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CCBC Choices 1991

Kathleen T. Horning, Ginny Moore Kruse and Merri V. Lindgren

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Acknowledgements

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INTRODUCTION

Publishing in 1991

In 1991, more than 4,000 new books were published in the U.S. A. for children and young adults. The 1991-2 edition of CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN PRINT (R.R. Bowker) cites 73,051 books "published in the U.S. for children and currently available for purchase." Some observers predict that the sales of children's books may have peaked during the preceding year; at this writing, we do not know the national 1991 book sale statistics. We wonder along with some of our colleagues whether or not the children's book industry will annually record as many new titles published and overall number of children's books sold in during the 1990s as it did during the latter half of the previous decade.

The Search for Multicultural Literature

One of the striking aspects of book publishing for children and young adults in 1991 is the increased amount of publishing which might be identified as "multicultural." The overall quantity of books in print by, about and including people of color increased dramatically during the first two years of this decade.

Throughout the years, British author-artist Shirley Hughes has created culturally diverse neighborhoods and communities in her books, many of which are subsequently reprinted in the U.S.A. Her Alfie Stories and the new Trotter Street Books offer vivid examples of this. Hughes characterizes people of varying sizes, ages, cultures and races through visual suggestions of their physiques, hair and clothing. One can sense her affection for her characters. Hughes understands and respects the child audience for whom she creates books such as WHEELS, just as she does the diverse world in which they are living and growing.

Certain specific aspects of multicultural publishing today are particularly significant. One is the rising number of books published annually that are written and/or illustrated by African-American book creators. Of the roughly 4,000 books published in this country during 1991, 70 of them were written and/or illustrated by Black authors and/or illustrators, 56 of whom are African-American. These 70 titles represent the work of 62 book creators. Twenty-three of these titles are the first published work of their author and/or illustrator. Seventeen of these books were published by small presses, 14 of which are owned and operated by African-Americans. Eleven of these small press books are among the "first" books cited above.

NOW IS YOUR TIME by Walter Dean Myers breaks new ground in several respects. His book offers hope to young readers missing a sense of their own history, and it provides a new vocabulary for all readers concerning the captivity of African men and women and their descendants. We commend Myers' publisher for releasing a paperback edition of this important book simultaneously with the hardcover edition.

In 1991, several previously published works of prominent African-American writers were re-issued in newly illustrated or otherwise revised editions, bringing fresh versions of long-time favorites to new generations of young readers. Eloise Greenfield's FIRST PINK LIGHT, EVERETT ANDERSON'S CHRISTMAS COMING by Lucille Clifton and Virginia Hamilton's expanded ALL JAHDU STORYBOOK were welcome surprises in 1991. Perhaps some of the many other multicultural books published two decades ago or earlier will be re-published with new illustrations, up-to-date formats and/or other revisions necessary for readers in the 1990s.

Real Latino people and fictional Latino characters seem to be moving, albeit slowly, out of their previous lack of visibility within U.S. children's books. We are encouraged to discover contemporary Latino leaders within real-life situations in several nonfiction books on non-Latino subjects, such as WHAT DO I DO NOW? and GOING TO MY GYMNASTICS CLASS. Picture books such as ABUELA and ON THE PAMPAS and novels such as JOURNEY OF THE SPARROWS, AMONG THE VOLCANOES and TAKING SIDES are further evidence that a few U.S. children's book publishers are giving attention to Latino topics and themes. Several U.S. publishers issued bilingual (Spanish/English) books, such as DIEGO and CON MI HERMANO/WITH MY BROTHER. THE WOMAN WHO OUTSHONE THE SUN, a bilingual book published by one of the smaller publishers, is also one of the most captivating books of the year. Several publishers simultaneously issued English-language and Spanish-language editions of new Latino books, such as TONIGHT IS CARNAVAL and THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS. It is heartening to see some of the ways the nation's publishers are beginning to recognize the Latino population in the United States.

The publishing by and about Asians and Asian-Americans remained at a typical level

(i.e. also small in number) with the 1991 promotional spotlight captured by A YOUNG PAINTER, about the youthful Chinese genius Wang Yani. The debut of Sook Nyul Choi, author of the startling autobiographical novel YEAR OF IMPOSSIBLE GOODBYES, creates considerable anticipation for more works by this Korean-American writer. Three books by the well-established Chinese-American writer Laurence Yep appeared in 1991: a novel THE STAR FISHER; a book of folklore TONGUES OF JADE; and his autobiography THE LOST GARDEN.

The photo-essay PUEBLO STORYTELLER is notable midst the few "American Indian" books of 1991. We hope to see an increased number of books about genuine, contemporary American Indian life, as well as books with accurate information about today's Indian peoples and about indigenous peoples of past decades and centuries. The excellent new resource about nonfiction concerning American Indian topics, AMERICAN INDIAN REFERENCE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS by Barbara J. Kuipers (Libraries Unlimited, 1991), is helpful concerning criteria.

The bilingual book BIRD TALK also stands out this year. Based upon an experience of prejudice in the childhood of its young Ojibway illustrator, this modestly produced, bilingual paperback book was published by a small press. Perhaps authors, illustrators and editors will consider whether there is any merit in incidental images of and references to children "playing Indian," a learned behavior prevalent in non-Indian children's lives that is frequently reinforced in children's books.

In succeeding years we hope to find even more new books by and about people of color. We also hope to find these and other recently published multicultural books in print and available for purchase for long years to come. Such books have potential consumers far beyond the typical markets. Adequate time must be allowed for the many teachers and parents wanting to locate multicultural books to find out about them.

We note that some of the most dynamic, consistently successful multicultural publishing activity originates within the publishing houses where bilingual and/or bicultural personnel have editorial responsibility.

Visual Appearance

The words "handsome", "stunning" and "elegant" come to mind as we think about some of the books we particularly admire from 1991. Highly visual picture books and illustrated folklore, as well as a growing number of well-designed, visually engaging books of information are heightening competition for the consumer's eye.

Books such as TAR BEACH; ST. JEROME AND THE LION; PISH POSH, SAID HIERONYMUS BOSCH; and RED LEAF, YELLOW LEAF are extraordinary to see, read and share with children; likewise ABUELA, DIEGO and THE WOMAN WHO OUTSHONE THE SUN. The excellence of beautiful, fresh picture books such as the latter three may seem almost conventional in comparison to the former four, but they are no less extraordinary to read and share. Will the eyes of book consumers, including the children with access to these books in their public and school libraries and homes, gradually become accustomed to the lavish book production? Will publishers with a serious interest in creating beautiful books be required to risk even bigger investments to be competitive in the competition to gain notable reviews, awards and retail sales?

We are pleased to continue to see outstanding books illustrated with collage, such as WINDOW and with fabric art, such as TONIGHT IS CARNAVAL. We observe that a growing number of picture books and illustrated folktales contain helpful background information about their artwork.

The Search for Substantial Fiction

Very few new editions of literature deemed "classic" were published in 1991, a distinct change from the many so-called classics published and re-issued throughout much of the 1980s. The new editions we do recommend are books more recently published than ones typically achieving the status of classics; they include Natalie Bober's fine new revision of her biography of Robert Frost, A RESTLESS SPIRIT.

We continue to note with regret that very few substantial (or even above-average) novels for older children and young adults were published in the U.S.A. in 1991. Fiction which can challenge the intellects as well as move the hearts of young readers is difficult to find. Excellent works such as LYDDIE, YEAR OF IMPOSSIBLE GOODBYES, MOZART SEASON and NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH are sadly few and far between on the current publishing lists of U.S. publishers. Some of the shorter texts ranked among the most distinctively crafted writing; among them were CHRYSANTHEMUM, BEST CAT SUIT OF ALL, SMALLEST COW IN THE WORLD and KING EMMETT THE SECOND.

We noticed substantial fiction written not by formula, but rather in harmony with former fiction successes. Sequels to her earlier easier books included Mary Stolz' GO FISH and EMMETT'S PIG, each of which boosts readers to a new level of reading challenge as well as to a new story. We are also happy to discover and recommend Patricia Wrede's SEARCHING FOR DRAGONS and Francesca Lia Block's WITCH BABY, second books in their respective trilogies and to see Monica Furlong's prequel to WISE CHILD published in the U.S. Maira Kalman's second picture book about the canine poet Max can be found in "Fiction for Teenagers"; perhaps Kalman's sophisticated humor will reach this appreciative audience, too.

The status of translated children's books right now looks grim, at least in this nation. Throughout 1991 we found only a few substantial translated books originally written in languages other than English and subsequently acquired by U.S. publishers for publication in the U.S.A. This missing dimension of entertainment and insight cannot be duplicated; the lack represents a serious concern for any nation preparing its youth to live and work in the global community. We acknowledge two works of translated fiction developed from first-hand World War II experiences: THE MAN FROM OVER THERE and ACROSS THE TRACKS, both published by Houghton Mifflin and both originally written in Hebrew by Israeli authors. A prominent Brazilian writer was represented by the short work MY FRIEND THE PAINTER, which may or may not come to the attention of people who might most value knowing about this unusual book. BUSTER, SHEIKH OF HOPE STREET, a sequel to the award-winning BUSTER'S WORLD (U.S. edition: Dutton, 1989) was published in the U.S. this year.

We continue to discover some of the more innovative fiction in titles acquired by U.S. publishers from their counterparts in other English-speaking nations. Thanks to the U.S. publishers who acquired the recent works of novelists such as New Zealand's Margaret Mahy, Australia's Ruth Park and Tim Winton, Great Britain's Diana Wynne Jones and Joan Lingard and Canada's Martha Brooks. Because of them,

there is a greater amount of new substantial fiction from which to choose.

Columbus and Other Plentiful Topics in 1991

The upcoming quincentenary of contact between Christopher Columbus and the peoples indigenous to the regions affected by his voyages caused considerable publishing and broadcast media attention for children and for adults, as well. Kathy Pelta's DISCOVERING CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS is the outstanding book of more than three dozen new juvenile titles about Columbus and European exploration. Pelta explains historiography and discusses how any generation's facts about the past are changed by new findings; she demonstrates how knowledge about Columbus changed during the 500 years since he arrived at this continent. This book deserves to outlast the current output, much of which is repetitious, dull, inaccurate or overly clever.

Overriding public concerns about the environment, drugs, AIDS and various types of loss, violence and poverty continue to be reflected in new books published for the young. Unfortunately, nonfiction books on current topics are often out of date in one way or another almost by the time their publication dates arrive.

Homelessness was approached as a theme in several novels during the recent past; in 1991 at least three picture books also attempted to convey the urgency of this national domestic tragedy. We recommend MONKEY ISLAND because of its insights into the ways a middle class family might slip into such a circumstance. We appreciate the ways its young protagonist experiences a foster home placement and required school attendance under the stigma of being homeless.

Many biographies were published during 1991. Those which particularly captured our attention concern writers, especially writers of books for children and young adults. Because of the many teachers and librarians who look for such information, we made a special effort during the year to examine such biographies and autobiographies.

First Books

The publishing world is increasingly competitive. Name recognition continues to be a prominent dimension of book promotion during these years, which has an adverse effect upon currently unknown book creators. We are gratified to find excellent books by new writers and illustrators without any type of celebrity status, and we commend the publishers who discovered and published their works. The whimsy of Peggy Rathman's RUBY THE COPYCAT must not be overlooked, nor Gladys Sheffrin-Falk's excellent text for ANOTHER CELEBRATED DANCING BEAR. History which is otherwise unobtainable in children's books appears in Yvette Moore's gripping novel FREEDOM SONGS which takes place during the U.S. Civil Rights Movement and in Ina Chang's nonfiction stunner, A SEPARATE BATTLE. Arthur A. Levine, James Martin and Clara Yen are writers from whom we also hope to see other books.

Faith Ringgold was already well-known to some adults as a performance artist and visual storyteller prior to the publication of the book TAR BEACH, a new expression of her childhood memory of summer evenings on a Harlem rooftop during the 1930s. She is now prominent within the children's book community, as well. Ringgold's rich imagination and ability to convey social history in art represent an enormous talent for future book texts and images created especially for the young.

Distinctive Poetry Collections

Several well planned, distinctively organized poetry anthologies offer yet another reason for optimism within the publishing of the year. We especially cite TIME IS THE LONGEST DISTANCE for its global sources, intellectual integrity and imaginative thematic development of a collection of poetry written for adults but of interest to young adults.

Two anthologies published by small presses offer distinctive collections of poetry usually written for a young audience. MOTHER GAVE A SHOUT is global, universal and particular at the same time, containing a wide range of writing by women and girls. The title MAKE A JOYFUL SOUND echoes the responses of people who see this colorful new collection of poems by African-American poets packaged in a format appealing to children.

This Edition of CCBC CHOICES

Many perspectives on books for children and young adults are available to those associated with the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The CCBC is a children's and young adult literature library for adults funded primarily by the UW-Madison School of Education and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Division for Library Services. Additional information about the CCBC can be found at the end of this publication.

As a book examination center and a research library, the CCBC receives review copies of almost all of the trade and alternative press books published in English in the U.S. A. for children and young adults during the year. Each week during 1990, we examined newly published books. We subsequently read many of them. We discussed hundreds formally or informally with other librarians and educators in Wisconsin and elsewhere in the nation.

We created CCBC CHOICES within the environment of the Cooperative Children's Book Center. The CCBC receives daily requests for information about contemporary and historical books for children and young adults. We know firsthand from teachers and librarians and from university faculty and students in the process of becoming teachers and librarians that CCBC users want to find books with accurate information on matters important to the young people in their schools and libraries. CCBC users know that today's children and young adults may have questions or need information in order to better understand the society in which they live, or the people they know or - even - themselves. These colleagues are looking for books which are commended for these reasons.

Throughout 1991 the student staff of the Cooperative Children's Book Center joined us in the daily responsibilities of assisting colleagues on campus, in schools and in libraries who are working in many ways to meet the interests of all young readers. In CCBC CHOICES, we bring a wide range of books to our colleagues' attention. We hope everyone who uses this publication is aware that every book recommended here is not for every child or every classroom or every family. We are confident, however, that everyone using CCBC CHOICES will find a significant number of books which will delight, inform or stimulate the innate curiosity of many of the children and young teenagers for whom they have some level of professional, academic or career responsibility.

Our Process for Selecting CCBC CHOICES

As we selected books throughout the year for CCBC CHOICES, we used standard literary and artistic criteria. What are these standard criteria? We often say we look for books which are - first and foremost - accurate and interesting. What do we mean by accurate? We contemplate the particular topic or theme approached by the author/illustrator. We think about the style and the format selected in conjunction with the age and/or stage of child interest/development for which the book seems to have been created. If the book is not fiction, we determine whether or not the information is up-to-date and accurate. Knowing that most subjects can be approached from more than one perspective, we try to weigh whether or not a book creator's bias, opinion or point of view is stated within the book or is otherwise clear to an inexperienced or young reader.

What do we mean by interesting? A book's visual appearance furnishes the first impression it makes on a young reader; visual appeal is paramount in making any book interesting to the young. We look at the overall design, page layout, typography and other book-arts elements in books for all ages. We read the book, noticing the way the words are put together and paying attention to the style and shape of the writing.

There is no single CCBC checklist for book evaluation. CCBC book discussion guidelines encourage us to look for elements to appreciate, to notice distinctive qualities, to attempt to understand what the book creators wanted to accomplish and to then think about whether and in what way(s) a book is notable. Potential appeal to children or young teenagers and benefit to librarians and teachers are always essential considerations in our ongoing reading, evaluation and selection process.

As always, we looked very carefully at books known to be the first or second published works of an author or illustrator. When we located books on topics or themes we know to be in demand by school library media specialists, public librarians and classroom teachers, we gave such books close attention and made selections in response to such needs whenever the overall quality of the books also warranted the attention of CCBC users.

The CCBC receives a continually increasing number of queries for books which include elements of racial diversity, information and insight by and about people of color. People working professionally with children are diligently searching for constructive indications of pluralism of the complex, diverse society in which all children are living regardless of their community or neighborhood. Such queries reinforce the past efforts and confirm the current services of the CCBC to support the needs of CCBC users by extensive and intensive attention to books which represent inclusive, i.e., multicultural and nonsexist, values.

Monthly and annual CCBC book discussions offered a meaningful way to gain the multiplicity of perspectives necessary to select relatively few books for attention through inclusion in CCBC CHOICES, as did our several opportunities to regularly use books with children and to find out as much as possible about our colleagues' uses of children's books in classroom and library environment.

Of the 179 books in CCBC CHOICES 1991, 32 represent the first published works of

their authors or illustrators; 30 were first published outside the U.S.A.; 15 were published from 11 small, independently owned and operated publishers; and five books are translations. Of the books we recommend, 111 did not appear on any of the other nationally distributed lists of the year's best books as of mid-February, 1992.

How to Locate Books in CCBC CHOICES

The Cooperative Children's Book Center is not a bookstore. Please do not write or phone with the expectation of ordering the CCBC CHOICES books from the CCBC itself. Ask for these books at your public library, school library media center or bookstore. Be specific concerning the edition, noting the publisher, illustrator (if applicable) and ISBN (international standard book number) of the book you want to secure.

The CCBC can be of assistance by verifying up-to-date publisher and vendor addresses and phone numbers, if you do not have access to the most recent annual CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN PRINT (R.R. Bowker) or to regular information about the larger U.S. publishers by the Children's Book Council in New York City. Please contact one of us for address verification if you experience difficulty in locating any of the books we recommend. We are aware that publishers of all sizes and in all regional locations, including New York City, change addresses and phone numbers frequently. See information elsewhere in this publication for CCBC public service hours, address and public service phone number of the Cooperative Children's Book Center.

Book prices and ISBNs are cited for hardcover library editions and for books which at this time are also or only available in paperback editions. The binding of paperback editions is specified for better understanding of the format of each paperback book as one reads about it without the benefit of personal examination.

The CCBC typically does not attempt to keep track of the paperback book field in any way. The books we recommend in paperback editions often have unique content which cannot be found in other books for children. We encourage your acquaintance with the books now in hardcover editions only and your attention to announcements of paperback editions in the future. Your purchase and use of hardcover books with young readers can often be a factor in whether or not these books ever become available in a paperback edition in years to come.

Addresses are provided for small/alternative press publishers only. We recognize the challenge, the staff time and the cumulative financial obligation of small enterprises involved in responding to a wide variety of correspondence. We recommend that any queries sent to small publishers include a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope along with prepayment by check of the total amount of the order plus 15% for shipping and handling. Our decade of CCBC experience with small/alternative publishers underscores the observation that their books will no doubt be in print for a long time, maybe even longer than many of the books published by larger houses.

How to Obtain Another Copy of CCBC CHOICES 1991

If you live in Wisconsin, send a self addressed, 7" x 10" envelope with \$.98 in postage to the Cooperative Children's Book Center, 4290 Helen C. White Hall, 600

N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706.

For those residing outside Wisconsin, please write to the Friends of the CCBC, Inc., (address on inside back cover) for information regarding the availability of this publication and of earlier editions of CCBC CHOICES. Please do not phone the CCBC to inquire about such arrangements.

Regardless of where you live, if you are a current member of the Friends of the CCBC, you received a copy of this publication as one benefit of your annual Friends of the CCBC, Inc., membership. Address requests for membership information to: Friends of the CCBC, Inc., Box 5288, Madison, WI 53705-0288 USA.

How to Obtain Other CCBC Publications

All CCBC publications except the three listed below are available free to Wisconsin residents. Wisconsin residents are invited to send a self-addressed, stamped business envelope to receive a current list of CCBC Materials; address this request to: Cooperative Children's Book Center, 4290 Helen C. White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706.

