; A CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY, COMMITMENT AND LOVE.

Houghton Mifflin. 48 pages. (0-395-47038-2) \$13.95

Seventeen young people each briefly comment upon the composition of their families in a photo-essay which originated as an interactive exhibition at the Children's Museum in Boston. One strength of this unique book rests in its organizational pattern, in that no one type of family unit is presented as standard, or correct, or "other." Blended, adoptive, mixed-racial, biracial, two parent, one parent, gay and lesbian, collective and extended families from diverse racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds are pictured. Child-expressed definitions of "family" and a list of books for further reading are additional features of an important book. (Ages 5-12)

Koehler, Phoebe. THE DAY WE MET YOU. Bradbury. 40 pages. (0-02-750901-X) \$12.95

A mother and father describe the flurry of activity that occurred in their household on the day they got a phone call from an adoption agency. "We bought diapers / and pajamas / and shirts and little socks / so you would be dry and warm." Pastel crayon illustrations and a few words per page set in a large typeface communicate the love and excitement experienced in an adoptive family. (Ages 1-3)

Kuklin, Susan. GOING TO MY NURSERY SCHOOL. Bradbury. 32 pages. (0-02-751237-1) \$12.95

Four-year-old Heath describes a typical day at his nursery school from the time his dad drops him off in the morning till the time he picks him up again in the afternoon. Color photographs and a first-person text document Heath's activities. A helpful three-page note to parents at the book's end tells what one should look for when choosing a nursery school. (Ages 3-4)

Oppenheim, Shulamith Levey. WAITING FOR NOAH. Illustrated by Lillian Hoban. A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 32 pages. (0-06-024633-2) \$12.89

Noah persuades his grandma to tell him his favorite story -- her account of what she did and what she thought about on the day Noah was born. Rich pastel illustrations show Noah and his grandma baking cookies, riding bicycles, reading a story, all the things grandma looked forward to doing with newborn Noah when he was old enough. (Ages 2-4)

Turner, Ann. THROUGH MOON AND STARS AND NIGHT SKIES. Illustrated by James Graham Hale. A Charlotte Zolotow Book/Harper & Row. 32 pages. (0-06-026189-7) \$12.95

A little boy from an Asian country who was sent to the U.S. to be adopted by a white couple tells, in his own words, what he remembers about his journey and the first day and night in his new home. A poetic text and delicate watercolor illustrations give the story a tender tone. (Ages 3-5)

Valens, Amy. JESSE'S DAYCARE. Illustrated by Richard Brown. Houghton Mifflin. 32 pages. (0-395-53357-0) \$13.95

There's plenty for Jesse to do each day when his mom drops him off at Sara's house on her way to work. An upbeat text and full-color illustrations show Jesse's typical activities in home daycare while smaller inset pictures show what his mom is doing at work. (Ages 2-4)

See also: Bright Eyes, Brown Skin; Jodie's Journey; Julius, the Baby of the World; My Place; Peace Begins with You; Taking a Stand Against Racism and Racial Discrimination; Teammates; Toddler Time; Tree Still Stands



## THE ARTS

Edwards, Michelle. DORA'S BOOK. Carolrhoda. 32 pages. (0-87614-441-3) \$12.95  
Directions for creating and producing by hand a small edition of an original book are interwoven into the story of an elder-aged woman from northern Minnesota who creates a book about her family history for members of the family and close friends. Like the main character Dora, author/artist Edwards has written, illustrated, printed, typeset and bound her own books. The Minnesota Center for Book Arts contributed expertise to this book about the steps involved in the satisfying process of making a book by hand. The book jacket underscores the truism to avoid judging a book by its cover; although the jacket art has little child appeal, the content does. (Ages 9-12)

Gregory, Cynthia. CYNTHIA GREGORY DANCES SWAN LAKE. Photographs by Martha Swope. (A Time of My Life Book) Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers. 48 pages. (0-671-68786-7) \$14.95

Readers literally peer backstage and beyond during one day of a working ballerina's career. In full-color photographs and Gregory's words they glimpse Cynthia Gregory participating in a morning ballet class; meeting the wardrobe mistress for a final costume fitting; giving a telephone interview to a dance critic; rehearsing for the evening performance; taking advantage of opportunities to be home with her family; getting ready to go onstage; and celebrating the new American Ballet Theatre performance of "Swan Lake." Gregory's commentary brings readers down-to-earth elements of ballet dancers typically seen by audiences as "... perfect creatures who seem to float and fly with no effort at all ..." (Ages 5-11)

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. TOTEM POLE. Photographs by Lawrence Migdale. Holiday House. 32 pages. (0-8234-0809-4) \$14.95

David is a Tsimshian boy whose pride in his father's artistry as a wood-carver and creator of a new totem pole provides the focus for a 10" x 10" first-person narrative. The history and culture of David's paternal elders, the Eagle Clan from Metlakatla on Alaska's Annette Island, are described and shown in full-color photographs, as is a brief background of the Klallam Indians of the Northwest Coast. Written and visual explanations detail the steps David's father takes to find a straight, tall cedar tree and carve the Klallam Thunderbird, Raven, Whale, Bear and other symbolic images into its trunk. The community's involvement in raising and celebrating the pole's placement on the Klallam Reservation is also pictured. David's maternal ancestors emigrated to the U.S.A. from Europe generations ago. The boy's Tsimshian heritage and Eagle Clan membership are interpreted in several ways, including the one-page retelling of the "Legend of the Eagle and the Young Child." A glossary concludes this unusual and absorbing photo documentary account. (Ages 5-10)

Lomas Garza, Carmen. FAMILY PICTURES/CUADROS DE FAMILIA. Children's Book Press (1339 61st St. Emeryville, CA 94608). 32 pages. (0-89239-050-6) \$12.95

Brilliantly colored oil, acrylic and gouache paintings illustrate scenes from the Chicana artist's childhood in Kingsville, Texas. Details from traditional Hispanic family and community life abound in the naive-style illustrations, as well as in the accompanying explanatory passages printed in both English

and Spanish. (Age 7 and older)

Mattox, Cheryl Warren. SHAKE IT TO THE ONE THAT YOU LOVE THE BEST; PLAY SONGS AND LULLABIES FROM BLACK MUSICAL TRADITIONS. Illustrated by Varnette P. Honeywood and Brenda Joysmith. Warren-Mattox Productions (Distributed by JTG of Nashville, 102C 18th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212). 54 pages. Paperback with stapled binding. (0-9623381-0-9) \$7.95

The music and lyrics for sixteen play songs and ten lullabies from African-American culture are included in this rich, beautifully designed collection.

Each song is bordered by a distinctive strip of Kente cloth, reproduced in full color, and accompanied by a note that provides a historical and cultural context. In addition, each play song includes a brief description of the game or activity traditionally associated with the song. Ten full-color reproductions of paintings by gallery artists Varnette P. Honeywood and Brenda Joysmith show children at home and at play, providing a perfect complement to the spirit of the songs. Honor Book, 1990 CCBC Coretta Scott King Book Award for Illustration Book Discussion. (All ages)

Ekoomiak, Normee. ARCTIC MEMORIES. U.S. edition: Henry Holt. 32 pages. (0-8050-1254-0) \$15.95

Seventeen extraordinary full-color reproductions of fabric art works composed of felt applique and embroidery show Inuit ice fishing, "iglu" life, blanket tossing and other games, legends and seasonal events, including an Inuit Nativity. The artist's written interpretations of specific Inuit traditions integrate his personal world view with times and events almost totally past in James Bay in Arctic Quebec. The parallel, bilingual Inuit-English texts are visually striking. Important background information at the end tells about the Inuit people and language and contemporary Inuit art and artists.

Normee Ekoomiak's own words describe how permanent damage to his hearing in childhood never keeps him from hearing the language of the earth's creatures. Ekoomiak's artistic tribute to his people combined with his expressions of natural unity result in a one-of-a-kind book offering multiple levels of information and insight. (Age 5 and older)

Price, Leontyne, reteller. AIDA. Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 32 pages. (0-15-200405-X) \$16.95

A handsome 11 1/4" x 10 1/4" volume combines an internationally respected African-American opera star's retelling of the opera narrative which, she states, has given her "great inspiration onstage and off." In a storyteller's note at the end of the book, Ms. Price cites the qualities she admires in the Ethiopian Princess who "was my best friend operatically and was a natural for me because my skin was my costume." These qualities include Aida's "deep devotion and love for her country and people - her nobility, strength and courage..." They are expressed in the Dillons' rich colors, dramatic costumings of characters, inventive stagings of action and multiple uses of ancient Egyptian images. The tragic enslavement central to the opera is not romanticized, although the story contains romantic elements. Traditional typography combined with the elegance of contemporary book design and production complement the Dillons' contemporary illustrative style. Winner, 1990 CCBC Coretta Scott King Book Award for Illustration Book Discussion. (Ages 7-14)

Sibley, Brian. THE LAND OF NARNIA. Illustrated by Pauline Baynes. U.S. edition: Harper & Row. 96 pages. (0-06-025625-7) \$19.89

An elegantly designed compendium contains information about C.S. (Jack) Lewis; summaries of and visual images from each fantasy novel; accounts of Narnian history; background material about how Lewis wrote the famous books; and details about Pauline Baynes' development of the Narnia maps and illustrations. A treat for devotees of the Narnia Books, fantasy readers and literary arts enthusiasts. (Ages 11-14)

See also: Christmas Story; Hattie and the Wild Waves; In Your Own Words; Journey; Las Navidades; Laura Ingalls Wilder Country; Place My Words Are Looking For; Sorrow's Kitchen

#### POETRY

Agard, John. LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME AT ALL. U.S. edition: Henry Holt. 96 pages. (0-8050-1237-0) \$14.95

A collection of 85 poems about "love, families, politics, injustice, growing up, having a good time" is iconoclastic and mature in mood. Most of the approximately 75 poets represented are from United Kingdom nations and many are people of color. The poets include James Berry, Nikki Giovanni, Miroslav Holub, June Jordan, Audre Lorde, Zinzi Mandela, Bob Marley and Kazuko Shiraishi. A distinctive graphic design complements the small typeface in this 8" x 5" volume created by Guyanese poet John Agard. (Age 14 and older)

Frank, Josette, selector. SNOW TOWARD EVENING; A YEAR IN A RIVER VALLEY.

Illustrated by Thomas Locker. Dial. 32 pages. (0-8037-0810-6) \$15.89

Short poems by 13 poets evoke each month and January 1st as do 13 scenic paintings reproduced in full color. Poets represented in the thematic, largely visual anthology include John Updike, Langston Hughes, Charlotte Zolotow and Rachel Field. (Ages 7-10)

Janeczko, Paul B. THE PLACE MY WORDS ARE LOOKING FOR; WHAT POETS SAY ABOUT AND THROUGH THEIR WORK. Bradbury. 150 pages. (0-02-747671-5) \$13.95

"...Collect words!...Be yourself. Do not imitate other poets. You are as important as they are...", counsels Gwendolyn Brooks in a short personal statement preceding her poem "Computer". Page layouts with generous amounts of open space invite young readers and writers to discover what 39 contemporary poets say about their work as well as to sample on or two of their poems. The black and white photograph introducing each poet provides a visual immediacy corresponding to the upbeat tone of the anthology. Other poets represented include Paul Fleischman, Russell Hoban, Felice Holman, Maxine Kumin, Karla Kuskin, Myra Cohn Livingston, Naomi Shihab Nye, Gary Soto, John Updike and Ron Wallace. (Age 10 and older)

Larrick, Nancy, compiler. MICE ARE NICE. Illustrated by Ed Young. Philomel. 48 pages. (0-399-21495-X) \$15.95

Twenty-five poems by 19 poets involve mice - and cats and dogs! The warm brown charcoal and pastel illustrations literally offer a wide range of perspectives. Poets represented include John Ciardi, Aileen Fisher, Patricia Hubbell, A.A. Milne, Lucy Sprague Mitchell and Jack Prelutsky. (Ages 5-10)

Philip, Neil, selector. A NEW TREASURY OF POETRY. Illustrated by John Lawrence.

