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CCBC CHOICES 1992

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

Acknowledgements

Thank you to each of the participants in monthly CCBC Book Discussions during 1992; to everyone who participated in the annual CCBC Caldecott, Newbery and Coretta Scott King Awards Discussions in December, 1992; all content and other reviewers; to the CCBC staff; to the Friends of the CCBC, Inc., for production and to Donald L. Crary for out-of-state distribution of CCBC CHOICES. CCBC CHOICES 1992 was underwritten in part by a gift in memory of Theda Clark Smith.

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For information about CCBC publications, Wisconsin residents may send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: cooperative Children's Book Center, 4290 Helen C. White Hall, School of Education, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 600 N. Park Street, Madison, WI 53706. Out-of-state residents: inquire c/o Friends of the CCBC, Inc., P.O. Box 5288, Madison, WI 53705.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Publishing in 1992

An abundance of books written, edited and published especially for children and young teenagers is available for the youth of this nation. The 1992-1993 edition of CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN PRINT (R.R. Bowker) cites 81,198 books "published in the U.S. for children and currently available for purchase," a phenomenal increase of over 8,000 titles compared to the same statistics one year earlier.

We estimate that at least 4,500 new books were published in the United States for children and young adults during 1992. Annual statistics compiled by other sources are published every March; the number for new books always varies, according to who is counting and which new books are included in the totals. Ours is a conservative estimate, excluding reprints and paperback editions of titles published earlier.

Of the 179 books in CCBC CHOICES 1992, 31 represent the first published works of their authors or illustrators; 21 were originally published outside the United States, three of which are translations; and eight were published by eight small, independently owned and operated publishers. Of the books we recommend, 112 did not appear on any of the other nationally distributed lists of the year's best books as of mid-February, 1993.

The Search for Multicultural Literature

The overall quantity of multicultural literature - books in print by, about and including people of color - increased dramatically during the first three years of the 1990s. Many of the year's seasonal publishing house catalogs in 1992 used cover art from a new multicultural title. Some publishing houses issued a separate catalog of their multicultural titles, tapping backlists to include a wide range of books indicating diversity of one kind or another.

We saw an increase in the number of new books which were truly inclusive in terms of showing children from varied ethnic and racial backgrounds.

These are children who are not merely "colored in" to fit an ethnic quota; they are real children living in a real world of diversity and increasing complexity. Laura Dwight's photo-essay about children with disabilities, **WE CAN DO IT! (Checkerboard)** is an excellent example of true inclusiveness.

The numbers of books published each year by African-American book creators continues to rise slowly. Of the roughly 4,500 books published in the United States in 1992, 94 were created by Black authors and/or illustrators. These titles represent the work of 78 individuals. In 1992 we chose several books by African-American authors based on childhood reminiscences about growing up in the rural South, including **DOWN IN THE PINEY WOODS (Knopf)** by Ethel Footman Smothers; **SHORTCUT (Greenwillow)** by Donald Crews; and **WORKING COTTON (Harcourt)** by Sherley Anne Williams, with stunning illustrations by Carole Byard. Mildred Pitts Walter's important book of information, **MISSISSIPPI CHALLENGE (Bradbury)**, provides a much-needed historical context for the current generation of youth regarding the political changes and social progress African-Americans in the South accomplished through complex organizing of the people who were directly affected by institutionalized segregation.

We also saw an increase in the number of children's books by Native American authors. Shonto Begay, Joseph Bruchac, Ferguson Plain, and C.J. Taylor are some of the Native authors and artists included in **CCBC CHOICES 1992**. The most exciting development in Native American literature for children, in our opinion, is the new series established by Lerner Publishing called "We Are Still Here." This series, edited by W. Roger Buffalohead and Juanita G. Corbine Espinosa, focuses on contemporary Native children engaged in traditional activities. The first three volumes published in 1992 feature Ojibway, Wampanoag and Tewa children in color photo-essays written by Ojibway, Wampanoag and Tewa authors respectively. We commend Lerner Publishing for their sensitivity to these cultures, demonstrated by their willingness to involve Native writers and editors in the creation of these books. Other photo-essays featuring contemporary Native children include Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith's **ARCTIC HUNTER (Holiday House)** and **A BOY BECOMES A MAN AT WOUNDED KNEE (Walker)** by Ted Wood and Wanbli Numpa Afraid of Hawk.

Although children (and even elephants!) "playing Indian" continue to proliferate in newly published picture books and novels, these photo-essays about real children are at least a start in helping to counteract hurtful stereotypical images that seem to be entrenched in our nation's popular culture, as well as its books.

It is still difficult to find picture books and novels about Asian-American and Latino children. Some of the few books we do recommend about Latino children are the picture books *ABUELITA'S PARADISE* (Whitman) by Carmen Santiago Nodar and *ON A HOT, HOT DAY* (Greenwillow) by Nicki Weiss. Gary Soto continues to provide the bulk of Latino fiction and poetry for children in the early 1990s: *THE SKIRT* (Delacorte) is a short novel and *NEIGHBORHOOD ODES* (Harcourt) is a collection of poetry not to be missed.

There are very, very few titles about contemporary Asian or Asian-American children. Most of what gets published from or about Asian cultures is either historical or folklore (or, most often, both). Claudia Mills' *A VISIT TO AMY-CLAIRE* (Macmillan), with illustrations by Sheila Hamanaka, stands out as a contemporary picture story featuring Asian-American girls who could be children of any race.

The Search for Substantial Fiction

We note with regret again this year that very few substantial (or even above-average) novels for older children and young adults were published in the U.S.A. in 1992. Fiction which can challenge the intellects as well as move the hearts of young readers is difficult to find. Dynamic fiction is scarce.

Some of the exciting fiction first published in the U.S. in 1992 includes *DOWN IN THE PINEY WOODS* (Knopf) by Ethel Footman Smothers, *LETTERS FROM A SLAVE GIRL* (Scribner's) by Mary Lyons, *SOMEWHERE IN THE DARKNESS* (Scholastic) by Walter Dean Myers, *TASTE OF SALT* (Orchard) by Frances Temple and *WORDS OF STONE* (Greenwillow) by Kevin Henkes.

Books First Published in English in Other Nations

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. We appreciate the novella *AJEEMAH AND HIS SON* (HarperCollins) written by James Berry who lives in England and the exciting book *UNDERRUNNERS* (Viking) by Margaret Mahy. *THE LEAVING* (Philomel), a superb collection of short fiction by Canadian writer Budge Wilson, deserves attention.

We appreciate genuine picture books; occasionally such books are also truly humorous as is *FARMER DUCK* (Candlewick), a collaboration from England by writer Martin Waddell and artist Helen Oxenbury. The wit in Tony Blundell's *BEWARE OF BOYS* (Greenwillow) also stands out during 1992.

Recent years have seen several anthologies to benefit a cause. Such projects do not always measure up to the expectations created by promotion; however, the Oxfam book *SOUTH AND NORTH, EAST AND WEST* (Candlewick) is a "benefit book" worth noticing, in that the folktales collected for the project originated in nations and cultures about which very little is usually published for children in this country.

Translated Children's Books

The status of translated children's books right now looks grim, at least in this nation. Throughout 1992 we found only a handful translated books of substantial length originally written in languages other than English and subsequently acquired by U.S. publishers for publication in the U.S.A. We were unable to schedule the annual CCBC Batchelder Award Book Discussion in December, 1992, due to a lack of books for an evening of discussion. The scarcity of translated books represents a serious concern for any nation preparing its youth to live and work in the global community.

THE ANIMALS (McElderry), an elegantly produced volume of poetry by the Japanese poet Michio Mado, represents the first translation into English of works for children by a popular and respected poet in his own nation. Pija

Lindenbaum's picture book from Sweden, BOODIL MY DOG (Holt), offers chuckles which easily cross the Atlantic. A Mexican child activist is featured in SAVE THE RAINFOREST (Volcano), a book that also originated in Sweden.

Biographies and Autobiographies

Handsome production accompanies excellent documentation in the biography of John F. Kennedy TWILIGHT STRUGGLE (Lothrop) by Barbara Harrison and Daniel Terris. Illustrated easy-to-read biographies appear with greater frequency in these years; James Marshall set the standard with his autobiographical picture books, the latest of which is DON'T YOU KNOW THERE'S A WAR ON? (Greenwillow).

There are comparatively more autobiographies by authors and artists of children's books; THE MOON AND I (Messner) by Betsy Byars is exemplary in that she crafted a superior piece of writing through her development of an original literary shape for her own story.

Other Books of Information

Nonfiction books are often published as part of a series and are too often outdated in one way or another almost by the time their publication dates arrive. Often the overall plan, design and layout for a series becomes predictable. Several unsuccessful attempts to imitate the popular Eyewitness series of information books first published in England were evident during 1992.

Nonfiction books we admire about the natural world include excellent photography such as that by Bianca Lewis for MONARCH BUTTERFLIES (Dutton) and splendidly rendered illustrations like those created by Lindsay Barrett George for CHRISTMAS AT LONG POND (Greenwillow). These books are models of presenting accurate information to children in visually exciting ways.

First Books

The publishing world continues to be increasingly competitive. Brand-name recognition is a critical part of all advertising, and the publishing industry is no exception. Name recognition serves as a prominent dimension of children's book promotion during these years. This adversely affects currently unknown book creators whose first books may go unnoticed. There is no way to know how many manuscripts are never published because their distinctive regional dimensions or their somewhat quirky qualities make them unpredictable in the bookstore superstores across the nation.

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. Such writers include picture book authors such as Marsha Wilson Chall's *UP NORTH AT THE CABIN* (Lothrop), Sharon Chmielarz's *END OF WINTER* (Crown), Barbara Savadge Horton's *WHAT COMES IN SPRING?* (Knopf), Deniz Lauture's *FATHER AND SON* (Philomel), Audrey Osofsky's *DREAMCATCHER* (Orchard) and Sherley Anne Williams' *WORKING COTTON* (Harcourt).

Newly published artists of books for children include Annette Cable who illustrated *END OF WINTER* (Crown), David Diaz who created distinctive art to accompany *NEIGHBORHOOD ODES* (Harcourt), Jonathan Green whose paintings grace *FATHER AND SON* (Philomel), Georgia Guback who created *THE CAROLERS* (Greenwillow), Paul R`tz de Tagyos who conceived of *A CONEY TALE* (Clarion) and Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson whose artistry tells one of the two personal stories in *ELIJAH'S ANGEL* (Harcourt).

It's encouraging to discover truly original first novels such as *SQUASHED* (Delacorte) by Joan Bauer (Delacorte) and *TASTE OF SALT* (Orchard) by Frances Temple.

Distinctive Poetry Collections

Several handsome, distinctively organized poetry anthologies offer yet another reason for optimism within the publishing of 1992. *THIS SAME SKY* (Four Winds) by Naomi Nye might be first on any list of outstanding

books of the year for her concept, for the strength of the poems she collected from poets in many nations and for the high quality of book production provided for this distinctive book. Lilian Moore's collection SUNFLAKES (Clarion) illustrated by Jan Omerod introduces an excellent range of poetry to preschoolers. Valerie Worth's fine original poems in AT CHRISTMASTIME (HarperCollins) are complemented by Antonio Frasconi's remarkable art.

General Visual Appearance

Attention to all aspects of book production involves a financial as well as an artistic commitment on the part of the publisher and all involved with the creation and development of any given book. Flashy books empty of much entertainment or import appear every year. Truly substantial books deserve the attention of consumers, regardless of how much or how little they are promoted.

Several handsome books have been so cited in earlier sections. Other books distinctive for their overall design and careful production include BEASTS OF BETHLEHEM (McElderry) by X. J. Kennedy, I SAW ESAU (Candlewick) by Iona Opie and Maurice Sendak and MOON ROPE (Harcourt) by Lois Ehlert.

Originality

Books with completely new, fresh concepts or developments of ideas included ANY KIND OF DOG (Greenwillow) by Lynn Reiser, AUNT HARRIET'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN THE SKY (Crown) by Faith Ringgold, CHARLIE PARKER PLAYED BE BOP (Orchard) by Chris Raschka, ELIJAH'S ANGEL (Harcourt) by Michael Rosen and Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson, LETTERS FROM A SLAVE GIRL (Scribner's) by Mary Lyons and WHAT INSTRUMENT IS THIS? (Scholastic) by Rosemarie Hausherr.

Issues

Overriding public concerns about the environment, drugs, AIDS,

homelessness and various types of violence and poverty continue to be reflected in new nonfiction books published for the young.

SAVE THE RAINFOREST (Volcano) is a powerful environmental testimony about environmental changes occurring in southern Mexico. Several fiction books about youth in war deserve a close look: KISS THE DUST (Dutton) by Elizabeth Laird, THE LILY CUPBOARD (HarperCollins) by Shulamith Oppenheim, LITTLE BROTHER (Viking) by Allan Baillie and SAMI AND THE TIME OF THE TROUBLES (Clarion) by Florence Parry Heide and Judith Heide Gilliland. Young teenagers are often directly involved in today's civil and national conflicts; Peter Dickinson's AK (Delacorte) presents a provocative future scenario for an unspecified area on the African continent while TASTE OF SALT (Orchard) offers a gripping glimpse into modern Haiti.

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 1992, 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 1992 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.

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 1992

If you live in Wisconsin, send \$2.00 or the equivalent in U.S. postage stamps 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., 1993)
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 1992.

The Friends of the CCBC, Inc., underwrote the professional design, typesetting, layout, printing and binding of CCBC CHOICES 1992 with the assistance of a gift in memory of Theda Clark Smith. Members of the 1992-1993 Friends of the CCBC, Inc., Board of Directors are: President -

Evelyn Burke Weible; Vice-President - **Carolyn J. Kleinfeldt**; Recording Secretary - **Patti K. Sinclair**; Membership Secretary - **Doris Grajkowski**; Treasurer - **Elizabeth Hill Askey**; Directors-at-Large: **Karen Austad** and **Nancy Gloe**. **Eve Bruce** is the liaison from the CCBC Advisory Board. Committee chairs include **Nancy Beck**, **Donald L. Crary**, **Helen F. Read** (1993), **Patti Geske Schultz** (1992), and **Ann Jarvella Wilson**.

We appreciate the Friends' ongoing commitment to providing university students and faculty, teachers, school library media specialists, public librarians 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 1992** as members of the Friends of the CCBC, Inc.

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

2 History

Cross, Verda. GREAT-GRANDMA TELLS OF THRESHING DAY.

Illustrated

by Gail Owens. Albert Whitman, 1992. 40 pages.

(0-8075-3042-5) \$15.95

During the early 20th century, the annual harvest in many parts of the

United States. typically required the labor of the entire farm family, as well as being a cooperative, intergenerational, rural neighborhood effort to bring in a crop. Some Great Plains landowners of today display the machines that became the dinosaurs of threshing, and certain historical museums interpret the social and economic dimensions of threshing, as well. Cross's autobiographical account of winter wheat threshing in one part of Missouri provides memory's impressions of an earlier time, telling about the hard work in which relatives and neighbors usually had gender-determined roles and also about that work's unexpected pleasures. Illustrated with nostalgic full-color paintings, the picture story can stimulate some readers to ask long-lived community members to recount personal threshing anecdotes or to compare those experiences with ones in this book. (Ages 5-8, or older for Oral History purposes)

Haskins, Jim. **AGAINST ALL OPPOSITION: BLACK EXPLORERS IN AMERICA.** Walker, 1992. 86 pages. (0-8027-8137-3) \$13.95
Nine chapters chronicle black sailors and travelers known to accompany white adventurers and explorers and also some of the historic explorations initiated or implemented by Africans and African-Americans throughout the centuries. Men cited include James P. Beckwourth, Guion Stewart Bluford, Jr., George W. Bush, Estevanico, Matthew Henson, Ronald McNair, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable and York. The indexed book contains a brief bibliography. (Ages 9-14)

Lyons, Mary E. **LETTERS FROM A SLAVE GIRL: THE STORY OF HARRIET**

JACOBS. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1992. 146 pages.
(0-684-19446-5) \$13.95

In 1842, 22-year-old Harriet Jacobs hid between the roof and ceiling of Gran's home in Edenton, North Carolina; her confinement lasted seven years. Drawing upon this escaped African captive's autobiography and writings by historians, Lyons created a sequence of matter-of-fact letters the remarkable woman might have written about her life. The fictionalized letters tell Harriet's dramatic story: they reflect anguish over her physical suffering, grief over the inability

to live with her children and anger at all whose deceptions and cruelties led to the injustices and dangers filling her long life. Harriet's courage and the moral bravery of several women who were part of her experience can inspire readers, some of whom will find a contemporary parallel in the sexual harassment experienced by young Harriet Jacobs. Lyons displays admirable discretion concerning the young audience she respects and subject matter she does not sensationalize. The book includes Lyons' note about her writing process, maps, drawings of the house in which Harriet lived, archival photographs, two family trees (the white and black Horniblow families), a glossary of 19th century words and a bibliography of scholarly resources. Honor Book, 1992 CCBC Newbery Award Discussion. (Age 12 and older)

Oppenheim, Shulamith Levey. *THE LILY CUPBOARD*. Illustrated by Ronald Himler. A Charlotte Zolotow Book/HarperCollins, 1992. 32 pages. (0-06-024669-3) \$14.95

The heroism of ordinary rural Dutch people unfolds in a first person fictional narrative about a child named Miriam, "hidden" within a non-Jewish family during the German occupation of Holland during World War II. Paintings rendered in watercolor and gouache illustrate the spare text of a picture-book glimpse into the bravery and sacrifice of Jewish parents who entrusted their children's lives to strangers within whose homes children like Miriam lived midst constant danger of tragic consequences for all. (Ages 5-8)

Osofsky, Audrey. *DREAMCATCHER*. Illustrated by Ed Young. Orchard, 1992. 32 pages. (0-531-08588-0) \$14.95

"...A dream net for baby / like a small spiderweb / spun of nettle-stalk twine / stained dark red with the bark of wild plum..." hung by the Ojibway people of centuries ago on babies' cradleboards. Such a net might serve as a charm to catch "dark dreams...like flies in a spider's web" before a bad dream could reach a slumbering infant. Good dreams "drift through the hole in the center of the web: dreams of...white shells tinkling in the breeze / pheasant feathers ruffling / sucking maple sugar in a birchbark cone..." Young's decorative page borders pay tribute to the floral patterns of Ojibway artists and his

images of clothing and other objects allude to this cultural history. Ojibway language references and names are accurate. The full-color illustrations were created in pastel for this 9 3/4 x 10 1/2" picture book. (Ages 4-9)

Roop, Peter and Connie. **AHYOKA AND THE TALKING LEAVES.**

Illustrated by Yoshi Miyake. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1992.