The following publications can be purchased:

- 1) THE MULTICOLORED MIRROR; CULTURAL SUBSTANCE IN LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS edited by Merri V. Lindgren (Highsmith, 1991)
Available from Highsmith Press. Phone 1-800-558-2110 to inquire or place an order.
- 2) MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS, 3rd Edition by Ginny Moore Kruse and Kathleen T. Horning (DPI, 1991) Available from: Publication Sales, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841 USA (Phone 1-800-243-8782 to inquire about this publication which is Bulletin No. 1923 or to place an order;
- 3) ALTERNATIVE PRESS PUBLISHERS OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS: A DIRECTORY, 4th Edition by Kathleen T. Horning (Friends of the CCBC, Inc., 1992)
Available from: Friends of the CCBC, Inc., P.O. Box 5288, Madison, WI 53705-0288 USA. Information available by mail. Do not phone the CCBC.

These three publications are not available for purchase at or through the CCBC.

The Friends of the CCBC, Inc.

This membership organization sponsors programs to develop public appreciation for children's literature and supports special projects at the CCBC. Membership is open to all. Information about membership can be found at the end of CCBC CHOICES 1991.

The Friends of the CCBC, Inc., underwrote the professional design, typesetting, layout, printing and binding of CCBC CHOICES 1991. Members of the 1991-1992 Friends of the CCBC, Inc., Board of Directors are: President (1991) - Sharon Grover; President (1992) - Evelyn Burke Weible; Recording Secretary - Jane Roeber; Membership Secretary - Patti K. Sinclair; Treasurer - Elizabeth Hill Askey; Directors-at-Large: Karen Austad, Maureen Ellsworth, Marlys Sloup (1991) and Janet Pils (1992). Doris Grajkowski is the liaison from the CCBC Advisory Board.

Committee chairs include Nancy Beck, Donald L. Crary, Georgie Palmer (1991), Patti Geske Schultz (1992) and Ann Jarvella Wilson.

We appreciate the Friends' ongoing commitment to providing librarians, teachers, university students and faculty and others with an attractive, easy-to-use edition of this publication. All of our reading, selection and writing for CCBC CHOICES occurs during evenings and weekends throughout the year. In this respect, the three of us created CCBC CHOICES 1991 as members of the Friends of the CCBC, Inc.

Kathleen T. Horning, Ginny Moore Kruse and Merri V. Lindgren

HISTORY, PEOPLE AND PLACES

Blos, Joan W. THE HEROINE OF THE TITANIC: A TALE BOTH TRUE AND OTHERWISE OF THE LIFE OF MOLLY BROWN. Illustrated by Tennessee Dixon. William Morrow, 1991. 40 pages. (0-688-07546-0) \$14.95

A sequence of visually boxed rhymes is interspersed between eight easy-to-read dramatic episodes from the life of the woman known to some as "the unsinkable Molly Brown." Molly became infamous after she moved from Hannibal, Missouri, to Leadville and Denver, Colorado. As the spouse of J.J. Brown, she became wealthy. As a survivor of the "Titanic," Molly Brown also became somewhat famous. Just before her death in 1932, she became a benefactor of the children in the then-depressed mining town of Leadville. In a brief note at the end, Blos documents the factual sources she consulted to create this breezy, engaging historical fiction. Dixon's theatrically presented illustrations for this 11 1/4" x 9 1/2" picture book were created with watercolors and ink. (Ages 7-10)

Brusca, Maria Cristina. ON THE PAMPAS. Henry Holt, 1991. 32 pages. (0-8050-1548-5) \$14.95

A young girl from Buenos Aires, Argentina, spends the summer on her grandmother's ranch on the pampas, enjoying a thrilling camaraderie with her cousin and age-mate, Susanita, who knows "everything about horses, cows, and all the other animals that live on the pampas." Together the two girls ride horses, go swimming, search for nandu eggs, and listen to the gauchos tell ghost stories. There are plenty of activities to fill the days of these tireless and adventuresome cousins, both of whom aspire to be gauchos some day themselves. This autobiographical reminiscence by Argentinian Maria Cristina Brusca is filled with visual and textual details about life on a South American ranch.

Burleigh, Robert. FLIGHT: THE JOURNEY OF CHARLES LINDBERGH. Illustrated by Mike Wimmer. Philomel Books, 1991. 32 pages. (0-399-22272-3) \$14.95

Burleigh uses short sentences to recount the historic first airplane flight across the Atlantic which transformed a 25-year-old pilot into a hero in 1927. The terse, present-tense narrative conveys some elements of the risk Lindbergh took and the courage he exhibited only 24 years after the Wright Brothers successfully flew the first airplane. Wimmer's full-color artwork furnishes suitably heroic perspectives illustrating what was an exciting achievement and can now be relived as such through this gripping account. (Ages 5-10)

Chang, Ina. A SEPARATE BATTLE: WOMEN AND THE CIVIL WAR. Lodestar Books, 1991. 103 pages. (0-525-67365-2) \$15.95

Women played an important part in the U.S. Civil War, serving such varied roles as volunteers and nurses, soldiers and spies in both the North and the South. Drawing on 19th century women's letters, diaries, speeches and essays, Ina Chang eloquently tells their stories, placing them within the historical context of the abolitionist movement and the struggle for women's rights. The handsome volume, generously illustrated with photographs and prints from the era, is exemplary nonfiction for young readers. (Age 9 and older)

Cox, Clinton. UNDYING GLORY: THE STORY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS 54TH REGIMENT. Scholastic Hardcover, 1991. 167 pages. (0-590-44170-1) \$14.95

Pulitzer Prize nominee Clinton Cox has written an engaging account of the Massachusetts 54th Regiment for young readers. As the first African-American soldiers to serve in the U.S. Civil War, the 54th had much at stake other than the usual life and death struggle of the soldier: not only were they fighting to free their brothers and sisters from captivity, but to also prove themselves as equals in the eyes of all Americans. A fast-paced, action-packed history focuses on the human side of this seldom-told story. (Age 9 and older)

Feelings, Tom. TOMMY TRAVELER IN THE WORLD OF BLACK HISTORY. Black Butterfly/Writers & Readers (625 Broadway, Suite 903, New York, NY, 10012), 1991. 42 pages. (0-86316-202-9) \$13.95

Significant historical events in the lives of Phoebe Fraunces, Emmet Till, Aesop, Frederick Douglass, Crispus Attucks and Joe Louis are dramatized in a comic-strip format. Each event is introduced by Tommy Traveler, an African-American child fascinated with the private library collection of his neighbor, Dr. Gray, who has had a life-long interest in collecting books, magazines and newspaper clippings related to Black history. As Tommy reads, he is transported back in time and becomes a first-hand observer and participant in the events he describes. Originally published as a weekly comic strip in 1958-59, this presentation of Black history is as fresh and original today as it was 20 years ago and will appeal to a new generation of children. (Ages 7-11)

Freedman, Russell. THE WRIGHT BROTHERS: HOW THEY INVENTED THE AIRPLANE. Holiday House, 1991. 129 pages. (0-8234-0875-2) \$16.95

Orville and Wilbur Wright diligently photographed each phase of their experiments in order to learn from their mistakes as well as keep a pictorial record of their progress. Because of their almost obsessive attention to detail, an amazing record of their accomplishments still exists. Freedman's incorporation of some of this archival material brings a dynamic visual dimension to previous accounts about the two brothers' efforts to create a machine which could be flown. The author's skillful uses of unfamiliar details about the lives of two siblings who worked, lived and even "thought together" makes compelling reading. His lucid explanation of the physics of flight rounds out this interpretation of the important technological milestone achieved by two very human beings. (Ages 9-14)

Giblin, James Cross. THE TRUTH ABOUT UNICORNS. Illustrated by Michael McDermott. HarperCollins, 1991. 113 pages. (0-06-022478-9) \$14.95

The notion of a one-horned beast with magical healing powers is persistent and widespread. Nearly 2500 years ago, the Greek physician Ctesias left the first-known written record describing the nature of unicorns. Since then unicorns have been reported in China, India, Europe and the United States. Giblin's intriguing account examines the various historical and cultural contexts in which the unicorn flourished, as well as analyzing whether the creatures have any basis in reality. (Ages 8-14)

Hewett, Joan. PUBLIC DEFENDER: LAWYER FOR THE PEOPLE. Photographs by Richard Hewett. Lodestar Books, 1991. 48 pages. (0-525-67340-7) \$14.95

A photo-essay describes typical activities in the worklife of Janice Fukai, an Asian-American lawyer in Los Angeles County. Black-and-white photographs accompany the straight-forward account of an individual public defender's work with clients who have been charged with serious crimes.

Morris, Linda Lowe. MORNING MILKING. Illustrated by David Deran. Picture Book Studio, 1991. 32 pages. (0-88708-173-8) \$16.95

Although she doesn't have to get up when she is awakened by her parents' alarm clock in the morning, a young girl living on a dairy farm in northern Maryland forces herself out of bed even though it's still dark outside. A lyrical first-person narrative describes the small details of the morning milking routine that make it a special time shared by a father and daughter. Softly colored, realistic watercolor paintings aptly reflect the quiet yearning of a child's wish to hold onto the perfect moments at the start of every day. (Ages 7-11)

Myers, Walter Dean. NOW IS YOUR TIME! THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM. HarperCollins, 1991. (Hardcover, 0-06-024370-8) \$17.95; (Paperback with perfect binding, 0-06-446120-3) \$10.95

Walter Dean Myers writes "Before you go forward, you must know where you have been." Myers' dynamic rendering of African-American history provides three distinct dimensions for such self-knowledge and progress: a general chronological summary, specific biographical accounts and a striking patchwork of personal ancestry. Throughout his overview of events and conditions of the enslavement of the African peoples, Myers interweaves compelling human stories. "What we understand of our history is what we understand of ourselves," he says, and so he interprets the necessary creation of the African-American extended family and the prevalence of certain means of expression within African-American life. The ringing conclusion challenges readers to think of African-Americans' past and present as those of a people fully deserving of rights and equally blessed with the gifts necessary for success. "I bring as much truth as I know," writes the author. Myers' account of the Plantation Society, his biography of the chief's son Abd al-Rahman Ibrathima, and his interpretation of the contributions of individuals such as Ida B. Wells exemplify the three-fold way this powerful 23-chapter book contributes new information, fresh insight and--ultimately--welcomes hope to all readers. Winner, 1991 CCBC Coretta Scott King Discussion for Writing. (Age 9 and older)

Pelta, Kathy. DISCOVERING CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS: HOW HISTORY IS INVENTED. Lerner, 1991. 112 pages. (0-8225-4899-2) \$14.95

The author pieces together the facts known about Christopher Columbus during his generation and in succeeding centuries. She demonstrates how historians persevere in finding out more the past as well as how human knowledge continues to grow accordingly. Using an engaging narrative style, Pelta shows how historical material is documented and, likewise, how a legend about someone who once lived can grow and take on its own life. Archival materials, maps, art reproductions and contemporary photographs provide an abundance of visual information on the pages of this absorbing book. Pelta's excellent bibliographic narrative describes her sources; she points out the resources young readers will most likely want to use. This outstanding book about both Columbus and historiography will no doubt still be compelling reading after 1992 ends. (Age 9 and older)

Rylant, Cynthia. APPALACHIA: THE VOICES OF SLEEPING BIRDS. Illustrated by Barry Moser. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991. 32 pages. (0-15-201605-8) \$14.95

A short essay eloquently characterizes the people of Appalachia as inexorably tied to the landscape and each other. Barry Moser's softly colored watercolor illustrations realistically capture ordinary movements in ordinary lives. The text and pictures combine to present a loving, respectful and slightly romanticized portrait of a people and place frequently misunderstood and stereotyped by outsiders. (Ages 7-11)

Skurzynski, Gloria. ALMOST THE REAL THING: SIMULATION IN YOUR HIGH-TECH WORLD. Bradbury Press, 1991. 64 pages. (0-02-778072-4) \$15.95

Physical and computer simulations, or "imitations of things that exist in the real world," are clearly described in this written text and stunningly visualized in numerous, full-color photographs. Physical simulations discussed include uses of wind tunnels (both historical and contemporary), disaster simulations, and weightlessness. Some of the computer simulations covered are flight simulators, climate models, and molecular structure. Descriptions of forthcoming technology that will allow users to experience a "virtual reality" involving computer-generated images are thoroughly fascinating. (Ages 9-12)

See also: All Night, All Day; All the Lights in the Night; Along the Tracks; Among the Volcanoes; Aunt Flossie's Hats (and Crab Cakes Later); Between Two Worlds; Celebrations; Climbing Jacob's Ladder; Days of Awe; Freedom Songs; Great Women in the Struggle; Invisible Thread; Journey of the Sparrows; Kwanzaa; Lewis Howard Latimer; Lost Garden; Lyddie; Man From the Other Side; Onion Tears; Pueblo Storyteller; Spill!; Star Fisher; Stepping on the Cracks; Tar Beach; Two Moons in August; Wandering Girl; Year of Impossible Goodbyes; Young Painter; and the section on Folklore, Mythology and Traditional Literature.

THE NATURAL WORLD

Cole, Joanna. MY PUPPY IS BORN. Photographs by Margaret Miller. William Morrow, 1991. 48 pages. (0-688-09770-7) \$13.95

A concise text and engaging color photographs document the experiences of a young girl who has been promised a puppy from the litter of her next door neighbor's dog. The direct explanation of the puppy's birth and development during its first eight weeks of life is nicely balanced with photos showing Hannah's delight and excitement about her lively puppy. (Ages 3-6)

Ehlert, Lois. RED LEAF, YELLOW LEAF. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991. 36 pages. (0-15-266197-2) \$14.95

A burst of brilliant red and yellow hues on the cover and end papers of this 10 1/4" square volume celebrates the natural beauty of the sugar maple tree. Collages incorporating a variety of materials including seeds, roots, fabric, ribbon, wire, paper, plastic, cardboard, watercolors, crayons, pencils, pens, and oil pastels create a strong textural sense, which is enhanced by the actual embossing of a leaf pictured on the book jacket. The brief text, printed in large, bold typeface, traces the growth of a sugar maple from seed to nursery to flourishing maturity in a child's yard. An expanded glossary at the book's close provides additional information to be shared with children. Thoughtfully planned and beautifully executed

throughout, no detail is omitted--even to directions for making a birdseed treat on the back jacket flap. (Ages 3-5)

Esbensen, Barbara Juster. TIGER WITH WINGS: THE GREAT HORNED OWL. Illustrated by Mary Barrett Brown. Orchard Books, 1991. 32 pages. (0-531-05940-5) \$14.95

"Like the tiger, the great horned owl hunts in the dark, and it kills instantly."

Factual information about the majestic bird is presented in vivid language throughout this well-designed text, featuring detailed illustrations of the owl in many poses: hunting, flying, perched, and at its nest are a few of the images included. The great horned owl's habits, physical features, senses, courtship, clutching, raising of young chicks, and owlets maturation are outlined. Government protection of owls in North America is mentioned in a brief paragraph near the book's end. (Ages 7-10)

Gelman, Rita Golden. DAWN TO DUSK IN THE GALAPAGOS: FLIGHTLESS BIRDS, SWIMMING LIZARDS, AND OTHER FASCINATING CREATURES. Photographs by Tui De Roy. Little, Brown, 1991. 48 pages. (0-316-30739-4) \$16.95

Spectacular color photographs give first-hand glimpses of swallow-tailed gulls feeding their young after dark, a new-born sea lion nuzzling its mother, and other creatures living in the Galapagos Islands. The text interprets evolutionary reasons for the gulls' feeding habits as well as for other aspects of nonhuman life unique to these islands on the coast of Ecuador. This photo-essay is the collaboration of an author knowledgeable about anthropology and a photographer who grew up in the Galapagos, where she still lives. (Ages 8-11)

Lauber, Patricia. LIVING WITH DINOSAURS. Illustrated by Douglas Henderson. Bradbury Press, 1991. 48 pages. (0-02-754521-0) \$15.95

Seventy-five million years ago the area of North America that we now know as Montana supported three distinctive ecosystems: swampy lowlands, high dusty plains and a shallow sea. Each area was home to different types of prehistoric plants and animals, specially adapted to their environments. With crisp, concise prose, Lauber describes what might have been ordinary day-to-day life in prehistoric Montana, concluding with a chapter about the methods scientists use to recreate the past.

Stunningly realistic full-color paintings by a painter acclaimed for his depictions of prehistoric life were specially created for this volume. (Ages 4-8)

Martin, James. CHAMELEONS: DRAGONS IN THE TREES. Photographs by Art Wolfe. Crown Publishers, 1991. 32 pages. (0-517-58388-7) \$13.00

Breathtaking photographs show chameleons in a spectrum of colors and textures.

The simple text explains how chameleons change color and patterns to blend in with their surroundings as a survival technique, and as a reaction to heat and cold. Color changes and pantomime are also used as forms of communication. Hunting for prey, laying eggs, giving birth to live young, and shedding skin are discussed in the text and illustrated by photographs with informative captions. Like so many animals, chameleons are threatened by captivity and loss of habitat. (Ages 6-9)

Pringle, Laurence. BATMAN: EXPLORING THE WORLD OF BATS. Photographs by Merlin Tuttle. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1991. 42 pages. (0-684-19232-2) \$13.95

Bats, comprising nearly one quarter of all mammals on earth, are often maligned

and feared as revolting pests. Beginning in high school, Merlin Tuttle, an internationally recognized bat expert, devoted his life to the study of bats, and later to increasing human understanding of bat characteristics, behaviors, and their vital roles. Dr. Tuttle's training of bats to come when called and to respond to simple hand signals demonstrates their amazing intelligence. Human threats to bat populations are discussed and the formation and continuing efforts of Bat Conservation International's protection program is outlined. Striking clear color photographs of several species of bats help to promote Dr. Tuttle's goal of seeing bats as the unique, appealing creatures they are. (Ages 9-11)

_____. LIVING TREASURE: SAVING EARTH'S THREATENED BIODIVERSITY. Illustrated by Irene Brady. William Morrow, 1991. 64 pages. (0-688-07709-9) \$13.95
Since the 18th century when Linneaus devised a system to name and classify the 50,000 species known in his time, 1.5 million additional plant and animal species have been recorded. The importance of Earth's rich diversity of lifeforms is just now being recognized, in a time when thousands of species face extinction every year. Clear, straightforward text explains the importance of biodiversity and suggests ways in which individuals can work to maintain it. (Ages 8-13)

Sill, Cathryn. ABOUT BIRDS: A GUIDE FOR CHILDREN. Illustrated by John Sill. Peachtree Publishers (494 Armour Circle, NE, Atlanta, GA 30324), 1991. 40 pages. (1-56145-028-6) \$14.95

A simple introduction to birds uses short phrases to describe what all birds have in common, as well as some of the ways species differ from each other. Most of the realistic, full-color illustrations by wildlife artist John Sill focus on a single species seen within the context of its natural environment to illustrate the point made on the facing page. Each illustration is labeled with the species' common name and notes at the end of the book give further information on each species. This stunning visual introduction will appeal to young children as either an individual or group read-aloud. (Ages 3-6)

Willow, Diane. AT HOME IN THE RAIN FOREST. Illustrated by Laura Jacques. Charlesbridge (85 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02172), 1991. 32 pages. (0-88106-485-8) \$14.95

The rich living diversity of the Amazonian rain forest is winningly presented in this journey from the top emergent layer, through the upper canopy, lower canopy, and bushy understory to the ground layer. A thoughtfully selected array of birds, insects, reptiles, mammals and vegetation suggest the lush collection of life concentrated in the rain forest. Each double-page spread consists of a close-up of one layer and illustrations of three to four plant and animal species common to the layer discussed in a column of text running along the left margin. A final panorama depicts all five layers with the flora and fauna previously identified shown at the appropriate level. Three closing paragraphs discuss human threats to the habitat and all who dwell there. (Ages 6-9)

See also: For Kids Who Love Animals; Save the Earth; Spill!

SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS

Aliki. CHRISTMAS TREE MEMORIES. HarperCollins, 1991. 32 pages. (0-06-020007-3) \$14.95

Two lively children and their parents settle down for a snack in front of their lighted tree on Christmas Eve. "Some of the ornaments were older than the children. But most of them the family had made, some together with friends." Scraps of conversation and accompanying double-page spreads picture the origin of familiar decorations: a walnut cradle from Granny's, stained glass cookies shaped in kindergarten, the late Aunt Eunice's lion and lamb, museum origami, spool figures made during recovery from chicken pox and a starfish Santa. Seasonal mementoes and the anecdotes they evoke suggest a family's shared experiences as well as the anticipation of Christmas Day. Ink, watercolors and pencil crayons were used by the artist to create the artwork for this lovely book. (Ages 3-6)

Bunting, Eve. NIGHT TREE. Illustrated by Ted Rand. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991. 32 pages. (0-15-257425-5) \$13.95

On the cold night before Christmas, a mother, father and two children drive their pickup truck out from the city to a forested area to find a perfect Christmas tree. Instead of cutting it down, however, they decorate it with apples, tangerines, balls of sunflower seeds and pressed millet, and a popcorn chain. They enjoy a picnic by moonlight before leaving the tree as a gift to the forest animals. The deep solitude of the forest on a winter night is aptly depicted with dark blues and greens in double-page watercolor illustrations, highlighted with bright red and pink clothing worn by the family members. The understated story provides a satisfying blend of traditional values and original expressions of generosity and celebration. (Ages 3-7)

Clifton, Eloise. EVERETT ANDERSON'S CHRISTMAS COMING. Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Rev. ed., Henry Holt, 1971, 1991. 24 pages. (0-8050-1549-3) \$14.95

"... Whatever you think, / whatever you say, / a tree can grow / in 14A..." for Everett Anderson, his mother and their friends. Something about the boy's thoughts during each day of the five-day countdown preceding Christmas is expressed in Clifton's brief, rhyming text first published 20 years ago but still very appealing. Gilchrist's new full-color artwork bordered with red shows both the robust excitement and quiet joy of an enduring, endearing urban African-American preschooler whose stories appear in several books written by the poet "about a little boy who was like the boys my children might know." (Ages 2-5)

Dorros, Arthur. TONIGHT IS CARNAVAL. Illustrated with arpilleras sewn by the Club de Madres Virgen del Carmen of Lima, Peru. Dutton Children's Books, 1991. 24 pages. (0-525-44641-9) \$13.95

A Peruvian child describes family and community preparations during a three-day period prior to the first night of Carnival. His story is illustrated with brightly colored folk-art wall hangings (arpilleras), which were sewn by women in Lima, Peru. A final double-page spread entitled "How Arpilleras Are Made" includes captioned color photographs of the artists at work, adding another dimension of cultural detail to the book. A Spanish language edition of this book was also published in 1991. (Ages 4-8)

Greenberg, Melanie Hope. CELEBRATIONS: OUR JEWISH HOLIDAYS. Jewish Publication Society, 1991. 32 pages. (0-8276-0396-7) \$14.95

Thirteen Jewish holidays are featured in this chronologically arranged --" x --"

book bearing a single full-color illustration of a young child's participation in each observance. The first-person narrative on each page is two or three sentences in length for earliest comprehension. The contents include Shabbat, Tur Bishvat, Yom Hashoah and Yom Ha'atzma'ut. (Ages 1-3)

Kimmel, Eric A. DAYS OF AWE; STORIES FOR ROSH HASHANAH AND YOM KIPPUR. Illustrated by Erika Weihs. Viking, 1991. 48 pages. (0-670-82772-X) \$13.95
Three stories evoke concepts at the heart of the Jewish High Holidays: Repentance, Prayer and Charity. Illustrated with full-color art painted in oils on greased acid-free boards, the tales are "The Samovar," "The Shepard" and "Rabbi Eleazar and the Beggar." Excellent notes to the stories and a four-page text explaining the Days of Awe round out a fine volume. (Ages 4-8)

Levine, Arthur A. ALL THE LIGHTS IN THE NIGHT. Illustrated by James E. Ransome. Tambourine, 1991. 32 pages. (0-688-10107-0) \$14.95
After the tsar spreads word that the Jews are responsible for the country's poverty, an ugly mood overwhelms a Russian village just before Hanukkah begins. Just in time, a family receives a letter containing what they think will be adequate money for Moses and Benjamin to join their older brother in Palestine. As they travel, the lonely boys use their grandmother's brass lamp to gain needed comfort, to sustain their faith and, finally, to secure passage for the final leg of their perilous journey. Oil paintings reproduced in full color illustrate a story based upon the experiences in 1914 of the author's grandfather and uncle. (Ages 5-9)

Niland, Kilmeny. A BELLBIRD IN A FLAME TREE. U.S. edition: Tambourine Books, 1991. 32 pages. (0-688-10798-2) \$12.95
A rollicking full-color send-up of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" features koalas, lizards, dingoes, numbats, quokkas, mice, penguins, crocodiles, pelicans, lorikeets and wallabies. The creatures sing carols, open gifts, parade with candy canes, hang up stockings, bake cookies and engage in other secular activities requisite to the season. An easy notation for the music and a tree pyramid visually summarizing the final chorus are at the end of this Australian slant on the traditional English cumulative song. (All ages)

Porter, A. P. KWANZAA. Illustrated by Janet Lee Porter. Carolrhoda, 1991. 56 pages. (0-87614-688-X) \$9.95
An easy reader briefly traces the origin of the African-American holiday created by Maulana Karenga in 1966 and then describes how it is observed by families today. Special attention is given to the historical significance of each of Kwanzaa's seven principles and to the meanings and uses of Kwanzaa symbols. Full-color illustrations appear on each double-page spread, adding appeal and accessibility to the text. A glossary of the Kiswahili words used throughout the book provides English definitions and a pronunciation guide. (Ages 5-9)

Ray, Jane, illustrator. THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS. U.S. edition: Dutton Children's Books, 1991. 32 pages. (0-525-44768-7) \$15.95
Ray's luminous full-color artwork combines Middle Eastern images of people, architecture and landscapes with unique contemporary details. Gilded stars, suns and moons decorate the skies, Mary's clothes and the garments of spectacular angels to whom Ray gives visual prominence. Panels showing a

placid nursing infant Jesus and reverent stable animals sharply contrast in mood and color with those picturing Herod's evil dispatch of three advisors.

The brief text is from the King James translation of "Matthew" and "Luke" in the BIBLE. A Spanish language edition of this stunning 12" x 9" volume was published at the same time. (Age 4 and older)

Say, Allen. TREE OF CRANES. Houghton Mifflin, 1991. 32 pages. (0-395-52024-X) \$16.95

A Japanese boy "not yet old enough to wear long pants" catches a cold playing at a neighbor's carp pond and is put to bed by his mother after a hot bath. The mother seems unusually preoccupied and even severe as she folds origami figures; she then, inexplicably, digs up and brings inside the little pine tree belonging to her son. As she hangs tiny origami birds on the tree, the mother reminisces about Christmas during her own childhood in warm California, long before she came to Japan and met the boy's father. Two stories about promising and giving overlap in an unusual full-color 11 1/4" x 10 1/4" book evoking two past generations, two cultures and traditional early-20th century Japanese domestic life. (Ages 5-7)

Williams, Ursula Moray. THE GOOD LITTLE CHRISTMAS TREE. Illustrated by Gillian Tyler. U.S. edition: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991. 40 pages. (0-679-81060-9) \$14.95
In a newly illustrated edition of a story first published in England fifty years ago, a scrawny pine chosen as a Christmas tree by a peasant family is so moved by the family's generosity that it sets out on a Christmas Eve journey in search of fancy decorations for its skinny branches. The Little Christmas Tree finds plenty of embellishments, paying for each one, however, in pine needs so that its branches are stripped completely bare. An unusual cast of characters drives the delightful text through an unpredictable series of twists and turns in a wry, elegantly illustrated Christmas story. (Ages 4-9)

See also: Best Cat Suit of All; Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf

ACTIVITIES

Arnosky, Jim. FISH IN A FLASH! A PERSONAL GUIDE TO SPIN-FISHING. Bradbury Press, 1991. 63 pages. (0-02-705854-9) \$14.95

Using black pencil, colored pencil and watercolor wash, Jim Arnosky creates stunning realistic images of fish caught with spinning tackle. Black-and-white illustrations of lures and tackle also complement the smoothly written text which includes water safety instructions, spin-fishing techniques, descriptions of fishing gear, and personal "big fish" stories. Much more than a "how-to" manual, the author/illustrator presents his fishing and environmental philosophy in a handsomely crafted volume that will be equally enjoyed by avid anglers, novice fishers, and armchair spectators. (Ages 9-14)

Kuklin, Susan. GOING TO MY GYMNASTICS CLASS. Bradbury Press, 1991. 32 pages. (0-02-751236-3) \$13.95

A photo-essay shows Gaspar, as he and eight other children enjoy their weekly beginner gym class. The culturally diverse boys and girls engage in a sequence of activities co-taught by Bill Hladik, a recreational gymnastics enthusiast and expert with Jackie Pazmino, the Ecuadoran athlete who competed at age thirteen in the Pan American Games. The positive self-

esteem engendered by the instructors' approach is conveyed in Kuklin's marvelous color photographs of Gaspar and the other children and also within the first-person narrative. (Ages 3-5)

Lewis, Brenda Ralph. STAMPS! A YOUNG COLLECTOR'S GUIDE. U.S. edition: Lodestar Books, 1991. 95 pages. (0-525-67341-5) \$14.95

More than 40 two-page sections inform novices about stamp history, types, collecting of covers, buying stamps by mail, clubs, exhibits, tools of collecting, care and arrangement of collected stamps, maps of countries that issue stamps and more. A colorful format invites browsing and practical, clearly expressed directions guide beginners. (Ages 7-11)

See also: About Birds; All Night, All Day; Climbing Jacob's Ladder; For Kids Who Love Animals; Kid's Guide to Social Action; My Stories By Hildy Calpurnia Rose; Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf; Save the Earth

ISSUES IN TODAY'S WORLD

Baker, Jeannie. WINDOW. U.S. edition: Greenwillow Books, 1991. 32 pages. (0-688-08917-8) \$13.95

Complex, full-color collage constructions in a thirteen-part sequence show the view from one person's window. At the beginning, an adult holding an infant is inside. Several years elapse between each turn of the page, and the child grows up as the book's images unfold. Over the years, each neighborhood change is seen as exacting a cumulative toll on the landscape.

What was once a green residential area a commercial district throughout two or three decades. A final double-page spread displays the former child, now a parent himself, looking out the window of his new home located beyond the suburbs. Distant green hills appear to be newly scarred by construction. This disturbing, provocative wordless essay invites reflection and discussion as well as observation and action. (Age 9 and older)

Carr, Terry. SPILL! THE STORY OF THE EXXON VALDEZ. Franklin Watts, 1991. 64 pages. (0-531-15217-0) \$12.95

An editorial writer for the "Anchorage Daily News" documents events before and after the historic collision. He describes the impact of the resulting oil spill on the ecosystem. Vivid color photographs on every page amplify the details. Volunteer efforts to rescue and recover affected wildlife are also emphasized. (Ages 9-14)

Koebner, Linda. FOR KIDS WHO LOVE ANIMALS: A GUIDE TO SHARING THE PLANET. Illustrated by Thomas C. Whittemore. Living Planet Press (558 Rose Avenue, Venice, CA 90291), 1991. 141 pages. Paperback with perfect binding. (1-879326-03-5) \$6.95

Animal facts and animal-related activities for children are interspersed with brief biographies of people and organizations who have worked to protect or care for animals. Addresses of related resource organizations and a glossary are included. The author presents a definite animal-rights oriented perspective with chapters on fur coats, animal research, performance animals and livestock. (Ages 9-12)

Kuklin, Susan. WHAT DO I DO NOW? TALKING ABOUT TEENAGE PREGNANCY. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1991. 179 pages. (0-399-21843-2) \$15.95

Interviews with pregnant teens and their partners and parents, as well as with doctors, nurses and counselors form the basis of this realistic, nonjudgmental account of the issues teens face upon finding out they're pregnant. Excellent black-and-white photographs of the people interviewed contribute a sense of intimacy to these stories of teens making choices about their futures. (Age 12 and older)

Lewis, Barbara A. THE KID'S GUIDE TO SOCIAL ACTION: HOW TO SOLVE THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS YOU CHOOSE--AND TURN CREATIVE THINKING INTO POSITIVE ACTION. Free Spirit Publishing (400 First Avenue North, Suite 616, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1724), 1991. 185 pages. Paperback with perfect binding. (0-915793-29-6) \$14.95

A well-organized, attractively designed and accessible handbook offers a wealth of information for young people who want to change things. Written by a Salt Lake City elementary school teacher whose students have affected impressive changes at local, state and national levels, the step-by-step guide moves logically from the simplest forms of action, such as writing a letter to the editor or circulating a student petition, to the more sophisticated--lobbying federal government, for instance. Lewis illustrates each model of social action with a true story of a child activist who successfully used the method to make a change. She also presents a realistic picture of the hard work involved, outlining the steps from identifying a problem and developing an action plan to gathering information, fund-raising and getting publicity. (Age 8 and older)

Miles, Betty. SAVE THE EARTH: AN ACTION HANDBOOK FOR KIDS. Illustrated by Nelle Davis. Rev. ed., Alfred A. Knopf, 1974, 1991. 118 pages. Paperback with perfect binding. (0-679-81731-X) \$6.95

Accessible information about environmental issues and activities is well-organized in seven chapters titled Land, Atmosphere, Water, Energy, Plants & Animals, People, and Getting to Work. The first six chapters focus on the named subject by providing factual background information, accounts of relevant youth efforts currently taking place, detailed projects appropriate to the book's audience, and a "checklist" of simple activities anyone can attempt. The final chapter outlines helpful procedures applicable to a variety of issues, including finding information in the library, joining environmental groups, writing letters, speaking, and holding press conferences. A glossary, reading list, and addresses of several environmental groups are included. Interested readers will appreciate the book's "do-able," action-oriented approach. (Ages 8-12)

Nunes, Lygia Bojunga. MY FRIEND THE PAINTER. Translated from the Portuguese by Giovanni Pontiero. U.S edition: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991. 85 pages. (0-15-256340-7) \$13.95

Claudio has a special affinity with his adult friend, a painter, who tells him that, even though he's a child, he has the soul of an artist. Flattered by the painter's attention, Claudio tries hard to understand his abstract linkings of emotions and colors; he faces his biggest challenge when the painter commits suicide. As Claudio slowly comes to terms with the range of emotions he feels while grieving, he begins to apply his friend's philosophy as he struggles to make the intangible visual in order to comprehend his feelings. A quiet, sensuous and understated novel from one of Brazil's best known children's writers. (Ages 10-13)

See also: Living Treasure; Nothing But the Truth

UNDERSTANDING ONESELF AND OTHERS

Keeshig-Tobias, Lenore. BINESHIINH DIBAAJMOWIN / BIRD TALK. Illustrated by Polly Keeshig-Tobias. Sister Vision/Black Women and Women of Colour Press (P.O. Box 217, Station E, Toronto, Ontario, M6H 4E2), 1991. 32 pages. Paperback with stapled binding. (0-920813-89-5) \$6.95

When Momma and her two daughters move from an Ojibway reservation to a city, young Polly has a bad day at school when her classmates play cowboys and Indians and tease her about being an Indian. Momma manages to soothe Polly's hurt feelings and restore her sense of pride by reminding her of some of the things their grandparents taught them about their heritage. Told in first-person from the point of view of Polly's older sister, the bilingual (Ojibway/English) text is accompanied by simple black-and-white line drawings. The straight-forward, poignant story is based on a childhood experience of the young illustrator. (Ages 5-9)

Kidd, Diana. ONION TEARS. Illustrated by Lucy Montgomery. U.S. edition: Orchard Books, 1991. 62 pages. (0-531-08470-1) \$12.95

A short first-person novel details the difficulties Nam-Huong faces in adjusting to her new neighborhood and school and to another culture after leaving Vietnam to live with guardians in Australia. Numb with grief and sorrow at losing her family and home, Nam-Huong rarely speaks and, as a result, is ridiculed by neighborhood children and classmates. The depth of loss she feels is communicated in a series of letters she writes to a canary, a duck and a buffalo--animals she remembers from her earlier life in Vietnam. Numerous pencil drawings accompany this sensitive story of a young girl coping with tragic loss and taking her first steps toward emotional healing. The author's sources included narratives of adolescent girls who came to Australia from South-east Asia during the late 1970s/early 1980s. (Ages 7-10)

Madenski, Melissa. SOME OF THE PIECES. Illustrated by Deborah Kogan Ray. Little, Brown. 32 pages. (0-316-54324-1) \$15.95

A boy remembers his father's made-up stories, wrestling with him on the rug, listening together to cello music and enjoying early breakfasts together before the others woke up. He also recalls his father's sudden fatal heart attack and the great sadness of the past year. Somehow, the scattering of his father's ashes in all the places he loved confirms that loss and assists the boy to grieve and also to continue. A gentle picture story provides an example of suffering and healing with an emotional tone appropriate to the developmental need of its intended audience. The full-color illustrations reinforce all dimensions of this subdued book. (Ages 4-8)

Rankin, Laura. THE HANDMADE ALPHABET. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1991. 32 pages. (0-8037-0975-7) \$13.95

The manual alphabet for the Deaf is used as the basis for this original and artistic concept book. Realistic drawings of hand signs for each letter are shown with an object beginning with that letter -- a cup dangling from the thumb forming a c; the hand forming m reflected in a mirror; a ribbon wrapped around the hand forming r. This imaginative approach to the alphabet could serve as an introduction to finger spelling, as well as an aesthetic experience. (Ages 4-12)

See also: Best Cat Suit of All; Changes; Else-Marie and Her Seven Little Daddies; Glasses; King Emmett the Second; Monkey Island; My Friend the Painter; Not-Anywhere House; Smallest Cow in the World; Stars Come Out Within; What Do I Do Now?