U.S. edition: Stewart, Tabori & Chang. 256 pages. (1-55670-145-4) \$25.00  
The more than 130 poets represented in this handsome collection include William Blake, Walter De la Mare, Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, Robert Graves, Rudyard Kipling, Stevie Smith and Robert Louis Stevenson. Graphically distinctive woodcuts illustrate and decorate the anthology of 288 poems organized into sections: A Child Went Forth, Days Are Where We Live, Birds and Beasts, Sing a Song of Seasons, Once Upon a Time, and Goodnight. The index of poets also cites their date(s). The title and first line indexes are combined. (Family reading and ages 9-12)

Ryder, Joanne. UNDER YOUR FEET. Illustrated by Dennis Nolan. Four Winds Press. 32 pages. (0-02-777955-6) \$13.95

"...Under the ground / under the grass / under your feet / creatures are hiding. / Tucked in the earth / or deep in the pond, hidden by leaves or ice, small creatures live nearby...You can look, but you may not see them moving. / Yet they are there. / Try and see if you can feel them..." Similar to STEP INTO THE NIGHT (Four Winds, 1988) and MOCKINGBIRD MORNING (Four Winds, 1989) in tone and visual beauty, these poetic impressions of nature during a seasonal change can evoke a quiet awareness of other creatures with whom the same physical terrain is shared. (Ages 4-8)

#### BIOGRAPHY AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Brooks, Polly Schoyer. BEYOND THE MYTH; THE STORY OF JOAN OF ARC. J.B. Lippincott. 176 pages. (0-397-32422-7) \$14.89

Throughout the five centuries following the death of France's popular heroine and saint, legendary and varying interpretations of Joan's deeds have often obscured recorded facts. Brooks relies heavily upon the fund of information in Joan's Trial Record and upon an understanding of the social, political and religious context of 15th century France in developing this 12-chapter explanation of Joan's pious, inspired leadership. The handsomely designed, well written biography is complemented by the biographer's helpful notes, substantial bibliography and detailed index. (Age 12 and older)

Freedman, Russell. FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT. Clarion. 200 pages. (0-89919-379-X) \$16.95

The well researched, organized and readable text covers FDR's childhood, college years, early career and four-term U.S. presidency and is augmented by black-and-white photographs. Freedman briefly refers to the dimensions of FDR's personal life, public persona and political career which any reliable biographer would include. A listing of other books about this extraordinary leader and an index complete an exemplary work which illuminates the complex man who accomplished much while he was facing unprecedented national and international challenges. (Age 10 and older)

Lyons, Mary E. SORROW'S KITCHEN; THE LIFE AND FOLKLORE OF ZORA NEALE HURSTON. Charles Scribner's Sons. 144 pages. (0-684-19198-9) \$13.95

From the time of her childhood in the all-Black town of Eatonville, Florida, Hurston delighted in hearing the oral folk literature of her people and she was determined in adulthood to give it the scholarly attention it deserved. Lyons skillfully documents Hurston's struggles to acquire an education and to have her research taken seriously by the academic establishment, her role

as a creative artist in the Harlem Renaissance and her lifelong commitment to preserving the cultural heritage of African-Americans in the U.S. South and in the West Indies. Excerpts from Hurston's own writing are frequently interspersed throughout the text, giving readers a strong sense of Hurston's unique character. (Age 11 and older)

Paulsen, Gary. WOODSONG. Bradbury. 132 pages. (0-02-77-221-9) \$12.95

"...I was running a team in the north and they were out there ahead of me and it was beautiful... And I knew nothing. I was so ignorant, so steeped in not knowing that I did not even know what I didn't know. I didn't know what questions to ask, or how to ask them, and I would not begin to learn until Storm taught me. His blood taught me..." The author of DOGSONG (Bradbury 1985), HATCHET (Bradbury, 1987) and THE WINTER ROOM (Orchard, 1989) tells how he trained and ran dogs for the Iditarod, a 1,180-mile dogsled race in Alaska. Paulsen relates robust survival stories from his life in northern Minnesota as well as the memorable inner odyssey of his changing values concerning active hunting and trapping. (Age 9 and older)

Say, Allen. EL CHINO. Houghton Mifflin. 32 pages. (0-395-52023-1) \$14.95

A picture-book biography of Bill Wong, a Chinese-American bullfighter. As a child, Wong dreamt of a career as a professional basketball player but his small physical stature kept him from realizing his dream as he approached adulthood. Still interested in pursuing athletics, he discovered on a trip to Spain that he was just the right size for bullfighting and, after years of training, achieved fame and fortune as "El Chino," Spain's first Chinese matador. Allen Say's full-page watercolor paintings are reproduced in black-and-white and full color, giving readers the impression that they are looking at photographs in a family album. (Ages 4-8)

Stevenson, James. JULY. Greenwillow. 32 pages. (0-688-08822-8) \$12.95

"...When I young, each month was like a glacier slowly melting..." begins a largely visual autobiographical narrative about the summers 50 years ago when this popular NEW YORKER cartoonist and children's book humorist spent a month with his grandparents at their beach house. New rules, old summer friends, varying oceanside weather, sticky toasted marshmallows and almost-scary stories are remembered in a spare, witty narrative punctuated with small watercolor paintings reproduced in full color. WHEN I WAS NINE (Greenwillow, 1986) and HIGHER ON THE DOOR (Greenwillow, 1987) are companion picture book volumes. (Ages 5-9)

Tolan, Sally. JOHN MUIR; NATURALIST, WRITER AND GUARDIAN OF THE NORTH AMERICAN WILDERNESS. Gareth Stevens. 68 pages. (0-8368-0099-0) \$12.45

A brief account of the Scots-born originator of the U.S. national park system draws upon standard works by and about Muir but emphasizes his early years in Wisconsin and at the University of Wisconsin in Madison to a greater extent than most other biographies for young readers. Full-color scenic photos and maps; black-and-white archival images of Muir, his family and colleagues; brown-and-white sketches and other images of Muir's inventions and notes; brief side-bar quotations by Muir and others; and listings of conservation-related organizations contribute to this introduction to an activist's vision, life and works. (Ages 11-14)

See also: Black Heroes of the Wild West; Cynthia Gregory Dances Swan Lake; Family Pictures; Kate Shelley and the Midnight Express; Land of Narnia; Laura Ingalls

Wilder Country; Place My Words Are Looking For; Teammates

### FOLKLORE, MYTHOLOGY AND TRADITIONAL LITERATURE

Bierhorst, John. THE MYTHOLOGY OF MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA. William Morrow. 239 pages. (0-688-06721-2) \$14.95

In a companion volume to THE MYTHOLOGY OF NORTH AMERICA (Morrow, 1985) and THE MYTHOLOGY OF SOUTH AMERICA (Morrow, 1988), Bierhorst retells 20 basic myths of the area and explains how they fit into the world views of the people who told them. This carefully compiled and documented resource also includes an analysis of aspects of modern Mexican and Central American life that have their roots in the ancient Native mythology. (Age 13 and older)

Cousins, Lucy. THE LITTLE DOG LAUGHED. U.S. edition: Dutton. 64 pages. (0-525-44573-0) \$14.95

A freshly conceived treatment of more than fifty entries explodes the prevailing idea communicated by conventional nursery rhyme books. These bold, vibrant forms and figures are far from precious. They definitely are not lily white. They contribute to waking up, to opening one's eyes literally and figuratively. The mood is carefree, the characters bear mixed racial images and the humor throughout is delightful. (Age 9 months-4 years)

Geras, Adele. MY GRANDMOTHER'S STORIES; A COLLECTION OF JEWISH FOLK TALES. Illustrated by Jael Jordan. U.S. edition: Alfred A. Knopf. (0-679-80910-4) \$17.95

Ten traditional Jewish tales are interwoven within the narrative and dialogue of a girl's visit to her grandmother. While they cut apples to mix with the nuts and raisins for a strudel, the grandmother asks "...Have you ever thought..., what it must be like to be hungry?...Let me tell you a story about...a very rich merchant...in the days of King Solomon..." Other tales include "A Tangle of Wools," "The Garden of Talking Flowers," and "A Phantom at the Wedding." Each tale in the 10 3/8" x 8 1/8" book is intriguingly and invitingly visualized in two illustrations, one in full color. (Ages 5-10)

Hale, Sarah Josepha. MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB. Photo-illustrated by Bruce McMillan. Scholastic/Hardcover. 32 pages. (0-590-43773-9) \$12.95

A modern interpretation is given to the familiar nursery rhyme as McMillan's clearly reproduced color photographs show Mary as a contemporary rural African-American child. An afterword provides a history of the rhyme, full text of the original 1830 version and a sample lesson from an 1857 McGuffey Reader which used the rhyme to teach reading. (Ages 3-7)

Hamilton, Virginia. THE DARK WAY; STORIES FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD. Illustrated by Lambert Davis. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 154 pages. (0-15-222340-1) \$19.95

Twenty-five stories of supernatural beings from cultures around the world are retold in appropriately eerie tones by an expert storyteller. Hamilton's fine introduction and careful notes about each story intellectually link these diverse reflections of "an ancient need in humans to make order out of disorder and to control their environment." Fifty-five haunting full-color paintings provide the perfect complement to the tales. (Age 8 and older)

Hedlund, Irene. MIGHTY MOUNTAIN AND THE THREE STRONG WOMEN. Translated from the

Danish. English version by Judith Elkin. Volcano Press/Kazan Books (P.O. Box 270, Volcano, CA 95689). 28 pages. (0-912078-86-3) \$14.95

Mighty Mountain is so strong that when he walks, the earth shakes. When he hears that the emperor is holding a wrestling match to determine the strongest man in Japan, Mighty Mountain heads for the capital, certain that he can win the match easily. His confidence is eroded, however, after a chance meeting with a family of three women, all of whom are much stronger than he is. Happily, Grandma agrees to undertake Mighty Mountain's training to build up his strength for the match. This wry Japanese folktale is retold with understated humor and appropriately illustrated with amusing full-color paintings, filled with exuberance. (Ages 4-9)

Knutson, Barbara. HOW THE GUINEA FOWL GOT HER SPOTS; A SWAHILI TALE OF FRIENDSHIP. Carolrhoda. 32 pages. (0-87614-416-4) \$12.95

A humorous story originating in East Africa involves the effort of Nganga the Guinea Fowl, who once had glossy black feathers, and Cow as they attempt to stay safe from Lion. A striking page layout and book design underscore the vigor of the illustrations created with watercolors and ink on scratchboard. (Ages 4-8)

Mahy, Margaret. THE SEVEN CHINESE BROTHERS. Illustrated by Jean and Mou-sien Teng. Scholastic/Hardcover. 38 pages. (0-590-42055-0) \$12.95

From a brief editor's note set in a small typeface at the book's opening, one can glimpse the historic and political basis for a Han tale featuring seven "fictive characters in the classic tall-tale tradition." An action-filled, culturally substantial recounting demonstrates how justice is ultimately served as each brother employs his power on behalf of the suffering laborers conscripted to build the Great Wall of China. Incremental variations within the repetitive language combined with mounting suspense mark this rendition of a humorous, entertaining tale. The full-color watercolor paintings offer historical detail and an exquisite complement to Mahy's superb writing. (Ages 4-10)

Mitchell, Stephen, adaptor and translator from the Hebrew. THE CREATION.

Illustrated by Ori Sherman. Dial. 32 pages. (0-8037-0618-9) \$15.89

Sixteen paintings by the late artist Ori Sherman are reproduced as 9 1/2" x 11 1/2" full-color, full-page illustrations and endpapers accompanied by a poetic translation of the Creation Story from Biblical Hebrew. Sherman's calligraphy combines Hebrew words and symbolism from Jewish tradition with flaming, swirling imagery: a banished dragon, trumpeting angels working miracles and beings of the new creation. A sophisticated treatment of religious concepts. (Age 5 and older)

Morgan, Pierr. THE TURNIP. Philomel. 32 pages. (0-399-22229-4) \$13.95

A turnip seed planted by Dedoushka on a spring day grows into a massive specimen, resisting his efforts to uproot it and the exertions of those who come to join in the pull: Baboushka, Mashenka, Geouchka (the dog), and Keska (the cat). Of course, it is only when the little field mouse joins the group that success is finally achieved. This enduring folktale is told in the rhythmic repetitive text collected from a Russian storyteller and first published in 1938. Richly colored, strong figures with definite outlines mesh perfectly with the simple prose. (Ages 2-4)

Perrault, Charles. PUSS IN BOOTS. Illustrated by Fred Marcellino. Translated

from the French by Malcolm Arthur. Michael DiCapua Books/Farrar Straus Giroux. 32 pages. (0-374-36160-6) \$14.95

Magic footwear, a flair for fraudulence and fantastic tomfoolery characterize any version of this 300-year-old tale involving the reversal of humble origins.