60 pages. (0-688-10697-8) \$12.00

By developing a writing system for use by the Cherokee people, the Cherokee leader Sequoyah did after twelve years "what no one person had ever done before - he had created a written language from a spoken language." Sequoyah's accomplishments come to life throughout an original story featuring Sequoyah's young daughter Ah-yoka. The easy-to-read, six-chapter book is illustrated with 18 black and white drawings. The 86-symbol Cherokee syllabary appears at the beginning of the story. A short bibliography follows the authors' epilogue that provides facts about the famous American Indian leader, in whose honor the "towering majestic redwoods" were named, Sequoia National Park was created and the annual Sequoyah Children's Book Award is given by Oklahoma children. (Ages 7-10)

Stevenson, James. **DON'T YOU KNOW THERE'S A WAR ON?**

Greenwillow, 1992. (0-688-11384-2) \$14.00

In the style of his earlier autobiographical picture books -- When I Was Nine (Greenwillow, 1986); Higher on the Door (Greenwillow, 1987); and July (Greenwillow, 1990) -- Stevenson reminisces about growing up in the United States during World War II. The artist's memories of his father's enlistment provides a poignant counterpoint to the wry, childlike self-importance he exhibits in describing his own contribution to the war effort: collecting tin foil, buying war stamps, eating spam and watching newsreels. Stevenson manages to suggest a lot of emotion and detail with just a few brush strokes in his expressive watercolor illustrations. (Ages 6-11)

Walter, Mildred Pitts. **MISSISSIPPI CHALLENGE.** Bradbury, 1992.

205 pages. (0-02-792301-0) \$18.95

A powerful account of the century of struggle by African-Americans for the right to vote in Mississippi uses well-selected quotations from the generations of people who suffered under the "planned social and economic conditions that white Mississippians forced upon black Mississippians" and from those who perpetuated those conditions. Chapters relate the economic, political and social circumstances facing the descendants of African captives following the Civil War. Each chapter is preceded by excerpts from spirituals, blues, freedom songs and spoken words and illustrated with carefully chosen and reprinted archival material. Complex events such as the Freedom Summer and the creation of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party are explained with directness and clarity, revealing the organizational genius of the men and women involved. Walter shows the "disastrous consequences of closing one's eyes to oppression and refusing to actively insist that laws guaranteeing freedom, justice and peace are upheld." Winner, 1992 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Writing. (Age 11 and older)

Williams, Sherley Anne. *WORKING COTTON*. Illustrated by Carole Byard. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992. 32 pages. (0-15-299624-9) \$14.95

Sherlan, the next-to-the-youngest daughter in an African-American family, describes a typical day working in the fields with her parents and three sisters. Although the author has fond memories of her family (most particularly her father), there is not the smallest hint of nostalgia in this reminiscence of her childhood spent as a migrant worker. Byard's expressive full-color paintings brilliantly evoke the summer heat, the immensity of the cotton fields, and the strain of hard work on child and adult. In the midst of adversity, the strength of Sherlan's family comes through in both the lyrical language and the illustrations depicting tenderness in the facial expressions of Byard's characters. Honor Book, 1992 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Illustration. (Ages 6-9)

See also: [Ajeemah and His Son](#); [Aunt Harriet and the Underground Railroad in the Sky](#); [Back Home](#); [Down in the Piney Woods](#); [Emily](#); [Front Porch Stories](#); [Grace](#); [I Saw Esau](#); [Just Like Martin](#);

Letters from Rifka; Mary Cassatt; Mirette on the High Wire; Shortcut; Take Me Out to the Ballgame; Taste of Salt; section on Biography and Autobiography

3 People and Places

Ancona, George. MAN AND MUSTANG. Macmillan, 1992. 48 pages. (0-02-700802-9) \$15.95

A photo-essay with numerous black-and-white photographs describes the way in which the U.S. Bureau of Land Management controls the mustang population in order to maintain an ecological balance in the Great Basin. After the wild horses are rounded up, they are turned over to penitentiaries where prisoners can volunteer to work with horses as part of job training. After a horse is gentled, it is ready to be adopted by a family as part of the BLM's Adopt-A-Horse project. Ancona goes through the step-by-step process of a complicated government program which will be of great interest to many young horse enthusiasts.

(Ages 8-13)

Banish, Roslyn and Jennifer Jordan-Wong. A FOREVER FAMILY.

HarperCollins, 1992. 44 pages. (0-06-021674-3) \$13.89

(paperback 0-06-446116-5) \$4.95

An eight-year-old Amerasian girl briefly describes events leading up to her adoption the previous year by an interracial (Asian/white) couple. The first-person account, accompanied by black-and-white photographs, includes details of the court proceedings, as well as of her earlier life with her African-American foster family and her current life with her new extended family. (Ages 6-11)

Hirshfelder, Arlene B. and Beverly R. Singer, compilers. RISING VOICES: WRITINGS OF YOUNG NATIVE AMERICANS. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1992. 115 pages. (0-684-19207-1) \$12.95

A collection of 62 letters, poems, essays and other writings of contemporary youth is thematically grouped: Identity, Family, Homelands, Ritual and Ceremony, Education and Harsh Realities.

The young men and women represent many American Indian heritages and nations in expressing themselves about their bi-cultural experiences. A brief biographical paragraph introduces each writer. Each section is introduced by the compilers with background information helpful to non-Indian readers of this important anthology. (Age 11 and older)

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. ARCTIC HUNTER. Photographs by Lawrence Migdale. Holiday House, 1992. 30 pages. (0-8234-0972-4) \$15.95

For most of the year, ten-year-old Reggie lives with his family in a modern three-bedroom house in Kotzebue, Alaska, but every summer, he and his family spend several weeks in a traditional Iqupiaq camp where they fish and hunt to store up food for the long winter months ahead. Through color photographs and first-person narration, Reggie introduces the basic values and traditions of his people, the Inupiat, which represent perhaps the most ingenious human adaptations to an unyielding natural environment. (Ages 9-13)

_____. HOANG ANH: A VIETNAMESE-AMERICAN BOY. Photographs by Lawrence Migdale. Holiday House, 1992. 32 pages. (0-8234-0948-1) \$14.95

A photo-essay uses color photographs and a short first-person text to describe the day-to-day life of a young Vietnamese-American boy living in San Rafael, California. Hoang Anh briefly recounts the circumstances of his family's escape from Vietnam in 1978, their life in a refugee camp, and details of his family's bicultural life style in the United States. Roughly one-half of the book is devoted to Hoang Anh's observances of the New Year (TET), making this a useful source for information about the Vietnamese holiday. (Ages 8-12)

Kuklin, Susan. HOW MY FAMILY LIVES IN AMERICA. Bradbury, 1992. 32 pages. (0-02-751239-8) \$13.95

Three young children whose parents immigrated to the United States (from Senegal, Puerto Rico and Taiwan) are featured in this appealing photo-essay which allows the children to speak for themselves about what they are learning from their parents and

grandparents. In an author's note at the end of the book, Kuklin explains her intent: "...to show how families impart a sense of identity to their young children." The book concludes with a simple recipe from each child's culture. (Ages 4-7)

Lankford, Mary D. HOPSCOTCH AROUND THE WORLD. Illustrated by Karen Milone. William Morrow, 1992. 47 pages.

(0-688-08420-6) \$15.00

Hopscotch has a long history worldwide and children in most parts of the world still play it today. Directions for 19 hopscotch variants played in 16 nations follow brief notes which place each of the variants in their historical and geographical contexts. Each description is illustrated with a full-page, full-color illustration of contemporary children playing the game. (Ages 6-9)

Peters, Russell M. CLAMBAKE: A WAMPANOAG TRADITION.

Photographs

by John Madama. Foreword by Michael Dorris. (We Are Still Here series) Lerner, 1992. 48 pages. (0-8225-2651-4) \$14.95; (paperback 0-8225-9621-0) \$6.95

One of the first titles in this excellent new series about the observance of tribal traditions by contemporary Native children features a Wampanoag boy in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Twelve-year-old Steven learns the traditions of the appanaug (clambake) from his grandfather who has been selected as the "bakemaster" for this special ceremony to honor an important person in the tribe. Both the text and the color photographs reinforce Steven's sense of pride in his heritage, his closeness to family and friends, and his great respect for his elders and the knowledge they share with him. (Ages 7-13)

Regguinti, Gordon. THE SACRED HARVEST: OJIBWAY WILD RICE GATHERING. Photographs by Dale Kakkak. Foreword by Michael Dorris. (We Are Still Here series) Lerner, 1992. 48 pages. (0-8225-2650-6) \$14.95 (paperback 0-8225-9620-2) \$6.95

Narrative by an Ojibway writer and color photographs by a Menominee photographer recount 11-year-old Glen Jackson's first

time gathering wild rice with his father near their home on the Leech Lake Reservation in Minnesota. In addition to showing the harvest from start to finish, the author continually links the tradition to Glen's Ojibway heritage with the teachings of his elders, placing the harvest in a broader cultural context. (Ages 7-13)

Skurzynski, Gloria. **HERE COMES THE MAIL.** Bradbury, 1992.

32 pages. (0-02-782916-2) \$13.95

Captioned color photographs trace a letter that young Stephanie mailed in New Mexico to her cousin Kathy living in Utah. Because Stephanie painstakingly wrote her cousin's name in the large lettering of a novice writer on the back of the envelope, it is quite easy to literally trace its journey through the U.S. postal system. Skurzynski provides an interesting look behind the scenes of a process we take for granted. (Ages 4-8)

Swentzell, Rina. **CHILDREN OF CLAY: A FAMILY OF PUEBLO POTTERS.**

Photographs by Bill Steen. Foreword by Michael Dorris.

(We Are Still Here series) Lerner, 1992. 40 pages.

(0-8225-2654-9) \$14.95

Eliza, Zachary and Devonna are Tewa children living in Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico, who are learning the traditions of making clay pottery from their grandmother, Gia Rose. Together the family members dig for clay, clean it, and mix it with sand to make it ready for sculpting. Later they will sand, polish and fire the pottery they have made. Even the youngest children in this large, extended family have a job to do and everyone is delighted to see the final results of all their hard work. (Ages 7-13)

Wood, Ted and Wanbli Numpa **Afraid of Hawk. A BOY BECOMES A MAN AT WOUNDED KNEE.** Walker, 1992. 42 pages. (0-8027-8175-6)

\$15.95

A photo-essay with color photographs traces the dramatic journey made in December 1990 by the descendants of survivors of the Wounded Knee Massacre. The account is told from the point of view of eight-year-old Wanbli Numpa, the youngest Lakota to make the

trip. Throughout their treacherous six-day journey on horseback in subzero temperatures, they are continually reminded of the suffering of their ancestors along this same trail 100 years ago and of the seriousness of their mission: to mend the sacred hoop of the world that was broken at Wounded Knee in 1890.

(Ages 8-13)

See also: Against the Storm; Antarctica; Elijah's Angel; Goodbye Vietnam; Kids with Courage; Kiss the Dust; Little Brother; Places of Refuge; Sami and the Time of the Troubles; Save My Rainforest; Seashore Book; Surtsey; Taste of Salt; We Can Do It!

4 The Natural World

Arnosky, Jim. OTTERS UNDER WATER. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1992.

32 pages. (0-399-22339-8) \$14.95

As their mother watches from the bank, two young otter pups glide through the water "swimming side by side, / swimming in a line, / rolling on their backs, / holding their breath, then diving." Sunlight highlights the creatures and their environment, as the very simple text describes their activities, often shown from an underwater perspective. (Ages 2-4)

Berger, Melvin. LOOK OUT FOR TURTLES! Illustrated by Megan Lloyd. (A Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science Book).

HarperCollins, 1992. 32 pages. (0-06-022539-4) \$13.95

Facts about and descriptions of several turtle species are presented, from the proper terms for their "shells," to diet, size, hibernation, and egg clutching and hatching. Illustrations are clearly identified, as the text outlines the factors involved in turtles' longevity as individuals and as a taxonomic order, in a vocabulary and style accessible to newly independent readers. (Ages 6-9)

Brown, Mary Barrett. WINGS ALONG THE WATERWAY. Orchard, 1992.

80 pages. (0-531-05981-2) \$17.95

Twenty-one wetland birds, some endangered, others common, are

each described in one to four pages of fluent text while lush paintings show them in their natural settings. Throughout the book the author subtly emphasizes the importance of each species to its environment and the necessity of protecting habitat to ensure the birds' continued survival. (Ages 9-12)

Cole, Joanna. THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS ON THE OCEAN FLOOR.

Illustrated by Bruce Degen. Scholastic Hardcover, 1992.

48 pages. (0-590-41430-5) \$14.95

Together with their unexpected guest, Lenny the Lifeguard, Ms. Frizzle and her class take a trip into the ocean in their ever-evolving magical school bus. The group visits the continental shelf, the ocean floor, and a coral reef, and ends their journey with a "school bus surfboard" ride back to the beach. Cartoon-like illustrations depict the expedition while facts about the sights shown are interspersed with the class's humorous repartee. Earlier books in the series published by Scholastic include Magic School Bus at the Waterworks (1986); [...] Inside the Earth (1987); [...] Inside the Human Body (1989); and [...] Lost in the Solar System (1990). (Ages 6-10)

Ehlers, Sandy McCartney. WINGS OF MAGIC. Ehlers Press (S.M.E.

Studio, 9449 North Shore Drive, Spicer, MN 56288), 1992.

32 pages. (0-9632737-0-1) \$14.95

"How, I wanted to know, can a lowly black, white and yellow worm which crawls about on eight pair of perfect legs / manage to shed its skin five different times / and then, hanging upside down from its tail, / turn itself into a jade green jewel decorated with tiny spots of metallic gold?" The life cycle of the Monarch butterfly is briefly described in a lyrical text accompanied by large and colorful illustrations. Three pages at the book's end present facts about Monarchs and a labeled illustration of the butterfly's body parts. (Ages 4-8)

George, William T. CHRISTMAS AT LONG POND. Illustrated by

Lindsay Barrett George. Greenwillow, 1992. 32 pages.

(0-688-09214-4) \$14.00

A father and son pull a toboggan carrying the spruce tree they just

selected and cut. Trying not to disturb the winter creatures of frozen Long Pond, they also fell an old poplar to create something for deer to eat and start the growth of new shoots by spring. While coming and going, they hear a woodpecker, see deer, notice fox prints and listen to activity within a beaver lodge. Gouache paints were used for the full-color art detailing the winter landscape, its inhabitants and visitors in this lovely picture book, the Georges' fourth about Long Pond. Lindsay Barrett George's superior draftsmanship and personal understanding of her subjects bring to life the wildlife and vegetation on each page, while William T. George writes with an equally sensitive pen. (Ages 4-8)

Kahney, Regina. THE GLOW-IN-THE-DARK BOOK OF ANIMAL SKELETONS.

Illustrated by Christopher Santoro. Random House, 1992.

22 pages. (0-689-81080-3) \$14.00

From *homo sapiens* to Reticulated giraffes, large color illustrations of 15 mammals, birds, fish and reptiles are created in a way that allows the reader to view the beings' skeletons when the book is seen in the dark. Two to three paragraphs accompany each "x-ray" illustration, describing the physical features of the creature. (Ages 7-11)

Lasky, Kathryn. SURTSEY: THE NEWEST PLACE ON EARTH.

Photographs

by Christopher G. Knight. Hyperion, 1992. 64 pages.

(1-56282-300-0) \$15.95

When the crew of an Icelandic fishing vessel smelled sulfur early on the morning of November 14, 1963, they radioed the coast guard to see if any ships in the area were reporting a fire. The crew soon discovered that the fire they were smelling was originating from a nearby submarine volcano that had reached the water's surface after days of burning beneath the waves. Stunning photographs and a fascinating text describe the events of the next several years as the newest island on earth formed and evolved into a habitat capable of supporting plant and animal life. (Ages 9-14)

Lavies, Bianca. MONARCH BUTTERFLIES: MYSTERIOUS TRAVELERS.

Dutton, 1992. 32 pages. (0-525-44905-1) \$14.99

After introducing the egg-to-butterfly cycle of a Monarch butterfly, the author describes the work of Dr. Fred Urquhart and Norah Urquhart, scientists who have spent their lives researching the migratory behavior of these insects. When Ken and Cathy Burgger first located a central Mexican wintering site of the Monarch, the Urquharts and the author-photographer arrived soon after to study and document this long-awaited discovery. Full-page photographs aptly convey the overwhelming number of butterflies found at the mountain site. (Ages 9-12)

McMillan, Bruce. GOING ON A WHALE WATCH. Scholastic Hardcover, 1992. 40 pages. (0-590-45768-3) \$14.95

An Atlantic whale watching expedition reveals dolphins, Fin whales, Humpback whales, and Minke whales in headstands, tail-lobbing splashes, lunge feedings, spinning breaches, and other activities. Two children are shown watching the creatures, as each new species is displayed in a variety of poses. One or two word descriptions narrate each photograph, which are also accompanied by line drawings showing the whole animal, including any underwater portion not visible in the photographs. Four concluding pages briefly describe the four whales featured and provide a visual glossary. (Ages 4-7)

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. PLACES OF REFUGE: OUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE

REFUGE SYSTEM. Photographs by William Muoz. Clarion, 1992. 80 pages. (0-899-19-846-5) \$15.95

The United State Wildlife Refuge System is described from its inception in 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt to its current state. Various types of refuges, including national parks, national forests, national resource lands and wilderness areas are defined and their differences outlined. An emphasis on human uses of refuge land is present throughout the text, as the author discusses the impact of logging, farming, mining, hunting and recreational activities on these protected areas and their animal inhabitants. Numerous color photographs are clearly captioned. (Ages 9-12)

Pringle, Laurence. **ANTARCTICA: THE LAST UNSPOILED CONTINENT.** Simon & Schuster, 1992. 56 pages. (0-671-73850-X) \$15.00
Once called *terra incognita* -- the unknown land -- Antarctica has only recently become accessible to scientists from many countries as they study the continent's unique biosystem. The author describes the discovery and exploration of Antarctica, the treaties which control it, and current scientific, tourist, and private use of the area, as well as its physical features and plant and animal life. (Ages 8-12)

Simon, Seymour. **SNAKES.** HarperCollins, 1992. 32 pages.
(0-06-022529-7) \$15.95
Large and small, poisonous and non-poisonous, rare and common, snakes of several species are described in text and full-page, stunning color photographs. Information presented includes the physical characteristics, feeding and reproductive habits, and natural environments of each species. (Ages 7-11)

See also: Children of Clay; Clambake; Come Back, Salmon; Kids with Courage; Moon and I; Sacred Harvest; Save My Rainforest

5 Seasons and Celebrations

Bruchac, Joseph and Jonathan London. **THIRTEEN MOONS ON TURTLE'S BACK: A NATIVE AMERICAN YEAR OF MOONS.** Illustrated by Thomas Locker. Philomel, 1992. 32 pages.
(0-399-22141-7) \$15.95
In many Native cultures, seasonal changes in the natural world are noted by naming a month with a descriptive phrase. The Micmac, for example, call the ninth month "the moose-calling moon" while the Cherokee call the tenth "the moon of falling leaves." Each of the thirteen months included in this book is illustrated with an oil painting accompanied by a three-verse poem about the distinctive features which led to its name. Potawatomi, Anishinabe (Ojibway), Menominee and Winnebago are four of the thirteen tribes represented. (Ages 4-9)

Burden-Patmon, Denise. IMANI'S GIFT AT KWANZAA. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Simon & Schuster, 1992. 23 pages. (paperback 0-671-79841-3) \$4.95

While Imani's grandmother M'dear braids small red, black and green beads into her hair, they talk about the seven-day African-American December celebration they'll soon celebrate with family and friends. Imani looks forward to everything except being with Enna, a mean tease. How can Imani give formal Kwanzaa appreciation to Enna, one of the watoto (children) coming to their home tonight? M'dear tells Imani that Enna hasn't known much love; "she has had no one to believe in her...to tell her who she is and where she came from." Cooper's full-color illustrations show Kwanzaa details and complement this warm story created under the auspices of the Children's Museum in Boston. A glossary defines the 15 Swahili words integrated within the English text. The Seven Principles are listed at the end of this durable paperback edition. (Ages 3-8)