THE ARTS

Bishop, Rudine Sims. PRESENTING WALTER DEAN MYERS. Twayne, 1991. 123 pages. (0-8057-8214-1) \$19.95

An unparalleled literary biography examines the works of Walter Dean Myers from several perspectives: Myers the humorist; Myers the realist; Myers the storyteller; Myers the war novelist; and Myers the artist. Bishop brings a strong sense of cultural authenticity to her interpretation of Myers' work, analyzing his books in the context of African-American culture in general and of African-American literature specifically. PRESENTING WALTER DEAN MYERS can be read for inspiration and information by Myers' adolescent readers and for literary and cultural insight by adults. (Age 11 and older)

Bryan, Ashley. ALL NIGHT, ALL DAY: A CHILD'S FIRST BOOK OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUALS. Atheneum Publishers, 1991. 48 pages. (0-689-31662-3) \$14.95

The words and music to 20 spirituals are accompanied by luminous full-color paintings. Ashley Bryan's art provides a lush, visual interpretation of well-known songs such as "I'm Going to Eat at the Welcome Table," "Peter, Go Ring the Bells," and the title song, "All Night, All Day." This is a welcome addition to Bryan's earlier children's books interpreting this distinctive African-American contribution to the music of the U.S.A. (All ages)

Greenberg, Jan and Sandra Jordan. THE PAINTER'S EYE: LEARNING TO LOOK AT CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN ART. Delacorte Press, 1991. 96 pages. (0-385-30319-X) \$20.00

Discussions of the vocabulary and meanings of modern art and some of the ways visual effects are used are interspersed with commentaries from working U.S. artists. Full-color reproductions of art and photographs of artists at work are integral to the information here, all of which will assist viewers of new art in museums, galleries, offices, public spaces and mass media to gain a responsive eye which can go beyond "I like it" or "I don't like it." The artists' biographies at the end are grouped according to the movement with which they are most closely identified. A glossary, index and two-part bibliography contribute additional resources to this valuable book. (Age 10 and older)

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. PUEBLO STORYTELLER. Photographs by Lawrence Migdale. Holiday House, 1991. 26 pages. (0-8234-0864-7) \$14.95

A concise first-person text and color photographs document the day-to-day life of April Trujillo, a ten-year-old Cochiti girl who lives with her grandparents near Santa Fe, New Mexico. April is a member of a gifted family--both of her grandparents are potters and her uncle is a drum maker. She describes the step-by-step process her grandparents go through to make clay storyteller sculptures, from going out to dig up the clay they will use, to kneading and shaping it and sculpting the figure, to sanding, polishing and painting it before firing it in a kiln. A deep respect for elders and

cultural traditions is apparent in April's young voice, as she places everyday activities in a cultural context. (Ages 6-10)

Langstaff, John, selector and editor. CLIMBING JACOB'S LADDER: HEROES OF THE BIBLE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUALS. Illustrated by Ashley Bryan. Piano arrangements by John Andrew Ross. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1991. 24 pages. (0-689-50494-2) \$13.95

A triumphant tone characterizes the nine spirituals from Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament), selected for this companion volume to WHAT A MORNING! THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN BLACK SPIRITUALS (McElderry/Macmillan, 1987) Ashley Bryan's original tempera paintings visually illustrate and celebrate the strength of the stories about Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, David, Ezekiel, Daniel and Jonah. Langstaff's selections and musical notations appear chronologically; a note about each personage provides important background; and a page at the end offers advice to adults and instrumentalists. (All ages)

Sullivan, Charles, editor. CHILDREN OF PROMISE: AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE AND ART FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. Harry N. Abrams, 1991. 126 pages. (0-8109-3170-2) \$24.95

African-American and other voices from U.S. history show "the evidence of a country striving toward the reconciliation between the real and the ideal."

The written and visual statements of a surprising range of public servants, philosophers, writers and artists bear witness to both a proud and painful past. At the back of this anthology is a poetry, title and author index, as well as an alphabetical listing of the 111 contributors represented by more than 100 texts and 80 color or black-and white illustrations. Examples of the wide range of the people included within CHILDREN OF PROMISE are James Baldwin, Imamu Amiri Baraka, Romare Bearden, Gwendolyn Brooks, Lucille Clifton, Countee Cullen, W.E.B. DuBois, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Bob Dylan, Amos Fortune, Stephen Foster and Meta Vaux Warwick Fuller. (Age 5 and older)

Turner, Robyn Montana. GEORGIA O'KEEFFE. (Portraits of Women Artists for Children). Little, Brown & Co., 1991. 32 pages. (0-316-856495-7) \$15.95

Biographical details about O'Keeffe's childhood in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, adolescence in Chatham, Virginia, and adulthood in New York City and New Mexico are woven into a fine introduction to her art. Turner stresses life events that influenced the development of O'Keeffe's distinctive style and unique vision, in addition to her struggles to prove herself as an artist in a world that did not welcome creative women. Several of O'Keeffe's most famous paintings are reproduced in full color to illustrate the range of her artistic ingenuity. (Ages 7-12)

_____. ROSA BONHEUR. (Portraits of Women Artists for Children). Little, Brown & Co., 1991. 32 pages. (0-316-85648-7) \$15.95

Known for her strikingly realistic paintings of animals and nature, Rosa Bonheur became the most celebrated member of an artistic family living in 19th century France. In the 1830s painter Raymond Bonheur recognized that his young daughter Rosa was an enormously gifted artist and throughout her childhood and adolescence he saw to it that she got the formal art education generally denied to girls and women. By the time she was 23 years old, she had already achieved fame in the art world and was able to earn her living as an artist for the rest of her life. Turner's concise biography, generously illustrated with reproductions of the Bonheur family artwork,

traces the life and work of a true visionary who overcame many barriers to pursue the work she loved best. (Ages 7-12)

Winter, Jonah. DIEGO. Illustrated by Jeanette Winter. Alfred A. Knopf, 1991. 32 pages. (0-679-81987-8) \$12.00

A poetic, easy-to-read account of the childhood and early adulthood of Mexican muralist Diego Rivera is presented in a bilingual texts (English/Spanish). Rivera is characterized as a visionary and dreamer who liked to draw the colors, people and events he witnessed in his native land. The brief text of the 9 1/4" x 7 1/4" volume is accompanied throughout by bordered 3" x 3 1/2" exquisitely stylized paintings which dramatically lead up to a wordless double-page spread of Rivera at work on a mural, effectively communicating the magnitude of Rivera's art form. (Ages 5-9)

Yenawine, Philip. STORIES. Delacorte Press, 1991. 22 pages. (0-385-30256-8) \$14.00

Twenty works from the Museum of Modern Art in New York City are reproduced in full color. Each is accompanied by an open-ended question concerning its story.

All works are identified at the end of the book, where a succinct comment about each artist invites further exploration. This inviting volume is one of a sequence published in 1991 about the vocabulary of modern art; the other books are LINES, SHAPES and COLORS. Artists represented in STORIES include Romare Bearden, Marc Chagall, Paul Gauguin, Edward Hopper, Dorothea Lange, Jacob Lawrence, Roy Lichtenstein and Ben Shahn. (Ages 7-10)

Zhensun, Zheng, and Alice Low. A YOUNG PAINTER: THE LIFE AND PAINTINGS OF WANG YANI--CHINA'S EXTRAORDINARY YOUNG ARTIST. Photographs by Zheng Zhensun. (A Byron Preiss/New China Pictures Book) Scholastic Hardcover, 1991. 80 Pages. (0-590-44906-0) \$17.95

The artistic genius of Wang Yani was recognized when she was only three years old and, a year later, she had her first major exhibition in Shanghai. Since that time she has created over 10,000 paintings and has had exhibitions throughout Asia, Europe and North America. At age 16 she began a successful transition from child prodigy to adult artist who works in the xieyi hua (free style) school of traditional Chinese painting. An absorbing photo-essay traces the growth and development of Wang Yani as an artist and as an extraordinary young woman dealing with the pressures of world attention, fame and high expectations. Numerous color photographs of Yani at work and at home give young readers a close-up of her life in southern China. Fine, full-color reproductions of more than 50 of her paintings created from age two and one half to age 16 show Yani's development as a gifted young artist. (Age 8 and older)

See also: Anonymously Yours; Invisible Thread; Lost Garden; Mozart Season; My Friend, the Painter; Pish, Posh, Said Hieronymus Bosch; Restless Spirit; St. Jerome and the Lion; Stars Come Out Within; Tar Beach; Tonight is Carnival; Window; Woman Who Outshone the Sun

POETRY

Adoff, Arnold. IN FOR WINTER, OUT FOR SPRING. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991. 48 pages. (0-15-238637-8) \$14.95

The youngest child in a rural African-American family expresses her delight with the Earth's vivid show in the ever-changing cycle of seasons. Twenty-six poems written in a young girl's voice celebrate the beauty of nature and the security of family. Jerry Pinkney's detailed pencil, watercolor and pastel paintings perfectly complement the child's exuberant moods within the cozy circle of her family. (Ages 5-8)

Berry, James. WHEN I DANCE. U.S. edition: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991. 120 pages. (0-15-295568-2) \$15.95

"It is that when I dance / I'm costumed in a rainbow mood, / I'm okay at any angle..." Drawing on his experiences growing up in rural Jamaica and in British inner-city, Berry presents 59 original poems collected here for teenagers. The dreams, fears and boundless energy of adolescents everywhere are marvelously conveyed with a Caribbean cadence. (Age 12 and older)

Gordon, Ruth, selector. TIME IS THE LONGEST DISTANCE: AN ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS. A Charlotte Zolotow Book/HarperCollins, 1991. 74 pages. (0-06-022424-X) \$13.95

"Sunset is always disturbing / whether theatrical or muted, / but still more disturbing / is that last desperate glow ..." Thus begins "Afterglow" by Jorge Luis Borges, one of 61 brief poems in English offering sophisticated understandings of the life measurement called Time. A wide range of centuries, nations and traditions are represented in the strong collection which draws its title from THE GLASS MENAGERIE by Tennessee Williams. Eighteen of the poems are by people of color, while the others stem from European and other sources. Four Chinese poets from the 5th through the 9th centuries and two Japanese poets from the 9th to the 11th centuries account for 14 of the translated poems in this handsomely designed volume containing many poems from the 20th century. Four poems are from American Indian traditions (Hopi, Pima, Zuni, Papago). (Ages 11 and older)

Greenfield, Eloise. NIGHT ON NEIGHBORHOOD STREET. Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1991. 32 pages. (0-8037-0778-9) \$13.95

Each of the 17 poems in this collection offers glimpses into the lives of African-American children on a single night in an urban neighborhood. Nerissa is telling her parents bedtime jokes, Tonya hosting a sleepover, Darnell afraid of nighttime noises, independent Lawanda determined not to let her daddy carry her from the car to the front door even though she's very sleepy, Juma talking his daddy into letting him stay up just a little longer and Buddy, already asleep and dreaming of impressing the world with his wonderful, amazing self. Jan Spivey Gilchrist's full-color gouache paintings evoke a perfect nighttime mood in Greenfield's celebratory tribute to African-American families and communities. Honor Book, 1991 CCBC Coretta Scott King Discussion for Writing and Illustration. (Ages 3-9)

Lewis, Richard. ALL OF YOU WAS SINGING. Illustrated by Ed Young. Atheneum Publishers, 1991. 32 pages. (0-689-31596-1) \$13.95

A poetic retelling of an Aztec legend recounts how music came to earth. Ed Young's brightly hued paintings move gradually from an abstract to a concrete style, perfectly expressing the sky's voice recounting the universal creation story of order emerging from chaos. (Age 5 and older)

Mathis, Sharon Bell. RED DOG, BLUE FLY: FOOTBALL POEMS. Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Viking, 1991. 32 pages. (0-670-83623-0) \$13.95

The first-person voice of these 13 poems is a 70-pound quarterback who describes the ups and downs of a championship season. Some of the ecstasies of this youthful player are a touchdown, a playoff pizza, a coach's compliment and, of course, winning the trophy. And some of the agonies are trying to keep the signals straight at practice, playing a game against his cousin's team and catching a glimpse of the face of a player on the losing team: "His face / grab something / from / my win..." The action-packed, full-color illustrations show all team members, coaches and cheerleaders as African-American. (Ages 7-11)

Slier, Deborah, editor. MAKE A JOYFUL SOUND: POEMS FOR CHILDREN BY AFRICAN-AMERICAN POETS. Illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu. Checkerboard Press (30 Vesey St., New York, NY 10007), 1991. 97 pages. (1-56288-000-4) \$12.95

A thick volume, generously illustrated, pulls together 75 poems from diverse sources by well-known poets (Lucille Clifton, Countee Cullen, Eloise Greenfield, Langston Hughes), as well as others who rarely appear in children's poetry anthologies (Kali Grosvenor, Nanette Mellage, Useni Eugene Perkins, Quincy Troupe). These poems for young children touch on such topics as family, friends, playing outside and school, in addition to cultural pride and African-American heritage. The overall effect of this marvelously rich anthology is best expressed by one the selections by Mari Evans: "Who / can be born black / and not / sing / the wonder of it / the joy / the challenge..." (Ages 4-12)

Soto, Gary. A FIRE IN MY HANDS: A BOOK OF POEMS. Scholastic Hardcover, 1991. 63 pages. (0-590-45021-2) \$11.95

In his introduction to this collection of 23 poems, Gary Soto tells his readers that he thinks of his poems as a "working life, by which I mean that my poems are about commonplace, everyday things..." Arranged in a chronological order beginning with childhood and moving up through adolescence and young adulthood, the poems celebrate small, significant moments in the life of a working-class Chicano male. Each poem is introduced with a brief anecdote that places it in the context of Soto's life. In a four-page section at the book's end, he answers some of the questions young people have about poetry. (Age 11 and older)

Steele, Susanna, and Morag Styles, editors. MOTHER GAVE A SHOUT: POEMS BY WOMEN AND GIRLS. Illustrated by Jane Ray. U.S. edition: Volcano Press (P.O. Box 270, Volcano, CA 95689), 1991. 126 pages. (0-912078-90-1) \$14.95

A lively collection of over 100 poems written by women and girls is exemplary for its multicultural perspective. Poems about identity, nature, women's work, dreaming, grandmothers, mothers and daughters are gathered together from a wide range of traditional and contemporary sources, and feature such poets as Maya Angelou, Nikki Giovanni, Judy Grahn, Grace Nichols, Sylvia Plath, Sappho, Alice Walker and Charlotte Zolotow. Exquisite black-and-white vignettes reinforce the multicultural focus and enhance the celebratory tone. (Ages 9-13)

See also: Children of Promise; Pish, Posh, Said Hieronymus Bosch

BIOGRAPHY AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Bober, Natalie S. A RESTLESS SPIRIT: THE STORY OF ROBERT FROST. Revised edition: Henry Holt, 1981, 1991. 197 pages. (0-8050-1672-4) \$19.95

The childhood and multiple phases of poet Robert Frost's long life are carefully chronicled in this revision of Bober's 1981 edition. Bober writes with integrity about a man whose works she admires; about Elinor, his intellectual companion and spouse, and the relationship rarely easy for either of them; and about the often tragic demands of their children's lives. Knowing these dimensions of Frost's life, remembering his largely unhappy boyhood and recognizing his lifelong dislike of public appearances heighten biographical facts about the man whose poetry displays such genius and unwillingness to conform. Noteworthy additions include an abundance of newly published black-and-white photographs, expanded material about Frost's family life and places he lived. Poems reprinted in entirety open sixteen sections of the biography; more poems are included in whole or part within Bober's text. The overall book design takes young readers into account by offering visual intervals and white space. (Ages 10-15)

Igus, Toyomi, editor. GREAT WOMEN IN THE STRUGGLE. (Book of Black Heroes, Volume 2) Contributing writers: Toyomi Igus, Veronica Freeman Ellis, Diane Patrick and Valerie Wilson Wesley. Just Us Books (301 Main St., Orange, NJ 07050), 1991. 107 pages. (Hardcover, 0-940975-27-0) \$17.95; (Paperback with perfect binding, 0-940975-26-2) \$10.95

The accomplishments of 84 African and African-American women from past centuries and present decades are chronicled in 84 inspiring, straight-forward paragraphs, each illustrated with a black-and-white photographic or hand-rendered portrait. Chapter headings convey the import and spirit of their achievements: Freedom Fighters - Breaking Down Barriers; Educators - Building Strong Foundations; Writers & Fine Artists - The Power of Creativity; Performing Artists - Bearing Witness Through Self-Expression; Athletes - The Spirit of Champions; Entrepreneurs - Taking Care of Business; Lawyers & Policy Makers - Forging Equal Justice; and Scientists & Healers - Exploring Without Boundaries. An African-American historical chronology, a bibliography of related children's books, an index and source notes for quoted material enrich a book for reading, reference and reflection. (Age 7 and older)

Little, Jean. STARS COME OUT WITHIN. U.S. edition: Viking, 1991. 260 pages. (0-670-82965-X) \$14.95

The life story begun in LITTLE BY LITTLE (Viking, 1988) is continued in this account of how the Canadian novelist/poet lost her vision and subsequently gained the support of guide dog Zephyr. The dog's adjustment to life with Little (and vice versa) are recounted with the author's indomitable verve which never asks for sympathy. The title from an Emily Dickinson poem is one of many references to the literature which continues to be one of the forces shaping Little's values. Chapters describing incidents involving authors Claire Mackay and Katherine Paterson give readers additional insights into the lively wit and fully original perspective of the author of HEY WORLD, HERE I AM! (Harper, 1986), MAMA'S GOING TO BUY YOU A MOCKINGBIRD (Viking, 1984) and LISTEN FOR THE SINGING (HarperCollins, 1977, 1991). (Age 11 and older)

Peck, Richard. ANONYMOUSLY YOURS. Julian Messner, 1991. 122 pages. (0-671-74162-4) \$14.95

An observant portrait of his Midwest neighborhood, junior high and senior high

school life opens the autobiography of a man who was a youthful achiever and who has likewise achieved success as a writer of books for young adolescents. The two educations Peck received (from college and the U.S. Army) are recounted with wit, as is his brief high school English teaching career. He offers incisive, nonjudgmental comparisons between his mid-20th century middle class experiences and those of similar teenagers today. As one who claims to never consciously weave a line of autobiography into fiction, Peck demonstrates he is also a carefully disciplined selector and gifted narrator of personal details for his own story. Excerpts from his novels open each of the eight chapters of a narrative that will absorb Peck's fans as well as readers completely unfamiliar with his books. (Age 11 and older)

Turner, Glennette Tilley. LEWIS HOWARD LATIMER. (Pioneers in Change) Silver Burdett, 1991. 128 pages. (0-382-09524-3) \$13.98

An absorbing, highly readable biography tells about a great thinker, scientist and inventor who is best known for his invention of the carbon filament light bulb. Turner's many hours of painstaking primary research of unpublished materials housed in the Schomburg Collection and extensive interviews with experts (including Latimer's grandchildren) make the life and work of Lewis Howard Latimer particularly valuable. Her style makes the information easily accessible. (Ages 9-12)

Uchida, Yoshiko. THE INVISIBLE THREAD. Julian Messner, 1991. 136 pages. (0-671-74164-0) \$14.95

With a brisk narrative style full of lively dialogue, Uchida writes of two decades of American life thrown into sharp contrast during a 1930's family visit to Japan when she and her sister felt totally foreign. The author's experiences as a girl growing up in Berkeley, California, were thoroughly American; she had a bicultural childhood, as well, because of the unseen thread she describes as binding her parents to the Japan they left behind long before World War I. Her account of the family's forced internment in 1942, just as she was completing her university degree, unfolds within the context of their previous life as U.S. citizens. Uchida emphasizes her youth, the internment and a bit about early vocational attempts, rather than her development as a writer and her successful career yielding more than two dozen published books. Two of Uchida's novels for children concern the internment: JOURNEY TO TOPAZ (Scribner's, 1971) and JOURNEY HOME (Atheneum, 1978). Several of her other novels fictionalize Japanese-American California life during the 1930's. (Ages 9-14)

Ward, Glenyse. WANDERING GIRL. U.S. edition: Henry Holt, 1991. 183 pages. (0-8050-1634-1) \$14.95

A rare glimpse into the life of a mid-20th century Australian Aboriginal woman is offered in this autobiographical account which reads like a novel. After being taken from her mother in infancy and raised in a Catholic mission, Glenyse Ward is hired out as a domestic servant to an upper-class white family when she is fifteen. Working for an employer who refers to her as "my dark slave," Ward successfully struggles to maintain dignity and an identity in harsh, humiliating circumstances. (Age 13 and older)

Yep, Laurence. THE LOST GARDEN. Julian Messner, 1991. 117 pages. (0-671-74160-8) \$12.95

Yep compares his life to a jigsaw puzzle and describes the process of growth and

maturation as a search for all the pieces--some sought out intentionally, others found by serendipity but recognized at the moment of discovery as pieces of the puzzle. The absorbing autobiographical narrative introduces facts about this highly-regarded author's San Francisco childhood and Chinese-American heritage to readers who already know some of his many novels, including *CHILD OF THE OWL* (Harper, 1975) and *DRAGONWINGS* (Harper, 1977). (Ages 9-14)

See also: *Batman*; *Diego*; *Discovering Christopher Columbus*; *Flight*; *Georgia O'Keeffe*; *Heroine of the Titanic*; *Now is Your Time*; *Presenting Walter Dean Myers*; *Public Defender*; *Rosa Bonheur*; *St. Jerome and the Lion*; *Tommy Traveler in the World of Black History*; *Wright Brothers*; *Year of Impossible Goodbyes*; *Young Painter*