From the compelling full-color book jacket image of the debonair hero to the final page showing a formal, framed painting of the famous feline, this new version of the Perrault tale about a miller and his cat is fresh and full of surprises. Unique perspectives and visual patterns contribute to the dynamic beauty of an edition with unusual typography, page layout and design. Honor Book, 1990 CCBC Caldecott Book Discussion. (Ages 4-8)

Rose, Deborah Lee. THE PEOPLE WHO HUGGED THE TREES. Illustrated by Birgitta Saflund. U.S. edition: Roberts Rinehart. 32 pages. (0-911797-80-7) \$12.95

This adaptation of a folktale from Rajasthan, India, is especially relevant to today's environmental concerns. Amrita Devi has a deep respect for the trees that protect her desert village from the hot sun and the sandstorms. When the Maharajah's men come to cut down the trees to build a fortress, Amrita leads her people in nonviolent resistance as each of the villagers embraces a tree to impede the axemen's work. Enraged by the news, the Maharajah himself comes with a troop of soldiers to fight the tree-huggers but they are stopped by a terrible sandstorm during which they learn firsthand the importance of the trees. Detailed full-page watercolor paintings illustrate this legend which inspired the Chipko ("Hug the Tree") Movement in modern India. (Ages 4-8)

Stamm, Claus. THREE STRONG WOMEN; A TALL TALE FROM JAPAN. Illustrated by Jean and Mou-sien Teng. Viking. 32 pages. (0-670-83323-1) \$12.95

Although the tale itself is described in the Hedlund annotation on the preceding page, this edition differs from Hedlund's retelling and also from an earlier Stamm version published by Viking in 1962. Here the main character is named "Forever-Mountain." Bright colors, visual whimsy and attention to cultural details earmark this edition of the popular Stamm text. Claus Stamm first heard the age-old tale in Japan where it has long remained a favorite and where he continues to live. (Ages 4-9)

Taylor, C. J. HOW TWO-FEATHER WAS SAVED FROM LONELINESS; AN ABENAKI LEGEND. U.S. edition: Tundra Books. 24 pages. (0-8876-254-9) \$12.95

At the end of winter, Two-Feather is hungry for two things: food and human contact. His chance meeting with the Corn Goddess fulfills both of his needs as she shows him how to plant corn to sustain village life. Set in a long-ago time when the Earth was so sparsely populated that one person could wander for months without seeing another person, this Abenaki legend explains the origins of fire, agriculture and communal living. (Ages 4-8)

Yolen, Jane, reteller. TAM LIN. Illustrated by Charles Mikolaycak. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 32 pages. (0-15-284261-6) \$14.95

A Scottish ballad first recorded in the sixteenth century, the story of Tam Lin is elegantly retold in prose and accompanied by vivid watercolor and colored pencil illustrations. Sixteen-year-old Jennet MacKenzie, determined to reclaim an ancestral castle presently held by the Fair Folk, accidentally summons Tam Lin, a young man long imprisoned by the Queen of the Fey and soon to be killed. Jennet confronts the Faery Queen during a Hallow's Eve ride of the Fey and saves Tam Lin through her unswerving courage. The book's visual images glow with lush tartan shades of red, green and gold,



complemented by strong black lines and pristine whites. (Ages 6-9)

Young, Richard and Judy Dockrey Young. FAVORITE SCARY STORIES OF AMERICAN CHILDREN. August House Publishers (P.O. Box 3223, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203). 112 pages. Paperback with perfect binding. (0-87483-119-9) \$8.95

A 6 3/4" x 10" paperback collection of 12 scary stories told by generations of children includes "The Golem", "The Hobbyahs", "Rap...Rap...Rap!" and "Jack and the Sally-Bally". A well expressed afterword interprets the perennial appeal of scary tales and is aimed at adults, while the brief source notes and pronunciation guide for this global collection will interest readers of all ages. Each story is accompanied by one illustration reproduced in two colors. The book's modest appearance belies the treasures between its covers. (Ages 7-11)

See also: Indian Way; Legend of the Christmas Rose; Sorrow's Kitchen

#### CONCEPT BOOKS

Dunbar, Joyce. TEN LITTLE MICE. Illustrated by Marie Majewska. U.S. edition: Gulliver Books/Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 24 pages. (0-15-200601-X) \$13.95  
Ten distinctive field mice enjoy a variety of outdoor adventures but one by one each mouse returns to their cozy nest. Illustrated with detailed, realistic paintings, this appealing picture book can be enjoyed as a story, a counting book or as an introduction to simple subtraction. (Ages 3-5)

Ehlert, Lois. COLOR FARM. J.B. Lippincott. 38 pages. (0-397-32441-3) \$12.89  
Nine familiar farm animals are introduced in the visually exciting format Ehlert used in COLOR ZOO (Lippincott, 1989). Creative combinations of basic shapes die-cut into layered pages delineate different animal heads with each page-turning. Shapes are labeled to reiterate the concept and a barnyard full of geometrically composed animals appears at the end of the book. (Ages 3-7)

..... FISH EYES; A BOOK YOU CAN COUNT ON. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 32 pages. (0-15-228050-2) \$13.95  
Swimming through the deep blue pages of this 6 3/4 x 11 3/8" volume, a little black fish invites readers to count from one to ten as each page spread presents an increasing number of brightly colored fish. This skillfully designed book incorporates easy addition into a patterned rhyming text. Small circles die-cut into every page serve as brightly colored eyes on fishes, as well as a visual and sensory means of keeping the count. (Ages 2-6)

Hoban, Tana. SHADOWS AND REFLECTIONS. Greenwillow. 32 pages. (0-688-07090-6) \$12.88  
In a wordless book, striking color photographs challenge children to identify objects, buildings, people and animals by their shadows and reflections in puddles, windows, pavement, etc. Viewers may also be encouraged to make observations about the nature of shadows and reflections by comparing and contrasting Hoban's photographs. (Ages 4-7)

Konigsburg, E.L. SAMUEL TODD'S BOOK OF GREAT COLORS. Atheneum. 32 pages. (0-689-31593-7) \$13.95  
Samuel Todd is an appealing young boy who describes familiar objects and animals

in his world according to their colors: "When you see a lot of gray shaped like an elephant, it is one." With the verbal wit and fresh vision that are the hallmarks of her novels for older children, Konigsburg provides a marvelously delectable introduction to color concepts. Her accompanying full-color illustrations of pumpkins, bananas, flamingos, zebras and chocolate kisses are a visual treat, as well. (Ages 2-4)

Magee, Doug and Robert Newman. ALL ABOARD ABC. Cobblehill/Dutton. 48 pages. (0-525-65036-9) \$13.95

Stunning color photographs of train cars and railroad tracks provide the setting for an appealing journey through the alphabet. Outside views of diesel engines, tank cars, hopper cars, box cars and cabooses are nicely balanced with close-up pictures of a control panel, coupler, springs and wheels. As he did in his earlier book, TRUCKS YOU CAN COUNT ON (Dodd, Mead, 1985), Magee has skillfully produced a high-interest concept book. (Ages 2-5)

Morozumi, Atsuko. ONE GORILLA; A COUNTING BOOK. U.S. edition: Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 24 pages. (0-374-35644-0) \$13.95

"Here is a list of the things I love. / One gorilla. / Two butterflies among the flowers and one gorilla." Nine animals in their natural environments are named and pictured in full color in addition to the ubiquitous "one gorilla" appearing in the background on every page spread. Young children will delight in finding and counting the animals in each illustration. (Ages 2-4)

#### BOOKS FOR TODDLERS

Barton, Byron. BONES, BONES, DINOSAUR BONES. Thomas Y. Crowell. 32 pages. (0-690-04825-4) \$12.95

"Bones. Bones. We look for bones." Paleontologists start out on a search for dinosaur bones, dig them up and assemble them into reconstructions of familiar dinosaurs. A brief, rhythmic text accompanied by flat, boldly colored illustrations outlined with heavy black lines make this introduction to dinosaur-hunting accessible to very young children. (Ages 18 months-3 years)

Brown, Laurie Krasny. TODDLER TIME; A BOOK TO SHARE WITH YOUR TODDLER. Illustrated by Marc Brown. Joy Street/Little, Brown. 40 pages. (0-316-11263-1) \$14.95

The Browns developed a unique way of providing advice for parents and baby caregivers in a format perfect for sharing with the book's subject in their book BABY TALK (Alfred A. Knopf, 1989). Like the first easy-to-use visual guide to child development, care and nurturing, this second user-friendly 11 3/4" x 9" guide is packed with practical suggestions for everyday routines, toddler play, the learning of new concepts, preparation for excursions, responses to toddler expressions of feelings, and tips for staying happy and well. Nursery rhymes and simple songs are tucked into every section of a book designed for everyone who wants to make this important stage of development as creative and celebrative as possible. (Adult and ages 12 months-3 years)

Cousins, Lucy. MAISY GOES TO BED. U.S. edition: Little, Brown. 14 pages.

(0-316-15832-1) \$10.95

A clever stiff-page, moveable-parts book introduces a fresh, toddler-centered view of a daily routine. Maisy is a sprightly toddler-mouse who - in preparing for bed - gets a drink from the refrigerator; goes into the bathroom (potty seat lifts up and down, toilet tissue pulls out, etc.); washes hands; brushes teeth; reads a bedtime book (it's tucked inside this book and has its own pages which turn); and falls asleep under a distinctively patterned and brightly colored quilt. In MAISY GOES SWIMMING (Little, Brown, 1990), children can once again pull tabs and lift flaps (or watch someone else do this) each of which demonstrates a step Maisy masters to get completely undressed for a swim. All will be logical from a toddler perspective, even though the parts which move for undressing are as literal as actual toddlers can be in reality. These books are bold in concept, vivid in color, abstract in appearance, fun to manipulate and welcome innovative alternatives to conventional sturdy toy books. (Ages 12 months- 3 years)

De Regniers, Beatrice Schenk. HOW JOE THE BEAR AND SAM THE MOUSE GOT TOGETHER. Illustrated by Bernice Myers. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages. (0-688-09079-6) \$12.95

A big bear and a tiny mouse find that, although they have different needs and interests, they are compatible every day at 3:00 when they get together for ice cream. Simple, repetitive sentences set in large typeface for Joe and small typeface for Sam are combined with comical color illustrations in a satisfying story of friendship. (Ages 2-4)

Dupasquier, Philippe. I CAN'T SLEEP. U.S. edition: Orchard Books. 32 pages. (0-531-05874-3) \$13.95

At first it's dad who can't sleep and while he's up doing some work, little sister wakes up, wanting a glass of milk. Before long the whole family's awake and after a snack and some star gazing, they tumble back into bed and sleep well into the day. Detailed, humorous but tender illustrations tell the entire story in this charming wordless book. (Ages 2-5)

Hudson, Cheryl Willis and Bernette G. Ford. BRIGHT EYES, BROWN SKIN. Illustrated by George Ford. Just Us Books (301 Main St. Suite 22-24, Orange, NJ 07050). 24 pages. (0-940975-10-6) \$12.95 (Paperback with perfect binding: 0-940975-23-8) Appealing full-color illustrations show four distinctly individual African-American children engaged in typical preschool or daycare activities, while an upbeat rhyming text describes the four: "Bright eyes, brown skin / a heart-shaped face / a dimpled chin..." Intended to enhance the self-esteem of African-American children, this powerful and empowering praise song is unique. (Ages 2-5)

Isadora, Rachel. BABIES. Greenwillow. 24 pages. (0-688-08031-6) \$12.95 Watercolor illustrations portray eleven toddlers engaged in typical activities from morning to night. Each portrait is accompanied by a single descriptive word (eating, playing, laughing, singing, etc.); toddlers and their grownups may wish to extend the text with commentary of their own. (Ages 9 months-3 years)

Johnson, Angela. DO LIKE KYLA. Illustrated by James E. Ransome. Orchard Books. 32 pages. (0-531-08452-3) \$14.99

A typical winter day in the life of a young African-American girl is described in a first-person text in which older sister Kyla is the focus. While getting

dressed, braiding hair, eating breakfast, playing in the snow, and walking to the store, the narrator watches and imitates everything her older sister does. A warm, loving relationship between two sisters is depicted in the perfectly paced text as well as in the stunning full-color oil paintings by a promising young artist. (Ages 2-5)

Marzollo, Jean. *PRETEND YOU'RE A CAT*. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Dial. 32 pages. (0-8037-0774-6) \$12.89

"Can you hiss? / Can you scat? / Can you purr / like a cat?"

Rhymed verses using patterned language pose questions to children about the various actions and noises they can make to imitate 13 familiar animals. Full-color pencil and watercolor paintings show preschoolers from diverse racial backgrounds engaged in lively imaginative play next to boxed insets containing realistic drawings of the animals they're pretending to be. Large, clear illustrations, an appealing topic and the inviting format make this a perfect book for group sharing. Honor Book, 1990 CCBC Caldecott Book Discussion. (Ages 2-5)

Mazer, Anne. *WATCH ME*. Illustrated by Stacey Schuett. Alfred A. Knopf. 32 pages. (0-394-82946-8) \$12.95

A young child's activities throughout the day are recounted in a lyrical first-person narrative accompanied by boldly colored illustrations. The inviting, playful text calls attention to both sensory and visual details which make up the whole of the child's experiences. (Ages 2-4)

McMillan, Bruce. *ONE SUN; A BOOK OF TERSE VERSE*. Holiday House. 32 pages. (0-8234-0810-8) \$14.95

An Asian-American boy's day at the beach is described with pairs of one-syllable rhyming words: "sand hand / lone stone / snail trail..." Clear color photographs capture the spirit of a child's exuberant play midst sand and water. (Ages 2-4)

Stott, Dorothy. *TOO MUCH*. Dutton. 32 pages. (0-525-44569-2) \$10.95

A bright yellow duckling who enters a household kitchen looking for a good place to swim finds plenty of water but in places that are too soapy, too tight, too high or too hot. Brightly colored watercolor illustrations show the persistent duckling's search for perfection. (Ages 2-4)

Williams, Sue. *I WENT WALKING*. Illustrated by Julie Vivas. U.S. edition: Gulliver Books/Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 32 pages. (0-15-200471-8) \$13.95

"I went walking. / What did you see? / I saw a black cat looking at me." A patterned, predictable text tells the story of a small, spiky-haired child who sees a brown horse, red cow, green duck, pink pig, and yellow dog while outside walking. As the child leads an ever-growing line of animals from left to right across the pages, Vivas's delightfully energetic illustrations provide visual clues for the animals to come. (Ages 2-5)

Williams, Vera B. *"MORE MORE MORE," SAID THE BABY; 3 LOVE STORIES*. Greenwillow. 32 pages. (0-688-09174-1) \$12.88