Chall, Marsha Wilson. UP NORTH AT THE CABIN. Illustrated by Steve Johnson. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1992. 32 pages. (0-688-09733-2) \$14.93

Chall and Johnson successfully pinpoint the experiences of many who regularly vacation "up north," using the idea of memory so apt for their subject. "...I know the way by heart: / past the big walleye statue on Lake Mille Lacs, / a few more miles to the Live Deer Park, / till all the trees are birch and pine / and houses are made from logs that look like shiny pretzels...", a girl says as she anticipates another summer at a family cottage. She thinks of herself as a smart angler (fishing), a great gray dolphin (diving), a fearless voyager (portaging with a canoe) and a daredevil (waterskiing). This non-Indian child realizes that the Ojibway people were once the only inhabitants of this woods-and-lakes region enjoyed today by others. The specificity of Johnson's 14 full-color paintings add immediacy, clarifying Chall's skillfully employed figurative language; his art is also noteworthy in its interpretations of various types of summer light. (Ages 4-9)

Chmielarz, Sharon. END OF WINTER. Illustrated by Annette Cable. Crown, 1992. 32 pages. (0-517-58745-9) \$14.00

Because the villagers were tired of cold, dark days, Hans and his friends paraded in masks to drive winter away. After that failed, Hans suggested filling a wheel with straw to create a fiery sun with warmth enough to frighten the frigid weather. For one reason or another, the long nights became shorter and the air warmer. Detailed illustrations reproduced in full color suggest folk art in this 10 1/4 x 8 3/4" picture story. The original folktale featuring personified Elements is based upon medieval Germanic rituals in which masks were worn to scare Winter and flaming wheels

were rolled down mountainsides to celebrate light. The author's note suggests that contemporary observances in several world religions feature light during the year's "shortest" days and may be continuations of those medieval traditions, as are contemporary Mardi Gras masks. (Ages 6-9)

Chocolate, Deborah M. Newton. MY FIRST KWANZAA BOOK. Illustrated by Cal Massey. Cartwheel/Scholastic, 1992. 24 pages. (0-590-45762-4) \$10.95
Easy-to-read short sentences relay basic information about Kwanzaa and are paired with brightly colored illustrations picturing a little boy, his father and his mother each preparing for the celebration with their extended family. The full-color pictures are filled with cultural information. A brief history of Kwanzaa, its Seven Principles, definitions of symbols and words used during Kwanzaa and a citation for an adult resource are listed at the back of this high-spirited, helpful 8 1/4 x 10 1/4" picture book. (Ages 2-7)

Gould, Deborah. CAMPING IN THE TEMPLE OF THE SUN. Illustrated by Diane Paterson. Bradbury, 1992. 32 pages. (0-02-736355-4) \$13.95
The orange and yellow dome tent named by Dad "Temple of the Sun" seems right for a family of two children and two adults taking their first camping trip. But Jeannie and her parents discovered that camping involves more than selecting a tent. Baby Billy needed to be comforted when everyone else was sleepy, the tent had to be kept dry inside during a downpour and walking to the bathroom building at night was an excursion in itself. The hiking, swimming, picnicking and finding constellations in the clear night sky made up for any inconveniences, making the sometimes damp, sometimes dark Temple of the Sun begin to feel homey. Paterson developed illustrations in watercolor for this appealing picture book. (Ages 3-7)

Guback, Georgia. THE CAROLERS. Greenwillow, 1992. 32 pages. (0-688-09772-3) \$14.00
A group of young carolers bearing a star enters a picturesque village decorated with Christmas lights. When the carolers are outside a home singing "O Little Town of Bethlehem" the landscape of Christmas Bethlehem can be seen near them and music for the carol runs along the bottom of both pages. The next double page picture shows a white family inside the same home decorating cookies midst other holiday preparations. The family joins the carolers to sing "The First Noel" at the next house where, once again, readers see both outside (the scene of an angel appearing to shepherds) and inside (a black family involved in holiday activity). At each stop the carolers make, another part of the Christmas Story unfolds in a new carol, outdoor scene

and indoor family life. One family seems to be grandparents while another is a woman and two children. The six families have visibly distinctive ways of observing Christmas: some customs are religious, some are ethnic and some are secular.

Each family joins in the spontaneous outdoor community celebration. Reading the pictures as this cumulative, wordless story evolves invites singing along. The artist developed a fresh concept by creating full-color art done in cut-paper collage. (Ages 2-8)

Heath, Amy. *SOFIE'S ROLE*. Illustrated by Sheila Hamanaka. Four Winds Press, 1992. 32 pages. (0-02-743505-9) \$14.95
The family bakery will be extremely busy on December 24th. Before dawn Sofie goes with her parents to help out. She fills pastry cases, bags orders, answers the phone and even waits on a few customers "out front" once the shop opens. This spunky brown-skinned girl enjoys a one-time stint in the busy bakery, especially when a girl from school is one of her customers. An appetite-whetting array of baked goods is pictured in Hamanaka's oil-on-canvas paintings reproduced in full color. The illustrations display bakery workers and customers from diverse backgrounds and enliven Heath's story about a child's foray within an adult world of work. Recipes for marzipan and cinnamon star cookies are included. (Ages 4-8)

Horton, Barbara Savadge. *WHAT COMES IN SPRING?* Illustrated by Ed Young. Alfred A. Knopf, 1992. 32 pages. (0-679-80268-1) \$14.00
As a preschooler asks about each season, a mother gives three responses to each question. One is about the weather, one tells of activities, and one suggests family events: "...A warm wind blows, / and the sun is hot. / ...In summer we build a fire outdoors / and roast hot dogs... / ...we lie on our backs in the grass to watch the stars come out. / ...In summer I married your daddy." Like all children, this child especially waits for the personal story of the season when "...I grew big / inside of you." Young illustrated Horton's sweet affirmation of dependability in nature and family love with full-color drawings employing varying perspectives. (Ages 2-4)

Kennedy, X.J. *THE BEASTS OF BETHLEHEM*. Illustrated by Michael McCurdy. Margaret K. McElderry, 1992. 39 pages. (0-689-50561-2) \$13.95
Nineteen original poems offer fresh ideas regarding The Birth as witnessed by ordinary creatures, ranging from the usual to a beetle and a hummingbird. Surprising pairs (Mosquito and Bat, Hen and Hawk, Mouse and Cat) provide one dimension of reflection. The order of the poems matters, according to the donkey's observation at the end. Distinctive points of view, economy of words, and depth of insight mark a splendid collection. The handsome edition is illustrated with drawings rendered in scratchboard and

colored pencils. Honor Book, 1992 CCBC Newbery Award Discussion. (Ages 5-14)

Kimmelman, Leslie. HANUKKAH LIGHTS, HANUKKAH NIGHTS.

Illustrated by John Himmelman. HarperCollins, 1992. 24 pages. (0-06-020368-4) \$11.95

A young first-person narrator relates how one family observes each of the eight nights of Hanukkah. Most of action in Kimmelman's easy-to-read patterned story takes place in Himmelman's full-color illustrations showing the celebrative family in action. Two grandmothers "sip the chicken soup" (second night), three aunts "chant the holiday blessings" (third night), five nephews "fight like Maccabees" (fifth night), six quite distinctive uncles "flip potato latkes" (sixth night), etc. A menorah with candles lit for each night appears in the corner of each double page spread. A page of background information at the end of the book is set in a smaller typeface and written at a more challenging reading level. (Ages 2-4)

Morninghouse, Sundaira. HABARI GANI?=WHAT'S THE NEWS?: A KWANZAA STORY. Illustrated by Jody Kim. Open Hand (P.O. Box 22048, Seattle, WA 98122), 1992. 32 pages. (0-940880-39-3) \$14.95

A seven-chapter illustrated story about a contemporary family interprets information about the "only nationally celebrated, indigenous, non-heroic African-American holiday in the U.S." One full-color painting accompanies each chapter, along with a symbol representing the candles for each day. The Seven Principles and a 28-item glossary for Swahili words and Kwanzaa terms are appended at the end of this well-designed book. (Ages 4-9)

Reiser, Lynn. CHRISTMAS COUNTING. Greenwillow, 1992. 32 pages. (0-688-10677-3) \$14.00

Each December for ten years, an evergreen tree is carried with its surrounding dirt inside the house. Each year, a new person or pet joins the family, additional decorations (three paper chains, five colored balls, etc.) are added to the tree and the cumulative story grows a bit longer. Every year "...after Christmas / the father planted / the ...tree / back in the clearing in the forest / under the moon shining down." Reiser's counting book offers a patterned text, a conservation theme and much to notice and count in wonderfully developed watercolor-and-pen illustrations. (Ages 2-5)

Rosen, Michael J. ELIJAH'S ANGEL: A STORY FOR CHANUKAH AND CHRISTMAS. Illustrated by Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992. 32 pages. (0-15-225394-7) \$13.95

A first-person narrator tells of the year he, a nine-year-old Jewish boy, regularly visited the shop of an 84-year-old African-American barber and woodcarver. His parents told their son that some of Elijah Pierce's carvings from the

Bible represented what might be considered "graven images."

The boy never spoke of this while the he and Elijah shared "time together the way Chanukah and Christmas shared the same day that year." One December after Elijah gave him a polka-dotted guardian angel, the boy hid it. His parents helped him to cherish the gift as an angel of friendship; in that spirit, the boy gave Elijah a menorah he had made at Hebrew school. Rosen based the moving personal story on the "character and vision" of Elijah Pierce (1892-1984), a woodcarver, lay minister, barber and personal friend to many of his visitors. Robinson grew up in the same Columbus, Ohio, neighborhood and spent long hours in Elijah's barbershop modeling clay and quilting while he carved and varnished. Her full-color paintings were done in house paint on scrap rag. (Ages 7-11)

Spohn, David. STARRY NIGHT. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1992.
32 pages. (0-688-11171-8) \$9.93

When Nate, Matt and Dad went camping near their house in August, everyone helped with preparations. Nate assembled snacks, Matt packed his stuffed animal, and Dad took a harmonica. They established their campsite, built a fire and settled in for singing, stories and locating the Big Dipper, the Great Bear and Cassiopeia. Observant readers will notice practical details about camping unobtrusively woven within the brief, quiet 8 x 6 1/4" book about two boys and their father. The same biracial (African-American/white) family pictured in the full-color illustrations appears in Nate's Treasure and Winter Wood (Lothrop, 1991). (Ages 3-7)

Weiss, Nicki. ON A HOT, HOT DAY. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1992.
28 pages. (0-399-22119-0) \$13.95

"On a rainy day / On a rainy fall day / Mama says, 'Sip slow. Sip slow.' / So they blow on their cocoa in the luncheonette. / As the passersby outside get wet. / In the fall / The rainy fall / Mama twirls her Angel." Throughout four seasons, Mama and her little son Angel come and go in their city neighborhood. They read books inside when it's cold, and they cool off outside when it's hot. The rhythmic text moves Mama and Angel outside and inside and outside again, offering a lilting cadence when read aloud. This perfectly paced patterned story shows what it's like to be a parent and child doing ordinary things together. Mama and Angel are a Latino family, according to visual clues in the illustrations that also celebrate the seasons and - most of all - their joy in being together. Parallels in the construction of the text are paired with images of family and neighborhood, demonstrating Weiss's deep understanding of and genuine affection for preschoolers. (Ages 1-4)

Worth, Valerie. AT CHRISTMASTIME. Illustrated by Antonio Frasconi. Michael di Capua Books/HarperCollins, 1992.

32 pages. (0-06-205020-6) \$14.95
Original short poems with titles such as "Winter Dusk," "Tree Lot" and "Twelfth Night" embrace a wide range of impressions - secular and religious - about an observance stretching longer than a month. "Creche" is an example of the insight to discover in every poem: "...The angel / Is lacking / A wing; / Even the / Baby looks / Shabby - / So that / It's hard / To explain / Their sturdy / Abiding / Beauty." A final poem "Spring" suggests a memory: "...By the muddy path / Glints a single / Crumpled strand / Of Christmas tinsel." Frasoni's striking full-color images in woodcuts and mixed media give visual power to this handsome 11 1/4 x 9 1/2" edition of superb poetry. (Age 5-adult)

Zolotow, Charlotte. THE SEASHORE BOOK. Illustrated by Wendell Minor. HarperCollins, 1992. 32 pages. (0-06-020213-0) \$14.95

To answer his question about the seashore, a little boy's mother invites him to pretend to "pick up a stone washed smooth by the sea" and notice tiny oyster shells "crusty gray outside and smooth, pearly pink inside." By suggesting sensory ways to experience a specific place, Zolotow's affectionate text bids children to employ imagination to recapture experience and/or companionship. Minor's full-page illustrations for this lovely 11 1/4 x 9 1/4" book for all seasons were painted with gouache and watercolors on cold-press watercolor board. (Ages 3-8)

See also: Alef-Bet; Clambake; Christmas at Long Pond; Hoang Anh; Heart of the Wood; Sacred Harvest; Take Me Out to the Ballgame

6 Issues in Today's World

ABC Quilts. KIDS MAKING QUILTS FOR KIDS. Quilt Digest Press (P.O. Box 1331, Gualala, CA 95445), 1992. 43 pages. (paperback 0-913327-36-0) \$9.95

In many parts of the United States, youngsters in Scout troops, Sunday School classes, 4-H clubs and other youth organizations are gathering together to make quilts to send to children who are HIV+ as part of the ABC Quilt Project. Basic information about getting started, as well as step-by-step instructions for four types of quilt faces, are included in an attractive paperback, illustrated with color photographs of kids working on quilts and finished quilts. Facts about AIDS and suggestions for adult-led discussion starters are appended. (Ages 8-14)

Cone, Molly. COME BACK, SALMON: HOW A GROUP OF DEDICATED KIDS ADOPTED PIGEON CREEK AND BROUGHT IT BACK TO LIFE. Photographs by Sidnee Wheelwright. Sierra Club Books for Children, 1992. 48 pages. (0-87156-572-2) \$16.95

Beginning in 1984, a complex combination of activities in an Everett, Washington, elementary school (i.e. an interactive, interdisciplinary science curriculum involving classroom experiments, first-hand observations, art activities and community activism) led to a stream restoration project. Everyone deemed the project successful with the return of the Soho salmon raised in a classroom from eyed eggs and released two years earlier into Pigeon Creek. Detailed by color photographs, background information and dialogue-laced narratives based upon taped interviews with the participating children and teachers, an exemplary project offers information, encouragement and hope. (Ages 6-10)

Heide, Florence Parry and Judith Heide Gilliland. SAMI AND THE TIME OF THE TROUBLES. Illustrated by Ted Lewin. Clarion, 1992. 32 pages. (0-395-55964-2) \$14.95

Ten-year-old Sami and his family live contemporary Beirut, Lebanon. Sometimes the family picnics on a beach and goes to the market. Too often gunfire fills the streets, requiring family members to stay in a basement shelter where they try to remember sunsets, peach orchards and happier times. After the shooting stops, Sami and his friend Amir help clean up rubble in the streets and then to play in their makeshift fort. "We run, we hide, we pretend to shoot, we pretend to die. I see my mother at a stall buying flowers, and she frowns at me. She does not like for me to play this game." Expressing the ambiguity of Sami's life and of a childhood in which maturity means using guns to fight a civil war, this full-color picture story illuminates an experience transferrable to other places in the world. Gilliland's first-hand experience in Beirut contributes a valuable dimension to the provocative book. (Ages 8-11)

Lewis, Barbara A. KIDS WITH COURAGE: TRUE STORIES ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE. Free Spirit (400 1st Ave. No., Suite 616, Minneapolis, MN 55401), 1992. (paperback 0-915793-39-3) \$10.95

Eighteen young social and environmental activists are featured in an unusual collection about real kids. Based on the author's interviews with the young people, the book is divided into four sections: Kids Fighting Crime; Kids Taking Social Action; Heroic Kids; and Kids Saving the Environment.

Each entry includes brief biographical information about the young activist, as well as a photograph, in addition to a description of the contribution he or she has made to society. These range from a 14-year-old Milwaukee boy who gave his Nikes to a shoeless pregnant woman he encountered on a city bus one winter day to a 16-year-old girl from Louisville, Kentucky, who coordinates a volunteer peer counseling group for victims of child sexual abuse which provides moral support prior to courtroom appearances. African-American, Asian-American, Latino, Native American and Euro-American youngsters from throughout the United States are featured in an engaging composite of the next

generation of leaders. (Ages 8-14)

Zak, Monica. SAVE MY RAINFOREST. First published in the Swedish language in 1987. English version by Nancy Schimmel. Illustrated by Bengt-Arne Runnerström. U.S. edition: Volcano Press (P.O. Box 270, Volcano, CA 95689), 1992. 31 pages. (0-912078-94-4) \$14.95
Eight-year-old Omar Castillo resolved to travel someday to see the rainforests in southern Mexico about which he heard from his grandfather. He became alarmed by TV news indicating that the last rainforest had become endangered, i.e., excessive logging to increase grazing land for beef cattle, creatures such as toucans being sold as pets, changing climate, etc. Omar wrote to the President of Mexico but received no reply. The boy then resolved to walk from his home in Mexico City to Lacandon Rainforest. Omar's journey evolved into a 870-mile pilgrimage on foot with his father, an odyssey of survival and environmental activism for both boy and man. The full-color art illustrating every page of the unique documentary creates a fictional mood, but the color photograph of 11-year-old Omar on the final page expresses his personal realism about the potential impact of youth activists everywhere. (Ages 6-11)

See also: Antarctica; Boy Becomes a Man at Wounded Knee; Look Out for Turtles!; Places of Refuge; Rising Voices

7 Understanding Oneself and Others

Anderson, Peggy King. SAFE AT HOME! Atheneum, 1992. 122 pages. (0-689-31686-0) \$12.95

Tony's mom is well enough to show houses for her realtor job on one day, but not another. If the front drapes are closed when Tony gets home after school, he realizes even before he goes inside that his mother doesn't feel well. Tony's anxiety always increases when he finds his little sister Christy still wearing pajamas at 3:30 in the afternoon. If Christy is also following instructions from her Nanakins as if her imaginary playmates are real, he feels upset. Tony must be reliable to keep his paper route and stay on the school baseball team. As family concerns intrude, he tries to assume responsibility for Christy and sometimes even for his mom. Dependable information about alcoholism and co-dependency are integrated into a story with excellent characterizations, believable dialogue and a tightly developed plot. (Ages 7-10)

Dwight, Laura. WE CAN DO IT! Checkerboard Press (30 Vesey St., New York, NY 10007), 1992. 32 pages. (1-56288-301-1) \$7.95

Captioned color photographs introduce five preschoolers with disabilities, each of whom cites several things he or she likes to do. The brief, upbeat first-person statements

focus on individual personalities and accomplishments.
(Ages 3-6)

Osofsky, Audrey. MY BUDDY. Illustrated by Ted Rand. Henry Holt, 1992. 32 pages. (0-8050-1747-X) \$14.95
A wheelchair-mobile boy with muscular dystrophy feels excited about getting his first service dog, a golden retriever named Buddy. After he undergoes two weeks of training at a special camp which teaches him how to command Buddy, he's ready to take the dog home and adjust to the differences Buddy makes in his life around the house, in school and out in the neighborhood. Realistic watercolor paintings illustrate a fine story about a spirited young boy and his trusted companion. (Ages 4-9)