FOLKLORE, MYTHOLOGY AND TRADITIONAL LITERATURE

Aardema, Verna. *BORREGUITA AND THE COYOTE*. Illustrated by Petra Mathers. Alfred A. Knopf, 1991. 32 pages. (0-679-80921-X) \$15.00

Hungry Coyote thinks that Borreguita, the little lamb, would make a tasty meal but every time he meets her she manages to outsmart him, leaving him not only hungry but humiliated as well. Petra Mathers' glowing, boldly colored illustrations are ideally suited to this well-paced retelling of an amusing Mexican folktale about brain winning out over brawn. (Ages 4-8)

Aesop. *AESOP & COMPANY: WITH SCENES FROM HIS LEGENDARY LIFE*. Adapted by Barbara Bader. Illustrated by Arthur Geisert. Houghton Mifflin, 1991. 64 pages. (0-395-50597-6) \$15.95

An extraordinary narrative about Aesop and nineteen of his fables is illustrated with more than three dozen etchings, many of which are set in and around Galena, Illinois. Bader's eleven-page overview traces the documented history of the fables and discusses what is and is not known about Aesop. Four early legends about Aesop are also included in this distinctive collection which offers something quite new to children and also to adults. (Age 7 and older)

Aesop. *ANIMAL FABLES FROM AESOP*. Adapted and illustrated by Barbara McClintock. David R. Godine, 1991. 48 pages. (0-87923-913-1) \$17.95

Nine fables portrayed visually as enactments presented by a cast of masked children show each costumed as a fox, wolf, crow, pig, crane, mouse, lamb, dog, etc. McClintock's delicately rendered full-color illustrations were developed in a 19th-century anthropomorphic style which offers a classic appearance and an inviting re-creation of several teachings about human frailty and wisdom. (Ages 5-9)

Bach, Alice and J. Cheryl Exum. *MIRIAM'S WELL: STORIES ABOUT WOMEN IN THE BIBLE*. Frontispiece and decorations by Leo and Diane Dillon. Delacorte Press, 1991. 171 pages. (0-385-30435-8) \$16.00

As in their first collaboration *MOSES' ARK* (Delacorte, 1989), Bach and Exum retell thirteen stories from the Hebrew Scriptures. In an introduction as engrossing as the stories, they explain the rabbinic resources they used, as well as interpreting some social history for these stories and telling how they chose the subjects. The Dillons' chapter graphics and other design elements are printed in brown. Brief notes follow each story. A one-page

bibliography is also part of this handsome volume. The women within - whose leadership, dreams and deeds advanced the story of Israel - include Sarah, Hagar, Rebekah, Leah & Rachel, Eluma & Hannah, Naomi & Ruth, Michal, Abigail, Esther and Judith. (Age 9 and older)

Barton, Byron. THE THREE BEARS. HarperCollins, 1991. 32 pages. (0-06-020424-9) \$11.89

"Once upon a time there were three bears." A familiar invitation to a tale familiar to many generations opens Barton's version which is perfectly suited to the youngest listeners. Bright read, yellow, orange and green page-backgrounds heighten the artist's bold, one-dimensional images of bears, trees, chairs, beds and a wide-eyed, wildflower-picking Goldilocks. Sturdy paper stock encourages toddler use as do the short sentences which spin out the age-old repetitive phrases. A version to find and pass along to new generations. (Ages 2-4)

Bruchac, Joseph and Michael J. Caduto. NATIVE AMERICAN STORIES. Illustrated by John Kahionhes Fadden. Fulcrum (350 Indiana St., Golden, CO 80401), 1991. 145 pages. Paperback with perfect binding. (1-55591-094-7) \$9.95

Twenty-four stories from the traditions of peoples indigenous to what is now called North America entertain and teach about the family relationship of native people with the Earth. The tales are reprinted in a readable typeface, illustrated with black and white artwork and presented within a visual framework signifying geographic origins and cultural symbols. The book contains a map designating American Indian cultural areas and tribal locations as they appeared around 1600, a glossary and a substantial paragraph about each of the sixteen nations from which the tales originated. Joseph Bruchac and M. Scott Momaday's short introductions contain facts and insights about the tales essential for all who wish to read, tell or teach them. These stories first appeared in KEEPERS OF THE EARTH (Fulcrum, 1988). (Ages 5-14)

Compton, Patricia A. THE TERRIBLE EEK. Illustrated by Sheila Hamanaka. Simon & Schuster, 1991. 32 pages. (0-671-73737-6) \$14.95

A Japanese tale begins with a child asking his father if he is ever afraid. Yes, he responds, he's fearful of a thief, a wolf and a leak in the roof. A nearby thief and wolf mistake what they partially overhear and spend the remainder of the tale trying to escape from an imaginary "eek." The action-packed story involves increasing confusion for its characters and glee for its readers / listeners. Hamanaka's cinematic, rocketing perspectives convey the rushing motions for a fast-moving tale with a truly happy ending. Perfect for classroom groups and library storyhour sharing. (Ages 5-8)

Cruz Martinez, Alejandro. THE WOMAN WHO OUTSHONE THE SUN: THE LEGEND OF LUCIA ZENTENO/LA MUJER QUE BRILLABA AUN MAS QUE EL SOL: LA LEYENDA DE LUCIA ZENTENO. From a poem by Alejandro Cruz Martinez. Story by Rosalma Zubizarreta, Harriet Rohmer and David Schechter. Illustrated by Fernando Olivera. Children's Book Press (1461 Ninth Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122), 1991. 32 pages. (0-89239-101-4) \$13.95

Cruz was a young Zapotec poet who collected this tale prior to being killed in 1987 while organizing his people to regain their water rights. After the Mexican painter Fernando Olivera heard the story from Cruz, he created paintings about the legendary Lucia Zenteno. Olivera's stunning full-color paintings illustrate this bilingual 8 1/4" x 9 1/4" edition of the tale

featuring a woman who, when she mysteriously arrived at a village "...brought thousands of dancing butterflies and brightly colored flowers on her skirts. She walked softly yet with quiet dignity, her long, unbraided hair flowing behind her. A loyal iguana walked at her side... Everyone felt a little afraid of someone so wonderful and yet so strange..." When Lucia was driven from the village by misunderstanding and cruelty, the river she loved and all its creatures left with her. The resulting drought caused the villagers to search for Lucia and ask her forgiveness. They found out that just as the river once gave water to all, so - also - were they to "treat everyone with kindness, even those who seem different..." (Ages 5-11)

Dee, Ruby. TOWER TO HEAVEN. Illustrated by Jennifer Bent. Henry Holt, 1991. 32 pages. (0-8050-1460-8) \$14.95

Talkative Yaa and the people of her village fall just short of reaching the great god of the sky with their tower of mortars. To this day it is possible to see Yaa at the top of the tower, telling Onyankopon what she thinks he needs to know and calling for one more mortar to complete the tower. This interpretation of a tale well-known in many African regions has Ghanaian roots in its narrative details and also in the elements of its full-color illustrations created with concentrated inks on scratchboard. (Ages 5-9)

Hodges, Margaret. ST. JEROME AND THE LION. Illustrated by Barry Moser. Orchard Books, 1991. 32 pages. (0-531-05938-3) \$14.95

According to legend, after Jerome's monastic community healed a wounded lion, the beast attached himself to this leader who was working to translate the Bible into Latin. After the lion was suspected of killing the monastery donkey needed to carry firewood, the lion performed this task, located the thieves who stole the donkey and rescued it. This compelling legend of trust and forgiveness features two heroes: Jerome and the lion. Hodges' retelling employs dialogue, short sentences and a tone which simultaneously respects and interests a child audience. Moser's watercolors effectively convey the mood of the tale. Distinctive and enjoyable for group use and for individual reading pleasure, this handsome volume establishes a high standard for bookmaking and storytelling. Honor Book, 1991 CCBC Caldecott Discussion. (Ages 5-11)

Hong, Lily Toy. HOW THE OX STAR FELL FROM HEAVEN. Albert Whitman, 1991. 32 pages. (0-8075-3428-5) \$13.95

Long ago, the Ox Star was sent to Earth to deliver a message from the Emperor of the Heavens. He was instructed to tell the people that the Emperor promised they'd eat once every three days, but he garbled the message and instead told them that the Emperor promised they'd eat three times a day. Of course, the people would need help in order to produce enough food to feed themselves so often. Bold, stylized paintings illustrate the Chinese folktale which explains how oxen came to be beasts of burden. (Ages 4-7)

Joseph, Lynn. A WAVE IN HER POCKET: STORIES FROM TRINIDAD. Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Clarion Books, 1991. 51 pages. (0-395-54432-7) \$13.95

A collection of tales written from the perspective of a young girl in Trinidad show her and her cousins delighting in listening to her great aunt's stories from traditional folklore. Each tale is framed by family events and activities which inspire Tantie to remember a fitting story: some of them teach, some of them amuse and some of them scare but all of them entertain and delight listeners and readers. (Ages 6-11)

Marshall, James, illustrator. OLD MOTHER HUBBARD AND HER WONDERFUL DOG. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1991. 32 pages. (0-374-35621-1) \$13.95

In Marshall's version of this familiar sequence of rhymes, an independent Victorian woman and her equally amazing bulldog seem to be an even match in robust, humorous antics - thirteen in all. The word "went" takes on new connotations because of Marshall's inspired visual vocabulary for "She went to the cupboard" = sliding down a bannister; "...to the baker" = riding a bicycle; "...to the tavern" = decked out in a white cowgirl outfit! An off-the-wall entertainment demonstrating the power of an artist to add to the meaning of the text. (Ages 3-6)

Mollel, Tololwa M. ORPHAN BOY. Illustrated by Paul Morin. Clarion Books, 1991. 32 pages. (0-89919-985-2) \$14.95

One night as an old man gazes at the sky, he notices that one of the stars is missing. His attention is soon diverted, however, when he is startled by Kileken, a young boy who seems to appear out of nowhere. After he offers Kileken a place to stay, the old man is amazed by the work the boy manages to accomplish, and he begins to question where the boy came from. His curiosity turns out to be a fatal flaw. This hauntingly beautiful, traditional Maasai story, retold by an Arusha Maasai writer who grew up in Tanzania, is accompanied by breath-taking, textured oil paintings. (Ages 4-7)

Plume, Ilse. THE SHOEMAKER AND THE ELVES. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991. 32 pages. (0-15-274050-3) \$14.95

Glowing reds, blues and yellows create visual excitement in this retelling of the story of the poor shoemaker who achieves success and comfort with the secret late-night help of benevolent elves. When the shoemaker and his wife show their appreciation on Christmas Eve in the form of new clothing for their helpers, the delighted elves leave with their gifts and never return. Fortunately, by this time the shoemaker's business is secure and continues to prosper on its own. Many of the illustrations are placed in a peephole-like circle, suggesting an elfish perspective of the shoemaker's shop. (Ages 3-6)

Sanfield, Steve. THE FEATHER MERCHANTS & OTHER TALES OF THE FOOLS OF CHELM. Illustrated by Mikhail Magaril. A Richard Jackson Book/Orchard, 1991. 102 pages. (0-531-05958-8) \$15.95

Thirteen Chelm stories newly retold for enjoyment appear here in an inviting edition. Distinctive pen-and-ink drawings created by a Russian illustrator lend an "interpretation" inspired by folk art. In an Afterword, Sanfield describes the childhood pleasure of hearing stories about Chelm and its good, decent and silly citizens from his Lithuanian grandfather. He also relates a Eastern European trip to further document the stories he located in books, an odyssey reinforcing his personal commitment to the Chelm tales and also the necessity for a sense of humor. (Ages 5-11)

Schwartz, Alvin. GHOSTS!: GHOSTLY TALES FROM FOLKLORE. Illustrated by Victoria Chess. (An I Can Read Book) HarperCollins, 1991. 63 pages. (0-06-021796-0) \$11.95

Beginning readers who have heard middle-grade children rave about Alvin Schwartz's immensely popular SCARY STORIES trilogy (SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK (Lippincott, 1981), MORE SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK (Lippincott,

1984), and SCARY STORIES 3 (HarperCollins, 1991)), will be thrilled to discover this compilation of ghostly folklore suited to their reading abilities. Seven short chapters feature tales and rhymes based on U.S. and British folklore. An appendix briefly states the origin of each story. Humorous full-color illustrations are found on most pages. (Ages 5-7)

Schwartz, Howard and Barbara Rush. THE DIAMOND TREE: JEWISH TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD. Illustrated by Uri Shulevitz. HarperCollins, 1991. 120 pages. (0-06-025239-1) \$16.95

Fifteen tales unique to Jewish culture concern fundamental teachings of Judaism, such as honesty, faith, charity or cooperation. The well-documented tales are drawn from ancient and modern Jewish sources around the world. The ten full-color paintings by Uri Shulevitz are perfect complements to the tales they accompany. A fine collection for family and group reading as well as for individual gifts. (Ages 5-11)

Stewig, John Warren. STONE SOUP. Illustrated by Margot Tomes. Holiday House, 1991. 32 pages. (0-8234-0863-9) \$14.95

Their farm is too small to support her and her mother, so Grethel leaves "to discover a way to make life easier" for both of them. She finds a village full of people with "long faces in order to look hungry" and ready with excuses for not helping her. After Grethel cleverly tricks the townspeople into sharing their hidden food, she returns home, "an-up-and-coming lass" with a sack "bulging with food and good wishes." Stewig's well-turned phrases invite out-loud reading and listening. The bold shapes and subdued browns and blues of Tomas' illustrations make them effective for group use. (Ages 5-9)

Taylor, C. J. THE GHOST AND LONE WARRIOR: AN ARAPAHO LEGEND. Tundra Books, 1991. 24 pages. (0-88776-263-8) \$12.95

In the days before horses, the people had to walk everywhere, even when they were hunting buffalo. When Lone Warrior injures his ankle on such a hunt, he is left behind by the rest of the hunting party who promise to return in a few days. Months pass and they never return, nor does Lone Warrior's ankle heal. But his struggle to survive is eventually rewarded one night when he is visited by the spirit of an ancestor who has an explanation for everything that has happened. This fine retelling of an Arapaho legend is accompanied by full-color paintings by a Mohawk artist. (Ages 5-9)

Vidal, Beatriz and Nancy Van Laan. THE LEGEND OF EL DORADO: A LATIN AMERICAN TALE. Illustrated by the Beatriz Vidal. Alfred A. Knopf, 1991. 32 pages. (0-679-80136-7) \$15.00

The mythical kingdom of gold, a widespread legend among the Native peoples of South America, was accepted as reality by Europeans from the time of first contact 500 years ago. In their lust for gold, generations of outsiders and explorers have searched in vain for El Dorado, seeking out and recording many versions of the legend to guide them in their quest. Argentinian Beatriz Vidal's haunting retelling of a Chibcha version, first recorded by Benalcazar in 1541, attributes the building of El Dorado to a long-ago Chibcha king. Despondent after the drowning of his wife and daughter, the king initiates an annual ritual in which he throws gold and jewels into Lake Guatavita to remind the water spirit of his promise to reunite the family upon the king's death. The lush colors of Vidal's exquisite paintings provide a perfect contrast to gold highlights scattered throughout the

illustrations, making the glittering objects seem both precious and mundane.
(Ages 4-8)

Yen, Clara. WHY RAT COMES FIRST: A STORY OF THE CHINESE ZODIAC. Illustrated by Hideo C. Yoshida. Children's Book Press (1461 Ninth Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122), 1991. 32 pages. (0-89239-072-7) \$13.95

As a second-generation Chinese-American, the author heard many folktales about the Chinese zodiac when she was growing up, but her favorite was a story that her father made up. To satisfy his curiosity about Earth's animals, the Jade King sends his messenger down from heaven, carrying invitations to a great feast for each and every animal. But the messenger trips and the invitations scatter; as a result only twelve animals arrive as guests at the feast. After their host decides to honor them by naming a year after each of the twelve, the animals hold a contest to see which of them will come first. The amusing antics of the clever, ambitious Rat win the hearts of the contest judges--Earth's children. Yen's perfectly paced text combines with brightly colored, cartoon-like illustrations to create an appealing story for reading aloud. (Ages 3-7)

Yep, Laurence. TONGUES OF JADE. Illustrated by David Wiesner. HarperCollins, 1991. 194 pages. (0-06-022470-3) \$14.95

These seventeen stories, once gathered in San Francisco's Chinatown, have been retold by a writer well attuned to today's young readers as well as to his own heritage. The intriguing tales are organized into sections titled "Roots," "Family Ties," "The Wild Heart," "Face," and "Beyond the Grave." This collection is a welcome companion to Yep's THE RAINBOW PEOPLE (Harper, 1989). (Age 9 and older)

See also: All of You Was Singing; Climbing Jacob's Ladder; Days of Awe; Pueblo Storyteller; Star Fisher; Story of Christmas; Truth About Unicorns

BOOKS FOR BABIES

Cousins, Lucy. COUNTRY ANIMALS. U.S. edition: Tambourine Books, 1991. 12 pages. (0-688-10070-8) \$3.95

_____. FARM ANIMALS. U.S. edition: Tambourine Books, 1991. 12 pages. (0-688-10071-6) \$3.95

_____. GARDEN ANIMALS. U.S. edition: Tambourine Books, 1991. 12 pages. (0-688-10072-4) \$3.95

_____. PET ANIMALS. U.S. edition: Tambourine Books, 1991. 12 pages. (0-688-10073-2) \$3.95

This quartet of 5 1/2" x 5 7/8" board books features distinctive images of animals appropriate to each title, presented in brilliant, bold colors. The artist's deceptively simple style is ideally suited to both the subject and the audience. Single- and double-page spreads combine to offer contrast and clarity. Wisconsin readers will especially appreciate the badger ambling across the final page of COUNTRY ANIMALS. (age 6 months - 3 years)

Falwell, Cathryn. WHERE'S NICKY? Clarion Books, 1991. 24 pages. (0-395-56936-2) \$7.95

"Where's Nicky? Here he is!" The age-old peek-a-boo game is played out six times during a child's day by a toddler and two caregivers. A toy rabbit has a minor role in each playful episode created on 7" x 7" pages sturdy enough

for repeated fun. The companion books NICKY & GRANPA and NICKY'S WALK continue this child's interactions with family members, objects and concepts, and the blue bunny is there, too. (Age 6 months - 2 years)

Greenfield, Eloise. BIG FRIEND, LITTLE FRIEND. Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Black Butterfly Children's Books (Writers and Readers, 625 Broadway, Suite 903, New York, NY 10012), 1991. 10 pages. (0-86316-204-5) \$5.95

_____. DADDY AND I ... Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Black Butterfly Children's Books, 1991. 10 pages. (0-86316-206-1) \$5.95

_____. I MAKE MUSIC. Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Black Butterfly Children's Books, 1991. 10 pages. (0-86316-205-3) \$5.95

_____. MY DOLL, KESHIA. Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Black Butterfly Children's Books, 1991. 10 pages. (0-86316-203-7) \$5.95

Four board books feature day-to-day activities of young African-American children, described in brief, first-person narratives. BIG FRIEND, LITTLE FRIEND compares and contrasts the ways in which a small boy plays and interacts with a friend who is older than he and a friend who is younger. DADDY AND I... recounts the many things a young boy and his dad do together. In I MAKE MUSIC a little girl describes a variety of ways she makes music, from playing a toy xylophone to tapping her leg. Another little girl talks about playing with her doll and with her friend David in MY DOLL, KESHIA. Simple, patterned texts, child-centered concerns and clear, boldly colored illustrations make these books appealing to the youngest listeners. (Ages 1-3)

BOOKS FOR TODDLERS

Bang, Molly. YELLOW BALL. William Morrow, 1991. 24 pages. (0-688-06314-4) \$12.95

Three beach-goers interrupt a game of catch to build a sand castle on a busy sandy stretch. Two individuals are African-American, one being toddler-sized. The third person involved is a white female. Their ages and roles are as open to interpretation as the rest of the events in this stunning book bearing large ideas and few words: "Catch ... Throw ... Uh-oh ..."