Affectionate names for active toddlers (Little Guy, Little Pumpkin and Little Bird); exploratory activities emphasizing basic human features (belly button, toes and eyes); repetitive baby-focused narratives centered on three times of every toddler's day (waking up, being up and falling asleep); three loving adults guiding and caring for the babies (a daddy, a grandma and a

mama); and color triads expressing the emotionally rich short pieces which "catch up" listeners and receivers are all combined in exuberantly unified paintings full of encircling love. The rhythmic text is painted within the larger rhythmic paintings. The handsome jacket art is harmonious with the warmth and excitement within this diversely pictured 11 1/4" x 10" world of color-filled words and images. Winner, 1990 CCBC Caldecott Book Discussion (Ages 9 months-3 years)

See also: Beach Day; Christmas Time; City Street; Day We Met You; Feathers for Lunch; Little Dog Laughed; Mary Had a Little Lamb; My First Passover; One Gorilla; Rain Talk; Samuel Todd's Book of Great Colors; Thanksgiving Treat; Waiting for Noah

### PICTURE BOOKS

Baker, Keith. WHO IS THE BEAST? Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 32 pages. (0-15-296057-0) \$12.95

When several jungle animals express their fears of "the beast," a tiger realizes they're referring to him and points out his similarities to other animals, concluding that they are all beasts. A simple rhyming text is accompanied by rich, boldly colored acrylic paintings in an appealing story about peaceful co-existence. (Ages 3-5)

Balian, Lorna. WILBUR'S SPACE MACHINE. Holiday House. 32 pages. (0-8234-0836-1) \$14.95

The clean, peaceful valley surrounding Wilbur and Violet's house "in the middle of nowhere" becomes transformed by the congestion of suburbia. The couple figures out a way to have more space, but they also get, and, ultimately, get rid of Googie!. Minute details increase the humor of a full-color "space" fantasy. (Ages 4-7)

Barber, Antonia. THE MOUSEHOLE CAT. Illustrated by Nicola Bayley. U.S. edition: Macmillan. 32 pages. (0-02-708331-4) \$14.95

Mowzer the cat and Tom, an old fisherman, lived in a Cornish village with a harbor entrance so small it was called "Mousehole". They were content, eating morgy-broth and star-gazy pie, until Great Storm-Cat made the harbor entrance too dangerous for any boat. Their brave deed which saved the town is celebrated in the candlelit harbor every Christmas. Jewel-toned art illustrates the sweetly dramatic fantasy. (Ages 5-8)

Berry, Christine. MAMA WENT WALKING. Illustrated by Maria Christina Brusca. Henry Holt. 32 pages. (0-8050-1261-3) \$14.95

From her easy-chair on the front porch, Mama describes several hair-raising experiences she has when she goes adventuring, from a flash flood in Ropacactus Canyon to snoring grizzly bears in the Blackenbatty caves. Each time daughter Sarah comes to her rescue with a surprisingly creative solution. Detailed watercolor paintings illustrate the mother/daughter flights of fancy with vivacious humor. (Ages 4-7)

Bogart, Jo Ellen. DANIEL'S DOG. Illustrated by Janet Wilson. Scholastic/Hardcover. 30 pages. (0-590-43402-0) \$11.95

A young African-American boy is subtly shown adjusting to two big changes in his

family life: the birth of a baby sister and the death of his grandfather. Daniel copes by inventing an imaginary dog which he is eventually able to share with his Asian playmate Norman. In her boldly colored realistic paintings, Janet Wilson demonstrates great skill at depicting the emotions of preschoolers through posture as well as facial expressions. (Ages 3-6)

Byers, Rinda M. MYCCA'S BABY. Illustrated by David Tamura. Orchard Books. 32 pages. (0-531-05828-X) \$13.95

Mycca can hardly wait for the arrival of her Aunt Rose's new baby and, even though she's been assured that the baby will belong to her, too, she wonders just how much she'll be allowed to help out. The warmth and security of a loving extended family are captured in both the text and in the illustrations, the style and the palette of which are reminiscent of Mexican muralists. (Ages 4-7)

Carle, Eric. THE VERY QUIET CRICKET. Philomel. 24 pages. (0-399-21885-8) \$17.95

A multi-sensory cumulative story features a little cricket which meets, sees and hears the sounds of other insects while it is trying to learn how to chirp.

The repetitive text, large full-color images and sturdy pages invite use of the book with a group. (Ages 4-7)

Carlstrom, Nancy White. GRANDPAPPY. Illustrated by Laurel Molk. Little, Brown. 32 pages. (0-316-12855-4) \$13.95

During Nate's visit, he and his grandfather share quiet beach walks, trips to town for supplies and a midnight look at the stars. No matter whether the affectionate story takes place now or decades earlier, the central idea is timeless: live "as a light in a dark place". Grandpappy does. (Ages 5-8)

Chetwin, Grace. BOX AND COX. Illustrated by David Small. Bradbury. 32 pages. (0-02-718314-9) \$13.95

Box works nights as a printer. Cox works days as a hatter. Mrs. Bouncer cleverly manages to rent the same room to both of them, although neither tenant is aware of the arrangement due to the differences in their schedules. Victorian cartooning and Savoyard theatricality create the atmosphere; a varied layout and design underscore the fast pace of Mrs. Bouncer's "waste not, want not" philosophy; and deft pen drawing with gouache painting require reading the light-hearted visual story in addition to the short, gracefully written text. (Ages 5-8)

Cooney, Barbara. HATTIE AND THE WILD WAVES; A STORY FROM BROOKLYN. Viking. 40 pages. (0-670-83056-9) \$14.95

Little Hattie always loved painting. Every experience gave her new images to put into her picture-making. The specific details of a German-born family's increasing luxury on the East Coast a century ago are meticulously recorded in full-color paintings. Hattie's in-born vocation is expressed through her developing sense of independence and individuality as a privileged woman living in a time when sheer will was required to listen to one's heart... and to the wild waves which represent Hattie's inner turmoil. (Ages 6-9)

Couture, Susan Arkin. THE BLOCK BOOK. Illustrated by Petra Mathers. Harper & Row. 32 pages. (0-06-020523-7) \$12.89

The book's square dimensions contain the rollicking adventure of two industrious

block characters whose junk collection saves the day following their cone-shaped neighbor's emergency. Irrepressible good will earmarks the unlikely fantasy. Mater's whimsical detail, imaginative composition and master of line pair wackiness with sophistication. (Ages 3-7)

Curtis, Gavin. GRANDMA'S BASEBALL. Crown. 32 pages. (0-517-57389-X) \$12.95  
A young grandson notices Grandma's grumpy manner now that she's moved from far away to live with his parents and him. There is oatmeal for breakfast, little afterschool leisure and, above all, no slamming of the screen door. The autographed baseball from Grandpa's days on the Monarchs provides the first opportunity for the two to mutually enjoy each other. A contemporary African-American family is pictured in the full-color illustrations. (Ages 4-7)

Davies, Andrew and Diana. POONAM'S PETS. Illustrated by Paul Dowling. U.S. edition: Viking. 28 pages. (0-670-83321-5) \$12.95  
In a delightful story set in a multicultural British classroom, shy Poonam whispers that she has lions when her teacher asks her what pet she can bring in for the Class One Pet Assembly. And midst a classroom full of cats, dogs, rabbits, birds and goldfish on Pet Assembly Day, Poonam does indeed cause an uproar when she enters with her pets. Pen-and-ink drawings with watercolor wash are filled with energetic humor, providing the perfect complement to the wry story. (Ages 3-6)

Denslow, Sharon Phillips. NIGHT OWLS. Illustrated by Jill Kastner. Bradbury. 32 pages. (0-02-728681-9) \$12.95  
Aunt Charlene "has always been afraid she will miss something wonderful if she goes to bed too early". She and her nephew William enjoy being night owls together during his summer visits. They roast corn over a bonfire, count the night songs of crickets and frogs, climb a tree and decorate the night with soap bubbles. A colorful loving account of a colorful loving relationship. (Ages 4-7)

Dragonwagon, Crescent. HOME PLACE. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Macmillan. 32 pages. (0-02-733190-3) \$14.95  
"Every year, / These daffodils come up. / There is no house near them ... But once, someone lived here. How can you tell? Look. A chimney, made of stone ... Look. Push aside these weeds - here's a stone foundation, laid on earth ..." Three white people - a man, woman and school-aged girl - discover the more: "A round blue glass marble, a nail, a horseshoe and a piece of plate. A small yellow bottle. A china doll's arm." Contemporary hikers and readers alike imagine the family which once lived here. The illustrations show an African-American family; fragments of their conversations are imagined. Beautifully rendered full-color paintings picture flowers and people of today along with the imaginative flowering of life and living in another time. A reflective, quiet suggestion of others, too, who once used the same piece of earth. (Ages 7-10)

Ehlert, Lois. FEATHERS FOR LUNCH. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 32 pages. (0-15-230550-5) \$13.95  
"...Uh-oh. Door's left open, just a crack. / My cat is out and he won't come back!..." Even though the cat stalks 12 different birds while it's in the garden, the jingling bell around its neck keeps the cat from having any luck

as a predator. A notable balance of drama, surprise and information about the birds and the blossoms within the vibrant collages is incorporated into this 12 1/4" x 7 1/4" story-guide to bird watching. The birds are painted accurately and all but the ones on the final four pages are pictured life size. A beautiful book at close range and a visually stunning one from a distance! (Ages 2-7)

Everitt, Betsy. FRIDA THE WONDERCAT. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 32 pages.  
(0-15-229540-2) \$13.95

A mysterious box delivered to Louise's doorstep contains a blue ruffled collar which transforms the behavior of her cat. Frida bakes bean soup, drives a Sunday bus and waltzes with a neighbor. Such an accelerated life proves to be more than Louise and Frida can fully enjoy on a regular basis. The full color paintings done in gouache create the offbeat mood the plot requires. (Ages 5-8)

Fox, Mem. POSSUM MAGIC. Illustrated by Julie Vivas. U.S. edition:  
Gulliver/Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 32 pages. (0-15-200572-2) \$13.95

After Husk tires of the fun of being invisible, she and Grandma Poss set out from the Australian bush by bicycle for a culinary tour of towns and treats by which to discover how the baby possum can once again be seen. Large illustrations effective for group use expand the lively action over generous expanses of white space and show several ways to use Grandma's striped socks, tie-shoes and star studded apron. (Ages 4-8)

..... SHOES FROM GRANDPA. Illustrated by Patricia Mullins. U.S. edition:  
Orchard Books. 32 pages. (0-531-08448-5) \$13.99

An up-to-date cumulative variation on The House That Jack Built features Jessie and rings with lines such as "...And her mom said, / 'I'll buy you a skirt that won't show the dirt, / to go with the socks from the local shops, / to go with the shoes from Grandpa'..." The final, full-color collage shows high-spirited Jessie's preference for jeans as she dashes away on her skateboard! The 11 1/2" x 9 1/2" format is perfect for group use. (Ages 3-7)

Greenblat, Rodney A. UNCLE WIZZMO'S NEW USED CAR. Harper & Row. 32 pages. (0-06-022097-X) \$13.89

Every spring Uncle Wizzmo drives his nephew and niece to Fleeberville. They enjoy the trip: a stop at Burgerland and the glitz of the used car lot. They like to strike a deal with Turnpike Larry, and he does he have some amazing deals for them to consider! The episode unfolds with exaggerated Pinkwater-like humor. (Ages 5-8)

Harley, Rex. MARY'S TIGER. Illustrated by Sue Porter. U.S. edition:  
Gulliver/Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 24 pages. (0-15-200524-2) \$13.95

No one seems to appreciate the striped, smiling tiger Mary painted at school except for Mary herself, who pins the picture on the wall next to her bed and finds a pleasant surprise when she wakes up the next morning. Spirited pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations add warm humor to this story of a small child's determined belief in the value of her own efforts. (Ages 3-5)

Henkes, Kevin. JULIUS, THE BABY OF THE WORLD. Greenwillow. 32 pages.  
(0-688-08943-7) \$12.95

Lilly is a long-tailed white mouse character who behaves like an indulged,



reckless young human. Before Julius was born, Lilly was the best big sister in the world. Her crown, cape and red cowboy boots convey her self-proclaimed superiority in a world she thinks now revolves around what is a disgusting baby. Readers of CHESTER'S WAY (Greenwillow, 1988) will recognize Lilly even in her Groucho glasses; they'll know she will think of ways to handle the challenge. And she does - usually going to the edge with a very naughty, original flair which typically lands her in the "uncooperative chair". Remarkable pacing earmarks a text well integrated with art created by a combination of watercolors and black pen. (Ages 5-8)

Howe, James. HAROLD & CHESTER IN HOT FUDGE. Illustrated by Leslie Morrill. William Morrow. 48 pages. (0-688-08237-8) \$13.95

Harold, Chester and Howie, three of the pets at the Monroe house, join forces to guard a pan of precious fudge. The treat's mysterious disappearance creates a "hot" fudge puzzle for chocolate-loving Harold and his two cohorts to solve. Bunnacula, feature player in an earlier Howe book (BUNNICULA; A RABBIT-TALE OF MYSTERY, Atheneum, 1979), plays a bit part this time around.