See also: Alef-Bet; Forever Family; Section on People and Places

8 The Arts

Cummings, Pat, compiler. TALKING WITH ARTISTS: CONVERSATIONS WITH VICTORIA CHESS, PAT CUMMINGS, LEO AND DIANE DILLON, RICHARD EGIELSKI, LOIS EHLERT, LISA CAMPBELL ERNST, TOM FEELINGS, STEVEN KELLOGG, JERRY PINKNEY, AMY SCHWARTZ, LANE SMITH, CHRIS VAN ALLSBURG AND DAVID WIESNER. Bradbury, 1992. 96 pages. (0-02-724245-5) \$18.95
Fourteen picture-book artists each respond to the same frequently asked questions, such as where ideas come from. Each artist tells about her/his childhood; this section features a childhood photograph (usually a school picture of the young artist) and a photograph of the artist today as well as one reproduction of childhood art and one or two representing their picture book art. Terrific organization and compelling subject matter make this unusual look at artists' lives and careers good for general browsing and difficult to put down. (Ages 6-14)

Davol, Marguerite W. THE HEART OF THE WOOD. Illustrated by Sheila Hamanaka. Simon & Schuster, 1992. 32 pages. (0-671-74778-9) \$14.00
Illustrations created in oil paints on bark paper celebrate the artistry and multiple procedures leading to a joyous celebration complete with "...music, now high, now low, / made by the fiddler with fingers and bow, / playing the fiddle created to find / the song in the heart of the wood, / shaped by the woodcarver with music in mind..." The language pattern for The House That Jack Built serves Davol's theme of creativity, while Hamanaka's inclusive vision of community embraces all in this celebratory full-color picture book. (Ages 3-8)

Guthrie, Woody with Marjorie Mazia Guthrie. WOODY'S 20 GROW BIG SONGS. Illustrated by Woody Guthrie. HarperCollins, 1992. 48 pages. (0-06-020282-3) \$21.95

Folk-singer Woody Guthrie once created watercolor drawings to accompany his songs for children. Created by a musical genius whose understanding of the interests and activities of ordinary young children mirrors his keen sense of common people, the playful lyrics and appealing music were developed into a songbook and then lost for more than 40 years. Dated 1948, the dedication implies that the book can be "a happy laugher and a goofy dancer, a high flinger, a bumpy jumper, a shy teaser...", and so it is. (Ages 2-5)

Hartman, Karen. DREAM CATCHER: THE LEGEND AND THE LADY. Illustrated by Julie Cuccia-Watts. Weeping Heart Publications (N1634 Lakeshore Dr., Campbellsport, WI 53010), 1992. 56 pages. \$21.85 (includes postage)
There were two books published in 1992 about the Ojibway dream catcher (or dream web, as it is sometimes called). While Osofsky's picture book described earlier uses of the dream catcher as an important element in a work of realistic historical fiction for younger children, Hartman's book gives background information about the artistic tradition itself. She describes how she herself learned to make dream catchers from an Ojibway elder years ago and relates a story the woman told her, passed down through the generations, of how dream catchers came to be made by the Ojibway people. She then provides a step-by-step account of how she makes a dream catcher, including explanations of what each part symbolizes. This treasure trove of hard-to-find information will be a welcome addition to school and public libraries in Wisconsin. (Ages 6-13)

Hausherr, Rosmarie. WHAT INSTRUMENT IS THIS? Scholastic Hardcover, 1992. 38 pages. (0-590-44644-4) \$14.95
Sixteen musical instruments are introduced one at a time, first with a color photograph of a boy or girl playing an instrument paired with the question forming the book's title. Upon turning the page, a photograph of someone playing it corresponds with brief information about the instrument. The instruments include a practical mix such as recorder, saxophone, bagpipes, electric guitar, pipe organ and trumpet. A visual symbol and phrase designate to which instrument group each one belongs. Brief details about instruments, lessons, teaching methods, practice time, joining an orchestra or band and recitals appears at the book's end to respond to adults' questions. The diversity of the children showing an interest in the instruments can encourage the natural curiosity of readers from varying backgrounds. (Ages 4-8)

Krull, Kathleen. GONNA SING MY HEAD OFF!: AMERICAN FOLK SONGS FOR CHILDREN. Illustrated by Allen Garns. Alfred A. Knopf, 1992. 145 pages. (0-394-81991-8) \$20.00
A collection of sixty-two folk songs especially appealing to older children balances regional and topical music popular for different reasons during various times. The range of

songs includes "Down In The Valley," "Follow The Drinking Gourd," "If I Had A Hammer," "Joe Hill," "John Henry," "The Motorcycle Song," "Shall We Gather At The River," "Shenandoah," "Tell Me Why," "What Have They Done To The Rain?" and "Yankee Doodle." Easy piano and guitar arrangements, a first-line index and an index of song types facilitate use of this book of alphabetically arranged songs. (All ages, but especially ages 8-12)

Medearis, Angela Shelf. THE ZEBRA-RIDING COWBOY: A FOLK SONG FROM THE OLD WEST. Illustrated by María Cristina Brusca. Henry Holt, 1992. 32 pages. (0-8050-1712-7) \$14.95
Created by an unknown songwriter between 1870 and 1890, this song features an "educated fellow with jaw-breaking words" who might have been an African-American man (as he is pictured here) or a Mexican vagüero or one of any number of cowboys from the documented frontier history to which Medearis refers in her two-page afterword. The song lyrics read like a tall tale in verse, a humorous picture book about a city-slicker cowboy who accepted the challenge of riding Zebra Dun. An easy arrangement for the song is printed on the endpapers. (Ages 5-9)

Norworth, Jack. TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME. Illustrated by Alec Gillman. Four Winds Press, 1992. 32 pages. (0-02-735991-3) \$14.95
Typically seen as electronic sing-along signs when sung at Big League baseball games, lilting words dance across pages picturing a game, but not one played during the late 20th century. The illustrations replicate images of the former Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field during the 1947 World Series. The pictures were drawn in pen, painted with watercolor and highlighted with color pencil. Background information about the song, original verses, and a musical arrangement follow the almost wordless story of a famous strikeout. Considerable Dodger history appears on the last double-page spread of a picture book tribute to baseball in general, "the" baseball song and especially to a specific team and time. (Age 3 and older)

Raschka, Chris. CHARLIE PARKER PLAYED BE BOP. Orchard, 1992. 32 pages. (0-531-08599-6) \$13.95
Inspired upon hearing a recording of "A Night in Tunisia," the author-artist created a swinging tribute to Charlie Parker and be bop. The unified art and design elements of this 9 1/2" square book express be bop music. The illustrations were rendered in watercolor and charcoal pencil. "Charlie Parker played be bop. / Charlie Parker played alto saxophone. / The music sounded like hip hop. / Never leave your cat / a-lone." Caution: the lyrics are contagious. (All ages)

Scott, Elaine. LOOK ALIVE: BEHIND THE SCENES OF AN ANIMATED

FILM. Photographs by Richard Hewett. William Morrow, 1992. 68 pages. (0-688-09936-X) \$14.00
The making of Ralph S. Mouse, the animated film that won the first ALA Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Children's Video in 1991, is detailed in black-and-white photographs, diagrams, sketches and movie stills. This account of the adaptation of Beverly Cleary's popular book Ralph S. Mouse (William Morrow, 1982) even offers a first-hand example of animation via what one can see while quickly flipping the pages. Technical information and historical background are presented without dampening the high interest of the subject. (Ages 7-11)

Turner, Robyn Montana. MARY CASSATT. (Portraits of Women Artists for Children) Little, Brown, 1992. 32 pages. (0-316-85650-9) \$15.95
"I rejected conventional art. I began to live." These words by Mary Cassatt open a picture book biography about an American artist whose paintings and career broke new ground in the history of art and of women. Throughout her career Cassatt encountered many barriers because she was female, but yet she preferred her art to the social life open to her through her family. Carefully reproduced full-color paintings, well-written appreciative comments and an emphasis on life events influencing Cassatt's artistic development earmark this and Turner's other excellent books about women artists published in 1991, Rosa Bonheur and Georgia O'Keeffe. (Ages 7-12)

See also: Carolers; Children of Clay; Dreamcatcher; Elijah's Angel; Moon and I; Sing to the Sun

9 Poetry

Bryan, Ashley. SING TO THE SUN: POEMS AND PICTURES. HarperCollins, 1992. 32 pages. (0-06-020829-5) \$15.00
Twenty-three original poems full of vitality and hope offer tributes to people, the arts, the past and the future. Bryan creates the exuberance of song in a range of poetic forms exploring such diverse themes as "Beaded Braids," "The Hurricane," "Grape Pickers," "Granny," "Mama's Bouquet's," "The Storyteller" and "The Artist" ("...He knows / That to have / Anything he loves / He can have it / Fair and forever / If he paints / A picture of it..."). The distinguished African-American poet and artist, influenced by the arts of the world and especially by those in the Caribbean, further honors his subjects by pairing with each poem a work of full-color art reminiscent of a mosaic. Honor Book, 1992
CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Illustration. (Ages 8-14)

Cassedy, Sylvia and Kunihiro Suetake, translators from the Japanese. RED DRAGONFLY ON MY SHOULDER: HAIKU.

Illustrated by Molly Bang. HarperCollins, 1992. 32 pages.
(0-06-022625-0) \$14.89

Thirteen playful haiku poems gain heightened meanings as each is superimposed upon a color photograph of a collage created from materials common to some homes and classrooms. Ingenious assemblages utilize objects such as cutout cookies, blue corn chips, a sweet potato, a shell, a feather, beads, safety pins, grains of rice and clothespins. The presence of Bang's note on the last page listing materials used in each assemblage can encourage others to illustrate this spare poetic form similarly. The brief translators' comment suggests ways to understand and read haiku. (Ages 9-14)

Harvey, Anne, selector. SHADES OF GREEN. Illustrated by John Lawrence. U.S. edition: Greenwillow, 1992. 191 pages.
(0-688-10890-3) \$18.00

Harvey understands that "green" is a color, represents growth and expresses hope. Inspired by the 12th century German nun Hildegard of Bingen, she suggests that "green" has "...intense power...for our spiritual and physical well-being..." To pique the interest of browsers, the poetry is divided into ten sections with titles such as A Green Hope, In the Green Time, and For those Born Later. More than 190 poems from several centuries are anthologized, including works by Wendell Berry, William Blake, Geoffrey Chaucer, Emily Dickinson, Eleanor Farjeon, Robert Frost, A.E. Housman, Karla Kuskin, Denise Levertov, Li Po, David McCord, Pablo Neruda, Mary O'Neill, Christina Rossetti, Colin Thiele, Walt Whitman, William Wordsworth, Valerie Worth and Yi-Hwang. A poet-and-title index precedes an index to first lines in a volume illustrated with occasional black-and-white line drawings, some of which are washed with - what else? - green. (Ages 8-11)

Lauture, Denizé. FATHER AND SON. Illustrated by Jonathan Green. Philomel, 1992. 32 pages. (0-399-21867-X) \$14.95

A new understanding of a fundamental relationship springs from the brevity of one poem and its unity with the oil paintings illustrating each of its lines. Specificity of setting and race are balanced by the universal theme expressed in this elegant full-color picture book. The poet's dedication statement emphasizes the responsibility of "every decent man" to the children of today: "...The shadow of one / Touching / The shadow of the other;..." Lauture is a native of rural Haiti whose works appear in three languages; Father and Son represents the first work for children by this poet and artist. (Ages 4-9)

Mado, Michio. THE ANIMALS: SELECTED POEMS. Translated from the Japanese by The Empress Michiko of Japan. Illustrated by Mitsumasa Anno. U.S. edition: Margaret K. McElderry, 1992. 47 pages. (0-689-50574-4) \$16.95

When the poetry of the Japanese poet Michio Mado was nominated for the international 1990 Hans Christian Andersen Award, even his most popular poems were then unavailable in any other

language. This first collection of Mado's poems to be published in the United States was selected and translated by Her Majesty Empress Michiko and appear here in both English and Japanese. Anno's detailed, delicate cut-paper figures of creatures decorate the pages of an exquisitely designed book revealing for new readers the child appeal and wit of Mado's poems bearing titles such as "Zebra," "A Dog Walks," "Sleep" and "Little Elephant". (Ages 5-10)

Moore, Lilian. SUNFLAKES: POEMS FOR CHILDREN. Illustrated by Jan Ormerod. Clarion, 1992. 96 pages. (0-395-58833-2) \$18.95

The poet-anthologist states that poems can assist children to "connect with feelings of others, to hear the music of language and to see the details in the world around them more vividly, more truthfully." Moore writes her own poems and collects the poems of others with grace. Her accurate sense of very young children is reflected in her names for sections of this collection: I Am Very Fond Of Bugs, I Like To Look In Puddles, Me And Potato Chips, The Night Is Long But Fur Is Deep, and Breathing On The Window Pane In Winter. Ormerod's full-color illustrations enliven each page with images that do not limit a poem's possibility. Poets represented in the 75 poems include Arnold Adoff, Frank Asch, Margaret Wise Brown, John Ciardi, Eloise Greenfield, Mary Ann Hoberman, Edward Lear, Dennis Lee, Eve Merriam, Kazue Mizumura, Jack Prelutsky, Nancy Willard, Jane Yolen and Charlotte Zolotow. (Ages 2-7)

Nye, Naomi Shihab, selector. THIS SAME SKY: A COLLECTION OF POEMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. Four Winds Press, 1992. 207 pages. (0-02-768440-7) \$15.95

This outstanding global anthology is organized into themes such as Words And Silences, Dreams And Dreamers, Families, This Earth and Sky In Which We Live, Losses, and Human Mysteries. The poets represented "shared the twentieth century from many other vantage points," all being citizens of nations other than the United States. Some poems express universal emotions, others convey insights or intensities known firsthand by those who live in poverty or under political oppression. Endpaper collages of cancelled stamps from many nations and signatures in a variety of languages introduce this unparalleled collection of 129 poems. Deckled pages, a ribbon marker and elegant production honor the commitment of the poets and the anthologist to all readers. (Age 11 and older)

Soto, Gary. NEIGHBORHOOD ODES. Illustrated by David Diaz. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992. 68 pages. (0-15-256879-4) \$15.95

Twenty-one poems reflect pleasures, loves, joys, regrets and fears experienced growing up in a Chicano neighborhood in California. The poet hones in on the small details of ordinary places (the park, the library) and ordinary things (a sprinkler, Pablo's tennis shoes) with such extraordinary

clarity of vision that each ode packs an emotional punch, taking the reader by surprise. The poems are accompanied by striking black-and-white illustrations. (Age 8 and older)

See also: At Christmastime; Beasts of Bethlehem; Heart of the Wood; Rime of the Ancient Mariner; Rising Voices; Take Me Out To The Ballgame; Zebra-Riding Cowboy

10 Biography and Autobiography

Adler, David A. A PICTURE BOOK OF JESSE OWENS. Illustrated by Robert Casilla. Holiday House, 1992. 32 pages.

(0-8234-0966-X) \$14.95

An easy biography of the Olympic medal-winning sprinter and champion of the long jump recounts some of the childhood barriers overcome by the amazing African-American athlete with "lucky legs." Jesse Owens' accomplishments at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin led to him being called the "World's Fastest Human" for many years. Adler's brief biography and page of notes point out racist and anti-Semitic occurrences during the 1936 Olympics, as well as the fact that prejudice was faced by this honored son of a former sharecropper afterward at home. Profusely illustrated with Casilla's watercolor paintings, there is also a brief chronology. (Ages 5-9)

Anderson, William. LAURA INGALLS WILDER: A BIOGRAPHY.

HarperCollins, 1992. 240 pages. (0-06-020113-4) \$15.95

The mother of Laura Ingalls Wilder grew up along the Oconomowoc River near Concord. Considered to be the expert concerning the author of the "Little House" books and their creator, Anderson first became interested in Laura and her family when he was in elementary school. Since then Anderson has been active in the preservation and operation of the Wilder sites in De Smet, South Dakota, and Mansfield, Missouri, and has written widely about Laura Ingalls Wilder. His specialized knowledge and his ability to write with clarity as well as authority resulted in this long-awaited, well-indexed biography of the beloved author. Twenty-one black-and-white photographs are reproduced. (Ages 8-12)

Byars, Betsy. THE MOON AND I. Julian Messner, 1992. 96 pages.

(0-671-74166-7) \$14.98

An author of popular fiction for children tells her own story through the device of personal flashbacks occasioned by her discovery of a blacksnake that took up residence in or near the building where her writing studio is located. Byars' writes compellingly about her childhood and some of her adult experiences as a writer within the context of her encounters with "Moon" the snake. Byars' books published between 1962 and 1991 are listed at the end of an unusual approach to autobiography. (Ages 8-14)

Fradin, Dennis Brindell. HIAWATHA: MESSENGER OF PEACE.

Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1992. 40 pages. (0-689-50519-1)
\$14.95

After briefly explaining the series of historical errors and misunderstandings that led to the fictional character of Longfellow's famous poem, the author provides a concise account of the life of the flesh-and-blood Hiawatha. Along with his Huron friend, Degandawida, Hiawatha convinced five warring tribes (Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca) to lay down their weapons and form the Iroquois Federation, a representative system of government that is often credited with providing a model for American colonists 300 years later.

