CCBC CHOICES 1993

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and Megan Schliesman
with Merri V. Lindgren

Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC)
School of Education
University of Wisconsin - Madison
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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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The Friends of the CCBC, Inc.

The Friends of the CCBC, Inc., is a membership organization that 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 1993*.

The Friends of the CCBC, Inc., underwrote the professional design, typesetting, layout, printing and binding of *CCBC Choices 1993*. Members of the 1993-1994 Friends of the CCBC, Inc., Board of Directors are: President - Carolyn J. Kleinfeldt; Vice-President - Rose Mary Leaver; Recording Secretary - Patti K. Sinclair; Treasurer - Marlys Sloup; Directors-at-Large: Nancy Gloe, Doris Grajkowski and Joan Mish. Eve Bruce serves as the liaison from the CCBC Advisory Board. Committee chairs during the year include Nancy Beck, Donald L. Crary, Barbara Huntington (1994), Helen F. Read (1993) 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 1993* as members of the Friends of the CCBC, Inc.

Kathleen T. Horning, Ginny Moore Kruse and Megan Schliesman
INTRODUCTION

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 of the UW-Madison School of Education. The CCBC is also supported annually by a contract with 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 1993, 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, the people they know or, even, themselves. These colleagues are looking for books which are commended for these reasons.

Throughout 1993 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.

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 books in **CCBC CHOICES** 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 the CCBC for address verification if you experience difficulty in locating any of the books recommended in **CCBC CHOICES**. We are aware that publishers of all sizes and in all regional locations, including New York City, change addresses and phone numbers frequently. The CCBC's public service hours, address and public service phone number are listed in a section at the end of this publication.

Book prices and ISBNs are cited for hardcover library editions and for books which are also available or only available in paperback editions at this time. 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. The CCBC's experience with small/alternative publishers for over ten years 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 1993**

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 they live, current members of the Friends of the CCBC receive a copy of this publication as one benefit of 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 four 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.)

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.

4) **FRIENDS OF THE CCBC NOTECARDS** featuring the art of Nancy Ekholm Burkert, Lois Ehlert, Kevin Henkes and Ellen Raskin. Set of 8 notecards (blank inside), 2 of each illustration, with 8 envelopes.
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 publications are not available for purchase at or through
The mysteries of nature are once again revealed by Bianca Lavies, this time focusing her camera on the dozens of living creatures, many too small for the unassisted eye to see, which turn our daily bread (and many other things) into rich, fertile soil through the compost process. Incredible photographs reveal a minute world of hard-working "critters," from sow bugs to earthworms, bacteria to fungi, all of which are part of our world, too, helping to keep it clean. The informative text is written in straightforward language which children will find anything but dull (because tomatoes really are mushy, and the hyphae of mold really is white and hairy looking). (Ages 7-11)

When spring comes, red-sided garter snakes wintering in the interlake region of northern Canada begin their ten-mile migration to marshland where they will spend the next four months. This seasonal journey and the active period of eating, growth, shedding and giving birth that follows are chronicled in this appealing text (there isn't just a gathering of snakes in this book, but a "wiggling, writhing carpet" of them). Color photographs of snakes in every imaginable situation (including keeping a friendly human company while she prepares her evening meal) further enhance appreciation for this slithering species. (Ages 7-11)

Owens, Mary Beth. COUNTING CRANES. Little, Brown, 1993. 32 pages. (0-316-67719-1) $14.95
The cycle of seasons provides the backdrop for an ingenious counting book which begins with one whooping crane looking for a mate in spring and ends with a flock of 15 cranes preparing to migrate north once again at winter's end. To each page a crane is added to the picture while the text describes some natural feature of the crane's habits and habitat. An added (but unstated) dimension involves the small crane population in existence today: 131 in 1993, up from an all-time low in 1941 of only 15 cranes. (Ages 3-7)

Breathtaking color photographs convey the expansive beauty of the Arctic landscape while capturing intimate moments of life in this far northern region of Alaska. Beginning in winter, when "the moon shines night and day on the vast, dark land," this book follows the seasons - through spring when the first delicate flowers bloom, on to summer "when nights are as light as days," and into fall, when "the land is yellow and red" and some animals
begin gathering food for the winter while others prepare to migrate. The plants and animals living in the Arctic for all or part of the year are exquisitely - sometimes humorously - highlighted in these photographs, which are accompanied by Pandell's thoughtful narrative. A "Notes" section provides readers with information on some of the animals that live in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge where the photographs were taken. (Ages 7-11)