Exuberant full-color illustrations capture the moods and personalities of these appealing animals. (Ages 4-6)

Hughes, Shirley. THE BIG CONCRETE LORRY. (A Tale of Trotter Street) U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 32 pages. (0-688-08535-0) \$13.95

With two parents, three children, a dog and a cat, the Patterson family has outgrown their tiny house on Trotter Street but they don't want to move and leave their friends and neighbors. Instead they decide to build an addition onto the back of their house with the help of Mr. Lal and his son Rhajit and Frankie and Mae's dad from up the street. All goes according to plan until the cement truck shows up a day early and leaves a "shivering heap" of quick-setting cement by the Patterson's front door. Everyone pitches in to help load wheelbarrows and buckets full of wet cement to push and carry through the Patterson house, rushing to finish the work before the cement dries. Although the Patterson children are pleased with the addition to their house once it's finished, they are absolutely thrilled with the unplanned addition to their front yard -- a small hill of dried concrete, left-over from their hard day's work. Once again, Shirley Hughes shows her ingenious skill at depicting the cooperative efforts of a multicultural, working-class neighborhood and at telling a rollicking good story, all the while keeping the interests and concerns of young children at the heart. (Ages 3-7)

Johnson, Angela. WHEN I AM OLD WITH YOU. Illustrated by David Soman. 32 pages. Orchard Books. (0-531-05884-0) \$14.95

A warm, tender relationship between a grandfather and his young grandson is recounted through the child's verbalized projections of all the things they'll do together when the child is as old as Granddaddy: "When I am old with you, Granddaddy, we will play cards all day underneath that old tree by the road. / We'll drink cool water from a jug and wave at all the cars that go by." Gentle, softly colored watercolor paintings show the African-American grandfather and grandson doing today all the things they look forward to doing together in the future. (Ages 3-6)

Kalman, Maira. MAX MAKES A MILLION. Viking. 32 pages. (0-670-83545-5) \$14.95  
"Call me Max. / Max the dreamer. / Max the poet. / Max the Dog. / My dream is to live in Paris ... / But do you think it is easy for a dog to pack a small

brown suitcase, put on a beret, and hop on a plane? Ha! ..." Max lives in New York City with Ida and Morris Stravinsky and shares a studio with Bruno, painter of invisible paintings. Max's words are inventively arranged on the pages so that they become part of the illustrations. Humorously playing with words and expressionistic visual images, Kalman's sophisticated testimony to dreams and dreamers is wacky and wild but always under control. The more a child knows (i.e. reference to Helena Rubinstein, Marc Chagall, etc.) the greater the delight at Kalman's plays on words. Everything contributes to the humor, including the front and back matter and the jacket design. Honor Book, 1990 CCBC Caldecott Book Discussion. (Age 9-adult)

Kesey, Ken. LITTLE TRICKER THE SQUIRREL MEETS BIG DOUBLE THE BEAR. Illustrated by Barry Moser. Viking. 32 pages. (0-670-81136-X) \$14.95

Tricker the Squirrel is slowly awaking to the idea of a ripe hazelnut feast when "a holy dad-blamed gosh-almighty roar came kabooming ... like a freight druv by the Devil himself, or at least his next hottest hollerer ..." Tricker himself "... hung there, petrified, spraddle-eagled spellbound stiff in midair, with eyes big as biscuits and every hair stabbing straight out from him like quills on a puffed-up porcupine! ..." Once the feisty squirrel pulls his considerable wits together, he takes on the "double double hongry" bear in this robustly original story full of eloquently exaggerated turns of phrase. The cumulative tale is illustrated with 13 full-color paintings picturing the animal characters and some of the action. Equally wonderful for reading aloud or independently. (Ages 5-11)

Khalsa, Dayal Kaur. COWBOY DREAMS. U.S. edition: Clarkson N. Potter. 24 pages. (0-517-57490-X) \$13.95

From the time she was a baby, little May has dreamed of her future as a cowboy and in order to prepare for it she really needs a horse! Since she lives in the city, it's not very likely she'll get one, not even the life-size toy horse she sees at F.A.O. Schwarz (meant only for the children of kings and maharajas, says her grandma). But that doesn't stop May, whose imaginative efforts once turned a roller skate into a dog in a previous book, I WANT A DOG (Potter, 1987). Sitting tall in the saddle on her basement-banister horse, May rides off into an Old West which looks suspiciously like a set from 1950s T.V. westerns, where she and her cowboy pals sing and act out familiar cowboy songs. With her usual combination of verbal understatement and visual humor, Khalsa brilliantly depicts the powerful richness of the child's interior world. (Ages 4-8)

Lewis, Kim. THE SHEPHERD BOY. U.S. edition: Four Winds Press. 24 pages. (0-02-758581-6) \$13.95

Growing up on a sheep farm in contemporary England, little James longs to follow in his father's footsteps and help with the sheep but his parents tell him he is too young. For an entire year James watches his parents care for the sheep, waiting for his turn, and on Christmas day James is surprised with a cap, a crook, a dog whistle and a collie puppy of his very own. Softly colored illustrations show the seasonal activities involved in running a modern sheep farm. (Ages 3-6)

Lyon, George Ella. BASKET. Illustrated by Mary Szilagyi. Orchard Books. 32 pages. (0-531-05886-7) \$14.95

Grandma's little white oak basket held a multitude of handy objects -- scissors, pot holders, a flashlight -- and when the basket was lost in a move from the

country to the city, "...everything she couldn't find was in it." For years, Grandma regretted the loss of her basket and all it contained. Years after her death, the basket was found and the only thing in it was a spool of cream-colored thread. Glowing colored pencil and watercolor pictures illustrate a poetic narrative told from the point-of-view of an adult granddaughter who values the basket for the stories and memories it holds. (Ages 4-7)

MacDonald, Amy. RACHEL FISTER'S BLISTER. Illustrated by Marjorie Priceman. Houghton Mifflin. 32 pages. (0-395-52152-1) \$13.95

A parade of helpers is summoned to fix the blister on a child's left toe: "...Find her brothers and some others. / Send them off to bring some aid. / Go enlist her little sister. / Fetch the rabbi. Fetch the maid..." A reliable literary device and a fast pace are perfectly matched with the aristocratic chaos chronicled in watercolors and pen and ink. The jolly nonsense is certain to engage the active participation of those hearing and seeing it. (Ages 3-7)

McDonald, Megan. IS THIS A HOUSE FOR HERMIT CRAB? Illustrated by S. D. Schindler. Orchard Books. 32 pages. (0-531-05855-7) \$14.95

When a hermit crab outgrows his shell, he goes out in search of a new home, trying out a rock, a tin can, a piece of driftwood, a plastic pail, a hole in the sand and a fishing net before he finds a home that is just right. Gritty, sand-colored pastel illustrations are the perfect complement to a text which uses repetition and onomatopoeia and asks direct questions to involve young listeners in the story. (Ages 3-5)

Macaulay, David. BLACK AND WHITE. Houghton Mifflin. 32 pages. (0-395-52151-3) \$14.95

What is black and white and read all over... and over? One response might be this study of Holstein cows, an escaped convict, train stations, a toy train and railroad passengers. What at first seems to be four separate stories ("Seeing Things," "Problem Parents," "A Waiting Game," and "Udder Chaos") emerges as a multilayered whole as characters, designs and realities merge. A blizzard of words cannot be separated from the visual images it stimulates on the page. All is not black and white nor was it ever intended to be: the full-color art has several possible meanings. A striking jacket design and the 1930s details set the mood for an extraordinary puzzle which must be read again and pored over in order to capture its subtle, brilliant humor. (Ages 4-12)

Mahy, Margaret. THE GREAT WHITE MAN-EATING SHARK; A CAUTIONARY TALE. Illustrated by Jonathan Allen. U.S. edition: Dial. 24 pages. (0-8037-0749-5) \$12.95

"...There was once a boy called Norvin who was a good actor but rather plain. In fact, he looked very like a shark. He had small sharkish eyes, a pointed sharkish head, and sharp sharkish teeth. Unfortunately, there are not many plays written with good parts for sharks, so Norvin took up swimming instead..." Aggravated because he has to share Caramel Cove with other swimmers, Norvin clears the beach after strapping a homemade dorsal fin around his substantial middle and "shooting through the water like a silver arrow..." When the real sharks are also fooled by Norvin's splendid performance, his shark impersonations end abruptly. Mahy's playfulness with an image she has also used in writing about her writing is a tribute to her inventiveness. Allen's hilarious full-color images of Norvin are perfectly

bizarre. (Ages 4-9)

Rosenberg, Liz. WINDOW, MIRROR, MOON. Illustrated by Ruth Richardson. Charlotte Zolotow/Harper & Row. 32 pages. (0-06-025075-5) \$12.89

Illustrated with the deep, muted shades of the night, a poetic narrative moves from a sleeping baby in a crib to the moon shining through the window to several nocturnal animals outside, including an owl who sees a car on the road driven by a woman who's coming home to her sleeping baby. Both the distinctive illustrations and the lulling verbal rhythm evoke a mood of security and interconnectedness in an unusual bedtime story. (Ages 3-6)

Sadler, Marilyn. ELIZABETH AND LARRY. Illustrated by Roger Bollen. Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers. 40 pages. (0-671-69189-9) \$13.95

Two friends have lived together for almost 40 years. They like their life: vacuuming, visiting the zoo, playing cards, telling each other things they tell no one else. Does it matter that Larry is an alligator and Elizabeth is a human? Does anybody notice? Who cares! Droll humor characterizes the perfectly integrated text, full-color illustrations and endpapers of a story about friendship, individuality and independence. (Ages 5-8)

Sage, James. TO SLEEP. Illustrated by Warwick Hutton. Margaret K. McElderry Books. 24 pages. (0-689-50497-7) \$12.95

When a mother says "We've reached the end of the day," her child responds by asking "What is the end...?" Hutton's imaginative paintings transport the two out the window, beyond the town and past the stars to the dreams of a contented sleep. A beautifully reassuring bedtime fantasy. (Ages 3-6)

Schoberle, Cecile. ESMERALDA AND THE PET PARADE. Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers. 32 pages. (0-671-67958-9) \$14.95

Juan loves his pet goat Esmeralda, even though she's always running away and getting into trouble. The other kids on Juan's block have their doubts about including Esmeralda in the Garcia Street entry for the Pet Parade during a neighborhood Fiesta but Grandpa suggests the perfect costume for the goat: a dog collar and leash. Grandpa's plan works until Esmeralda snaps her leash and sets out leading a high-speed chase through the neighborhood. Linoleum block prints tinted with muted blue, gold and orange hues illustrate a lively and entertaining story set in Santa Fe, New Mexico. (Ages 4-7)

Stevenson, James. WHICH ONE IS WHITNEY? Greenwillow. 40 pages. (0-688-09061-3) \$12.95

Three picture stories involve the five identical Dugong children: cheerful Warren; polite Winnie; friendly Wally; funny Wendy; and - Whitney, truly talented, but not in ways Mrs. Grouper or Mort Mackerel will notice. A comedy of manners, but not in ways young readers will notice. (Ages 5-8)

Teague, Mark. MOOG-MOOG, SPACE BARBER. Scholastic/Hardcover. 32 pages. (0-590-43332-6) \$12.95

Elmo Freem's terrible haircut just before the first day of school sends him and the space monsters who are snacking in the kitchen to Moog-Moog, the finest barber in the universe. Hints of Van Allsburg and of today's TV imagery are incorporated into a delightfully goofy story deriving appeal from the idea of an embarrassing haircut as well as from its inventive full-color illustrations. (Ages 5-8)

Van Laan, Nancy. POSSUM COME A-KNOCKIN'. Illustrated by George Booth. Alfred A. Knopf. 24 pages. (0-394-82206-4) \$11.95

"Granny was a-sittin' and a-rockin' and a knittin' when a possum come a-knockin' at the door." Granny, Pappy, Ma, Pa, Brother, Sis, Coon-dawg and Tom-cat were all busy doing something when they were interrupted by a knock on the door. This high-spirited, rollicking cumulative tale written in the cadences of Southern U.S. speech begs to be read aloud and enjoyed for the sound of it as much as the meaning. (Ages 3-7)

Waddell, Martin. AMY SAID. Illustrated by Charlotte Voake. U.S. edition: Joy Street/Little, Brown. 24 pages. (0-316-91636-6) \$12.95

Amy is full of good ideas to rectify the effect of the most recent mischief she and her little brother have created during their stay at Gran's. A superior pace and exuberant watercolor images demonstrate how two active preschoolers at play can make plenty of work for themselves and for someone else, too. The book displays a unity of text and art rarely achieved and a catalog of naughtiness not to be taken too seriously. (Ages 3-6)

Zelinsky, Paul O. THE WHEELS ON THE BUS; A BOOK WITH PARTS THAT MOVE. Dutton. 15 pages. (0-525-44644-3) \$14.95

"The wheels on the bus go round and round...all over town." A delightfully inventive full-color picture book edition of a favorite contemporary action song contains durable pages with manipulative functions such as bus doors that open and close, windshield wipers which swish back and forth, a bus driver who gestures "move on back" to his passengers, windows that go up and down, and riders who go bumpety-bump. Visual sub-plots in this sturdy, inviting book feature various passengers as well as a bus stop in front of the public library. A final double page spread cleverly recapitulates the bus trip and the verses. The adult/child/infant passengers are from diverse racial backgrounds. (Ages 3-7)

See also: Christmas Carp; Color Farm; Day of Ahmed's Secret; El Chino; Fish Eyes; Hanukkah!; I Really Want a Dog; I Went Walking; July; Latkes and Applesauce; My Prairie Christmas; North Country Night; Pretend You're a Cat; Puss In Boots; Sam Is My Half-Brother; Snow Lady; Turnip; Under Your Feet; Wake Up, City!; Wall; What Will the Weather Be Like Today?; World's Birthday

#### FICTION FOR NEW READERS

Broger, Achim. THE DAY CHUBBY BECAME CHARLES. Translated from the German by Renee Vera Cafiero. Illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully. U.S. edition: Lippincott. 90 pages. (0-397-32145-7) \$12.89

Julia has always considered Chubby to be a quiet bore, until the day when she arrives home from school to find her grandmother ill and sleeping. During the course of a long afternoon, while worrying that her "Oma" may be dead, Julia comes to realize what a worthwhile and fascinating friend Chubby/Charles can be. Vivid images of these two realistic children create a captivating picture of friendship for young readers. (Ages 7-9)

Herman, Charlotte. THE HOUSE ON WALENSKA STREET. Illustrated by Susan Avishai.