Although the people in the book don't notice, young readers will see the big yellow ball as it is carried away on the tide and begins a long journey out to sea. Bang's dazzling full-color pastel paintings tell most of the story as they trace the progress of the ball, over dolphins and under sea gulls, beyond a bridge and through a night storm, before being washed ashore on a different beach and into the open arms of another brown-skinned child. (Ages 1-3)

Fleming, Denise. IN THE TALL, TALL GRASS. Henry Holt, 1991. 32 pages. (0-8050-1635-X) \$15.95

As a small child inspects the busy world "in the tall, tall grass", she observes "crunch, munch, caterpillars lunch / dart, dip, hummingbirds sip" and a host of other insects, birds, reptiles, and rodents going about their business. Brightly colored, bold illustrations and a tight, well-chosen text of few words make this an ideal read-aloud. (Ages 2-5)

Geisert, Arthur. OINK. Houghton Mifflin, 1991. 32 pages. (0-395-55329-6) \$13.95

A exquisite 7 1/4" x 8 1/4" volume containing more than three dozen tiny etchings

printed in two colors unfolds the story of an orderly mother pig and the whimsical adventures of her adventuresome pink brood. The word "oink" repeated in many ways throughout the little book tempts vocal participation in a visual narrative with no other words. A superbly designed and produced book invites individual discovery of its understated humor. (Ages 2-4)

Johnson, Angela. ONE OF THREE. Illustrated by David Soman. Orchard Books, 1991. 32 pages. (0-531-05955-3) \$14.95

The youngest of three daughters in an African-American family describes the day-to-day activities she shares with her two older sisters as "one of three." On occasions when her older sisters leave her behind, saying she's too little to come along, she feels left out and lonely, until Mama and Daddy find some things for her to do at home with them. Then she's one of three again--"a different kind of three, and that's fine, too...." Once again, Angela Johnson demonstrates her remarkable skill at telling a good story that's just right for preschool listeners. David Soman's watercolor paintings capture the energy and emotions of three distinctive sisters. (Ages 2-5)

Roe, Eileen. CON MI HERMANO/WITH MY BROTHER. Illustrated by Robert Casilla. Bradbury Press, 1991. 32 pages. (0-02-777373-6) \$12.95

A preschool-aged Latino boy describes all the things he admires about his teenaged brother who rides a bus to school, has a paper route and plays on a baseball team. The younger brother looks forward to a time when he'll be big enough to do all those things, too, but in the meantime he enjoys the time he and his big brother spend together wrestling, playing catch, and reading stories. The simple, patterned text, in English and Spanish, is accompanied by realistic, full-page watercolor paintings. (Ages 3-6)

See also: Abuela; Changes; Dog and Cat; Everett Anderson's Christmas Coming; First Pink Light; Three Bears; Tuesday

PICTURE BOOKS

Adoff, Arnold. HARD TO BE SIX. Illustrated by Cheryl Hanna. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1991. 32 pages. (0-688-09013-3) \$12.95

"Hard to be six / when your sister is ten. / There are things she can do that / must wait until then: when i am / seven or eight, nine or ten. / Hard to be six until then..." Adoff's poems about the ups and downs of a typical six-year-old who can't wait to grow up are marvelously illustrated with full-color paintings which show the six-year-old and his sister as biracial children with a white father and an African-American mother. (Ages 4-6)

Albert, Burton. WHERE DOES THE TRAIL LEAD? Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Simon & Schuster, 1991. 32 pages. (0-671-73409-1) \$13.95

A short, lyrical text traces the steps of an African-American boy on Summer Island as he follows a rustic trail along the beach until he reaches his family at a seaside picnic. Brian Pinkney's scratchboard illustrations are colored with aqua, green, brown and purple oil pastels, providing the perfect ambience for the quiet story of a solitary journey. (Ages 4-7)

Barbot, Daniel. A BICYCLE FOR ROSAURA. Translated from the Spanish. Illustrated by Morella Fuenmayor. (A Cranky Nell Book) U.S. edition: Kane/Miller, 1991. 24

pages. (0-916291-34-0) \$9.95

A delightful picture book from Venezuela details the predicament of Senora Amelia when her handsome hen Rosaura asks for a bicycle for her birthday. An indulgent pet-owner, Senora Amelia searches high and low but is simply unable to find a shop that caters to athletically inclined chickens. Happily, an inventive street peddler is equal to the task of building a custom-made two-wheeler. Much of the humor of this fast-paced story comes from Morella Fuenmayor's softly colored realistic illustrations which give an air of eerie possibility to the absurd. (Ages 3-6)

Browne, Anthony. CHANGES. U.S. edition: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991. 32 pages. (0-679-81029-3) \$14.95

Anthony Browne's hyper-realistic/surrealistic style perfectly suits this story of a young boy, Joseph, waiting for his parents to return home from the hospital with his new baby sister. His dad had said that everything in the household was going to change and, as Joseph waits, things do indeed seem to be changing right before his eyes: the tea kettle, for instance, has sprouted a tail and a pair of ears! As Joseph wanders through his familiar home and out in his own backyard, he notices a number of unusual changes occurring and young readers will, too, as they study the pictures. A highly original twist on the "new baby, adjustment to" theme draws on psychological reality and visual humor. (Ages 3-7)

Cummings, Pat. CLEAN YOUR ROOM, HARVEY MOON! Bradbury Press, 1991. 32 pages. (0-02-725511-5) \$13.95

The Voice of Doom that Harvey Moon hears when he's settled down to watch Saturday morning cartoons is that of his mother, reminding him to clean his room. A humorous, rhyming text lists the ordinary and the extraordinary items poor Harvey has to find a place for while the colorful, angular illustrations amusingly depict the child's archetypal problem bedroom. (Ages 3-6)

Dorros, Arthur. ABUELA. Illustrated by Elisa Kleven. Dutton Children's Books, 1991. 40 pages. (0-525-44750-4) \$13.95

Rosalma and her Spanish-speaking abuela (grandmother) spend the day together in a city park where the two of them share an imaginary flight over the city. All of Abuela's comments and observations are made in Spanish, while either the context or Rosalma's translations into English make her statements clear for non-Spanish speakers. Elisa Kleven's vibrant, mixed-media collages add colorful whimsy to this visual and verbal delight. Winner, 1991 CCBC Caldecott Discussion. (Ages 4-7)

Greenfield, Eloise. FIRST PINK LIGHT. Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Rev. ed., Black Butterfly Children's Books (Writers & Readers, 625 Broadway, Suite 903, New York, NY 10012), 1991. 32 pages. (0-86316-207-X) \$13.95

Preschooler Tyree anxiously awaits the return of his father, who has been away from home for a month taking care of Tyree's grandmother. Even though his mother tells him his daddy won't be home until daybreak, Tyree is adamant about staying up so he can hide in a cardboard box underneath the dining-room table to surprise his daddy. After some marvelously realistic negotiating, mother agrees to let Tyree sit in a rocking chair at the living-room window, watching for the "first pink light" of dawn. As determined and excited as little Tyree is, he just can't stay awake much later than his usual bedtime and soon he is fast asleep, only to be awakened hours later by a hug from his daddy. First published in 1976, Greenfield's

humorous yet poignant story unfolds entirely through Tyree's believable actions and reactions, achieving a depth of character and drama rarely seen in realistic stories about and for preschoolers. Through facial expressions and postures, Gilchrist's full-color gouache and pastel paintings skillfully capture the many moods of a four year old at bedtime. As a read-aloud selection either one-on-one or for groups of preschoolers, this will delight the grown-ups as well as the children. (Ages 3-5)

Hayashi, Akiko. AKI AND THE FOX. U.S. edition: Doubleday, 1991. 40 pages. (0-385-41947-3) \$14.00

Kon the stuffed fox has been Aki's constant companion since she was a baby and now that Aki's almost old enough to go to school, poor Kon is getting pretty ragged. When a seam splits on Kon's arm, Aki decides that it's time for a trip to Grandma's house for a repair job, so the two set out on a journey by train. An appealing picture-book adventure combines realistic details of life in contemporary urban Japan with a whimsical world in which a stuffed animal not only talks, he assumes the role of adult care-giver. (Ages 3-6)

Henkes, Kevin. CHRYSANTHEMUM. Greenwillow Books, 1991. 32 pages. (0-688-09699-9) \$13.95

Chrysanthemum has always thought of her name as beautiful and perfect as she herself until her classmates laugh when they hear it during roll call on the first day of school. Mercilessly teased about it in school by Victoria, Rita and Jo, Chrysanthemum begins to hate her name, in spite of assurances from her parents. Strapped for life with an ugly, unwieldy name, her future looks bleak until the much-admired music teacher, Mrs. Twinkle, reveals that she herself is named Delphinium. Suddenly, Victoria, Rita and Jo are asking to be called Marigold, Carnation and Lily of the Valley. Chrysanthemum grows and eventually blooms in a wry, perfectly paced picture story that's as much fun to read aloud as it is to listen to. (Ages 3-7)

Hort, Lenny. HOW MANY STARS IN THE SKY? Illustrated by James E. Ransome. Tambourine Books, 1991. 32 pages. (0-688-10103-8) \$13.95

An African-American boy is kept awake at night by a question that nags at him: just how many stars are there up in the sky? Pajama-clad, he situates himself in his own backyard and sets out to count them but there are too many stars and they keep moving, besides. Finally he and his dad get into their pickup truck and head for the country, where they can get the best view of the stars. The deep blue, green and brown hues of James Ransome's richly textured oil paintings aptly depict a nighttime suburban neighborhood as well as city and rural scenes. (Ages 3-7)

Howard, Elizabeth Fitzgerald. AUNT FLOSSIE'S HATS (AND CRAB CAKES LATER) Illustrated by James Ransome. Clarion Books, 1991. 32 pages. (0-395-54682-6) \$14.95

Susan and her sister Sarah love to visit their Great Aunt Flossie's house each Sunday afternoon because Aunt Flossie lives in "a house crowded full of stuff and things." The sisters are particularly intrigued with Aunt Flossie's collection of hats--she has saved every hat she has ever owned and each one reminds her of a story from her past. James Ransome's elegant oil paintings move easily from the present to the past as he illustrates Aunt Flossie's stories, as well as the context in which she is telling them. A skillful use of dialogue aptly portrays a strong intergenerational relationship in an African-American family. (Ages 4-9)

Hudson, Wade. JAMAL'S BUSY DAY. Illustrated by George Ford. Just Us Books (301 Main St., Orange, NJ 07050), 1991. 24 pages. (Hardcover, 0-940975-21-1) \$12.95; (Paperback with perfect binding, 0-940975-24-6) \$6.95

Jamal's parents work hard all day; his dad as an architect, his mom as an accountant. Like them, Jamal works hard, too, because school is his "job."

Readers follow Jamal through a typical day as he works with numbers, does research, attends meetings, helps out his supervisor, etc.--all activities described in terms his parents use for their work, while the illustrations show him in a familiar elementary school setting. The clever interplay between text and pictures distinguish the second title in a series created to enhance the self-esteem of African-American children. (Ages 4-6)

Hughes, Shirley. WHEELS. (A Tale of Trotter Street) U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1991. 24 pages. (0-688-09880-0) \$13.95

Trotter Street is full of Spring motion and locomotion. Sanjit Lal has roller skates; Barney, a skateboard; and Mae's baby sister, a stroller. Carlos deals gamely with the disappointment of receiving perfectly fine birthday presents but no bike like Billy's. Mum had warned Carlos in advance about this, but he was completely unprepared for his brother Marco's handmade surprise. This gift and a subsequent neighborhood non-bicycle race exhibit the small moments of high drama at which Hughes excels. Hughes' full-color artwork harmonizes wonderfully with the down-to-earth fictional Trotter Street community she's populated with appealing folks living their daily lives with and as well as next to each other. An outstanding addition to a great series. (Ages 3-8)

Konigsburg, E. L. SAMUEL TODD'S BOOK OF GREAT INVENTIONS. Atheneum Publishers, 1991. 32 pages. (0-689-31680-1) \$13.95

Samuel Todd who was first introduced in SAMUEL TODD'S BOOK OF GREAT COLORS (Atheneum, 1990) is back, this time to extol the virtues of his favorite inventions. Unlike his parents who think that the telephone and television are the greatest inventions, Samuel Todd appreciates belt loops, backpacks, step stools, birthday-cake candles, training wheels and security blankets. His comments on the necessity and usefulness of each invention are amusingly direct and childlike: "Halloween was invented so that no one has to go trick-or-treating as his or her same old self." (Ages 3-6)

Lindenbaum, Pija. ELSE-MARIE AND HER SEVEN LITTLE DADDIES. Translated from the Swedish. Adapted by Gabrielle Charbonnet. U.S. edition: Henry Holt, 1991. 32 pages. (0-8050-1752-6) \$14.95

Else-Marie's family seems normal to her but when her mom tells her one night that she won't be able to pick her up after school the next day as usual, Else-Marie panics to think that her classmates might discover the secret of her "other parent." For while Else-Marie's mother is of average size and number, not only is her father knee-high, there are seven of him! Of course, everything Else-Marie imagines her classmates saying and doing turns out to be much worse than what really happens when her seven little daddies show up at school. In fact, the other kids barely seem to notice that there's anything unusual about her dad. A delightfully amusing picture-story from Sweden uses exaggeration and absurdity to effectively express realistic fears and pressures children feel when their families don't conform to popular conventions. (Ages 4-8)

Mathers, Petra. SOPHIE AND LOU. HarperCollins, 1991. 32 pages. (0-06-024072-5)
\$14.95

Timid Sophie is so shy that she shops during off times (so she won't have to talk to anyone) and stops at the door of the bookmobile (put off by the tall librarian). When Dolores and Rudi open a dance studio across the street from her house, Sophie is fascinated by the instruction she secretly observes. Her curiosity outweighs her fear as she checks out a library book on the subject and soon is gliding gracefully across her living room floor. Throughout the story Lou admires Sophie from afar, until one evening when he appears at her door as she dances solo. When Lou asks for a dance, Sophie's burgeoning confidence allows her to reply with a firm "You bet"! The artist's skilled composition and use of color highlight this humorous story of overcoming a limiting characteristic. (Ages 5-8)

Rathmann, Peggy. RUBY THE COPYCAT. Scholastic Hardcover, 1991. 32 pages.
(0-590-43747-X) \$12.95

On her first day as the new kid at school, Ruby is assigned a seat behind glamorous Angela. Anxious to have a friend, Ruby copies everything Angela says and does, so that it'll appear that the two have a lot in common. At first Angela is flattered by Ruby's admiration but she soon grows irritated by it and their friendship sours. An appealing story about individuality and friendship combines warmth and humor in a well-paced text and distinctive full-color illustrations. (Ages 3-6)

Reiser, Lynn. DOG AND CAT. Greenwillow Books, 1991. 24 pages. (0-688-09893-2)
\$13.95

"Once there were two neighbors, a big dog and a little cat." One day, these neighbors met each other, first in the yard near the hedge and next, very quickly, in the nearby tree (the cat, of course) and at the base of the tree (guess who). A lively skirmish ensued, after which any impartial observer would report that the cat had the final word, so to speak. From that day on, the dog was unabashed by the new ground rules and continued to chase things dogs often chase - such as balls, sticks and its own tail - everything, except cats. Watercolors and a black pen were used to create the full-color art. Fresh uses of imaginative visual and written ideas, of page spaces and of typography earmark the picture book debut of a talented author-artist. (Ages 2-8)

Ringgold, Faith. FAR BEACH. Crown Publishers, 1991. 32 pages. (0-517-53030-6) \$11.95

In one of the most visually exciting books to appear in a long time, artist Faith Ringgold has created a picture book based on her story quilt "Far Beach." Eight-year-old Cassie Lightfoot and her baby brother Bo Bo lie stretched out on a mattress on the rooftop of their Harlem apartment while her parents play cards with their next-door neighbors. During that magical time that comes between wakefulness and sleep, the adult conversation blends into Cassie's daydream as she envisions herself flying high above the city, claiming that she owns it all and can change anything to make life come out the way she wants it to be. Ringgold's boldly imaginative acrylic paintings brilliantly capture the power of a child's soaring imagination on the twilight edge of dreams. Set in 1939, FAR BEACH succeeds as an appealing story for children illustrated with fine art, an astute social commentary and a new variation on a traditional African-American liberation motif. Winner, 1991 CBE Coretta Scott King Discussion for Illustration Honor Book, 1991 CBE Coretta Scott King Discussion. (Ages 3-11)

Scheffrin-Falk, Gladys. BORIS THE BEAR AND MAX THE BEAR. Illustrated by Barbara Garrison. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1991. 32 pages. (0-654-19164-1) \$13.95

Boris, a "heavy-footed brown bear whose heart was soft as butter" envies his friend Max, an elegant dancing bear in the Moscow Circus. Max offers to teach Boris to dance, and after much hard work and practice, Boris too, becomes a "celebrated dancing bear." Masterful drawings with delicate watercolor washes ideally complement the well-paced text, in a quiet story of true friendship. (Ages 4-7)

Smith, Jane. GLASS PEOPLE. Viking, 1991. 32 pages. (0-670-54180-9) \$13.95

Worried about "looking like a dork," a myopic boy is urged by his optometrist to contemplate the many people, animals, aliens, vegetables and others who (according to the doctor) all wear glasses. The blurry images of the spectacle-wearers recounted in the doctor's trade aptly suggest the visual world mixed by one too stubborn to get a pair of glasses themselves. Innovative typeface and design perfectly complement the

artist's wacky illustrations. (Ages 4-5)

Spehn, Kate. *SUPERNATURAL FANNY* Orchard Books, 1991. 32 pages. (0-531-03920-0) \$11.95

Four short chapters present episodes in Fanny's life, including making a doll, dreaming in a bubble bath, and teaching an Irish jig to her friend Margarita. These gentle, warm stories of Fanny, a pear, and Margarita, a banana, generate much of their charm through the softly colored, whimsical illustrations. A picture of an almost submerged Fanny seating in a tub, while thinking of mermaids and doughnuts, offers irresistible appeal. (Ages 4-6)

Weiner, David. *FLEETLY* Clarion Books, 1991. 32 pages. (0-395-53113-7) \$15.95

Down at the pond on a Tuesday evening around 8:00, lily pads mysteriously begin to function as flying carpets, lifting frogs gently from the water's surface and carrying them into a nearby town. A horde of benign airborne frogs descends upon the town's unsuspecting, apparently oblivious, human residents who continue with their mundane routines undisturbed -- eating a late-night snack, falling asleep in front of the television set, etc. Whatever the magic, it apparently fades away with the rising sun and the frogs hop back to their watery home, leaving the townpeople to puzzle over an inexplicable infestation of lily pads on city streets. A nearly wordless book invites readers to supply the details about an unusual occurrence wryly depicted with watercolor paintings which succeed in a perfect blend of realism and fantasy. (Ages 3-5)

Willard, Nancy. *RIPPLES IN THE WIND* MUSEUMS, ILLUSTRATED BY SEE, DIANE AND SEE DILLEN. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991. 32 pages. (0-15-262210-1) \$15.95

Readers are invited to imagine the challenges confronting a domestic assistant of the 15th century. Dutch artist whose creations featured objects shaped in bizarre ways and people behaving likewise. Certainly such a worker would become exasperated enough to quit at least once! Such a premise hinges a lot of what is known with much that is imagined about daily life near the creative genius of Hieronymus Bosch. The visual arrangement of the text is a delight to behold on each 12 1/8" x 11 1/4" page as well as to hear read aloud, because the words are colorful in multiple ways. No knowledge of Bosch is needed to enjoy this introduction to his wild eccentricity. When children later encounter Bosch's works, they might recall Willard's inventive rhymed narrative and the Dillens' rich visual accompaniments. The fantasy-filled artwork was underpainted in acrylics on acetate, overpainted with oils and framed with a sculpted work cast in silver, bronze and brass. The endpapers, title page and thirteen pages opposite the full color paintings contain myriad imaginary creatures and characters reproduced in brown on the creamy paper stock. The front and back jacket art tells part of the handsomely-rendered story. Honor Book, 1991 CEBE Catbocott Discussion. (Ages 4-9)

Wolf, Virginia. *MARBLE MOUNTAIN SPURTS* Illustrated by Julia Vivas. U.S. edition: Culture/Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991. 32 pages. (0-15-200543-5) \$14.95

Creatures in a distinctively patterned fabric come to life while the woman sewing a drawing-room curtain does. Full-color paintings bursting with animal action dominate the short fantasy also populated by a queen, general, prime minister, admiral and others, all in awe of an "egress" called Fugten. This story was found among the pages of Wolf's manuscript for *MARBLE MOUNTAIN* but not published for more than four decades. (Ages 3-5)

See also: *Berengaria and the Coyote*, *Christmas Tree Memories*, *Night, How the Cox Star Fell From Heaven*, *My Stories By Hildy California Rose*, *Night on Neighborhood Street*, *Night Tree*, *On the Panjras*, *Shoemaker and the Elves*, *Slene Scap*, *Terrill Eck*, *Tonight is Carnival*, *Towers to Heaven*, *Tree of Evanes*, *Window*, and the section on *Books for Teachers*

SHEPARD BECK'S NEW READERS

Cassidy, Sylvia. *THE BESTEST MISTOFASS* Illustrated by Rockrans Hoffman.