In addition to reproductions of historical prints by European and American artists, the text is illustrated with paintings by four contemporary Iroquois artists: John Fadden, Arnold Jacobs, Cleveland Sandy and Ernest Smith. (Ages 7-11)

Harrison, Barbara and Daniel Terris. A TWILIGHT STRUGGLE: THE

LIFE OF JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY. Lothrop, Lee and Shepard,

1992. 159 pages. (0-688-08830-9) \$18.00

The poem "Birches" by Robert Frost frames each chapter of this well-crafted biography of the man who became president in 1961. The authors' uses of the oral history collection and audiovisual archives at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston gives readers access to information and photographs typically not included in biographies for any audience. This biography offers new insights about President Kennedy's accomplishments and poses thoughtful reasons for some of the ambivalence with which the man and his many achievements are now remembered. A detailed chronology, an annotated bibliography of print and non-print resources, extensively documented source notes and an index all enrich a well-written and handsomely designed volume. (Ages 9-14)

McKissack, Patricia C. and Fredrick McKissack. SOJOURNER TRUTH:

AIN'T I A WOMAN? Scholastic Hardcover, 1992. 186 pages.
(0-590-44690-8) \$13.95

When she was 46 years old, an African-American woman called Belle who had been born into slavery renamed herself. She became Sojourner Truth, a pilgrim who spoke, sang and recited long passages from the Bible before white and black audiences wherever matters concerning freedom were discussed and debated. The McKissacks trace how Sojourner Truth became a staunch abolitionist and effective advocate for women's rights, and they relate the tragic personal losses suffered by this amazing leader. This outstanding biography is documented with photographs, a bibliography and capsule biographies of fourteen of the women and men who were Sojourner's contemporaries in 19th century movements for liberation. (Ages 10-14)

McPherson, Stephanie Sammartino. I SPEAK FOR THE WOMEN: A STORY

ABOUT LUCY STONE. Illustrated by Brian Liedahl. (A Carolrhoda Creative Minds Book) Carolrhoda, 1992. 63 pages. (0-87614-740-6) \$11.95

Before she was sixteen, Lucy Stone knew how it felt to be denied a vote as she attempted to express herself regarding the abolition of slavery at her church. Several years later, she refused to contribute a graduation essay because she would not be allowed to read it herself at Oberlin College. Stone was a suffragist who did not hesitate to disagree on principle publicly with allies, even with leaders such as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Lucy Stone's moral commitment to women's rights and her staunch activism with her spouse, Henry Blackwell, and lifelong friend, Antoinette Brown Blackwell, come to life within an easy-to-read biography. A short bibliography includes academic works about this important 19th century suffragist. (Ages 8-10)

Myers, Walter Dean. MALCOLM X: BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY. Scholastic Hardcover, 1993. 224 pages. (0-590-46484-1) \$13.95

A riveting opening chapter relates the now-legendary nonviolent standoff between the Black Muslims and precinct police following a street incident in Harlem and introduces Malcolm's multi-faceted authority. Carefully selected archival photographs and other illustrative material, a chronology, bibliography and index contribute to the considerable substance of this compelling volume illuminating the life of an African-American man whose mid-20th century deeds and writings continue to inspire many youth and adults today. Myers draws implicit parallels between today's challenges for some African-American youth and some of the experiences during the early years of the self-made survivor who became Malcolm X, by showing how in his youth, Malcolm expressed the universal need to belong. Through showing the changes Malcolm made in his own life, Myers demonstrates that youth do not have to fail themselves even though people and institutions fail them. An absorbing biography introduces this important leader to youth not yet ready for The Autobiography of Malcolm X. Honor Book, 1992 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Writing. (Ages 9-14)

Parks, Rosa and Jim Haskins. ROSA PARKS: MY STORY. Dial, 1992. 192 pages. (0-8037-0673-1) \$17.00

Rosa Parks wasn't tired when she decided not to move to a different seat in the bus. She knew exactly what she was doing and what the NAACP would probably do as a result in December, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama. According to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mrs. Parks' action was a "creative witness." According to the world today, she is the mother of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. Mrs. Parks sets the record straight here about several matters recorded inaccurately for decades concerning the Montgomery Bus Boycott and other actions in which she participated. She also relates details about her childhood, her education and many other aspects of

her long, productive life. She is now a "symbol," not a role she chose, but one that chose - and fit - this honorable woman whose courageous activism took many forms and made all the difference. (Ages 11-14)

See also: Against All Opposition; Don't You Know There's a War On? Elijah's Angel; Great-Grandma Tells of Threshing Day; Kids with Courage; Letters From a Slave Girl; Mary Cassatt; Talking With Artists

11 Folklore, Mythology and Traditional Literature

Begay, Shonto. MA'II AND COUSIN HORNED TOAD: A TRADITIONAL NAVAJO STORY. Scholastic Hardcover, 1992. 32 pages. (0-590-45391-2) \$14.95

The distinguished Navajo artist retells a folktale from his own tribal heritage. In this coyote teaching tale, lazy Ma'ii always manages to call on one of his cousins at mealtime. Although Cousin Horned Toad is an accommodating fellow, he can't get any farm work done with Ma'ii around demanding food, so he comes up with an idea to teach the coyote to have some respect for a hard-working horned toad. Begay's earth-toned watercolor, gouache and colored pencil illustrations capture the humor of a traditional story in which the coyote meets his match. (Ages 4-8)

Bierhorst, John, compiler. LIGHTNING INSIDE YOU, AND OTHER NATIVE AMERICAN RIDDLES. Illustrated by Louise Brierly. William Morrow, 1992. 104 pages. (0-688-09582-8) \$14.00
Over 100 riddles from 35 North, South and Central American Indian nations are arranged into five categories: Natural World; Human Body; Animals; Things that Grow; and Things Made to Be Used. The answer and source for each riddle is given on the bottom of the page on which the riddle appears and sophisticated black-and-white line drawings are included on every other page. The book concludes with two longer story riddles, one from the Pawnee and one from the Pehuenche of Chile. (Ages 7-11)

Bruchac, Joseph. NATIVE AMERICAN ANIMAL STORIES. Foreword by Vine Deloria, Jr. Illustrated by John Kahionhes Fadden and David Kanietakeron Fadden. Fulcrum (350 Indiana St., Golden, CO 80401), 1992. 135 pages. (paperback 1-55591-127-7) \$11.95

The traditional stories from the author and Michael J. Caduto's Keepers of the Animals (Fulcrum, 1991) are excerpted for this handsomely designed, well-organized volume. With skill and vitality, Bruchac respectfully retells 24 animal stories from 18 North American tribes. Each story, illustrated with a culturally accurate line drawing, is carefully documented and put into a cultural context by the author's scholarly notes at the book's end. A glossary and pronunciation guide will prove helpful for storytellers.

Overall, the careful attention to detail on the part of both the author and the illustrator provides an exemplary model from which other retellers of Native folktales could learn. (Ages 7-14)

Ehlert, Lois. MOON ROPE: A PERUVIAN FOLKTALE=UN LAZO A LA LUNA: UNA LEYENDA PERUANA. Translated into Spanish by Amy Prince. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992. 32 pages. (0-15-255343-6) \$14.95

Ehlert brilliantly uses ancient Peruvian color and form to create a stunning picture book with an avant-garde appearance. The simple bilingual text tells the story of Fox and Mole's attempt to reach the moon by climbing up a rope made of grass. Mole is so embarrassed when he loses his grip and falls back to earth that he burrows into the ground and to this day only comes out at night. And Fox? Many say they can still see him up there sometimes when the moon is full. A bold palette of blue, red, orange, green, purple and black contrasts sharply with the luminous silver color of the Fox and the moon, proving Ehlert to be one of the most gifted colorists working in contemporary picture books. Honor Book, 1992 CCBC Caldecott Award Discussion. (Ages 3-7)

Goble, Paul. CROW CHIEF: A PLAINS INDIAN STORY. Orchard, 1992. 32 pages. (0-531-08547-3) \$14.95

Long ago, in the days before horses, crows were jealous of people and sought revenge on them by warning buffaloes whenever human hunters were nearby. The people would have died out completely had it not been for their savior, Falling Star, who figured out a way to outsmart the chief of the crows. The bossy character of the crow chief adds touches of humor to this Lakota legend, illustrated in Goble's trademark style which seems to be inspired by the traditional 19th century ledger art of Native artists. (Ages 4-8)

Hutton, Warwick. THE TROJAN HORSE. U.S. edition: Margaret K. McElderry, 1992. 32 pages. (0-689-50542-6) \$14.95

Ignoring political opposition to their love for each other, Helen and Paris fled to Troy, igniting a long war between the Trojans and the Greeks. One day after a Greek retreat by sea seemed final, a wooden horse of monumental size appeared outside the city. Trojan gates were enlarged to bring the horse within city walls, enabling the Greek soldiers hidden inside to gain the strategic position necessary to win the war. Hutton's watercolors used with pen on paper suggest classic armaments and clothing, and his skillful use of form and space imply the massive dimensions of the legendary Trojan Horse that hid the Greek soldiers. A brief text tells the story in this 11 x 8 1/4" full-color picture book edition of a classic tale occasionally used as a reference for strategic misrepresentation. (Ages 5-9)

McKissack, Patricia C. THE DARK-THIRTY: SOUTHERN TALES OF THE

SUPERNATURAL. Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Alfred A. Knopf, 1992. 122 pages. (0-689-81863-4) \$15.00

Ten original stories based in African-American history combine supernatural elements with an oral style that reads like traditional storytelling. Whether it's the mysterious disappearance of a slave being sold away from his family, or the ghostly revenge of a man lynched by the Ku Klux Klan, all of these well-written stories are satisfyingly eerie, exactly right to be told and re-told during the "dark-thirty" -- the half hour just before nightfall. (Ages 7-12)

Merrill, Jean. THE GIRL WHO LOVED CATERPILLARS. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Philomel, 1992. 32 pages. (0-399-21871-8) \$14.95

An adaptation of a 12th-century Japanese story left unfinished by its anonymous author has a startlingly modern ring. As the daughter of a nobleman in the Emperor's court, Izumi is expected to conform to standards of behavior and beauty which will assure her a place as a lady-in-waiting or as the wife of a nobleman. But Izumi has no interest in fashion or femininity; instead she is fascinated with worms, toads, insects and, most especially, caterpillars. While other nobles find Izumi disgusting and ridiculous, "scruffy-looking boys from families of low standing" find her admirable. The boys (to whom Izumi assigns nicknames such as Worm Boy and Mantis Man) line up to present her with gifts -- unusual insects or caterpillars they have found. And one day a nobleman overhears Izumi talking to a caterpillar as he is passing by... but what, if anything, developed from their chance meeting has been lost to history. Floyd Cooper's lush oil paintings capture the strength of character and individuality of a girl living 800 years ago who might have been much more comfortable growing up in the late 20th century. (Ages 6-11)

Olson, Arielle North. NOAH'S CATS AND THE DEVIL'S FIRE. Illustrated by Barry Moser. Orchard, 1992. 32 pages. (0-531-05984-7) \$14.95

When the devil attempts to board the ark and is banished by Noah, he sneaks back on in the form of a mouse, in this retelling of a Rumanian folktale. The devil-mouse's initial efforts to wreak havoc are unsuccessful, until he decides to gnaw a hole in the bottom of the ship and sink the ark, with the aid of two true mice. That recruitment proves to be his undoing, as Noah observes the group of three mice, when he knows that all the creatures boarded in pairs. Dark-toned illustrations capture the evil essence of the devil in his various incarnations. (Ages 4-8)

Patterson, Geoffrey. JONAH AND THE WHALE. U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1992. 24 pages. (0-688-11238-2) \$14.00
Jonah heard the voice of God ordering him to go to Nineveh and make the people there stop their endless fighting, but Jonah resisted, heading as far from Nineveh as he thought he could

go by sea. Patterson uses an informal style to relate the Bible story of Jonah being swallowed by a great fish after disregarding God's command. Inventive uses of visual perspectives showing the whale, Jonah inside the whale and other scenes requiring a massive scope distinguish Patterson's full-color illustrations. (Ages 5-9)

Rosen, Michael. SOUTH AND NORTH, EAST AND WEST: THE OXFAM BOOK OF CHILDREN'S STORIES. Introduction by Whoopi Goldberg. U.S. edition: Candlewick, 1992. 95 pages. (1-56402-117-3) \$19.95

The global scope of these tales distinguishes this anthology, as does the generally eerie and delightfully scary tone of many of the tales introduced. The collection was developed from suggestions by Oxfam staff members who heard the stories from people with whom they work in nations such as Bolivia, Botswana, Indonesia, Korea, Mali, Nepal and Vietnam. A creation story "The Beginning of History" came from a Brazilian Indian story source. The volume was published to coincide with the 50th birthday of this international aid and development organization to benefit self-help projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Brief identifications of the 22 mostly British artists who contributed full-color illustrations are provided. Two pages of information about Oxfam complete the book. (Ages 9-12)

Schwartz, Howard and Barbara Rush. THE SABBATH LION: A JEWISH FOLKTALE FROM ALGERIA. Illustrated by Stephen Fieser. HarperCollins, 1992. 32 pages. (0-06-020853-8) \$13.95
Ten-year-old Yosef travels from Algiers with a caravan to claim a greatly needed inheritance in Cairo on behalf of his widowed mother and six siblings. Knowing that his mother paid the caravan leader to guarantee a rest in the desert on the Sabbath, Yosef is dismayed when the leader disregards that agreement. Because the boy will not disobey the laws of the Sabbath, he stays behind while the caravan continues. A miracle takes place when the Sabbath Lion appears to Yosef. This tale of adventure and suspense bears a universal truth about promises. According to the retellers' brief commentary, this tale is told by Jews in North Africa and elsewhere, such as Iran and Bukhara. Fieser's stunning full-color paintings contribute both power and mystery to a compelling story. (Ages 5-12)

Scieszka, Jon. THE STINKY CHEESE MAN, AND OTHER FAIRLY STUPID TALES. Illustrated by Lane Smith. Viking, 1992. 56 pages. (0-670-84487-X) \$16.00
The Really Ugly Duckling, The Tortoise and the Hair, Cinderumpelstiltskin, Little Red Running Shorts, Jack's Bean Problem, The Other Frog Prince, and The Princess and the Bowling Ball join the title story in a humorous unity of invention glued together by the comments of a somewhat hysterical Little Red Hen and Jack, a calm narrator. The overall design of this full-color book celebrates and

demonstrates the role typography can play in conveying an idea. Many sizes and kinds of type explicitly express more than the words of these wacky, entertaining stories that are funny on their own but provide heartier chuckles for anyone familiar with the traditional tale inspiring each. (Ages 6-11)

Taylor, C.J. LITTLE WATER AND THE GIFT OF THE ANIMALS: A SENECA LEGEND. Tundra, 1992. 24 pages. (0-88776-291-3) \$13.95
A Mohawk artist retells and illustrates a legend from another Iroquois tribe, the Seneca. Little Water was respected by his people as a good hunter, however, he especially loved to spend time alone in the woods, observing the animals rather than hunting them. When tragedy befalls his village in the form of a mysterious disease, Little Water calls on the spirits of his animal friends to help him bring medicine to his people. Full-color oil paintings accompany an eloquent traditional tale about the interconnectedness of all life forms. (Ages 4-8)

Wilhelm, Hans. THE BREMEN TOWN MUSICIANS. Scholastic Hardcover, 1992. 32 pages. (0-590-44795-5) \$13.95
The classic folktale from the Brothers Grimm about the donkey, the dog, the cat and the rooster who combine forces to acquire a new home, retold and illustrated by a Bremen-born artist. In an author's note, Wilhelm discusses the significance of the tale to him personally, as well as the original German source from which he derived this version, staying as close to the original as possible. The pop-culture style and energy of the full-color illustrations will make this version especially accessible and appealing to young children. (Ages 3-6)

Young, Ed. SEVEN BLIND MICE. Philomel, 1992. 40 pages. (0-399-22261-8) \$16.95
An adaptation of the Indian fable "The Blind Men and the Elephant" cleverly uses paper collage set on a black background. The men are recast here as seven brightly colored mice who argue about what the Something is after each one comes in contact with a different part of the elephant. Young has created the elephant out of seven separate pieces of paper which correspond to each mouse's part. Viewers only see the elephant as a whole once the mice have put their heads together to figure out what the Something is. The well-paced text and large, clear illustrations will make this a good choice for reading aloud to groups of preschoolers. (Ages 3-6)

See also: Carolers; Dream Catcher (Hartman); I Saw Esau

12 Concept Books

Edwards, Michelle. ALEF-BET: A HEBREW ALPHABET BOOK. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1992. 32 pages. (0-688-09724-3) \$15.00

A family composed of two adults and three children that might live in contemporary Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, New York or Amsterdam introduces daily uses of modern Hebrew in a nearly wordless picture story. Signs of home-created entertainment, especially that involving the arts and play-acting, are everywhere, showing this to be a priority for the down-to-earth, energetic, affectionate household. Outside activities vary with the seasons while everyone has a visible role in sledding, leaf gathering and night sky-watching. One of the three happily active children uses a wheelchair to move from place to place. A letter of the Hebrew alphabet appears in the upper left corner of each page, and Hebrew words with phonetic pronunciations are shown on the lower left of each page. Roman transliterations and English translations are also provided. Edwards succeeds in developing a fresh approach to presenting the concept of a family and to creating a book about a specific language. (Ages 2-8)

Fleming, Denise. COUNT! Henry Holt, 1992. 32 pages.
(0-8050-1595-7) \$14.95

. LUNCH. Henry Holt, 1992. 32 pages. (0-8050-1636-8)
\$14.95

The few words on each page of Count! invite a pattern of activities beyond counting: "Stretch, giraffes!" accompanies images of five yellow-and-black giraffes craning their necks on a neon pink page spread that includes the numeral, five green squares and the words "five giraffes." Lunch tells about a hungry mouse, gives children a chance to predict what he will eat by showing part of it on the preceding page, describing it with an adjective and indicating a color, such as a "crisp, white turnip." Both books are fun to use and dynamic to see from a distance due to Fleming's refreshing concepts of color and space. Book jacket information includes a description of Fleming's unique papermaking technique in which she builds layers of colored pulp. (Ages 3-7)

Geisert, Arthur. PIGS FROM 1 TO 10. Houghton Mifflin, 1992.
32 pages. (0-395-58519-8) \$14.95

Ten pigs embark on a search for the huge stone configurations about which they heard from a book read to them. The pigs seem to be collectively clever with pulleys, drills and machines as well as the expertise necessary to build a bridge, drill through a mountain and replicate their discoveries in order to bring home copies of the numerals zero to ten. After reading the story of how the pigs literally work their way through their adventure, young readers can search each double page spread for hidden images of the ten numerals. A key to the visual puzzle appears at the end of the book. These particular porcine engineers are also featured in Pigs A to Z (Houghton, 1986). Geisert's 18 detailed etchings demonstrate his mastery of this medium and are handsomely showcased in a handsome edition printed in two colors. (Ages 4-8)

See also: A Was Once an Apple Pie; Christmas Counting; Hanukkah

Lights, Hanukkah Nights

13 Books for Babies and Toddlers

Hudson, Cheryl Willis. GOOD MORNING BABY. Illustrated by George Ford. Cartwheel/Scholastic, 1992. 10 pages. (0-590-45760-8) \$5.95

. GOOD NIGHT BABY. Illustrated by George Ford. Cartwheel/Scholastic, 1992. 10 pages. (0-590-45761-6) \$5.95
A pair of board books featuring African-American toddlers frame the day with gentle rhyming texts that describe typical activities at the beginning of the day (getting dressed, eating breakfast) and at bedtime (taking a bath, reading a story). A girl and her father are pictured in the full-color illustrations in Good Morning Baby and a boy and his mother are shown in Good Night Baby. (Ages 9 months-2 years)

Sweet, Melissa. FIDDLE-I-FEE: A FARMYARD SONG FOR THE VERY YOUNG. Joy Street/Little, Brown, 1992. 32 pages. (0-316-82516-6) \$14.95

"I had a cat / and the cat pleased me, / I fed my cat under yonder tree; / Cat went fiddle-i-fee." A nursery version of the merry cumulative song invites animal noises from all who read or sing it, including Goose's "swishy-swashy" and Hen's "chipsy-chopsy." The narrating toddler leads all the creatures to a comical farm picnic, a wordless denouement that creates smiles all around and encourages another rendition of the song and the colorful book! Sweet combines a skillful adaptation of the lyrics and joyous full-color illustrations within an appealing picture book for baby gifts, lap time and group singing. (Ages 9 months-3 years)

Waddell, Martin. FARMER DUCK. Illustrated by Helen Oxenbury. U.S. edition: Candlewick, 1992. 36 pages. (1-56402-009-6) \$15.95

Picture a lazy man who stays in bed to eat bon-bons and read the paper. Now picture a duck who serves, irons, cooks, brings in the sheep, saws wood, picks apples, gathers eggs - and more, much more! Imagine the same dialogue "How goes the work?" "Quack!" interspersed with droll pictures of the exhausted duck and the barnyard witnesses. Begin to realize the humor in an incipient revolt resulting in the come-uppance of a lazy lout. Matchless full-color illustrations in subdued browns, golds and greens convey much of the fresh, funny, patterned story that encourages a quack, moo, baa and cluck from all who hear or read it. (Ages 2-4)

See also: A Was Once an Apple Pie; Alef-Bet; Big Alfie Out of Doors Storybook; Count!; Hanukkah Lights, Hanukkah Nights; Lunch; On a Hot, Hot Day; On Mother's Lap; Sunflakes; Woody's 20 Grow Big Songs