Dutton. 78 pages. (0-525-44519-6) \$11.95

Set in a small Russian town in 1913, an easy historical novel relates seven episodes in the life of an eight-year-old girl. Because Leah is the eldest daughter in a fatherless family, her busy mother expects her to keep an eye on her two younger sisters -- a challenging task because Rose and Esther are always getting into mischief. Details of working-class family life, Jewish culture and Russian history are carefully woven into the seven short chapters, giving this satisfying transitional novel unusual depth. (Ages 7-9)

Joubert, Jean. WHITE OWL AND BLUE MOUSE. Illustrated by Michel Gay. Translated from the French by Denise Levertov. U.S. edition: Zoland Books (385 Huron Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138). 64 pages. (0-944072-13-5) \$13.95

Determined to put an end to the continual raids of the local mouse-eating owl, a small but clever blue mouse launches a retaliatory attack. Luring the owl from spot to spot, she gleefully leads him into various natural hazards: a whipping branch, a hidden pond, a treacherous rock. As a result of the mouse's conniving the owl is left exposed at daylight and is soon captured and imprisoned in a circus sideshow. Over time the blue mouse begins to sympathize with the captive's predicament and a bond is forged between the two enemies. Comical sketches on each page enhance this fast-paced story. (Ages 6-8)

Kroll, Steven. GONE FISHING. Illustrated by Harvey Stevenson. Crown. 48 pages. (0-517-57589-2) \$12.95

Eight short chapters relay Willie's anticipation, preparation and eventual participation in a much-loved annual fishing expedition with his father. The fishing event is realistically portrayed, even to the lack of successful catches. A loving relationship between a father and son is depicted in this well designed book, accompanied by generous color illustrations. (Ages 6-8)

Rylant, Cynthia. HENRY AND MUDGE AND THE HAPPY CAT; THE EIGHTH BOOK OF THEIR ADVENTURES. Illustrated by Sucie Stevenson. Bradbury. 48 pages. (0-02-778008-2) \$11.95

Henry and Mudge rise again, this time to encounter a lost cat that is completely endearing in it's ugliness, including "fur that looked like mashed prunes." With their inimitable style, Henry and Mudge experience the misery of letting go a well loved friend. Three short chapters are filled with lively full-color illustrations. (Ages 5-7)

Wetterer, Margaret K. KATE SHELLEY AND THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS. Illustrated by Karen Ritz. Carolrhoda. 48 pages. (0-87614-425-3) \$9.95

Braving a torrential thunderstorm, 15-year-old Kate Shelley crawls across a treacherous railroad bridge to warn an oncoming train of a wash-out ahead. Rhythm and tension combine to create a thrilling story for beginning readers of all ages. Based on a true incident which occurred in 1881, a useful afterword adds an extra note of interest: although she received one hundred dollars, a gold medal, and a lifetime railway pass, the heroine's favorite honor was that of being left off in front of her own house whenever she rode the train home. (Ages 7-10)

See also: Black and White; Black Heroes of the Wild West; Hero Over Here; Laura Loves Horses; Long Way to Go; Mighty Mountain and the Three Strong Women; My Daddy Was a Soldier; Which One Is Whitney?

## FICTION FOR YOUNG READERS

Aamundsen, Nina Ring. TWO SHORT AND ONE LONG. U.S. edition: Houghton Mifflin. 103 pages. (0-395-52434-2) \$13.95

Twelve-year-olds Jonas and Einar have been friends ever since Einar moved to Oslo two years ago. During an early morning excursion, they encounter a teenage runaway who greets Einar like an old acquaintance. Although Einar refuses to talk about this relationship, that incident and Einar's irrational dislike of an Afghan family new to the neighborhood mystify Jonas. A realistic story of enduring friendship and the issues surrounding war refugees and societal responses to their plight. (Ages 8-11)

Carlson, Lori M. and Cynthia L. Ventura, editors. WHERE ANGELS GLIDE AT DAWN; NEW STORIES FROM LATIN AMERICA. Illustrated by Jose Ortega. Introduction by Isabel Allende. J. B. Lippincott. 114 pages. (0-397-32424-3) \$13.89

A brief, lucid introduction by writer Isabel Allende interprets the 500-year historical roots of Central and South American narrative. She writes of fantastic tales told before television, before radio, before writing itself. She tells of "... voices from ... magical Latin American lands characterized by their wild geography, violent history, beautiful myths, legends, and people moved by their great passions." In this way, Allende describes the wide range of the ten brief works of fiction translated by the editors for this unparalleled collection of works by Chilean Marjorie Agosin and Ariel Dorfman, Cuban Reinaldo Arenas; El Salvadorian Mario Bencastro; Argentinian Julio Cortazar; Peruvian Maria Rosa Fort; Mexican Jorge Ibarquengoitia; Panamanian Enrique Jarmillo Levi; Puerto Rican Alfredo Villanueva-Collado; and North American Barbara Mujica. Differing styles and voices make each story a new adventure for readers of this handsomely designed anthology. (Age 10 and older)

Chang, Margaret and Raymond. IN THE EYE OF WAR. Margaret K. McElderry Books. 198 pages. (0-689-50503-5) \$13.95

Excellent characterizations, strong narrative dialogue and believable relationships earmark a story centered upon the daring adventures and growing resentments of 10-year-old Shao-Shao toward his father who is part of the underground movement against the Japanese. Set in Shanghai during the final year of the Second World War, this novel recreates some of the domestic and daily intrigue within the calm of war's hurricane. (Ages 10-13)

Cormier, Robert. OTHER BELLS FOR US TO RING. Illustrated by Deborah Kogan Ray. Delacorte. 136 pages. (0-385-30245-2) \$13.95

Darcy Webster's father has what her mother calls "itchy feet" and the family moves frequently. The latest urge has prompted him to join the army, moving Darcy and her mother to Frenchtown, Massachusetts, while he goes off to Europe to fight in World War II. Always a loner, Darcy considers herself too shy to make friends, until feisty Kathleen Mary O'Hara appears and the two realize they are destined for a great friendship. The novelty of Kathleen and her religion intrigue Darcy until she is mystified by Kathleen and Kathleen's family's sudden disappearance and then is flattened by the news that her own father is missing in action. Turning to Kathleen's Catholicism, Darcy seeks

a Christmas miracle. A provocative portrait of a search for faith, fleshed out with vivid portrayals of the place and period. (Ages 10-12)

Gleeson, Libby. ELEANOR, ELIZABETH. Holiday House. 129 pages. (0-8234-0804-3) \$13.95

Unhappy in her family's new home in rural western Australia, lonely Eleanor finds comfort in her grandmother's diary. Like Eleanor, Elizabeth was uncertain how to handle the same type of adolescent predicaments Eleanor is facing: quarrels with her mother and first romantic relationships. Although Elizabeth's diary helps Eleanor in many ways, the most dramatic occurs during a bush fire when Eleanor must act decisively to save her life and others. An engrossing account of a teenager's search for self identity and independence. (Ages 11-13)

Gordon, Sheila. THE MIDDLE OF SOMEWHERE; A STORY OF SOUTH AFRICA. Orchard Books. 154 pages. (0-531-05908-1) \$13.95

Rebecca and her family know their village is scheduled by the South African planning department to be flattened soon to make way for a new white suburban development. They become part of the movement to oppose this forced relocation. A black family's resistance to apartheid's injustice is seen through the eyes of a girl young enough to play with the second-hand white doll given to her mother in domestic service and - at the same time - old enough to comprehend the gravity of daily threats to her community and its people. (Ages 9-12)

Hamilton, Virginia. COUSINS. Philomel. 125 pages. (0-399-22164-6) \$14.95

A three-part narrative develops several dimensions of Cammy's intimacy with Gram Tut whom she regularly visits in the nursing home. Gram emerges from this physical containment to become the central dynamic in the family's effort to release Cammy from depression following her witnessing of the accidental death of a cousin during a summer outing. Cammy learns to welcome life's "winters" from Gram and to "... take what comes. Put a focus on ... each little thing ... Just one thing at a time. That's how it's done. Always be ready ..." It's clear that Gram Tut is ready; and, at the close of the brief partially surrealistic narrative, so is her granddaughter. Regardless of the swirl of sudden change, the depth of one's grief and the feeling one will certainly drown, life possibility is always at hand midst the complexities of event and emotion. A powerful story within the emotional and technical reach of young readers. (Ages 8-12)

Hartling, Peter. OLD JOHN. Translated from the German by Elizabeth D. Crawford. U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 120 pages. (0-688-08734-3) \$11.95

Before he even arrives, Old John's stay at the Schirmers creates an uproar as the family attempts to compose a letter of invitation. Seventy-five years old and as unpredictable as ever, Old John descends on the household like a whirlwind, exerting his considerable force of character on everyone he encounters. Hartling's brilliant characterization of this exceptional grandfather, his unflagging individuality, and his honest relationship with family and friends is without flaw. Old John's idiosyncratic speech patterns are ingeniously wrought and translated, bringing a tangible quality to his eccentricities. Brimming with life, the memory of Old John will live long after the book is read. Winner, 1990 CCBC Mildred L. Batchelder Book Discussion. (Ages 9-12)



Hurwitz, Johanna. CLASS PRESIDENT. Illustrated by Sheila Hamanaka. William Morrow. 85 pages. (0-688-09114-8) \$12.95

Fifth-grader Julio Sanchez is intrigued by Mr. Flores, a new teacher who pronounces his name accurately and also notices the boy's latent leadership ability. Short sentences and brief chapters move along a new story about peer relationships which were first featured in CLASS CLOWN (Morrow, 1987) and TEACHER'S PET (Morrow, 1988). (Ages 8-10)

Johnson, Annabel. I AM LEAPER. Illustrated by Stella Ormai. Scholastic/Hardcover. 105 pages. (0-590-43400-4) \$11.95

While the other caged animals in the laboratory plead for freedom in their own languages, Leaper, a Kangaroo rat, manages to speak to the scientists in English, telling them she has "come to talk ... about a matter of life and death." Overwhelmed by this breakthrough in human-animal communication, the researchers ignore her pleas for aid against a "monster" who threatens her desert home. Julian, a twelve-year-old helping out at the lab after school, attempts to help Leaper, only to find that he is unwittingly linked to the destructive menace. The ethics of animal research and habitat protection are explored in this fast-paced adventure illustrated with black-and-white sketches. (Ages 8-10)

King-Smith, Dick. ACE, THE VERY IMPORTANT PIG. Illustrated by Lynette Hemmant. U.S. edition: Crown. 134 pages. (0-517-57832-8) \$12.95

The seventh piglet of the litter, with an unusual ace-shaped marking on his side, Ace was born with "bright eyes that had in them a look of great intelligence." This early indicator proves only too true, and Ace soon has established himself exactly where he wants to be: ensconced in front of the television watching educational and entertaining programs. Quick to use his wits whenever the need arises, Ace follows grandly in the tradition of his equally astounding great-grandfather BABE, THE GALLANT PIG (Crown, 1983). (Ages 7-10)

Lowry, Lois. YOUR MOVE, J.P.! Houghton Mifflin. 122 pages. (0-395-53639-1) \$13.95

Twelve-year-old J.P. can't believe the thoughts he is having about Angela Patricia Galsworthy: "Hair like spun gold; teeth like pearls; eyes like pools; skin like porcelain." Although filled with self-disgust, J.P. is unable to quench his all-consuming infatuation, and exerts extreme effort to capture the attention of his beloved. His development of "triple framosis," a rare and fatal disease conceived entirely for Angela's benefit, proves to be the impetus of his undoing. Introduced in THE ONE HUNDREDTH THING ABOUT CAROLINE (Houghton Mifflin, 1983) and re-visited in SWITCHAROUND (Houghton Mifflin, 1985), J.P. is once again in fine form. (Ages 11-13)

Pearson, Kit. THE SKY IS FALLING. U.S. edition: Viking Kestrel. 248 pages. (0-670-82849-1) \$12.95