Dial Books for Young Readers, 1991. 45 pages. (0-5037-0517-1) \$10.95 What could be worse than moving to a place that requires a snowsuit beneath your Halloween cat costume, where people give apples and raisins as treats, and there is no best friend to dress as a companion witch to your black cat? The answer: all of the above, plus being sick on the leg night. All of father's efforts to point out trick-or-treaters of interest, and mother's gifts and concern are in vain. Matthew is firm in his determination to be mixable: until something arrives wearing the best cat suit of all the real kind. Cassidy's first person narrative shows Matthew's believable unwillingness to appreciate any of the visitors' costumes. The author's skills in characterizing the boy's parents and at integrating humor which is not at the expense of her main character are demonstrated in her well-plotted and aptly paced story. Full-color artwork, prepared with pencil, colored pencils and colored inks suggests enough detail to expand the episode and enough fancy to extend the imaginations of its beginning readers. (Ages 4-7)

Gottlieb, Dale. *MISTAKENLY BY HIS FUTURE NEIGHBORHOOD* Alfred A. Knopf, 1991. 36 pages. (0-679-51150-5) \$11.00

Hildy writes in her new journal about her best friend's noselid, the eccentricities of apartment house neighbors, Aunt Henrietta's deals with the tooth fairy, a dreamy dance with a wheelchair-mobile adult friend and his wife, and her father's recurring schlag test of dessert at a neighborhood steak house. Nine journal entries characterize precocious Hildy, a Brooklyn eight-year-old whose family values books, reading and writing - and each other. Full-color, full-page illustrations accompany an entertaining story which may also encourage budding young writers. (Ages 7-9)

Hendry, Diana. *THE NOT-A-NOWHERE HOUSE* Illustrated by Ther Weststrom. U.S. edition: Scholastic, Inc. & Shepard Books, 1991. 45 pages. (0-655-10194-1) \$10.95

Hannah resists moving to the city from her village "with its six cottages, one pub and one post-office that sold everything." Even more than she liked the familiar rural landscape, Hannah enjoyed the willow tree outside her bedroom window. Daycycling the family cat adjusts quickly to the move. So does Hannah, once she's aware of new playmates and notices the neighborhood's tall, ponderosa pine from California, where people say "He" instead of "Hello." Hendry's freshly developed metaphors for displacement are adeptly interwoven into a four-chapter story to which many U.S. readers will connect. The imaginative protagonist, her father's tender interactions and the unexpected kindness of a "Removal Man" earmark easy fiction with some British terminology. (Ages 5-7)

Petersen, Katherine. *THE SMALLEST PERSON IN THE WORLD*. Illustrated by Jane Clark Brown. HarperCollins, 1991. 67 pages. (0-06-021621-2) \$11.59

Marvin is the only person to like Rosie, the meanest cow on the dairy farm where Marvin's father works. When the farm and its stock are sold, Marvin's father finds a new job, and the family members reluctantly dissemble their lives, moving into a mobile home on a different farm. Marvin attributes his new, mean behavior to Rosie; he claims that the cow's new owner turned her into "the smallest cow in the world" and that she's right there with Marvin again because they both know it's no fun being little. After Marvin's parents and elder sister accept the idea that a tiny Rosie is Marvin's imaginary playmate, the boy eases into their new life. Petersen's upbeat story shows a contemporary, blue-collar family making the best of changes not of their own making. Her appreciation for the complexity of a child's responses to changes he cannot control is matched by her gift in expressing the constructive, transforming power of imaginative play in a very few words. Petersen shows marvelous versatility in creating beginning fiction suitable with requisite repetitions, yet never losing the strong sense of story and adroit turn of phrase characteristic of her novels. (Ages 4-7)

Rylant, Cynthia. *HENRY AND MUDGE AND THE BE-DONE-FRANK THE KITCHEN BOOBY THE SPINNAKERS*. Illustrated by Sueie Stevenson. Bradbury Press, 1991. 40 pages. (0-02-775006-6) \$11.95

Inseparable companions, Henry and his dog Mudge worry about a visit to Henry's grandmother's house. As they had feared, Mudge is sentenced to the "outside" after knocking over one too many pieces of bio-a-bio in Grandmother's small home. Not to worry, the duo aren't apart for long. In this ninth Henry and Mudge book, four short chapters feature large typeface and an easy vocabulary for young readers. (Ages 5-7)

Steb, Mary. *GO FISH*. Illustrated by Pat Cummings. HarperCollins, 1991. 73 pages. (0-06-025522-5) \$12.95

Thomas and Grandfather share a passion for thinking about fishing, fishing, cooking fish, eating fish and playing the "Go Fish" card game. And, of course, Grandfather always has a story to tell when Thomas fishes around for a reason to stay up just a little bit longer. Both Steb's story and Cummings' drawings depict a strong and tender intergenerational relationship in an African-American family. An easy chapter book with black-and-white illustrations on every page continues the story of eight-year-old Thomas and his grandfather who were introduced in the picture book *FOR MAM THE NIGHT* (Harper, 1985). (Ages 5-9)

 EMMETT AND THE FINE PEGS. Illustrated by Garth Williams. Greenwillow Books, 1991. 56 pages. (0-655-09320-5) \$12.95

Emmett loves pigs, especially King Emmett, a farm pig in upstate New York. Emmett is devastated when he discovers that King Emmett has been slaughtered. Compounding his grief, he and his parents move from their home in New York City to a small Ohio town. Emmett is determined to hate everything about the move and he does, until he makes a friend. From then on things begin looking up, culminating in Emmett's acceptance of a new pig (a dog), while realizing that he isn't being unfaithful to his memory of King Emmett. Steb and Williams create a perceptive sequel to *EMMETT AND THE FINE PEGS* (Harper, 1989) in this expertly crafted, five-chapter narrative full of dialogue, short sentences, quiet humor and greater reading challenge than the earlier book. Steb's characterization of a willful, even obnoxiously stubborn, child is surpassed only by the skillful portrayal of his parents' responses to their son. Six line drawings and paginations printed throughout in warm brown on creamy paper are combined with easy-on-the-eye typography. Page designs with lots of space encourage readers into this "elder" book about an elder Emmett, his first two-wheeler and his second pig. (Ages 6-8)

See also: *All the Fights in the Night*, *Bird Talk*, *Diego*, *Dog and Cat*, *Ghost's*, *Red Dog*, *Blue Fly*

THE FINEST OF THE FINE

Fox, Paula. *CLAY*. Orchard Books, 1991. 151 pages. (0-531-03962-6) \$11.95

Restrained, unsentimental language characterizes Clay's story, that of an eleven-year-old New Yorker living by himself on the streets after his mother disappears from their welfare hotel. The manner in which Clay's family gradually spirals downward is tellerably presented: the loss of his father's position as an art director, his seemingly hopeless unemployment and eventual abandonment of his family, his mother's efforts to support Clay during her pregnancy, and so on as their financial situation relentlessly worsens. Clay barely exists by learning the survival techniques of the homeless people around him, and by a friendship he makes with two older men also living on the street. Although he is eventually reunited with his mother, Clay's sense of betrayal and his harrowing experience will alter his life forever. (Ages 9-13)

Furlong, Monica. *JUNIPER*. U.S. edition. Alfred A. Knopf, 1991. 195 pages. (0-391-53220-5) \$12.95

This eagerly awaited sequel to *WILBERRINE* (Knopf, 1985) follows the adolescent apprenticeship and experiences of Juniper, sage seeresses of the earlier novel. In Cornwall, nearly 1500 years ago, young Juniper leaves her family and her comfortable life as a princess to study with her godmother Euny for a year and a day. Her time with Euny is a harsh trial, but the powers Juniper gains aid her when she returns home to find her Aunt conspiring to capture the throne. The apprenticeship process and the lives of powerful women seeresses are bewitchingly detailed, while the trials Juniper experiences offer the welcome image of a heroic young woman. (Ages 11 and older)

Hahn, Mary Downing. *SPELLING CAMPERS*. Clarion Books, 1991. 216 pages. (0-392-53507-1) \$13.95

World War II is raging overseas, and Margaret's own brother Jimmy is fighting in Europe. Although she worries about Jimmy and feels patriotism for the Allied efforts, Margaret is more immediately concerned with her and her friend Elizabeth's ongoing battles with classmate and bully Tony. In a retaliatory move to one of Tony's attacks, Margaret and Elizabeth follow him into the woods, only to discover that he is sheltering his older brother Stuart, an army deserter, in a hidden shack. At first scornful of Stuart's "reawakening," Margaret and Elizabeth eventually come to care for him. His feelings about

combat cause. Margaret to reconsider her own unconditional support of the war. When Stuart becomes seriously ill, Margaret and Elisabeth must join forces with Gordy to protect and care for his brother. A thought-provoking look at desertion and patriotism, this account doesn't offer facile answers or a comfortable conclusion to an ever-timely issue. (Ages 9-12)

Hamilton, Virginia. *THE ASH FANTASY BOOKS*. Illustrated by Barry Moser.

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991. 108 pages. (0-15-239195-2) \$19.95

Jahdu, the magical trickster here created by Virginia Hamilton over twenty years ago, is rooted in African and American folklore, mixed with some story elements borrowed from European folk literature as well. The result is a collection of wholly original, new tales that feel ancient. This anthology of Jahdu tales combines eleven stories from three previous Jahdu collections and introduces four brand-new tales, all beautifully illustrated in one elegant volume. (Ages 7-11)

Jones, Diana Wynne. *CASTLE IN THE AIR* U.S. edition. Greenwillow Books, 1991. 199 pages. (0-655-09636-7) \$19.95

A chronic daydreamer, Aladdin assumes his midnight journey to a beautiful princess' garden is yet another flight of fantasy. When he discovers that he has, in fact, travelled in his sleep on a magic carpet purchased from a mysterious stranger, he is consumed by his desire to return to the young woman with whom he has fallen in love. His wish is not easily fulfilled, and he finds himself subtracked by djinns, genies, witches, a slightly dishonest traveling companion, and two demanding cats. Common folkloric elements are presented with a new twist in this humorous fantasy sequel to *HOUSING MOUNTAINS* (Greenwillow, 1986). (Ages 10-13)

Leary, Lois. *ANASTASIA'S ATTRACTIONS AND DESSERTS* Houghton Mifflin, 1991. 129 pages. (0-395-56263-3) \$13.95

Anastasia is 13 and ready for love. Although she and her cohorts publicly renounce the pursuit of boys, Anastasia secretly responds to a personal ad in the *NEW YORK REVIEW* BOOKS. One of 116 respondents to a "P.W.M. 25: boyish charm, inherited wealth," Anastasia's persistence pays off and her covert correspondence rapidly escalates. Her perceived control of the budding relationship abruptly vanishes when she experiences an ill-timed, chance meeting with her P.W.M. Heroine of nine previous novels, Anastasia and her memorable family are at it again as adolescence strikes. (Ages 9-12)

Mahy, Margaret. *DARKER WOODS* U.S. edition. Viking, 1991. 151 pages.

(0-670-53731-2) \$19.95

The power and danger of dreams, and their threat to reality if they become more enticing than the actual world is creatively explored in Neva and Anthea's story. Following the death of her parents Anthea moves in with Neva's family, and the two cousins begin to share sinister nightly dreams. Anthea must decide whether to fill the dangerous spaces around her with the warm, but imperfect, reality of her cousin's family, or to remain isolated in her grief and guilt. Mahy's fluent prose expertly captures the illusory bizarreness of dreams and the down-to-earth realities of family relationships. (Ages 10-13)

Park, Ruth. *FANTASY SCENERIES* U.S. edition. Viking, 1991. 196 pages.

(0-670-52225-6) \$19.95

Five short stories about things in corners, both literal and figurative, incorporate bizarre and fantastical elements into realistic settings. From a frightening blob at the back of an elevator to an animated fur neckpiece that protects its deceased owner's house, these imaginative tales create a strong feeling of uneasiness while exploring issues of fear in a variety of settings. The "horror" theme will draw readers in, and the fascinating portrayal of human psychology will captivate them until the book is done. (Ages 10-13)

Sevster, Jon. *THE FROG PRINCE RECONSIDERED*. Illustrated by Steve Johnson. Viking, 1991. 32 pages. (0-670-53121-1) \$14.95

Dark-toned illustrations and a slightly sinister mood balance with satirical humor in this sophisticated alternative version of the frog prince folktale. In this account, the Prince's metamorphosis from amphibian to human is not followed by a "happily ever after" relationship with the Princess. Indeed, the conversion is no sooner complete than the two become mired in their dismal alliance. The pop-eyed Prince, pictured in hilarious frog-like postures, mopes about the castle in a state of depression while the Princess complains about his furniture-hopping habits. A culminating argument, during which the Princess states that perhaps they "would both be better off" if the Prince were still a frog, inspires the Prince to set off on a quest for a witch who will turn him back into his true self. He runs into the forest, only to encounter three harrowing hags on sabbatical from their roles in other tales (*Snow White*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Hansel and Gretel*). In keeping with the pattern of the original tale, the ending is happy, if unexpected. Although the book's format suggests a young audience, the knowledge of traditional folktales required to fully appreciate the story make it most appropriate for older children, who will also enjoy the many visual "froggy" jokes incorporated into the illustrations. (Ages 5-10)

Segal, Jerry. *THE FIVE WIVES OF BOB D. STORPER*. Illustrated by Dan Pilkey. Orchard Books, 1991. 151 pages. (0-531-05597-2) \$14.95

"When a neighbor needed help, good-hearted and soft-spoken Boris the Baker was the first to offer aid." So it was and so it continued for 23 years in an obscure Russian village. One February, a family arrived in the village with a cart filled mostly with leeches and heads full of their plan to wait for their cousin Shimchik who would bring their passports. Boris's generosity is extended, and the family's wait extended for years. The children grew up, and the ending was happy, even for Boris. Full of surprises and rich characterizations, this appealing novel is the first volume of a trilogy written in tribute to the author's immigrant grandparents. Pilkey's seventeen pencil drawings reproduced in halftone perfectly complement the engaging story. (Ages 5-12)

Soto, Gary. *FANTASY LIFE* Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991. 135 pages. (0-15-251076-1) \$15.95

When 14-year-old Lincoln Mendosa moves with his mother from a working-class Latino community to a white suburban neighborhood, his main concern is that he make the basketball team at his new junior high. Once he does, life gets even more complicated as he tries to come to terms with his feelings about playing on the new team against his old junior high school. An appealing, fast-paced novel about divided loyalties and ethnic identity has many moments of humor and poignancy in addition to a credible, down-to-earth teen protagonist. (Ages 9-12)

Wade, Patricia C. *SEARCHING FOR DRAGON: THE ENCHANTED FORESTHERNERS BOOK 2* A Jane Yolen Book/Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991. 242 pages. (0-15-200595-5) \$16.95

When Kasul, King of the Dragons, is kidnapped, the princess Eimere sets out in a rescue attempt with the aid of Mendanlar, King of the Enchanted Forest. The developing relationship between Eimere, a truly independent and competent young woman, and Mendanlar, who believes most princesses are silly nitwits, provides a delightful foundation to their combined quest. After proving she didn't need a prince in *SEARCHING FOR DRAGON* (Jane Yolen/Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1990), Eimere now discovers that a prince of her own choosing is not necessarily something to be avoided. (Pages 9-13)

Yip, Lawrence. *THE STAR FISHER* William Morrow, 1991. 150 pages. (0-635-09365-5) \$12.95

In 1927, 15-year-old Jean Lee moves with her family from Ohio to a small town in West Virginia. As the only Chinese-Americans in town, the Lees face social ostracism and overt racism from townspeople who boycott the Lee family business. Jean herself feels tensions between the pressure at home to follow strict Chinese traditions and the pressure at school to assimilate into a white American mainstream. The Chinese folktale of the star fisher, a birdswoman caught between two worlds, provides the central metaphor for this rich, witty, engrossing novel. (Pages 10-13)

See also: *All the Lights in the Night*, *Good Little Christmas Tree*, *Heroine of the Fitano*, *Sybilie*, *My Friend the Painter*, *Cyphan Boy*, *Wave in Her Pocket*, *Woman Who Outshone the Sun*

THE FOUNDATION YEARS

Lee, NOELING BUFWHE FRAUEN A Richard Jackson Book/Orchard, 1991. 177 pages. (0-331-05959-6) \$14.95

The ironic title aptly captures the far-reaching impact of Philip Malley's attempt to get transferred out of the class of an English teacher he resents. After her less-than-passing grade keeps him from trying out for the track team, Philip tries to annoy her by humming along with the national anthem played over the PA system during homeroom. When he is disciplined by the assistant principal, his actions become a political forum for a school board candidate as an example of repression of patriotic behavior. Events snowball as everyone involved scrambles to cover themselves, leaving the well-intentioned teacher as scapegoat to what has become the focus of national attention. When she finally attempts to set the story straight, the media and public have lost interest. A documentary format that consists of letters, memorandums, diary entries, and verbatim conversations skillfully highlights the lack of real communication present. Honor Book, 1991 CECE Newbery Discussion. (Page 12 and older)

Bergman, Tamar. *NOELING BUFWHE FRAUEN* Translated from the Hebrew by Michael Swirsky. U.S. edition: Houghton Mifflin, 1991. 245 pages. (0-395-53325-5) \$14.95

When Yankel is separated from his Jewish family as they attempt to leave Poland by train during World War II, he assumes the life of an "abandoned one." Children living on their own, drifting from town to town, on the edge of starvation, form transitory coalitions in an effort to survive. Paradoxically, Yankel is unable to remain in the confines of home when he is finally reunited with his family after years of searching, and must make periodic forays from his home to roam from place to place on his own. Based on the actual experiences of a friend of the author, Yankel's story acts as a testimonial to an ability to survive against staggering odds. Winner, 1991 CECE Batchelder Discussion. (Page 12 and older)

Block, Francesca Lia. *WITCH BABY* A Charlotte Keston Book/HarperCollins, 1991. 103 pages. (0-06-090545-2) \$13.95