14 Picture Books

- Bedard, Michael. EMILY. Illustrated by Barbara Cooney.
Doubleday, 1992. 38 pages. (0-385-30697-0) \$16.00
A small girl, fearful and yet fascinated by the reclusive woman who lives in the yellow house across the street from her, asks to go along with her mother when she is invited to come play the piano for "the Mystery." Although the shy hostess never shows herself during their visit, the child creeps up the stairs and encounters her sitting on a chair in the upstairs corridor. A lyrical story, based on an imagined meeting between Emily Dickinson and a neighbor child, is exquisitely illustrated with softly textured acrylic and pastel paintings on China silk. (Ages 5-8)
- Blundell, Tony. BEWARE OF BOYS. U.S. edition: Greenwillow, 1992.
32 pages. (0-688-10925-X) \$14.00
When a boy meets a hungry wolf while walking through the forest, he manages to outsmart the creature by sending him scurrying to collect the ingredients for his special recipes: boy soup, boy pie and boy cake. Each of the recipes also contain ingredients the boy needs to build a brick prison for the wolf. Exaggerated full-color illustrations accompany a funny story which twists several fairy-tale conventions to create a wholly original tale. (Ages 4-8)
- Bottner, Barbara. BOOTSIE BARKER BITES. Illustrated by Peggy Rathmann. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1992. 32 pages.
(0-399-22125-5) \$14.95
Bootsie Barker is a terror of a girl who wears a dainty hat, a frilly dress, pink cowboy boots -- and a treacherous grin that she shows only to other children. The narrator of this wry story dreads those days when her mother babysits for Bootsie ("Play nicely, girls!"). Since Bootsie is the sort of child adults think is sweet, her beleaguered playmate must come up with her own solution to the Bootsie problem (which, children will be relieved to know, does not involve winning Bootsie over). Peggy Rathmann's distinctive illustrations show that she understands the funny -- and not so funny -- side to a common childhood conflict. (Ages 3-6)
- Crews, Donald. SHORTCUT. Greenwillow, 1992. 32 pages.
(0-688-06436-1) \$14.00
In a companion book to Bigmama's (Greenwillow, 1991), Donald Crews recounts a dramatic event remembered from a childhood summer on Bigmama's farm. As darkness falls one night seven children decide to take a dangerous shortcut home along the train tracks to save time. When they hear the distant whistle of a freight train, they at first try to outrun the approaching train, but are finally forced to slide down the steep slope at the side of the tracks to avoid catastrophe. Five wordless double-page spreads of the passing train cars underscore the relief and the terror of the children who are humbled

by their close brush with disaster: "We walked home without a word. . . . We didn't tell anyone. We didn't talk about what happened for a very long time."
(Ages 6-9)

Garland, Sarah. BILLY AND BELLE. U.S. edition: Reinhardt/Viking, 1992. 32 pages. (0-670-84396-2) \$13.00
School-aged Billy must take his preschool-aged sister Belle to class with him while Dad takes Mum to the hospital for the birth of a new baby. It's an exciting and extraordinary day for both of them -- not just because they're getting a new brother or sister but because it's pet day at school. Even with just a last minute notice, Belle manages to muster up a pet of her own to take to school: a spider! The full-color illustrations set in a comic-strip format are filled with amusing details of a bustling home life and a refreshingly disorderly school. Billy and Belle (and baby Adam) are biracial: their mother is white and their dad is Black.
(Ages 3-6)

Gauch, Patricia Lee. BRAVO, TANYA. Illustrated by Satomi Ichikawa. Philomel, 1992. 32 pages. (0-399-22145-X) \$14.95
The star of Dance, Tanya (Philomel, 1989) still loves to dance and now she's old enough to attend ballet classes as a bonafide member. But she finds that dancing is hard work and, though she manages to keep up with the her classmates, she still prefers dancing outdoors to the music in her head. Ichikawa's softly colored illustrations capture the exuberance and enthusiasm of an energetic child who loves to dance.
(Ages 4-7)

Guy, Rosa. BILLY THE GREAT. Illustrated by Caroline Binch. U.S. edition: Delacorte, 1992. 32 pages. (0-385-30666-0) \$15.00
From the time he was a baby, Billy's parents have had big plans for his future. When Billy was six, ten-year-old Rod moved in next door. Billy's parents think Rod plays too rough and they are wary of Rod's dad because he's a truck driver with broad shoulders and tattoos on his arms. But Billy thinks Rod is wonderful! After all, Rod always treats him like a big kid and taught him how to do a handstand after just three tries. An appealing picture story deals with the issue of class prejudice in a urban British neighborhood. Binch's marvelous watercolor paintings of Billy (who is black) from babyhood through young childhood capture the childlike energy and openness that make him truly great. (Ages 4-8)

Hughes, Shirley. THE BIG ALFIE OUT OF DOORS STORYBOOK. U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1992. 62 pages. (0-688-11428-8) \$17.00
Four stories and four poems about Alfie and his little sister Annie Rose feature family experiences outside the house and sometimes away from home. Alfie and Annie Rose play "shop"; Alfie and Dad try overnight camping in a nearby field; Alfie

and Grandma encounter a lost sheep; and Alfie loses track of a rounded stone he named Bonting, a personified object currently acknowledged within the family as important within the boy's imaginative play. Hughes demonstrates a keen understanding of families with young children and a great talent for creating recognizable images of intergenerational and neighborhood life through her perceptive writing and vigorous full-color illustrations. Other books about this contemporary family include Alfie Gets in First (1981); Alfie's Feet (1982); Alfie Gives a Hand (1983), An Evening at Alfie's (1984) and The Big Alfie and Annie Rose Storybook (1989), all published in the U.S. by Lothrop. (Ages 2-5)

Johnson, Angela. THE LEAVING MORNING. Illustrated by David Soman. Orchard, 1992. 32 pages. (0-531-08592-9) \$14.95
"The leaving happened on a soupy, misty morning..." begins the account by a young African-American boy on the day the moving van came to help his family move from a city apartment to a new home. Although his narration focuses on the neighborhood he's leaving and the difficulty of leaving friends and family ("We said good-bye to the cousins all day long."), Johnson's text carries a subtle undercurrent of excitement and anticipation. The boy's changing moods are aptly depicted in Soman's watercolor illustrations, which also realistically show the older sister looking wistful and tentative while the parents seem to glow with happiness and confidence. (Ages 3-6)

Lindenbaum, Pija. BOODIL MY DOG. Translated from the Swedish by Gabrielle Charbonnet. U.S. edition: Henry Holt, 1992. 48 pages. (0-8050-2444-1) \$14.95
According to the narrator of this story, Boodil the bullterrier is the most amazing dog in the world -- only her remarkable self-control keeps her from tearing the dreaded vacuum cleaner to pieces, for example. While Boodil's adoring owner describes all of her dog's endearing and impressive qualities, viewers get quite a different picture from the illustrations of a quite ordinary, slightly lethargic, pink-tummied, overstuffed sausage of a dog who is, indeed, everything her enthusiastic owner imagines her to be -- and more! (Ages 3-7)

McCully, Emily Arnold. MIRETTE ON THE HIGH WIRE. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1992. 32 pages. (0-399-22130-1) \$14.95
Mirette works daily in her mother's boardinghouse doing laundry, cleaning, assisting in the kitchen and running errands. Most of the guests came from the entertainment world, so someone finally recognized the man who had wanted to take his meals alone in his secluded room. After seeing the lodger balance himself on the clothesline, Mirette had already become acquainted with the retired high-wire walker and begged him to teach her that skill. "Once you start, your feet are never happy again on the ground," he told the child who then practiced in secret. Nineteenth-century Paris is the setting

for this story of about overcoming fear, taking risks and establishing trust that is illustrated with full-color paintings. (Ages 6-9)

McKissack, Patricia C. A MILLION FISH ... MORE OR LESS.

Illustrated by Dena Schutzer. Alfred A. Knopf, 1992.

32 pages. (0-679-80692-X) \$14.00

Inspired by the tall tales of Papa-Daddy and Elder Abbajon, young Hugh Thomas recounts a whopper of a fish tale of his own after a day of fishing on the Bayou Clapateaux. On his way home after having caught a million fish, he loses half of them to a wily alligator, half of the remaining lot to a band of pirate raccoons, several thousands more to a flock of attacking crows before running into his neighbor's greedy cat.

A well-paced, wildly funny story set in the Louisiana bayou, whimsically illustrated with boldly colored oil paintings.

(Ages 4-7)

Meddaugh, Susan. MARTHA SPEAKS. Houghton Mifflin, 1992. 32 pages. (0-395-63313-3) \$13.95

The adage "you are what you eat" is only too true in Martha's case. After innocently consuming some alphabet soup, Martha the dog is transformed into a talking canine when the letters from her meal travel to her brain instead of to her stomach. Her human family is delighted at first, as the two species exchange all types of never before shared information, but soon Martha's incessant gift of gab proves annoying. Crushed by her owners' disapproval, Martha takes a vow of silence, until the day her unique ability makes her an unexpected heroine. An unremarkable-appearing family pet, Martha's transformation into Superdog is described in a sophisticated text, humorously augmented with simple illustrations.

(Ages 4-8)

Mills, Claudia. A VISIT TO AMY-CLAIRE. Illustrated by Sheila Hamanaka. Macmillan, 1992. 32 pages. (0-02-766991-2)

\$14.95

Five-year-old Rachel can't wait to get to her seven-year-old cousin's house. She is anxious to repeat all the fun she remembers having with her the previous summer -- taking bubble baths, swinging on a tire swing and playing school. But once she and her family get to Amy-Claire's house, Rachel is in for a major disappointment because all Amy-Claire wants to do is play with Rachel's two-year-old sister, Jessie. Hamanaka's bold, sun-dappled oil paintings depict Amy-Claire as Asian-American while her cousins are biracial (Asian/white) in a realistic story about imaginary play and shifting family relationships. (Ages 4-7)

Nodar, Carmen Santiago. ABUELITA'S PARADISE. Illustrated by Diane Paterson. Albert Whitman, 1992. 32 pages.

(0-8075-0129-8) \$13.95

After her abuelita (grandmother) dies, Marita cuddles up in the rocking chair and faded blanket Abuelita has left to her.

As she rocks, she remember stories her grandmother told her about her childhood in Puerto Rico, a time and place which seemed like a paradise to her. Brightly colored watercolor illustrations skillfully blend the present, recent past and distant past into a visual continuum of family traditions. (Ages 4-7)

Pinkney, Gloria Jean. BACK HOME. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Dial, 1992. 40 pages. (0-8037-1168-9) \$15.00
Eight-year-old Ernestine travels south by train for a mid-20th century summer visit with relatives in rural North Carolina. Except for Cousin Jack's teasing, she immediately feels at home in her mother's childhood environs. Ernestine tries to overlook Jack's condescending attitude while exploring the farm, learning about its animals, visiting a family cemetery and seeing the house where she was herself born. Period details support the text and can also found in household objects, clothing and vehicles so faithfully pictured in Pinkney's luminous illustrations created with pencil, colored pencils and watercolor. Heritage, memory, renewal and family ties are linked in a strong vignette about an African-American family's warm welcome to their city relative. (Ages 4-8)

Plain, Ferguson. LITTLE WHITE CABIN. Pemmican Publications (Unit 2 - 1635 Burrows Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2X OT1), 1992. 24 pages. (paperback 0-921827-26-1) \$6.95
Waaboozoons is an Ojibway boy who passes by a little white cabin nearly every day when he's out walking. Some days he sees an elder known as Ol' Danny sitting on the cabin's front porch and when Waaboozoons sees him, the boy always calls out "Aniish naa?" (How are You?). He gets used to the fact that Ol' Danny never responds to his greeting. Much to the boy's surprise, however, one day the old man answers him and from that day on the two become good friends, with Ol' Danny teaching Waaboozoons much about the old ways. A quiet picture story, illustrated in distinctive dark-blue-and-white paintings by a self-taught Ojibway artist, shows the importance of respect for elders in the Native American value system. (Ages 5-8)

Pomerantz, Charlotte. SERENA KATZ. Illustrated by R.W. Alley. Macmillan, 1992. 32 pages. (0-02-774901-0) \$13.95
Serena Katz, New York City hardware store employee, is one of Mr. Duncan's best paint sale customers. The two establish such a good business relationship that Serena invites the entire Duncan family for a weekend visit from their Pennsylvania home. As they plan for their trip, the Duncan's find, to their surprise, that everyone knows of Serena Katz: the postmistress says she's a famous pool player, the school librarian saw her perform daredevil motorcycle stunts, and the garbage collector describes her legendary wedding cakes. Just who is the real Serena Katz? A charming story of a woman who has (and continues) to do it all! (Ages 4-7)

Rátz de Tagyos, Paul. A CONEY TALE. Clarion, 1992. 32 pages.
(0-395-58834-0) \$14.95

Any rabbit's ultimate fantasy come true is depicted in this tale of the giant carrot tree of Conage, a 17th century village in Flanders inhabited by coneys (or rabbits, as they are now known). The quiet farming community becomes obsessed with uprooting the big tree in the village square when it's accidentally discovered to be a colossal carrot. The understated text is perfectly complemented by illustrations of rotund brown rabbits with stumpy ears, some sporting Elizabethan ruffs, helmet-like caps or other period accessories. (Ages 4-7)

Reiser, Lynn. ANY KIND OF DOG. Greenwillow, 1992. 24 pages.
(0-688-10915-2) \$14.00

"Richard wanted a dog, any kind of dog. But his mother said a dog was too much trouble..." Each of the substitutes Richard's mother offers in place of a dog (caterpillar, mouse, alligator, lamb, etc.) has a feature in common with one breed of dog shown in the illustration on the facing page (an alligator, for example, is long like a dachshund) but Richard only wants a dog. The patterned language of the text balances the exaggerated humor of the illustrations in this delightful picture book. Honor Book, 1992 CCBC Caldecott Award Discussion. (Ages 3-6)

Ringgold, Faith. AUNT HARRIET'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN THE SKY. Crown, 1992. 32 pages. (0-517-58767-X) \$15.00

Cassie Lighfoot, the eight-year-old who shared the glories of flying with little brother Be in Tar Beach (Crown, 1991), is at it again. This time she and Be take a dream journey to the past where they travel through history on the Underground Railroad with Harriet Tubman herself. Details about the harsh realities of slavery and the dangers fugitives faced are balanced (but never trivialized) by Ringgold's stunning oil paintings which show Cassie's childlike, whimsical interpretations of Aunt Harriet's oral account of history: she pictures the Underground Railroad, for example, as a real train and Harriet Tubman dressed in a conductor's hat and apron. A two-page note at the book's end offers biographical information about Harriet Tubman as well as list of resources. Winner, 1992 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Illustration. (Ages 6-11)

Scott, Ann Herbert. ON MOTHER'S LAP. Illustrated by Glo Coalson. Revised edition: Clarion Books, 1992. 32 pages.

(0-395-58920-7) \$14.95

A newly illustrated edition of a picture book first published in 1972 features an Iñupiaq toddler learning to share his mother's attentions with a baby sister. Family bonds and homey security are depicted in both the text and full-color illustrations. The realistic, childlike conflict, reassuring resolution and patterned text make this a favorite read-aloud for young preschoolers. (Ages 2-4)

Shannon, George. LAUGHING ALL THE WAY. Illustrated by Meg McLean. Houghton Mifflin, 1992. 32 pages. (0-395-62473-8) \$13.95
Duck is in a foul mood as his day goes from bad to worse. Worst of all, he's grabbed by Bear who intends to pluck his feathers for a soft winter bed. Duck's anger and frustration express themselves through a series of spoonerisms which are bound to amuse young listeners almost as much as they amuse Bear (who laughs so hard he loses his grip). Crisp, brightly colored line drawings add to the humor of this appealing picture story. (Ages 3-5)

Van Allsburg, Chris. THE WIDOW'S BROOM. Houghton Mifflin, 1992. 32 pages. (0-395-64051-2) \$17.95
When a witch's broom loses its power mid-flight and falls, rider and all, into Widow Shaw's vegetable patch, the kindly widow swallows her own fear and takes the wounded witch into her farmhouse. The witch leaves as soon as she has healed herself, just as Widow Shaw expected, but leaves the useless broom behind. The broom soon proves itself to be far from useless -- it feeds the chickens, chops wood, fetches water and, of course, never tires of sweeping. It, in fact, becomes something of a local celebrity until some of the townspeople feel that the broom is evil and demand that it be destroyed. This haunting tale appears to take place about two hundred years ago, although the theme of intolerance is especially pertinent to the late 20th century. Van Allsburg's gritty, soft-edged black-and-white illustrations continually shift perspectives and perfectly capture contrasting responses to the unexpected -- delight and fear. Meticulous attention to detail is evident on every page, right down to the physical shape of the book, tall and slender like a broom. Winner, 1992 CCBC Caldecott Award Discussion. (Ages 6-11)

Wiesner, David. JUNE 29, 1999. Clarion, 1992. 32 pages. (0-395-59762-5) \$15.95
In Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey, child scientist Holly Evans uses helium balloons to launch vegetable seedlings into the sky so that she can study the effects of extraterrestrial conditions on their development. Six weeks later, giant turnips descend on Montana. In fact, each region of the United States is soon dealing with giant vegetables of some form or another. Wiesner's hilarious paintings of citizens throughout the nation creatively coping with an increase in produce (peas, for example, must be floated like barges down the Mississippi) are accompanied by cleverly understated captions which make this spoof on American resourcefulness even funnier. And what does scientist Evans conclude from her experiment? Even though she knows the giant vegetables aren't the results of her experiment (she never launched arugula!), only readers are let in on the truth behind this strange series of events. (Ages 4-9)

See also: Alef-Bet; Camping in the Temple of the Sun; Christmas at

Long Pond; Christmas Counting; Dreamcatcher; End of Winter; Farmer Duck; Fiddle-I-Fee; Great-Grandma Tells of Threshing Day; Habari Gani?=What's the News?; Hanukkah Lights, Hanukkah Nights; Heart of the Wood; Imani's Gift at Kwanzaa; Jonah and the Whale; Lily Cupboard; Max in Hollywood, Baby; My First Kwanzaa Book; Pigs From 1 to 10; Ride on the Red Mare's Back; Sami and the Time of the Troubles; Sofie's Role; Starry Night; Take Me Out To The Ballgame; Up North at the Cabin; What Comes in Spring?; Zebra-Riding Cowboy; section on Books for Babies and Toddlers

15 Fiction for Children

Baillie, Allan. ADRIFT. U.S. edition: Viking, 1992. 119 pages
(0-670-84474-8) \$14.00

It's bad enough that Flynn's little sister Sally is always tagging after him, but this particular time she brought her cat Nebu, too. Flynn's been looking forward to exploring the beach, but now his morning is spoiled by being asked, yet again, to "look after" Sally. He has to admit though, that Sally was the one to find the huge wooden crate washed up on shore, a box big enough to hold both children and the cat. Playing pirates is fun, even with Sally, and Flynn's not overly alarmed when Sally points out that their crate has drifted away from shore -- until they both realize that they're unable to direct it back to land. The game quickly turns to frightening reality as Flynn tries to cope with Sally, Nebu, and his own anxiety when the current takes them further and further from their familiar beach. A suspenseful adventure is realistically presented from a child's perspective, as Flynn realizes there is little he can do to save himself and his younger sister. (Ages 9-12)

Bauer, Marion Dane. GHOST EYE. Illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman. Scholastic Hardcover, 1992. 82 pages. (0-590-45298-3)
\$12.95

Purrloom Popcorn, a white Cornish rex cat with one blue and one gold eye, is proud of his "Best of Best" championship status at cat shows. His ever-changing agents provide him with the highest quality food and care. He hardly even misses being cuddled or coddled, attentions he has a vague memory of receiving long ago, before his owner became ill. After her death, Popcorn is dismayed to be sent home from the pet shows to a house now occupied by his owner's grand-niece and her parents. Even more upsetting than his comedown in status, however, are the other cats that await him -- ghost cats, that Popcorn can see only through his gold eye. Popcorn eventually learns the value of love and affection as he, and his new owner, develop their relationship. (Ages 8-11)

Davis, Ossie. JUST LIKE MARTIN. Simon & Schuster, 1992.
215 pages. (0-671-73202-1) \$14.00

The year is 1963, and 14-year-old Isaac wants to go to the

March on Washington. Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s preaching and teaching about nonviolence inspired Isaac and other African-American youth from church to become active in this dimension of the struggle for equality. Reverend Cable has confidence in Isaac's leadership, but for some reason Isaac's daddy doesn't, even though the men are longtime friends who also went together to Korea to fight in the war. Family and community tensions build, especially after a bombing of the church building causes tragic deaths in this Alabama community. Effective dialogue develops characterizations and moves the plot that tells about the church involvement of some of the courageous African-American youth in the Civil Rights Movement. (Ages 11-14)

Greenfield, Eloise. KOYA DELANEY AND THE GOOD GIRL BLUES.
Scholastic Hardcover, 1992. 124 pages. (0-590-43300-8)
\$13.95

Koya loves to laugh, and she'll do anything to make those around her laugh too. Her abundant sense of humor and dedication to diffusing potentially difficult situations is often appreciated by her friends and family, but at times Koya is so intent on producing good feelings that she denies her own occasional, but inevitable, emotions of anger and unhappiness. When her cousin, a pop music star, comes to town for a concert, Koya is thrilled at the opportunity to attend the event, but a conflict between her sister and best friend threatens to create a situation that even Koya cannot prevent. A fast-paced novel for young readers, Koya's story skillfully combines light-hearted scenes of popular music and double-dutch competitions with the struggle of learning to deal with one's positive and negative feelings. (Ages 8-11)

Geller, Mark. WHO'S ON FIRST? A Charlotte Zolotow
Book/HarperCollins, 1992. 60 pages. (0-06-021084-2) \$13.95
The familiar gag of "who's on first?" aptly describes the scenario of this short humorous novel about a younger brother's attempt to act as matchmaker for his adult sister. Although the solution to the mix-up is always evident to the reader, one still enjoys watching the confusion unravel in this well-written, easy to read sibling story. (Ages 8-11)

Hamilton, Virginia. DRYLONGSO. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney.
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992. 54 pages. (0-15-224241-4)
\$18.95.