Choosing between staying at home in England acting as a vital member of the Secret Society of Skywatchers, collecting shrapnel and viewing aerial dogfights or being shipped off to a safe haven elsewhere is no contest to Norah. A fear of missing the excitement of war and a deeper fear of leaving home grips Norah when her parents announce that she and her younger brother are to be evacuated to Canada. Although the ocean journey proves a distraction, Norah's stay in Canada consists of a downward spiral of events which lead her into a seemingly hopeless depression. Circumstances eventually conspire

to provide a satisfying remedy to her despair. Pearson's smooth writing style and sympathetic insight into child-like responses to overwhelming stress ring true from beginning to end in this engrossing tale which offers a fresh look at the experience of World War II children. (Ages 10-12)

Semel, Nava. BECOMING GERSHONA. Translated by Seymour Simckes. U.S. edition: Viking. 153 pages. (0-670-83105-0) \$12.95

Tel Aviv of 1958 is the setting for Gershona's story, her personal search for identity and belonging, echoed by that of the post World War II Israel nation. A grandfather that she never knew of arrives from America, neighborhood children discard her offerings at friendship, and a developing relationship with a boy produces its own uncertainties. Gershona's intense emotions are finely portrayed in this ambitious look at growing maturity on different levels, both personal and national. (Age 11 and older)

Soto, Gary. BASEBALL IN APRIL, AND OTHER STORIES. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 109 pages. (0-15-205720-X) \$14.95

Strong evocations of childhood and young adolescence unfold in eleven original stories concerning ordinary contemporary youth: Michael and Jesse trying out for the Little League for the third year in a row; Lupe Medrano with a "razor-sharp mind" and the will to become a champion in one sport or another; and the young teenager who feels too old to be with the family on a vacation and too uncertain of independence to enjoy being left behind. Distinctive low-key humor, well crafted opening and closing sentences, small surprises in external dialogue and internal action earmark brief works of fiction about Mexican-American family/neighborhood/school life in central California valley towns. The universal experiences hold high appeal for male and female readers alike. The glossary defines the Spanish language words and phrases used in context throughout the book. Honor Book, 1990 CCBC Newbery Book Discussion. (Ages 11-14)

Tate, Eleanora E. THANK YOU, DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.! Franklin Watts. 237 pages. (0-531-15151-4) \$12.90

Gumbo Grove is once again the setting for a story involving Mary Elouise, an elementary school-aged girl whose pride in her African-American heritage grows appreciably throughout this contemporary story concerning personal self-esteem and racial pride. A visiting African-American storyteller and Mary Elouise's grandmother represent important mentors as Mary Elouise gains new insights. As she first did in JUST AN OVERNIGHT GUEST (Dial, 1980), Tate once again reliably examines sensitive, intra-racial issues directly and effectively, using lively and believable peer dialogue and motivations recognizable to readers. (Ages 9-12)

Taylor, Mildred D. MISSISSIPPI BRIDGE. Illustrated by Max Ginsburg. Dial Books for Young Readers. 62 pages. (0-8037-0426-7) \$12.95

From his vantage point on the front steps of the Wallace store in a small Mississippi town in the 1930s, Jeremy Simms, a ten-year-old white boy, watches as the weekly bus pulls in to load passengers and luggage. As the seats begin to fill up with white passengers, the Black passengers are ordered off the bus. Sensitive Jeremy sees the unfairness in the situation but he remains a silent bystander. Interracial tensions and interactions are flawlessly depicted in this gripping story which builds to a dramatic, surprising ending. Co-Winner, 1990 CCBC Coretta Scott King Book Award for Writing Book Discussion. (Ages 9-13)

Thiele, Colin. JODIE'S JOURNEY. U.S. edition: Harper & Row. 169 pages. (0-06-026132-3) \$13.89

Diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, active 12-year-old Jodie faces the loss of her beloved horseback riding along with painful adjustments more severe than she or her family initially foresee. The typical risk of being without others nearby to assist her becomes a life-or-death matter when an approaching fire in the isolated region of her Australian home threatens Jodie's safety and that of her horse. In response to a letter from an 11-year-old reader, Colin Thiele decided to write about a girl with arthritis; his daughter's expertise on the care and training of horses and show-jumping championships provided the other plot dimension. Thiele's knowledge of rheumatoid arthritis stems from living with the disease for almost 40 years. (Age 10 and older)

Walter, Mildred Pitts. MARIAH KEEPS COOL. Illustrated by Pat Cummings. Bradbury. 139 pages. (0-02-792295-2) \$12.95

Summer has arrived, and so has Mariah's half-sister Denise, to whom the family adjusts, but not entirely. Outside her family, the spunky protagonist of MARIAH LOVES ROCK (Bradbury, 1988) focusses her high energy on The Fabulous Five, a swim team on which she is a diver. Short sentences and chapters, quickly paced action and a large typeface invite readers with many interests into a story in a new sequence of lighthearted episodes revolving around this lively, middle class African-American girl. Walter smoothly interweaves the family observance of Juneteenth into the plot and likewise skillfully pictures a contemporary blended family with strongly held cultural values along with those influenced by the popular culture of the dominant society. (Ages 8-11)

Willard, Nancy. THE HIGH RISE GLORIOUS SKITTLE SKAT ROARIOUS SKY PIE ANGEL FOOD CAKE. Illustrated by Richard Jesse Watson. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 64 pages. (0-15-234332-6) \$15.95

Searching for the perfect gift for her Mother's birthday, a girl learns of her grandmother's "High Rise Glorious Skittle Skat Roarious Sky Pie Angel Food Cake." Hoping to surprise her mother with this celestial treat from the past she searches unsuccessfully for the hidden recipe. A string of serendipitous events involving a ceramic football, a grand piano, and a flying red star-shaped Jello leads the protagonist to the recipe and a late-night encounter with a trio of uninvited angels. This story about love and the power of giving blends smoothly with the radiant and detailed illustrations. (Ages 6-9)

Woodson, Jacqueline. LAST SUMMER WITH MAIZON. Delacorte. 105 pages. (0-385-30045-X) \$13.95

Margaret and Maizon, inseparable 11-year-old friends, try to picture the changes to come when Maizon leaves for the private school where she expects to be the only African-American student. Margaret's dependency upon Maizon is clarified when she experiences the finality of loss after her father dies suddenly. The author's descriptive writing and her insights concerning the women within Maizon's immediate neighborhood in Brooklyn make this first-published short novel for young readers noteworthy. (Ages 10-13)

Wrede, Patricia C. DEALING WITH DRAGONS; THE ENCHANTED FOREST CHRONICLES: BOOK ONE. Jane Yolen Books/Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 212 pages. (0-15-222900-0)

\$15.95

Princess Cimorene has a reputation of taking little interest in the "proper" interests and pastimes befitting her social station. She'd much rather fence, practice magic, learn economics or cook cherry jubilee than dance, embroider or draw. Her disregard for etiquette is only compounded by her height ("Her parents were quite sure that no prince would want to marry a girl who could look him in the eye instead of gazing up at him becomingly through her lashes"), her hair (black and braided, not golden and flowing), and her disposition ("strong-minded" bordering on "stubborn as a pig"). News of her impending marriage to a neighboring prince, whose sole redeeming feature is his good looks, prompts Cimorene to run away seeking to change her lot in life by becoming a princess to a dragon. The fact that princesses are kidnapped by dragons in the normal course of events, rather than being volunteers for the role, doesn't faze Cimorene in the slightest. Once established in her new lair, Cimorene's independent spirit and intelligence soon embroil her in a non-stop adventure involving a helpful witch, scheming wizards, fellow dragons' princesses, and a host of dragons. Cimorene is a truly memorable heroine, and her fresh and humorous story shatters more than a few rules of conventional fantasy, after the fashion of Cimorene herself. (Ages 9-13)

Yee, Paul. TALES FROM GOLD MOUNTAIN; STORIES OF THE CHINESE IN THE NEW WORLD. Illustrated by Simon Ng. U.S. edition: Macmillan. 64 pages. (0-02-793621-X) \$14.95

Eight original stories utilize elements of the history and culture of Chinese laborers in Canada and the U.S.A. Some of the fictions read like tall tales; others are literary ghost stories with unusual twists. The collection as a whole is quirky and imaginative in appeal. A single intriguing full-color, full-page painting illustrates each tale in an incomparable book. (Ages 9-12)

See also: Aida; Christmas Carol; Legend of the Christmas Rose; Little Tricker the Squirrel Meets Big Double the Bear; My Grandmother's Stories

#### FICTION FOR TEENAGERS

Avi. THE TRUE CONFESSIONS OF CHARLOTTE DOYLE. Orchard Books. 215 pages. (0-531-05893-X) \$14.95

Sailing as the only passenger (and only female) from England to Rhode Island is the extraordinary position in which Charlotte Doyle finds herself in June of 1832. The voyage's inevitable disasters are foreshadowed from the moment she boards the ship. Charlotte's class identification with Captain Jaggery blinds her to his manipulation of her naive loyalty, and to his cruelty to the crew. Her eventual alliance with the mutinous crew is possible only after calamitous events which expose her to previously unthought of realities about herself and others. Written in the romantic style of a 19th century adventure story, this thrilling tale relentlessly commands attention from the beginning to an entirely satisfying and unexpected conclusion. Honor Book, 1990 CCBC Newbery Book Discussion. (Age 12 and older)

Bell, Clare. RATHA AND THISTLE-CHASER. Margaret K. McElderry Books. 232 pages.

(0-689-50462-4) \$14.95

In an alternate world led by intelligent, talking felines, young Newt is a solitary, independent cat haunted by terrifying visions of the ominous Dreambiter, her only link to an otherwise forgotten past. When her daily routine is threatened by a clan of cats moving into her territory, Newt finds that she must reconcile the horrors of her past with the changes in her present in order to survive. An absorbing sequel to RATHA'S CREATURE (McElderry, 1983) and CLAN GROUND (McElderry, 1984), deals with themes of trust, loyalty and individual vs. group survival within the context of a rich fantasy world. (Age 12 and older)

Brooks, Martha. PARADISE CAFE AND OTHER STORIES. U.S. edition: Little, Brown. 124 pages. (0-316-10978-9) \$14.95

A Canadian writer's distinctive voice offers illuminations of mid-to-late adolescence in 14 works of short fiction ranging over typical teenage experience in theme and content. The deftly penned stories are anything but typical, however, with their exquisite phrases, subtle humor and gentle insights, all conveying realities for which readers have instant recognition. (Age 14 and older)

Doherty, Berlie. WHITE PEAK FARM. U.S. edition: Orchard Books. 102 pages. (0-531-05867-0) \$12.95

Jeannie believes that her family and home in Derbyshire, England, are completely static; "Nothing even seemed to change there. The seasons printed their patterns on the fields, and the sky cast its lights across the moors, but our lives, I thought, would never change." In fact things change greatly, from her Grandmother's departure, to a sister's marriage, to her own impending decision to stay at home and help her mother or go to college. Jeannie watches her sister and brother choose courses for their own lives to escape their father's rigid rule. She must also select a path to follow, seeking a career or giving it up for her family. Patterns in a family's history are repeated through time, framed in an image of changing seasons. (Age 14 and older)

Gripe, Maria. AGNES CECILIA. Translated from the Swedish by Rika Lesser. U.S. edition: Harper & Row. 288 pages. (0-06-022282-4) \$14.89

Orphaned as a child by a tragic auto accident, Nora has lived for years with her great-aunt and uncle and their son Dag. Although convinced of her surrogate family's love, Nora invariably feels like an intruder. Her sense of isolation is heightened by several inexplicable incidents which begin to occur following a move into a new apartment. As the mystery unfolds Nora discovers another tragedy to which she is strongly linked, and begins to increasingly comprehend the complexities of human relationships. An intricate realistic plot and elements of haunting fantasy are well balanced in this smoothly translated novel. (Age 13 and older)

Hendry, Frances Mary. QUEST FOR A MAID. U.S. edition: Farrar Straus Giroux. 273 pages. (0-374-36162-2) \$14.95

Once having read and relished the intriguing opening sentence ("When I was nine years old, I hid under a table and heard my sister kill a king"), one cannot help but devour the rest of this novel at break-neck speed. An engrossing adventure story embroidered upon the known history of the Maid of Norway, its memorable characters exhibit courage and determination at every turn. Elements of sorcery blend smoothly with the aptly wrought historical

realism; together they create a living image of a time and place. (Age 12 and older)

Ho, Minfong. RICE WITHOUT RAIN. Lothrop Lee & Shepard. 236 pages. (0-688-06355-1) \$12.95

Contemporary Thailand is the locale for a dramatic suspense-filled narrative unfolding in both rural and urban settings. Seventeen-year-old Jiuda gradually understands some of the complex factors changing her family and village during the Thai student movement in 1973-76. The author grew up in Thailand; as a young teacher living and working there she witnessed inequities of tenant farm life, dangers of political movements combatting rural poverty and the brash courage of idealism which her protagonist experiences. A survival theme, romantic subplot, and intense political story await readers of this compelling novel. (Ages 14 and older)

Klause, Annette Curtis. THE SILVER KISS. Delacorte. 198 pages. (0-385-30160-X) \$14.95

Not recommended for the faint-hearted, this story of an unlikely romance between a contemporary teenager and a handsome, emotionally tortured 300-year-old vampire successfully combines a comparison of death (that which is sought after and that which strikes unexpectedly) with the requisite gore of any self-respecting vampire tale. Simon seeks death as an escape from the loneliness of his vampire state while Zoe's mother suffers painfully from cancer; together both Simon and Zoe become better equipped to handle their individual dilemmas. Readers of romance and horror alike will appreciate the story of Simon and Zoe's developing relationship while secretly savoring the suspense of the more gruesome events. (Age 13 and older)