Witch Baby, last seen as an infant left on a doorstep in *WITCH BABY* (Harper, 1989), reappears as a young adolescent asking "what time are we open and where do I belong?" Always watching, through her own eyes or those of cameras, Witch Baby feels unnoticed and alone. She knows her birth mother abandoned her, and she isn't sure she truly belongs to her father, Secret Agent Sever Man, or Weetzie Bat, her "almost-mother." As Witch Baby searches for an answer to her question, she and the members of her untraditional, loving family learn about themselves and each other, until eventually Witch Baby is able to decide that "this is the time we're open" and to content with her discovery. Memorable characterization and an original writing style distinguish this story of a search for identity and belonging. While *WITCH BABY* read like a modern fairy tale, *WITCH BABY* draws its distinctive characters on a realistic, although sometimes surreal, canvas. (Page 13 and older)

Beck, Martha. *THE MOUNTAIN ANGELS* U.S. edition: Joy Street Books, 1991. 199 pages. (0-316-10979-7) \$14.95

A cast of real and complex characters interact and evolve over the course of one summer in a small Canadian community. Seventeen-year-old Solene and her elder sister Petera each are dealing with grief over their mother's death of one year ago. Their physician father submerges himself in his work, oblivious to his children's misery. Solene finds herself caught up in a roller coaster relationship with Hecian, who is dealing with problems in his own family, while Petera becomes seriously involved with Chinese-Canadian medical student Philip Sim. The sights, sounds, and smells of summer are vividly portrayed, while accurate details of the late 1930's add interest without straying into nostalgia. The agency and unexpected euphoria of adolescent relationships is compellingly depicted in the author's clean and elegant prose. (Page 14 and older)

Bass, Fran Leeper. *OUR NEIGHBOR SPARROWS* With the assistance of Daisy Cubas. Seabster Books, 1991. 153 pages. (0-525-67362-5) \$14.95

After a harrowing, dangerous journey from war-torn El Salvador to the United States, teenage Maria and her sister and brother settle in Chicago, waiting for their mother and youngest sister to join them. Welcomed into a community of Salvadoran refugees struggling to survive, Maria works hard to support her family, all the while trying to be "invisible" to lessen the risk of deportation. A gripping, provocative first novel about some of the challenges faced by the people known as "illegal aliens." (Pages 12-16)

Castaneda, Omar P. *THE FIRST FATHERS* Sedestar Books, 1991. 153 pages. (0-325-67332-6) \$14.95

In his first novel for young adults, Omar P. Castaneda draws on his own heritage as a Guatemalan-American for a story set in contemporary Guatemala. Teenager Isabel Pacy is a Tzutujil Indian living in Chui Chiquil, a small town entirely populated by the Tzutujil. As the eldest daughter, Isabel is expected to take on a lot of responsibility, particularly now that her mother is ill and Isabel resents that she has had to leave school in order to care for the household. On the inside, Isabel is filled with conflict; on the outside, she is trying to make a smooth transition from childhood to adulthood in a town undergoing political and social changes which parallel Isabel's own growth. (Age 13 and older)

Choi, Seok Nyul. *THE FIRST WINDS OF GOOD BREEZES* Houghton Mifflin, 1991. 162 pages. (0-325-57412-6) \$13.95

A step-by-step autobiographical novel set in Korea involves ten-year-old Seokhan and her family's survival during and after World War II. They experience a devastating sequence of losses due to the physical and psychological cruelties of occupying authorities, first the Japanese military and then the Communist Russian troops. Before people were turned against each other, hunger was their common enemy; afterwards, the enemy became lack of mutual trust. But hope even trust prevail. The stark, spare story is suspensefully paced with a single celebratory event offering relief at a critical point. Many memorable images will stand out for readers long after they finish this book, such as episodes involving the "rock girls," the children's witnessing of an elder's abandonment of his shoes, and the bravery of an aunt who rebelled against the unwritten rules of a battle to win young minds. Co-winner, 1991 CEBE Newbery Discussion. (Ages 11 and older)

Hayles, Monica. *THE FUTURE IS THE PAST* U.S. edition. Simon & Schuster, 1991. 153 pages. (0-671-71236-1) \$14.00

A future of government-enforced unemployment awaits Fide and seven classmates upon their high school graduation, at a time when almost all human occupations have been supplanted by robotic work forces. Living in their assigned abandoned warehouse, the group learns to scavenge furniture and food while escaping the unwelcome attention of street gangs and the powerful thought police. Soon after they develop workable daily routines and a way of living together in relative peace, the group is issued an invitation to The Game, a mysterious event about which rumors abound. They eventually learn that the alluring Game experience, assumed to consist of hypnosis and computer simulation, is actually the government's way of dealing with mass overpopulation and societal dissatisfaction—selecting young adults with whom to seed other planets. The relationships of Fide and her peers as they evolve through group process are gripping in this unique science fiction novel. (Age 13 and older)

Halsman, Maiva. *MAX THE DOG* Viking, 1991. 32 pages. (0-670-34163-3) \$14.95

Now that Max the Dog Peet has arrived in Paris, his artistic temperament and creative flow are greatly enhanced by cool Parisian past-times such as walking down boulevards, eating baguettes and hanging out at the Crazy Wolf Nightclub. Soon Max becomes a celebrity in Paris and phone lines are down with local gossipers spreading the word that Max has a new *raison d'être*, the glamorous datamatic Croques Suzette. The sophisticated, wry cool picture book filled with visual and verbal puns will appeal to sophisticated, wry cool teens. (Age 14 and older)

Singard, Jean. *BETWEEN WORLDS* U.S. edition. Sedestar Books, 1991. 156 pages. (0-325-67360-1) \$14.95

The Petersens, a Latvian refugee family, immigrate to Toronto, Canada, in 1925. They experience the hardships typical to "displaced persons" as well as others unique to their own experience. Their sponsors move away. The father becomes critically ill and cannot support the family. Hugo finds it difficult to maintain a relationship with his German fiancée. This compelling sequel to *THE FUGITIVE* (Sedestar, 1990) continues the saga of Lukas, Christina, the now-15-year-old twins Hugo and Asta and twelve-year-old Tomas. Both novels were drawn, in part, from experiences of the author's husband and his family. (Ages 11-14)

Moore, Nettie. *THE FIRST WINDS* Orchard Books, 1991. 163 pages. (0-331-03512-3) \$14.95

In the spring of 1963, 14-year-old Shiril's thoughts are on the end of junior high school and the beginning of her freshman year of high school the following autumn. When her family travels south to stay with relatives over Easter break, Shiril experiences firsthand the pain of Jim Crow laws and witnesses the courageous resistance of her 19-year-old Uncle Pete, a freedom rider. Newspaper headlines about the civil rights struggles in the South take on new meaning for Shiril once she returns to Brooklyn, where she organizes her friends to put on a gospel concert to raise funds for Uncle Pete's cause. In this fine first novel by an African-American author, the power of fiction brings history to life and offers a fictional glimpse of northern Black church involvement in the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. (Age 12 and older)

Orlov, Uri. *THE MAN FROM THE OTHER SIDE* Translated from the Hebrew by Hillel

Kallin. U.S. edition. Houghton Mifflin, 1991. 156 pages. (0-325-53303-2) \$13.95

Although Marek feels sympathy for the Jews he sees inside the Warsaw Ghetto when he accompanies his stepfather on smuggling trips through the sewer, he joins his friends in mugging a Jewish man on the street. When his mother discovers his share of the take, she confides that Marek's father was Jewish. Marek is compelled to find Pan Jasek, the man he mugged, and to attempt to help him in his escape from the area. Marek, Pan Jasek, and Marek's stepfather become involved in one day of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Based on actual events, Marek's story is consistently told from the boy's perspective and is full of action and intrigue while offering a strong moral edge. Co-winner, 1991 CEBE Batchelder Discussion. (Age 13 and older)

Peterson, Katherine. *LYDIE* Sedestar Books, 1991. 152 pages. (0-325-67335-3) \$14.95

When Lyddie calmly faces a black bear intruding in her family's cabin, it is only the first of many potential disasters she must confront. Soon after the bear incident her family disintegrates and is scattered, and from that time on Lyddie works continually toward her goal of returning to the cabin and regaining the farm. From being hired out as a tavern drudge to choosing to work as a factory girl in the mill town of Lowell, Massachusetts, Lyddie steadily continues to believe she will return home one day. Her single-mindedness powers her determination to continue working toward her goal, but her exposure to the situations of others eventually enables Lyddie to focus outward as well. In helping her mill co-workers and becoming involved in labor politics, she broadens her own outlook and heightens her chance for a fulfilling future. The accurate historical depiction of the time and working conditions at the mill is impressive and abundant, yet does not burden Lyddie's personal story. Honor Book, 1991 CEBE Newbery Discussion. (Age 12 and older)

Veigt, Cynthia. *THEY SAID MARRIAGE*. Atheneum Publishers, 1991. 234 pages. (0-639-31176-0) \$14.95

When Felix Vandemark II contributes his accumulation of Egyptian antiquities to Vandemark College, Thineas and Althea's father is surprised but pleased to be appointed curator of the collection. The highlight of the collection is the mummy of a girl, and Thineas and Althea find themselves drawn to this physical memory of a young woman long deceased. The mummy's theft embroils the two in a suspenseful academic mystery, which culminates in Thineas' tense search for a missing Althea. Believable sibling relationships and intriguing descriptions of Egyptian artifacts make this a fitting choice for mystery readers looking for a challenge. (Age 12 and older)

Williams-Garcia, Rita. *FAST FORWARD*. Scholastic Books, 1991. 153 pages. (0-525-67331-9) \$14.95

As the eldest son in a middle-class African-American family living in Brooklyn, New York, 15-year-old Densel finds that he has a hard act to follow--his own. Since first grade, he's been a star in his family, school, church and community and, after graduating as valedictorian of his high school class, Densel is on his way to Princeton. Success has always come very easily to Densel until he attends a summer orientation program for minority students and discovers that the competition in college is stiff. His fear of failure consumes his thoughts throughout the remainder of the summer, as he tries to figure out a way to break the news to his dad that he's decided not to go to college. (Age 13 and older)

Winton, Tim. *SOCKS*. HENRY HOLT, 1991. 143 pages. (0-316-91753-9) \$13.95

"Sockie was thirteen and three quarters, and for the first time in his life he was truly packin' death. It was one thing going to high school for the first time, but it was a whole different heekey match going to high school for the first time in a town where you didn't know a single soul, not a single peasy face." At first Sockie is less than thrilled with his family's move from Perth to a small town in rural Australia, but his mood rapidly takes an upward swing. Vicki Preeton, rich, brainy, and beautiful, chooses him as her boyfriend, and he's the top talent of the surfing crowd at the beach. Too much of a good thing can occur, and before he knows it, although still a champion surfer, Sockie is in over his head with Vicki. Perceptive and very funny, Sockie addresses the universal ups and downs of adolescence, from family, to religion, to sex, in a distinctive Australian voice. Slang and jargon unfamiliar to U.S. readers abound throughout the book, but most definitions are easily derived through context. (Age 13 and older)

Woff, Virginia Ewer. *THE MORTALITY*. Henry Holt, 1991. 229 pages.

(0-3030-1371-2) \$13.95

At twelve years of age, Allegria Shapiro is a very talented violinist. In fact, she is spending her summer preparing a Mozart concerto to perform in the Ernest Bloch Young Musicians' Competition, with herself as the youngest competitor. Allegria is also a "normal" 12-year-old, involved in ongoing feuding with her elder brother, secretive late-night bicycling, and spending time with her friends. In developing her own approach to the concerto, an interplay of family, self, and old and new friends influence Allegria's personal insight and, ultimately, her musical interpretation. This appealing description of a believable gifted child features a splendid portrayal of a gradual creative process. Co-winner, 1991 CCBE Newbery Discussion. (Age 12 and older)

See also: *Castle in the Air*; *Juniper*; *Monkey Island*

The Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC)

4290 Helen E. 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 WM-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 library collection contains review copies of newly published juvenile trade books, recommended children's and young adult trade books, historical children's books, contemporary and historical reference materials related to children's and young adult literature, children's and young adult books by Wisconsin authors and illustrators, and alternative press books for children.

Access

The Dewey Decimal classification system is used to catalog all materials except the Alternative Press and Wisconsin Collections. Subject analytics are used extensively for card catalog access to reference materials.

Author, title, illustrator, translator and subject card catalog entries are made for children's and young adult books. Any known national award or distinction or selection tool recommendation is noted on the endpaper in the front of each children's and young adult book. EEBE records are entered in the WISCONSIN statewide database.

The EEBE collection is 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 services are 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. EEBE publications on selected children's literature topics are available along with selected award and distinction lists and annual EEBE Wisconsin-related literature publications. 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 CEBC 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 CEBC funding units and the UW-Madison Office of Outreach Development. The next conference will be held on April 23, 1993. Persons interested in attending lectures, workshops or conferences or in obtaining CEBC publications are asked to send a self-addressed, stamped envelope when they write requesting a list of CEBC Materials or a copy of THE CEBC YEARLY FLYER, a quarterly flyer briefly listing CEBC current information and program services.

Governance of the Cooperative Children's Book Center

The CEBC Executive Committee is responsible for policies and funding of the Cooperative Children's Book Center. The Executive Committee is comprised of School of Education Associate Dean Ann C. De Nancy with Dean Henry T. Trueta, University of Wisconsin - Madison, and Administrator Estlyn M. Shives, Division for Library Services, with State Superintendent Herbert J. Greer, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction with the CEBC Director.

The CEBC Advisory Board represents CEBC users on the University of Wisconsin - Madison campus and from libraries and schools throughout Wisconsin. The 1991-1992 Advisory Board is chaired by John Warren Stevig, Professor, School of Education, UW-Milwaukee. Members of the 1991-1992 Advisory Board are: Karen Agire, Head of Children's Services, T.B. Scott Library, Merrill; Mary Jo Aman, Education Librarian, Golda Meir Library Curriculum Collection, UW-Milwaukee; Grace Balwit, Doctoral Student at UW-Madison School of Education and Reading Teacher Coordinator, Marinette Middle School, Marinette; Catherine Beyers, SMC Director, Harry Spence Elementary School, La Crosse; Rebecca Butler, Doctoral Student at UW-Madison School of Library & Information Studies, Jan Chambers, Principal, Brookwood School, Geneva City; Victoria Colthrell, Assistant Professor of Library and Learning Resources, UW-Whitewater; Carole De Jardin, Children's Services Supervisor, Appleton Public Library, Appleton; Miriam Ericksen, District Media Coordinator, Gibraltar High School, Fish Creek; Mary Louise Gomes, Assistant Professor, School of Education, UW-Madison; Doris Gryboski, Elementary Media Specialist, Chequamegon School, Fond du Lac; Martha Harris Baker, Multicultural Education Coordinator, Appleton Area School District, Appleton; Kathleen Hefschickl, Children's Librarian, Mead Public Library, Sholeyan; Barbara Huntington, Youth Services/Special Needs Consultant, South Central Library System, Madison; John Kean, Professor, School of Education, UW-Madison; Mary Kiefer, President, Board of Trustees of Waupaca Library Board, Waupaca, and Reference Librarian, Appleton Public Library, Appleton; Ellen East, Consultant, English and Language Arts Education, Division for Instructional Services, Wis. Department of Public Instruction; Rosemary Leaver, Library Services Coordinator, Arrowhead Library System, Janesville; Susan Merix, Director, Anatol Sudler Memorial Library, Menisco; Jean Misk, Media Specialist, Dodgeville Middle School, Dodgeville; Rob Reid, S.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library, Eau Claire; Marianne Schock, Acquisitions Librarian, Reference and Loan Librarian, Wis. Department of Public Instruction; Patricia Schull, Media Specialist, Baraboo Junior High School, Baraboo; Jean Thoen, Doctoral Student at UW-Madison School of Education and Lecturer of Literature/Language Education, UW-Green Bay; and Kelly Whitell, Assistant Professor, Letters & Science, Library & Information Studies, UW-Madison.

The Staff

In addition to Director Ginny Moore Kruse and Librarians Kathleen F. Fleming and Merri V. Lindgren, the *EEBC* is staffed by undergraduate and graduate students. The student staff during the creation of ~~EEBC~~ EEBC 1991 included: David Alexander (1991), Elsa Alvarez, Inga Banitt, Jelen Centan, Melinda Brown, Kim Dahl, Janice Eugene, Margaret Hall (1992), Christopher Kasper-Sane (1992), Karen Lucas (1991), Marie Lundstrom, Megan Schlesman and Kristy Severt. Volunteer staff members from the Friends of the *EEBC*, Inc., during 1991-1992 were Marven Fuller Archer and Sally A. Davis.

Public Service Schedule

The *EEBC* is open twelve months a year for public service to adults interested in contemporary or historical children's and young adult literature. The *EEBC* is open 49 hours weekly during the Fall and Spring semesters: Monday-Thursday 10-5, Friday 10-4 and Saturday 10-1. Professional reference assistance is available on call 30 hours weekly.

During Summer School, *EEBC* is open weekly: Monday-Friday 10-4 and Saturday 10-4.

During Intercession and University breaks, the *EEBC* is open: Monday-Friday 10-4.

Extended public service hours can be arranged to accommodate campus course schedules as well as out-of-town users' arrivals and departures. Requests for extended service must be made more than two weeks in advance and will be accommodated if at all possible according to staff availability.

The Compiler of ~~EEBC~~ EEBC 1991

Kathleen F. Fleming 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 *INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHED PICTURE BOOKS AND ILLUSTRATED BOOKS LIBRARY* (Friends of the *EEBC*, Inc., 1955 and 1992) and the co-author with Ginny Moore Kruse of *AN ILLUSTRATED LIBRARY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS* (3rd edition, D.P.F. 1991). She is a contributor to *THE ILLUSTRATED MIRROR* (Highsmith, 1991). She served on the American Library Association's 1957 and 1958 Notable Children's Books Committee, the 1990 Newbery Award Committee and the 1989-91 Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee. She chaired the 1991-1992 U.S. International Board of Books for Young People (IBBY) Hans Christian Andersen Awards Committee. She lectures and writes on children's literature subjects at the *EEBC* and elsewhere, including a quarterly book review column about small press children's books for the *ALA* journal *BOOKLIST*. 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 CCBCE's outreach services, she frequently lectures at the CCBCE 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 CCBCE Intellectual Freedom Information Services. She has chaired or served on national children's literature award and distinction committees including the Newbery, Caldecott, Batchelder, Asthonet, Coretta Scott King, Boston Globe-Horn Book, Jane Yolen, Teachers' Choices and PAPERBACK MUSEUM's annual book award's distinction committees. She chairs the Editorial Advisory Board of the *SLJ* journal *BOOKSINKS*. She is co-author with Kathleen F. Horning of *MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS* (3rd edition, D.P. 1991) and contributor to *THE MULTICULTURED LIBRARIAN* (Highsmith, 1991). She originated CCBCECHOICES with Susan E. Griffith in 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.

Mavis V. Lindgren is a librarian and administrator at the Cooperative Children's Book Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the editor of *THE MULTICULTURED LIBRARIAN* *ENGLISH LANGUAGE LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS* (Highsmith, 1991). She compiled and edited the CCBCE *RESOURCES LIST FOR APPLICABLE BILINGUAL BOOKS FOR SLJ* (2nd edition, 1990) and *CHILDREN'S BOOKS BILINGUAL AND SPANISH AND ENGLISH BOOKS BILINGUAL AND ENGLISH RECORD OF FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1959 (1990) and IN 1990 (1991)*. She worked with Katy and Ginny on *MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS* (3rd edition, 1991). She co-authored CCBCECHOICES 1990. She is an active member of the American Library Association. 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 is co-manager of the Madison children's bookstore Peck Corner.