Behavioral ecologist Patricia Moehlman's two decades of field observations of two jackal species on the Serengeti Plain of Tanzania in East Africa are summarized in language easily understood by anyone unfamiliar with this community of creatures and with the findings of this world authority on jackals. Moehlman's color photographs of her subjects offer superb support to Pringle's absorbing report of Moehlman's work and studies showing that jackal behavior differs from that commonly attributed to them in folklore and fiction. Pringle explains Moehlman's reluctance to use the radio collars and dart guns often employed to track and study many wildlife species, and he tells of her conservation work with others in Tanzania. (Ages 7-13)

When spring comes to the arctic region, first a polar bear, Arctic hare and Arctic fox come out of hibernation, then a seal notices sunlight filtering through the ice and searches for an airhole. Brief descriptions of changes (longer days, ice breaking up, snow melting) are accompanied by realistic pen-and-ink drawings with watercolor washes, showing the impact of the changes on the three animals introduced on the first few pages. A top-notch science book for the very young capitalizes on the natural curiosity and interests of preschoolers to present an authentic depiction of an ecosystem. (Ages 3-6)

Wu, Norbert. FISH FACES. Henry Holt, 1993. 32 pages. (0-8050-1668-6) $15.95
Fish of all shapes, sizes, and colors swim across the pages in this vivid exploration of life beneath the sea. Entrancing underwater photographs capture dozens of different fish in motion, from the graceful southern stingray to the unforgettable fully-inflated guinea fowl puffer. Simple descriptive statements mark notable features about the fish pictured on each set of pages ("Fish that glide on fins like wings", "Spotted fish / dotted fish"). The species appearing page by page are identified in a "Notes" section at the end of the book. (Ages 6-8)

See also: Dear Rebecca, Winter Is Here; In the Small, Small Pond; Take Action
SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS

Ancona, George. PABLO REMEMBERS; THE FIESTA OF THE DAY OF THE DEAD. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1993. 48 pages. (0-688-11250-1) $15.00
A color photodocumentary explanation of el Día de Los Muertos features a Mexican family's observances of The Day of the Dead beginning October 31 or All Hallow's Eve. Bakers make special bread, candy makers create sugar skulls, marigolds are harvested, women prepare special foods and children cut out cardboard skeletons in anticipation of the fiesta. Family altars are readied in advance of bell-ringing that signals the spirits' return and heralds the activities and visits that are part of the three-day family and community event. Ancona's camera and text feature Pablo, his three sisters and parents as they honor the memory of their ancestors, especially their grandmother who died two years ago. Spanish words used in context or defined as necessary amplify Ancona's interpretation in a book measuring 8 1/4" by 10 1/8" in size and larger in importance. (Ages 5-9)

Ancona, George. POWWOW. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1993. 48 pages. (0-15-263268-9) $16.95 (paperback 0-15-263269-7, $6.95) Dynamic color photographs underscore Ancona's explanation about the Crow Fair in Montana, the biggest powwow in North America. Readers see how the people gather on the prairie to renew acquaintance and celebrate the shared heritage of Lakota, Ojibwa, Cheyenne, Crow, Cree, Blackfeet, Fox and other Native peoples. The opening parade, role of the drum, and main types of dancing are explained and pictured. Whether a dancer wears Traditional, Fancy, Grass, or Jingle-dress clothing, each one has practiced long before donning the specific celebratory garments at this event. Occasionally Ancona details the enjoyment and excitement of Anthony Standing Rock, a young Traditional dancer, and other children at this annual reaffirmation of shared American Indian heritage and tradition. This striking 8 3/4" by 11 1/4" account pictures a community created in one place annually for a carefully prepared tribute to its common history. (Ages 5-11)

Delacre, Lulu. VEJIGANTE MASQUERADER. Scholastic, 1993. 40 pages. (0-590-45776-4) $14.95
Since 1858, boys and men in Ponce, Puerto Rico, have celebrated Carnival for the entire month of February. These masqueraders or vejigantes wear clown-like costumes and papier mâché masks resembling animals. Delacre's English = Spanish story based upon this local custom features young Ramón, who has found ways to create his first vejigante costume and work in exchange for a mask so that he can participate in the merriment with the older boys. During the opening festivities, Ramón's foolhardy actions gain the boys' respect but also ruin his costume. Bilingual information about three masqueraders from Mexico, Spain and Venezuela; directions for making a vejigante mask; several vejigante chants; a glossary; and a bibliography support the story. All portions of this unique 9 1/2" by 10 1/4" picture
book are illustrated in full color with art created in watercolor with colored pencils and pastels. (Ages 5-9)