Klein, Robin. CAME BACK TO SHOW YOU I COULD FLY. U.S. edition: Viking Kestrel. 188 pages. (0-670-82901-3) \$11.95

Living with unimaginative Thelma, who is so organized that "even her wrinkles look regimented", while his mother works is a scenario which threatens to smother Seymour with boredom - until he meets Angie. Sparkling and uninhibited, Angie dazzles Seymour with her ready friendship, unconventional manner and colorful lifestyle. Her acceptance bolsters Seymour's shaky self-confidence, and in turn, Seymour idolizes Angie until her gradually becomes aware that her extravagant facade hides a debilitating addiction. Memorable characterizations and a compelling plot carry this story through to its realistic but hopeful conclusion. (Age 12 and older)

Koertge, Ron. THE BOY IN THE MOON. Joy Street/Little, Brown. 166 pages. (0-316-50102-6) \$14.95

Kevin, Frieda and Nick have been an inseparable trio until their senior year of high school. Kevin has been re-made into a partying, self-confident stud, while Frieda and Nick develop stronger and frequently uncomfortable feelings for each other. Adjusting to these changes while attempting to maintain their friendship taxes the abilities of all three. Koertge's witty prose, fine characterizations and insight into adolescent self-image highlight this often hilarious novel. (Age 14 and older)

Korman, Gordon. LOSING JOE'S PLACE. U.S. edition: Scholastic/Hardcover. 233 pages. (0-590-42768-7) \$12.95

Losing his brother's Camaro within 24 hours of arriving in Toronto for a greatly anticipated summer of independence is an accurate predictor of the tone of

the remaining three month experience for Joe and his two high-school friends. Coping with a scheming landlord, boring employment, and a three-way rivalry for the attentions of the beautiful and intense Jessica combine to create an unforgettable summer for the trio. Determined above all not to earn an eviction notice from his brother's apartment at the season's close, Joe concocts a creative solution to his mounting problems in this light-hearted, humorous novel. (Age 13 and older)

LeGuin, Ursula K. TEHANU; THE LAST BOOK OF EARTHSEA. A Jean Karl Book/Atheneum. 226 pages. (0-689-31595-3) \$15.95

A thoroughly developed non-Western fantasy world provides the setting for a complex completion of what is now LeGuin's Earthsea Quartet. The plot hinges upon what a child bearing the physical and emotional damage of her first years can and will do, while middle-aged Tamar and Ged are the vehicles through which the dual struggles of choice and identity attain mythic depth. Although winged dragons will always create excitement, a more typical characteristic of this novel is the way readers are consistently shown rather than told how each character responds to the other and to the dangers to be faced. Two maps chart the fantasy locales. Honor Book, 1990 CCBC Newbery Book Discussion. (Age 12 and older)

Myers, Walter Dean. THE MOUSE RAP. Harper & Row. 190 pages. (0-06-024343-0) \$12.95

An action-filled urban tall tale includes upbeat 14-year-old Mouse's summer involvements in his neighborhoods' dance contest, his first romance and events leading to cops-and-robbers-type escapades. Fast-paced dialogue full of humorous slang and priceless characterizations of peer and family interactions distinguish an entertaining story offering selected snapshots of lively contemporary African-American young teens. (Ages 11-14)

Naidoo, Beverly. CHAIN OF FIRE. Illustrated by Eric Velasquez. J.B. Lippincott. 245 pages. (0-397-32426-X) \$12.95

A cinematic flow of events pictures a 15-year-old teen-aged girl and her friend who became involved in a dangerous resistance to the forced removal of everyone in their village to a remote, barren "homeland." This fictional picture of contemporary black South African youth who become politicized by realities of apartheid is a sequel to JOURNEY TO JO'BURG. (Age 12 and older)

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. SEND NO BLESSINGS. A Jean Karl Book/Atheneum. 231 pages. (0-689-31582-1) \$13.95

Beth, a sophomore in high school and the oldest of eight children, seriously doubts the wisdom of her mother's calling her children "blessings." Although she loves her siblings, Beth can't help but resent the family's lifestyle in an overcrowded, dilapidated trailer home and the demands placed on her as caretaker. Discovering that her mother is expecting yet another blessing is almost more than Beth can bear. Determined to find an escape from her present life, she concentrates on her goal of becoming a typist, until Harless Prather offers an alternative option. A strong depiction of poverty and the limited choices it often represents, the story is at its best when Beth gains understanding of her parents' motivations, and becomes able to appreciate both their strengths and failings. (Age 13 and older)

Pierce, Meredith Ann. THE PEARL OF THE SOUL OF THE WORLD. Joy Street

Books/Little, Brown. 243 pages. (0-316-70743-0) \$15.95

A multi-layered conclusion to the Darkangel Trilogy (THE DARKANGEL, Joy Street Books/Little, Brown, 1982, and A GATHERING OF GARGOYLES, Joy Street Books/Little, Brown, 1984) involves Ariel's quest to defeat the malevolent White Witch, who threatens the world with a vicious literal and emotional drought. As Ariel follows the words of an ancient prophecy through great danger she develops the poise, insight and maturity integral to her eventual role in society. (Age 12 and older)

Rubinstein, Gillian. BEYOND THE LABYRINTH. U.S. edition: Orchard Books. 245 pages. (0-531-05899-9) \$14.95

An avid reader of Choose Your Own Adventure books, Brenton bases all his decisions on the throw of the dice. The arrival of an extraterrestrial anthropologist, a visit by his cousin Vicky, and the appearance of ominous graffiti messages all mark the onset of escalating events which eventually force Brenton to make momentous choices for the future. Set in contemporary Australia, the story effectively utilizes a fast pace and sense of impending disaster to intrigue readers of adventure and science fiction, while subtly exploring issues of racial prejudice across time and place. (Age 12 and older)

Schami, Rafik. A HAND FULL OF STARS. Translated from the German by Rika Lesser. U.S. edition: Dutton. 195 pages. (0-525-44535-8) \$14.95

Mid-twentieth century Damascus, Syria, is the locale of an autobiographical novel detailing four years of a youth's growth to adulthood. When told by his greatly admired "Uncle" Schami "... I have experienced so much that was important ... If I had learned to write, I would have the power to preserve the mountains, fields, and valleys, and every thorn on the stem of a rose ...", the high-spirited 14-year-old narrator secures a journal, thinking of his writing as a personal rearview mirror. His secret journal entries prove him to be forward-looking, too, and they mature throughout the book, just as he does. He experiences the boredom of labor, and he becomes involved in a romantic relationship; he observes the impacts of political oppression and censorship. After witnessing his journalistic mentor's efforts, he assumes a leadership role in putting out a subversive underground newspaper. Several types of courage are exhibited within writing rich in characterization, full of dialogue and memorable in setting. Specifics about the hot, dusty region in which the story takes place and details about the culture of poverty where an education cannot be taken for granted interlace an impressive, award-winning book first published in Germany and subsequently translated into more than ten languages. (Age 12 and older)

Sutcliff, Rosemary. THE SHINING COMPANY. U.S. edition: Farrar Straus Giroux. 295 pages. (0-374-36807-4) \$14.95

A young man named Prosper relates the long preparations for glorious battle and the idealistic heroism of 300 warriors and their shieldbearers who train in 600 C.E. near what is now Edinburgh for confrontations with the invading Saxons. Readers discover what these brave men did not live to know, i.e., their leaders understood from the outset that few would survive the extensive raid. This compelling historical fiction is based upon "The Gododdin," the early North British epic poem by Aneirin. Sutcliff's mastery of historical events and her skill at interweaving imagined sensory details with the human elements of comradeship and treachery result in a novel to read and discuss from several perspectives. (Age 12 and older)



Taylor, Mildred D. THE ROAD TO MEMPHIS. Dial. 240 pages. (0-8037-0340-6)  
\$14.95

Cassie Logan's personal courage serves her well during a dangerous trip in Stacey's new car. Although the journey lasts only three days and nights, the distance is greater than geographic, because Cassie is traveling away from her loving rural Mississippi family in 1941. Few choices existed then for most African-American young adults; some of the options are represented in the circumstances of Cassie and her friends. However, these teenagers did have the resources of a mid-twentieth century underground railroad, an informal network of adults who could aid them in those times of no public accommodations laws or other civil rights legislations. Taylor's powerful narrative recreates the tensions and perils of that time and place. This historically accurate and emotionally authentic novel stands on its own for anyone unfamiliar with Taylor's earlier works. Winner, 1990 CCBC Newbery Book Discussion and Co-Winner, 1990 CCBC Coretta Scott King Book Award for Writing Book Discussion. (Age 12 and older)

Thomas, Joyce Carol, editor. A GATHERING OF FLOWERS; STORIES ABOUT BEING YOUNG IN AMERICA. Harper & Row. 232 pages. (0-06-026174-9) \$14.89

Authors from diverse backgrounds contribute original fiction to a collection of short stories exhibiting an immense range of U.S. adolescent life according to race, region and economic class, and in juxtaposition to each other, addressing "what it means to be ethnic and American," according to African-American compiler/writer Joyce Carol Thomas. Other writers represented in this distinctive anthology include Ana Castillo, Gerald Haslam, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, Maxine Hong Kingston, Kevin Kyung, Lois Lowry, Gary Soto, Gerald Vizenor, Rick Wernli and Al Young. The fictions differ widely in themes, styles and tones, offering a variety of satisfying challenges for male and female readers. (Age 14 and older)

Zheleznikov, Vladimir. SCARECROW. Translated from the Russian by Antonina W. Bouis. U.S. edition: J. B. Lippincott. 148 pages. (0-397-32316-6) \$12.95

When twelve-year-old Lena comes to live with her grandfather in a small Russian town, her life is miserable. Her eccentric grandfather lives completely in the past as he continually struggles to reclaim scattered family paintings in an obsessive attempt to restore their ancestral home to its former grandeur. At school and in the neighborhood, Lena is nicknamed "Scarecrow" by her peers and she becomes the scapegoat in their cruel games. Weak and helpless, Lena's only chance for survival is to make her grandfather face the harsh reality of the present. This powerful, thought-provoking allegory of contemporary Soviet life is somewhat reminiscent of the novels of Robert Cormier in its bleak, uncompromising tone. (Age 12 and older)

See also: Black Beauty; Dark Way; Hear O Israel; Legend of Sleepy Hollow; Where Angels Glide at Dawn

#### NEW EDITIONS

Dickens, Charles. A CHRISTMAS CAROL. Illustrated by Roberto Innocenti. Stewart, Tabori & Chang. 152 pages. (1-55670-161-6) \$25.00

Miserly Ebenezer Scrooge, hard-working Bob Cratchit, the Ghosts of

Christmases Past, Present and Future and all the other characters, events and settings of the famous Dickens story are well served by the artistic genius of Roberto Innocenti whose works here may well define the classic in years to come. The handsome 12 1/4" x 8 3/4" full-color volume is exemplary in the book arts, employing an elegant page design and layout to showcase watercolor paintings noteworthy for varying perspectives, imaginative sources of murky and snow-cast light and elements of realism. (Age 11 and older)

Irving, Washington. THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW. Illustrated by Gary Kelley. Stewart, Tabori & Chang. 63 pages. (0-55670-046-6) \$25.00

Page layouts decorated with occasional tiny black and white images reminiscent of new England gravestone carvings visually support the story of Ichabod Crane, Brom Bones, Katrina Van Tassel, the headless horseman and some of the early Dutch settlers in the Hudson River Valley. The 13 1/4" x 8 1/4" dimensions of this elegant unabridged edition also support the story, because the book seems to be as tall as Ichabod himself. Fifteen full-color chalk drawings recreate the setting and time of the Irving classic. The typeface is smaller than that some young readers typically find comfortable to read, which increases the challenge of reading the unabridged text. (Ages 11-14)

Sewell, Anna. BLACK BEAUTY; HIS GROOMS AND COMPANIONS. Illustrated by Charles Keeping. U.S. edition: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 214 pages. (0-374-30776-8) \$19.95

Sewell's "autobiography" of a workhorse had a powerful impact upon late Victorian attitudes toward the treatment of horses and has been in print continuously since 1877. This edition deserves classic status due to the publisher's close attention to the book arts and to the more than 80 illustrations, half in color, rendered by the late Charles Keeping. The handsome volume bears a distinctive jacket design and endpapers inviting readers into Keepings' visual understanding of horses in general and into his sympathetic views which correspond with those of the author. (Ages 11-14)

See also: Christmas Sky; In Your Own Words; Little Tricker the Squirrel Meets Big Double the Bear; New Illustrated Dinosaur Dictionary; Wake Up, City!; Folklore

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 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. CCBC records are entered in the WISCAT statewide database.

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 noncirculating.

### **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, usually 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 and school book selection groups and school inservice groups coming to the Book Center. 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 to new books and are open to any student, faculty member, librarian, teacher or other interested adult who reads some of the scheduled books beforehand, as are the annual awards discussions.

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. The next conference will be held on April 5-6, 1991. 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 quarterly flyer briefly listing CCBC current information and program services.

#### **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 course schedules as well as out-of-town users' arrivals and departures.

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