Growing up on a farm in the drought-stricken Midwest of the 1970s, Lindy can barely remember a time when mud and cloudbursts were ordinary features of her landscape. She is sustained by the memories of her gentle, loving parents who patiently answer Lindy's questions about life in easier times past. But even her parents' stories haven't prepared her for the day of the windstorm when a strange young man named Drylongso literally blows into their lives. Full-page, full-color pastel and watercolor paintings appear on nearly every double-page spread of this powerful story about hope, hard

work and a gifted people who can make something out of nothing. Honor Book, 1992 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Writing. (Ages 7-11)

Henkes, Kevin. WORDS OF STONE. Greenwillow, 1992. 152 pages. (0-688-11356-7) \$13.00.

Struggling with his mother's death of several years earlier, Blaze feels small and fearful, until he meets Joselle. Joselle is as outspoken and active as Blaze is reserved, although her behavior is often a product of her own problems with her inconsistent mother, "The Beautiful Vicki." Blaze and Joselle's unpredictable relationship is fraught with secrets that eventually create an uncrossable chasm between them, although the strengths they have both gained from their friendship are not lost when it dissolves. Stunning characterizations highlight the remarkable story of Blaze and Joselle. (Ages 9-12)

Hesse, Karen. LETTERS FROM RIFKA. Henry Holt, 1992. 148 pages. (0-8050-1964-2) \$14.95.

When a case of ringworm prevents Rifka from joining her Russian family as they emigrate to the United States, she spends nine months living in Warsaw, with her care overseen by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. During that time, and the following journey by boat to the United States, Rifka writes "letters" in the margins of a book of Pushkin to a cousin still in Russia, telling of her loneliness, fear and determination to join her family. Rifka's compelling story, relating her burgeoning maturity and ability to cope with her situation, is presented in letter format. (Ages 9-12)

King-Smith, Dick. SOPHIE'S TOM. Illustrated by David Parkins. U.S. edition: Candlewick, 1992. 110 pages. (1-56402-107-6) \$14.95

Small, stolid, and determined, five-year-old Sophie is resolute in her plan to be a farmer when she grows up. She's thrilled with the model farm and animals she receives for her birthday and Christmas, but even these wonderful gifts fall short of her true dream: owning real animals, like the stray cat that's been appearing in the yard. Despite her parent's mandate against pets, Sophie contrives to keep Tom in the seldom-used potting shed, where she stores her version of "herds and flocks": woodlice, centipedes, earthworms, earwigs, slugs and snails. Readers who met this unforgettable "lady farmer" in Sophie's Snail (Delacorte, 1989) will be delighted to see her again, and those who are encountering the redoubtable Sophie for the first time are in for a treat. (Ages 7-9)

Le Guin, Ursula K. A RIDE ON THE RED MARE'S BACK. Illustrated by Julie Downing. Orchard, 1992. 48 pages. (0-531-05991-X) \$15.95

Inspired by a Swedish red wooden Dalarna Horse, the author created a tale about the horses when she discovered that no

such legend existed. Common folkloric motifs and elegant writing characterize the story of a girl's clever and courageous rescue of her younger brother from the trolls who have abducted him. Illustrated pages alternate with text only double-page spreads in this picture-book format original tale for elementary school-age readers. (Ages 7-9)

Mahy, Margaret. *UNDERRUNNERS*. U.S. edition: Viking, 1992. 169 pages. (0-670-84179-X) \$14.00

Eleven-year-old Tris is a loner who enjoys playing in the fields around his rural New Zealand home with his imaginary friend Selsey Firebone. Unlike Tris, Selsey Firebone is daring, strong, adventurous and more than ready to take on invaders from outer space that seem to plague Tris's backyard.

Tris himself is having to deal with very real, and even more threatening invaders -- his father's new girlfriend, Victoria, and her young daughter, Rosie. And then there's Winola, a new girl from the neighboring children's home who has an immediate and uncanny understanding of Selsey Firebone and who is fighting off some invaders of her own. This fast-paced, funny novel presents a realistic portrait of two children who are awkward outsiders in the real world, but self-confident, creative insiders in the world of imagination. (Ages 9-12)

Myers, Walter Dean. *MOP, MOONDANCE, AND THE NAGASAKI KNIGHTS*. Delacorte, 1992. 150 pages. (0-385-30687-3) \$14.00

Can T.J., Moondance, Mop, and the rest of their championship baseball team find victory again? The Elk's competition is stiff, as they face a tournament with visiting teams from Japan, Mexico, and France. It doesn't help that a new member of the Elks seems to be having some problems of his own, while another local team and its coach are promoting a nationalistic "win at all costs" attitude that the Elks don't agree with. Homelessness, chauvinistic attitudes, and lots of baseball combine in this easy-to-read sequel to Me, Mop and the Moondance Kid (Delacorte, 1988). (Ages 8-11)

Pierce, Tamora. *WILD MAGIC: THE IMMORTALS*. A Jean Karl Book/Atheneum, 1992. 260 pages. (0-689-31761-1) \$16.95

Onua is happy to hire Daine as an assistant to help drive a herd of ponies back to Tortall, especially when she observes the skill and ease with which Daine manages the beasts. Onua soon suspects that the young woman's abilities with animals come from a magical gift, although Daine denies any special powers. But when the two encounter perilous immortal creatures during their journey together, even Daine must admit that Onua may be right in her suspicions. Fans of the author's Song of the Lioness quartet, published by Atheneum (Alanna: The First Adventure, 1983; In the Hand of the Goddess, 1984; The Woman Who Rides Like a Man, 1986; and Lioness Rampant, 1988) will be delighted with this introduction to a new fantasy series set in the Kingdom of Tortall, again featuring strong and independent female characters. (Ages 10-13)

Rylant, Cynthia. MISSING MAY. Orchard, 1992. 89 pages.
(0-531-05996-0) \$12.95

"It was a reliable garden, and friendly, and both Ob and me finally thought it right that May should have flown up out of her body right there in that friendly garden [...] Only this part of her death seemed right. [...] All the rest of it seemed so wrong, and it has been nearly six months [...] without her, and still I don't know what kind of life Ob and I are going to come up with for ourselves." Summer and Ob are lost after May's death, and their life together threatens to be disrupted forever, until Cletus starts showing up as an unwelcome (in Summer's opinion) visitor. Ob shows an interest in Cletus and his strange ways, and soon Summer, Ob, and Cletus are on the road to Putnam County to consult a spiritualist about May. Although the consultation fails in every way, their car trip helps trigger an emotional journey to recovery. Exceptional writing and memorable characters are found in this short novel about loss, friendship, and love. Honor Book, 1992 CCBC Newbery Award Discussion. (Ages 9-14)

Sargent, Sarah. JERRY'S GHOSTS: THE MYSTERY OF THE BLIND TOWER. Bradbury, 1992. 133 pages. (0-02-778035-X) \$13.95

Whether he's rushing a baby from a burning building, or single-handedly preventing an armed robbery, 11-year-old Jerry secretly fantasizes about bravery and fame. Anything to ease the reality of his non-eventful sixth-grade life, especially since his mother left him with her parents to spend the semester in a small Wisconsin town. Jerry's convinced that nothing ever happens in this quiet spot, where compulsive homeowners "cut their grass with [...] scissors so it's lined up with the sidewalk." When he meets two young ghosts at the public museum, however, Jerry no longer needs to resort to daydreaming to add excitement to his life -- reality is almost more than he can handle. A likeable hero, Jerry lends an air of realism and credibility to this ghostly tale of intrigue and young romance. (Ages 9-12)

Smothers, Ethel Footman. DOWN IN THE PINEY WOODS. Alfred A. Knopf, 1992. 151 pages. (0-679-80360-2) \$14.00.

Based on the author's own childhood experiences in rural Georgia, this story of an extended African-American family exudes a strong regional voice. Ten-year-old Annie Rye is less than pleased when her Mama announces that her three half-sisters are coming to live with Annie Rye, and her younger brother and sister. The animosity Annie Rye feels is strongly shared by one of her newly arrived sisters, and they, along with their other siblings and parents, must work out a way to live together as a family. The sibling rivalry is convincingly presented in a family novel containing both humor and sober reality. (Ages 9-12)

Soto, Gary. THE SKIRT. Illustrated by Eric Velasquez. Delacorte, 1992. 74 pages. (0-385-30665-2) \$14.00

Miata Ramirez is devastated when she discovers she's left her folklórico skirt -- her mother's skirt from Mexico -- on the schoolbus. It's Friday afternoon and Miata's supposed to wear the skirt at Sunday afternoon's folk dance. Unable to admit that she's forgotten the skirt, Miata convinces a friend to join her in a Saturday afternoon secret expedition to the fence-enclosed lot where the buses are parked. Of course, nothing turns out quite as planned in this easy to read, short novel printed in clear, large typeface. (Ages 8-11)

Stolz, Mary. STEALING HOME. HarperCollins, 1992. 153 pages.
(0-06-021154-7) \$13.95

Thomas is happy with his life with Grandfather. Fishing, listening to baseball games, and putting together jigsaw puzzles in their small Florida home is, as Thomas puts it, "cozy." But when Grandfather's sister-in-law Linzy arrives from Chicago for an extended, perhaps permanent, visit, Thomas's sense of coziness disappears. Aunt Linzy is a vegetarian who objects to fishing, she doesn't understand baseball, and she seems obsessed with cleaning. Worst of all, Thomas's cat Ringo seems to be abandoning him in favor of the new arrival. Mary Stolz has created an entertaining and appealing novel about Thomas and his Grandfather, to follow the picture book Storm in the Night (Harper, 1988) and the beginning reader Go Fish (HarperCollins, 1991). (Ages 8-11)

Tate, Eleanora E. FRONT PORCH STORIES AT THE ONE-ROOM SCHOOL. Illustrated by Eric Velasquez. Bantam Skylark, 1992. 98 pages. (0-553-08384-8) \$15.00

With nothing to do on a hot summer evening, Margie wishes she had gone to a Tupperware party with her mother, until her Daddy takes her and her cousin Ethel to the school's front steps, and starts telling stories. His stories are always good, and these are no exception as he tells scary, funny, and sad stories about what it was like when he was growing up in Missouri. The tales flow easily from the present into the past and back again, and from one story to the next, as they feature an African-American family and community. (Ages 8-11)

Whelan, Gloria. GOODBYE, VIETNAM. Alfred A. Knopf, 1992. 135 pages. (0-679-82263-1) \$13.00

Forced to flee Vietnam to avoid police persecution, Mai and her parents, siblings, and grandmother travel with many other refugees by boat to Hong Kong. The journey is arduous, as the boat experiences mechanical problems and its overcrowded occupants suffer from hunger, thirst, and illness. Upon arrival in Hong Kong, the refugees are immediately sent to a holding center, where they await permission to travel to another country, or be sent back to Vietnam. This contemporary short novel contrasts the desperate situation of many economic and political refugees with their determination to lead safe and fulfilling lives. (Ages 9-12)

Woodson, Jacqueline. MAIZON AT BLUE HILL. Delacorte, 1992.

131 pages. (0-385-30796-9) \$14.00

When Maizon accepts a scholarship to a private boarding school, she leaves behind her Grandmother, her best friend Margaret, and the familiarity of the community in which she's grown up. Blue Hill School offers many things, including stimulating classes with excellent teachers in a beautiful rural setting. It also forces Maizon to consider issues of race, prejudice, elitism and stereotypes in new ways, as she enters school as one of five African-American students. Maizon learns much about herself and the teachers and students around her, both white and black, as she struggles to decide whether to continue at Blue Hill or return to her home in the city. First met in Last Summer with Maizon (Delacorte, 1990), Maizon continues to ring true as an academically gifted, multi-faceted young woman. (Ages 9-12)

See also: Ahyoka and the Talking Leaves; Elijah's Angel; Safe at Home

16 Fiction for Teenagers

Baillie, Allan. LITTLE BROTHER. U.S. edition: Viking, 1992.

144 pages. (0-670-84381-4) \$14.00

When Vithy is separated from his brother Mang while trying to cross the Cambodian border into Thailand, he doesn't know how to continue. Mang had always been there to take care of Vithy, even to orchestrating their escape from the Big Paddy where they had been held captive for months. Now, faced with a treacherous journey and danger at every turn, Vithy longs for Mang's guidance. As he makes his way towards the border, Vithy gradually discovers that he too is capable of making wise decisions. Set in post-Vietnam War Cambodia, the story of Vithy's plight and growing self-reliance is both suspenseful and credible. (Age 11 and older)

Bauer, Joan. SQUASHED. Delacorte, 1992. 194 pages.

(0-385-30793-4) \$15.00

Ellie, and everyone else involved in the Rock River Pumpkin Weigh-In, knows that growing pumpkins is serious business. As Ellie says, "not all vegetables are this draining. Lettuce doesn't bring heartache. Turnips don't ask for your soul. Potatoes don't care where you are or even where they are. Tomatoes cuddle up to anyone who'll give them mulch and sunshine. But giants like Max need you every second." As the only teenager entered in the adult division of the weigh-in, 16-year-old Ellie is determined to win with her massive Max pumpkin this year, and glory in her defeat of the despicable Cyril Pool, who flaunts his blue ribbons. Things start to get hairy in this Iowa town as the weigh-in draws near, and disappearing pumpkins threaten disaster to Ellie's plans. It doesn't help that her father won't let her miss school to devote herself full time to her pumpkin-growing campaign, or that Sweet Corn Coquette, Sharrell Upton, is showing an

interest in new student Wes, just when Ellie suspects she has a chance with this fellow-agriculturist herself. Hilarious from start to finish, this midwestern novel by a first-time author is first-rate entertainment. (Age 14 and older)

Berry, James. AJEEMAH AND HIS SON. U.S. edition: A Willa Perlman Book/HarperCollins, 1992. 83 pages. (0-06-021043-5) \$12.95
Abducted as they are taking a dowry to his soon-to-be wife's parents, 18-year-old Atu and his father are sent by boat from Africa to Jamaica and sold to plantation owners. Separated by just a few miles on neighboring plantations, both men spend horrendous years in captivity, never knowing that the other is so near, and never able to get word to their family in Africa of their enslavement. The author's rich prose gives depth to this unforgettable short account of loss of freedom and family. Honor Book, 1992 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award
Discussion: Writing. (Age 14 and older)

Cormier, Robert. TUNES FOR BEARS TO DANCE TO. Delacorte, 1992. 101 pages. (0-385-30818-3) \$15.00
Henry's mother and father seem consumed by their grief over the death of his brother Eddie. When his father is hospitalized for his depression, Henry's mother's waitressing and his own job at Mr. Hairston's Corner Market become more important than ever. Mr. Hairston is aware of this, and uses Henry's vulnerability as he extends bribes (a fine gravestone for his brother) and threats (the loss of his job, the loss of his mother's job) to manipulate Henry into performing a violent act against an elderly Holocaust survivor Henry has recently befriended. A chilling tale which does eventually confirm Henry's decent nature allows the author to examine once again the abuse of power. (Age 14 and older)

Dickinson, Peter. AK. U.S. edition: Delacorte, 1992. 229 pages. (0-385-30608-3) \$15.00
"Automatically he moved his left hand an inch and closed it around the night-chilled metal of his AK. [...] he knew exactly who he was, Paul, Warrior, of the Fifth Special Commando of the Nagala Liberation Army, [...]. Who he was, what he was, all he was. Paul. Warrior. A boy with his own gun." When it appears peace is at hand in the imaginary African country of Nagala, Paul Kagomi buries his AK and temporarily leaves behind life as he has always known it: fighting as a guerrilla with his "uncle" Michael's commando unit. The truce is short-lived, and Paul soon leaves school with his friend Jilli to recover his AK and attempt a rescue of Michael, now being held prisoner by a new military regime. Although the characters and setting in this novel set sometime in the future are fictional, Paul's life as a child who has always known war and actively participates in it as a gun-carrying guerrilla is a reality for many contemporary children. (Age 11 and older)

Hiçyilmaz, Gaye. AGAINST THE STORM. U.S. edition: Joy

Street/Little, Brown, 1992. 200 pages. (0-316-36078-3)
14.95

Mehmet's family leaves the village he's always known and moves to Ankara. They live marginally and miserably, receiving patronizing handouts and enduring more serious injustices from well-to-do relatives. Twelve-year-old Mehmet cannot fully comprehend the political matters and economics forcing his family to leave what seemed to be an idyllic life in rural Turkey. He quickly learns poverty's rules in the city and sees its effects on family members. Effective characterizations and sharply defined acts of moral courage distinguish this glimpse of contemporary Turkish life through the experiences of a young adolescent. A brief glossary and pronunciation guide are at the end of the novel. (Ages 11-14)