Edwards, Michelle. BLESSED ARE YOU; TRADITIONAL EVERYDAY HEBREW PRAYERS. Translated from the Hebrew by Michelle Edwards. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1993. 32 pages. (0-688-10760-5) $15.00
Brief traditional Hebrew prayers suggest opportunities for opening and closing the day, asking for comfort and offering expressions of thanksgiving and wonder. Thirteen texts are decorated with small paintings and borders and printed in Hebrew and English with transliterations of the Hebrew on the left side of each double page spread. Each full-page picture on the right side suggest a contemporary family - most often a brother and sister with their baby brother - engaged in ordinary activities: camping in the backyard, baking bread, watching a thunderstorm, playing on an ocean beach, burying a tiny dead pet in the woods, enjoying a book together on the sofa. The children are not pictured praying "because remembering God is part of their everyday lives." The distinctive full-color paintings and decorations were created for the 9 1/4" by 11" book in watercolor, gouache and colored pencil. (Ages 3-6)

Farber, Norma. WHEN IT SNOWED THAT NIGHT. Illustrated by Petra Mathers. HarperCollins, 1993. 32 pages. (0-06-021708-1) $15.89
New ideas about an often-told story are conveyed through Mathers' freshly conceived paintings accompanying Farber's often profound, sometimes playful poems. The poet expands the cast of onlookers at The Manger in poems with titles such as "Ladybug," "Camel," "Sloth," and "Turtle Toward Bethlehem." In a striking double-page spread, a veritable peaceable kingdom of beasts hurries to be there, too. Most memorable midst the visitors are the three queens who "... came late, but not too late / to see the animals small and great, feathered and furred, domestic and wild, / gathered to gaze at a mother and child..." Farber's understanding of the drama within the Christmas Story and Mather's superb use of color are linked by a crisp, handsome page layout and design to make an exquisite 11 1/4" by 8 3/4" volume. (Age 9 and older)

In a letter dated December 21st, a grandmother living in the Northern Hemisphere writes to her grandchild about seasonal changes earmarking Winter, even though "...you can't touch it or ... make it do anything. But it makes us do all sorts of things. I turn on my lights. You put on your mittens. The birds fly to the sunny underside of the Earth." She writes about streams turning to ice and creatures hibernating, observing how, on December 22nd, "... little hands of light begin to push back the edges of darkness minute by minute" to begin the natural cycle leading to summer. Details from the brief letter are shown in full-color illustrations created with gouache opaque watercolor and colored pencil for the 9" by 10 1/4" book. (Ages 3-7)
Goldin's fresh adaptation of a familiar Passover tale first crafted by I. L. Peretz features Elijah appearing as a magician on Passover Eve at the humble home of Hayim-Jonah and Rivkah-Bailah. Although the couple wanted to welcome the stranger, their last pennies had been given to the poor people's Passover fund, and they had no money to buy the matzah and the wine, the herbs and the food for the Seder. They did not even have candles to light. The visitor produces candlesticks, fine linen, soft couches, a Seder plate, wine and all else needed for the Passover feast - and the Rabbi interpreted the miracle. Parker's lively full-color paintings for the 10 1/2" by 8 1/4" volume evoke the illusion, faith and 19th century rural Eastern European life upon which the story is based. (Ages 7-11)

Hest, Amy. NANA'S BIRTHDAY PARTY. Illustrated by Amy Schwartz. Morrow, 1993. 32 pages. (0-688-07498-7) $15.00
Every year just before her birthday Nana posts a list for her children and grandchildren regarding the family celebration: "No gum. No jeans. No presents (except those you make yourself)." And every year Maggie and her cousin Brette compete with each other to see who can make the best gift. Maggie is good at writing stories and Brette is good at painting pictures, and just when the competition is becoming unbearable for both girls, they decide to collaborate and make the best present ever. Amy Schwartz's droll watercolor paintings are filled with details of life within a close-knit extended family living in New York City. (Ages 4-8)