Kalman, Maira. MAX IN HOLLYWOOD, BABY. Viking, 1992. 32 pages.
(0-670-84479-9) \$15.00

A simple dog poet no longer, Max and his glamorous bride Crêpes Suzette have returned from Paris to the wilds of Hollywood, where Max is to write and direct a movie. Overcome by the egocentric aura all around him, Max is soon distracted by "Messages. Manicures. Aromatherapy. Acupuncture. Personal trainers. Power lunches. Waterfalls of mineral water." The movie and Max suffer as he wants MORE, until the sensible Crêpes Suzette brings him back to earth. The book creator has let loose once again with her distinctive style of art and text, using color, motion, typeface size and placement to create a highly sophisticated and hilarious picture book, brimming with references to art and film, that demands a long and close examination by fans of Max's earlier adventures in Max Makes a Million (Viking, 1990) and Ooh-La-La, Max in Love (Viking, 1991). (Age 12 and older)

Koertge, Ron. THE HARMONY ARMS. Joy Street/Little, Brown, 1992.
177 pages. (0-316-50104-2) \$15.95

Burdened with the worst possible fate of adolescence -- an embarrassing parent -- middle-schooler Gabriel heads to L.A. for a month with his father, Sumner. As Sumner haggles with the studio over a movie script about his hand-puppet character Timmy the Otter, Gabriel experiences a life-style vastly different from that of his midwestern hometown. The residents of the Harmony Arms, Gabriel and Sumner's apartment complex, are an eccentric and fascinating lot, including a 90-year-old vegetarian nudist, a roller-blading psychic, and teenage Tess, who is making an on-going camcorder film of her life. Gabriel soon finds that one month in L.A. among his new companions offers a fresh perspective on many things, including his sometimes embarrassing father. (Age 13 and older)

Laird, Elizabeth. KISS THE DUST. U.S. edition: Dutton, 1992.
278 pages. (0-525-44893-4) \$15.00

Tara's life is turned upside down almost overnight, as she must abandon her usual lifestyle as a typical 12-year-old Kurd to assume that of a refugee fleeing from the Iraqi secret

police with her family. Tara and her parents hide first in the mountains of Kurdistan in northern Iraq before moving on to Iran. In all of the settings, from a rustic mountain dwelling to internment camps, Tara must deal with the ordeals and disorientation of being kept from one's home. This contemporary story creates a compelling image of the large and small scale problems, from social to political to economic to religious, encountered by those forced to retreat from all that is familiar. (Age 12 and older)

Myers, Walter Dean. *SOMEWHERE IN THE DARKNESS*. Scholastic Hardcover, 1992. 168 pages (0-590-42411-4) \$14.95. Jimmy has little choice when his long-absent father Crab re-enters his life and takes him off on a trip to Chicago. Crab has experienced many failures and losses in his life, but he is determined to make a last effort to connect with Jimmy. Unsure and untrusting of each other at first, often with good reason, Jimmy and Crab slowly develop a relationship as father and son, although neither can be completely open about their feelings with the other. Walter Dean Myers excels at creating strong characterizations and showing emotions from the outside, as readers watch Jimmy grow and develop during his time with Crab. (Age 12 and older)

Paulsen, Gary. *THE HAYMEADOW*. Illustrated by Ruth Wright Paulsen. Delacorte, 1992. 195 pages. (0-385-30621-0) \$15.00
A survival story in the manner of earlier Paulsen novels such as *Hatchet* (Bradbury, 1987) and *Dogsong* (Bradbury, 1985), *The Haymeadow* is set in a four-square mile valley high in the Wyoming mountains where the Barron's summer their herd of six thousand sheep. When the hired hand is unable to take the herd up as usual, fourteen-year-old John Barron is given the responsibility, with the help of two horses and four dogs. John can't comprehend how he will survive the summer alone with the animals in the isolated valley, and it soon seems that he is making more mistakes than he thought possible as he experiences river flooding and coyote attacks. In some ways, though, his physical isolation doesn't seem much different from what he feels at the ranch from his reticent father. While John discovers how to handle his responsibility with the herd, he also learns about his father during a late season visit. (Age 12 and older)

Temple, Frances. *TASTE OF SALT: A STORY OF MODERN HAITI*. A Richard Jackson Book/Orchard, 1992. 179 pages. (0-531-08609-7) \$14.95.
The powerful stories of two Haitian teenagers, Djo and Jeremie, speak to the loyalty they both feel for their country. Djo was one of Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide's "boys" engaged in an ongoing street fight against military dictatorship in Haiti, until he was taken against his will to work in the sugarcane fields of the Dominican Republic. It is three long years before he is able to escape back to Haiti.

Soon after his return he is badly injured in a firebombing attack on Titid's boys. As he lies in a hospital bed, Djo tells his story to Jeremie, who has a tale of her own. Jeremie and Djo's contemporary voices are a riveting testament to a country in political turmoil and to the liberating power of literacy. Winner, 1992 CCBC Newbery Award Discussion. (Age 12 and older)

Walsh, Jill Paton. GRACE. U.S. edition: Farrar Straus Giroux, 1992. 255 pages. (0-374-32758-0) \$16.00. Based on an actual event well-known to British children but less familiar in this country, Grace recounts the hazardous rescue of a ship-wrecked vessel by Grace Darling and her father in 1838. Praise for the lighthouse dwellers' bravery is quickly tempered by hostility from the townspeople who accuse the Darlings of stealing the reward away from the local lifeboat rescue team. The Darlings' life is changed forever, as they deal with both fame and resentment. Grace becomes a 19th century media superstar, receiving letters, gifts, and daily visits from an adoring public. The unwanted attention wears on Grace, and she soon succumbs to illness and death. While the authentic dialect may be challenging to some readers, this exciting account of heroism and its unpleasant aftermath is a fascinating, fast-paced novel. (Age 14 and older)

Wieler, Diana. BAD BOY. U.S. edition: Delacorte, 1992. 184 pages. (0-385-30415-3) \$15.00. A.J. loves hockey. But lately he's started to lose control, to love the violence on the ice better than the play. "The winger was struggling, trying to protect his face. But A.J. was strong. His heart was thumping and the adrenaline was singing and he knew he could have lifted the winger off the ice. Easy. [...] He couldn't stop. Even when his hand came back wet he couldn't stop. [...] The whole world was the rhythm of his arm and the love song descending from the stands." A.J. has made the team after a shaky start, and he's determined to do his best. His confusion when he discovers that his best friend and teammate is gay, and his resentment of his father's dating of a young woman, lead him to exploit his potential on the ice, where his out-of-control violence is encouraged by the coach and fans. Realistic hockey scenes coupled with A.J.'s struggle to stay in control create a credible story for teenagers. (Age 13 and older)

Wilson, Budge. THE LEAVING, AND OTHER STORIES. U.S. edition: Philomel, 1992. 207 pages. (0-399-21878-5) \$14.95 From Jan, whose ideal fantasy image of her absent father is shattered by an old photograph, to Edna who writes increasingly intimate details of her 13-year-old life to a non-responsive penpal, only to finally discover with humiliation that the recipient is male, the girls and women of these nine short stories are unforgettable characters. Winner of the Canadian Young Adult Book Award, The Leaving is an

outstanding collection of stories about young women finding their place in the world. (Age 12 and older)

See also: Letters From a Slave Girl

17 New Editions of Classic Literature

Coleridge, Samuel Taylor. THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER.

Illustrated by Ed Young. Atheneum, 1992. 64 pages.

(0-689-31613-5) \$16.95

Stunning art accompanying the full text of Coleridge's classic ballad turns an English classic frequently consigned to textbooks into an exciting personal reading adventure. The elegant 11 ¼ x 8 ¼" illustrated volume creates an appropriately eerie and alarming mood due to Young's striking art rendered in pastels and charcoal. A handsome edition, excellent as a family read-aloud. (Ages 9-13)

Lear, Edward. A WAS ONCE AN APPLE PIE. Illustrated by Julie

Lacome. U.S. edition: Candlewick, 1992. 28 pages.

(1-56402-000-2) \$13.95

Lear's punchy nonsense alphabet poem has delighted small children since it was first published in England in 1871. In this most recent incarnation, Scottish artist Julie Lacome gives the alphabet a decidedly American twist by illustrating each letter with boldly colored torn paper collages in a style reminiscent of American folk art. This edition is as visually appealing to young children as it is verbally. (Ages 1-4)

Opie, Iona and Peter. I SAW ESAU: THE SCHOOLCHILD'S POCKET BOOK.

Illustrated by Maurice Sendak. U.S. edition: Candlewick, 1992. 160 pages. (1-56402-046-0) \$19.95

This profile of more than 170 early 20th century sayings was the first of more than a dozen books produced by Peter and Iona Opie, world experts on childhood play. Initially published in Great Britain in 1947 as I Saw Esau: Traditional Rhymes of Youth, the small volume documents verbal equipment with which British children of recent centuries persevered in playgrounds and neighborhoods. Opie explains that the sayings are "directly concerned with the exigencies of school life: the need for a stinging reply when verbally attacked;...for comic complaints in the face of persecution or the grinding drudgery of schoolwork; ...to know some clever rhymes by heart, with which to win popularity. They pass from one child to another without adult interference." Applauding Sendak's illustrations for the thick 7 ½ x 5 ½" new edition, Opie says his art makes the collection " ...more than ever a declaration of a child's brave defiance in the face of daunting odds." Rendered in full color and half-tones, Sendak's wee vignettes, sequences and whole page images capture the irreverence, audacity and impropriety of the numbered entries and footnotes. Children will love the book if "adult

interference" doesn't prevent them from seeing it; adults with an appetite for the grittiness of childhood will also enjoy this serious look at an incomparable work interpreting the tasteless, ribald humor typically savored by the young. (Age 5 and older)

Stevenson, Robert Louis. TREASURE ISLAND. Illustrated by Robert Ingpen. U.S. edition: Viking, 1992. 176 pages. (0-670-84685-6) \$20.00

First published in Scotland in 1883, this classic novel contains many elements leading to its continuing wide appeal: intrigue, mutiny, a treasure map, a young hero and a satisfying ending. The small typeface chosen for the lengthy but fast paced text is enlivened by over 30 full-color and more than 50 black-and-white illustrations by a highly regarded Australian artist. Stevenson's absorbing characters and vigorous plot are thus introduced to a new generation in an inviting 11 1/4 x 8 1/4" volume. (Ages 9 - 12)

Tagore, Rabindranath. PAPER BOATS. Illustrated by Grayce Bochak. Caroline House, 1992. 32 pages. (1-878093-12-6) \$14.95

A child launches paper boats on a string in the hope that someone in a village "in some strange land will find them and know who I am." Full-color paper assemblages offer a strikingly suitable medium to illustrate a selection first published in 1913 within one of Tagore's longer works, Crescent Moon. Written by the essayist, poet and playwright from India who won the Nobel Prize for Literature that year, this quiet edition echoes Tagore's belief that teaching and nature should blend together. (Ages 5-7)

18 The Compilers of CCBC CHOICES 1992

The Compilers of CCBC CHOICES 1992

Kathleen T. Horning is a librarian and coordinator of special collections at the Cooperative Children's Book Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is also a children's librarian at Madison Public Library. She is the editor of the 3rd and 4th editions of the ALTERNATIVE PRESS PUBLISHERS OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS; A DIRECTORY (Friends of the CCBC, Inc., 1988 and 1992) and the co-author with Ginny Moore Kruse of MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS (3rd edition, DPI, 1991). She is a contributor to THE MULTICOLORED MIRROR (Highsmith, 1991). She served on the American Library Association's 1987 and 1988 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 US/International Board of Books for Young People (IBBY) Hans Christian Andersen Awards Committee. She lectures and writes on children's literature subjects at the CCBC and elsewhere, including a quarterly book review column about small press children's books for the ALA journal BOOKLIST. She has a B.A. in Linguistics and a Master's Degree in Library and Information Studies, both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Ginny Moore Kruse is a librarian and director of the Cooperative Children's Book Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a former classroom teacher, school librarian, public librarian and college teacher of children's literature. As part of the CCBC's outreach services, she frequently lectures at the CCBC and elsewhere and teaches continuing education courses offered through the UW-Madison Office of Outreach Development. She is active on state and national Intellectual Freedom committees and is the

founder of the award-winning CCBC Intellectual Freedom Information Services. She has chaired or served on national children's literature award and distinction committees including the Newbery, Caldecott, Batchelder, Arbuthnot, Wilder, Coretta Scott King, Boston Globe-Horn Book, Jane Addams, and Teachers' Choices. She chairs the Editorial Advisory Board of the ALA journal BOOK LINKS.

She is co-author with Kathleen T. Horning of MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS (3rd edition, DPI, 1991) and contributor to THE MULTICOLORED MIRROR (Highsmith, 1991). She originated CCBC CHOICES with Susan C. 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.

Merri 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 MULTICOLORED MIRROR: CULTURAL SUBSTANCE IN LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS (Highsmith, 1991). She compiled and edited the CCBC RESOURCE LIST FOR APPEARANCES BY WISCONSIN BOOK CREATORS (2nd edition, 1990 and 3rd edition, 1993) and CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY WISCONSIN AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS ABOUT WISCONSIN; AN IDENTIFICATION RECORD OF TITLES PUBLISHED IN 1989 (1990); [...] IN 1990 (1991) and [...] IN 1991 (1992). She worked with Katy and Ginny on MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS (3rd edition, 1991). She co-authored CCBC CHOICES 1990 and 1991. 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 Pooh Corner and is an instructor of Adolescent and Young Adult Literature at Edgewood College.

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Purpose

The Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is a noncirculating examination, study and research children's and young adult literature library for adults. The purposes of the CCBC are: 1) to provide a collection of current, retrospective and historical books for children and young adults; 2) to provide Wisconsin librarians, teachers, students and others informational and educational services based on the collection; and 3) to support teaching, learning and research needs related to children's and young adult literature.

The CCBC is funded for these purposes by the UW-Madison, especially through the School of Education, and by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction/Division for Library Services. The CCBC was established in 1963.

Collection

The 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' 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. CCBC records are entered in the WISCAT statewide database.

The CCBC 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. CCBC publications on selected children's literature topics are available along with selected award and distinction lists and annual CCBC 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 CCBC participates in statewide and regional conferences through the provision of book examination exhibits and/or leadership in scheduled sessions. A two-day children's literature conference is cosponsored every other year with CCBC funding units and the UW-Madison Office of Outreach Development. Persons interested in attending lectures, workshops or conferences or in obtaining CCBC publications are asked to send a self-addressed, stamped envelope when they write requesting a list of CCBC Materials or a copy of THE CCBC THIS SEASON, a

quarterly flyer briefly listing CCBC current information and program services.

Governance of the Cooperative Children's Book Center

The CCBC 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 **Michael Streibel** with **Henry T. Trueba**, Dean of the School of Education, University of Wisconsin - Madison; and Administrator **Sally Drew**, Division for Library Services, with State Superintendent **Herbert J. Grover**, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the CCBC Director.

The CCBC Advisory Board represents CCBC users on the University of Wisconsin - Madison campus and from libraries and schools throughout Wisconsin. The 1992-1993 Advisory Board is chaired by **Rose Mary Leaver**, Library Services Coordinator, Arrowhead Library System, Janesville.

Members of the 1992-3 Advisory Board are: **Karen Algire**, 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, Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, UW-Madison & Reading Teacher/Reading Coordinator, Marinette Middle School; **James Brownlow**, Library, Bay Lane Middle School, Muskego; **Eve Bruce**, Media Specialist, Glen Park Elementary School, New Berlin & Advisory Board Liaison to the Board of Directors of the Friends of the CCBC, Inc.; **Rebecca Butler**, Doctoral Student, Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, UW-Madison; **Mary Ann Ehrike**, Elementary Librarian, Douglas Elementary School, Watertown; **Mary Louise Gomez**, Assistant Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, UW-Madison; **Martha M. Harris**, Multicultural Education Coordinator, Appleton Area School District; **Dianne M. Hopkins**, Associate Professor, School of Library and Information Studies, UW-Madison; **Jacque Karbon**, Consultant, Reading Education, Program Development Section, Bureau for School Improvement, Division for Instructional Services, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; **John Kean**, Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, UW-Madison & CCBC Faculty Contact with the University Library Committee; **Mary Keefer**, Public Services Librarian, UW-Oshkosh & President, Waupaca Public Library Board of Trustees; **Thomas R. Kennedy**, Supervisor of Library/Media, School District of Beloit; **Ellen Last**, Consultant, English/Language Arts Education, Program Development Section, Bureau for School Improvement, Division for Instructional Services, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; **Char Lemke**, District Director of Media and High School Library Media Specialist, Arcadia School District; **JoAnne Marshall**, Reading Specialist, Iowa-Grant Elementary/Middle School, Livingston; **Mildred McDowell**, Librarian, Bell Middle School, Milwaukee; **Susan Mevis**, Library Director, Arabut Ludlow Memorial Library, Monroe; **Carol Nelson**, Director of

Media Services, Eau Claire Area School District; **Mary Pinkerton**, Associate Professor, English Department, UW-Whitewater; **Christine Prevetti**, Librarian, Finney Public Library, Milwaukee; **Marianne Scheele**, Acquisitions Librarian, Reference and Loan Library, Bureau for Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; **Patricia Schutt**, Media Specialist, Baraboo Junior High School; **Kris Stabo**, Assistant Youth Librarian, Maude Shunk Youth Library, Menomonee Falls; **Joan Thron**, Doctoral Student, Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, UW-Madison & Lecturer of Literature/Language/Education, UW-Green Bay; **Carole Troxel**, 5th Grade Teacher, Jefferson School, Richland Center; **Kris Adams Wendt**, Assistant Director, Rhinelander District Library; and **Shirley S. Wilbert**, Professor of Library Science, College of Education and Human Services, UW-Oshkosh.

The Staff

In addition to Director **Ginny Moore Kruse** and Librarians **Kathleen T. Horning** and **Merri V. Lindgren**, the CCBC is staffed by undergraduate and graduate students. The student staff during the creation of **CCBC CHOICES 1992** included: **Elsa Alvarez** (1992), **Inga Banitt** (1992), **Melinda Brown** (1992), **Katherine Ebel**, **Tana Elias**, **William Fischer**, **Janice Gugino** (1992), **Margaret Hall**, **Joseph Hoopman** (1993), **Gretchen Revie** (1993), **Selina Ross**, **Noelle Rydell**, **Syl Saffold**, **Megan Schliesman** (1992), and **Amy Sinn**.

Volunteer staff members from the Friends of the CCBC, Inc., during 1992-1993 were **Marion Fuller Archer** and **Sally A. Davis**, along with **Joleen Conlan** (1992), **Melinda Brown** (1993) and **Megan Schliesman** (1993).

Public Service Schedule

The CCBC is open twelve months a year for public service to adults interested in contemporary or historical children's and young adult literature. As of February, 1993, the CCBC is open for public service 49 hours weekly during the Fall and Spring semesters: Monday-Thursday 10-8, Friday 10-4 and Saturday 10-1. Professional reference assistance is available on call 30 hours weekly.

During Summer School, CCBC is open weekly: Monday-Friday 10-4 and Saturday 10-4. During Intersession and University breaks, the CCBC is open: Monday-Friday 10-4.

Phone 608-263-3720 to confirm the public service hours during a particular university semester or other time.

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.

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