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. CELEBRATING KWANZAA. Photographs by Lawrence Migdale. Holiday House, 1993. 32 pages. (0-8234-1048-X) $15.95
Eighth-grader Andiey Barnes tells how her five-generation Chicago-area family celebrates the seven-day African festival that begins on December 26th. The origin of this celebration and its founder Dr. Maulana Karenga are introduced, as are the Seven Principles. Expressions of cultural pride from present and past African-American leaders are quoted to underscore the Kwanzaa values expressed throughout a book appealing to older children as well as families. Sections showing Chicago's Ujamaa Market and the family's Kwanzaa Karamu, or feast, are two of several distinctive features of this striking 9 1/4" by 10 1/4" color photodocumentary account. (Ages 5-12)

Jaffe, Nina. THE UNINVITED GUEST AND OTHER JEWISH HOLIDAY TALES. Illustrated by Elivia. Scholastic, 1993. 72 pages. (0-590-44653-3) $15.95
Beginning with Rosh Hashanah and "The Never-Ending Song," the meanings of six more Jewish holidays are briefly explained and accompanied by a story: "Miracles on the Sea" by Peretz (Yom Kippur); "The Magician's Spell" (Sukkot); "Hannah the Joyful"
Kuskin's artfully written first person narrative features the voice of a boy who invites a non-Jewish friend, Henry, to join his family's celebration of the first night of Chanukah on the twenty-fifth of Kislev. Members of three generations express distinctive understandings of the evening's events. Grandma remembers that people didn't give Chanukah presents at all when she was a girl and indicates that "the older she gets, the more things she can think of that cannot be explained in scientific ways." The family members' comments about the nature of miracles comprise a memorable portion of Kuskin's amazingly natural dialogue integrating elements of history and human nature. Whether Parker paints a flaming sunset, dinner candlelight, torches from the past, or the fire of anger, his masterful watercolor and ink images illuminate every page with one or another source of light. Kuskin's matchless text achieves the same in this handsome 9" by 10 1/4" book. (Ages 5-10)

Lucas, Barbara M. SNOWED IN. Illustrated by Catherine Stock. Bradbury, 1993. 32 pages. (0-02-761465-4) $14.95
As winter began in Wyoming in 1915, young Grace and Luke said good-bye to their teacher for the season and went by horse and wagon with their father to town to stock up on pencils and paper at the store and borrow a box of books from the library. These preparations for winter's inevitable isolation provided the children with certain resources for studying, with their parents as teachers, and enjoying the reading that took them beyond Wyoming winter confinement. The watercolor illustrations and the spare text for the 8 1/4" by 10 1/4" book were influenced by LETTERS OF A WOMAN HOMESTEADER by Elinore Pruitt Stewart (University of Nebraska Press, 1961). (Ages 4-7)

Marx, Trish. HANNA'S COLD WINTER. Illustrated by Barbara Knutson. Carolrhoda, 1993. 32 pages. (0-87614-772-4) $18.95
A first-person story describes family outings to the zoo to watch the hippo Hanna devour pitchforks of hay on the Sundays before the war, before the twin towns of Buda and Pest were occupied by soldiers fighting each other, and before food for people and even for the zoo creatures became scarce. Based on an incident that took place during World War II in Budapest, Hungary, when the coldest winter on record froze the river between the two towns. According to the story told to the author, Papa, Mama and their
three children took a straw doormat and an old pair of straw slippers to the zoo, broke them up with a pitchfork and encouraged the starving hippos to eat. They ate, and by the time winter ended, more than 9,000 hats, mats and slippers had been given to the zoo to help the hippos survive the winter and the war. Full-color illustrations on every page of a 10 1/4" by 8 1/4" volume provide historical and regional details along with impressive pictures of Hanna and her prodigious appetite in action. (Ages 6-9)

Marzollo, Jean. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARTIN LUTHER KING. Illustrated by J. Brian Pinkney. Scholastic, 1993. 32 pages. (0-590-44065-9) $14.95
This 11 1/2" by 8 1/2" picture book biography offers fresh and vibrant images of Dr. King's life and accomplishments. An excellent selection of biographical details to interest young children makes very brief information about Dr. King's life and contributions accessible and appealing. Pinkney's lively illustrations created on scratchboard with oil pastels showcase young Martin as well as the mature leader. An author's note at the beginning explains the reason for devoting a page in a book for such young children to the assassination of the mid-twentieth century Nobel Peace Prize winning African-American leader. (Ages 3-8)

While cutting a fresh tree, collecting holly and gathering pine cones for decorations, Calvin and his sister imagine what Santa will bring, even though he not only suspects there is no Santa, but also that his family cannot afford a bike. A first-person story about a memorable Christmas during the 1950s in rural North Carolina suggests that a strong sense of family can be more important than having Things, no matter how much one wants a specific bicycle with all the extras. The author is inspirational in telling his own story of how he studied with Literacy Volunteers at age 39 to learn to read and write. Full-color paintings provide period and regional detail as well as bringing the autobiographical African-American characters to life in this 8 1/2" by 10 1/4" picture book. (Ages 5-8)

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. SEVEN CANDLES FOR KWANZAA. Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Dial, 1993. 32 pages. (0-8037-1293-6) $14.89
An easy-to-read and understand explanation of Kwanzaa features images of a contemporary U.S. family observing each of the seven days in activities recognizable to today's children. Emphasis is placed on Kwanzaa as "an American holiday inspired by African traditions... not intended as a religious, political, or heroic holiday, nor is it a substitute for Christmas." The striking full-color artwork for this 9 1/4" by 11 1/4" picture book was prepared using scratchboard and oil pastels. (Ages 3-9)

Reiser, Lynn. TOMORROW ON ROCKY POND. Greenwillow, 1993. 32 pages. (0-688-10673-0) $14.00
Tucked in bed at night a young girl is filled with excitement about the fishing trip her family has planned for the next day. She runs through a mental list of the special fishing clothes they'll wear and the equipment they'll carry, the animals they'll hear and plants they'll see on their walk through the woods to reach their canoe, and then all the birds and fish they'll encounter once they reach the lake. All the exuberance of a child's anticipation of good times ahead are deftly expressed in text and pictures which make this family fishing trip appropriately idealized. (Ages 3-6)

A coming of age ritual that transforms Apache girls into women is the focus of an unusual book, respectfully written by a non-Native woman with the permission, cooperation and approval of Apache elders. Although the first two days of the ceremony are private and sacred (and are not described in the book for this reason), the last two days consist of a public celebration. First-person accounts by Apache women recalling details of their own ceremonies and explanations of ritual meaning by Apache medicine man Philip Cassadore are woven together with a straightforward narrative by the author who has been an invited guest at many of the ceremonies. Visual interpretations of the proceedings by ten Apache artists add another layer of authenticity to the book as a whole. (Ages 9-14)

See also: Arctic Spring; Cherokee Summer; Christmas Gift; Counting Cranes; Gathering of Garter Snakes; Ininatig's Gift of Sugar; Kinaaldá; Land of Dark, Land of Light; Nanabosho, Soaring Eagle, and the Great Sturgeon; Shannon; Starlit Somersault Downhill

FOLKLORE, MYTHOLOGY AND TRADITIONAL LITERATURE

A pig, a duck and a cat comprise the "Not I" chorus in this delightful version of the tale in which the industrious Little Red Hen plants, cuts, threshes, grinds and bakes wheat into bread on her own when none of the other animals will help her. As she works, she is followed by her three little chicks, who appear truly fascinated by their mother's many abilities. In Barton's humorous, charming illustrations, the pig, duck and cat go from one fun pursuit to another - rowing a boat, riding in a wagon, playing on swings, flying a kite - but it is the face of the hard-working Little Red Hen that reflects the greatest pleasure, especially when her steaming hot loaf of bread is ready to be eaten! (Ages 2-4)

Bierhorst, John. THE WOMAN WHO FELL FROM THE SKY; THE IROQUOIS STORY OF CREATION. Illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker. Morrow,
Sky Woman possesses the power of creation. When she falls from the sky and lands on Turtle's back in the water, the mud on Turtle's back begins to grow, and so the earth is formed. Later, Sky Woman gives birth to Sapling and Flint, who share their mother's power. Sapling's gentle nature and Flint's hard-edged ways imbue the world with both opportunity and hardship as they work together creating life from the earth. Bierhorst retells this creation tale of the native peoples who comprise the six Iroquois nations in simple, elegant prose that is complimented by Parker's stirring illustrations brimming with color and life. (Ages 6-10)

A large type face provide the few words needed to tell an old, dramatic story: "A long time ago there lived a man called Noah. Noah was a good man who trusted in God..." Cousins' skillful uses of bold shapes and bright colors create vivid scenes vivid enough to capture the attention of the youngest. Whether or not they can follow the story, toddlers will recognize a boat-like image referred to in the text as an ark, and - best of all - just as it has always been, they can notice pairs of animals they will soon learn to identify by name. Cousins' inventive artwork for the 10" by 9 3/8" book was done in gouache. (Ages six months to 4 years)

Garland, Sherry. WHY DUCKS SLEEP ON ONE LEG. Illustrated by Jean and Mou-Sien Tseng. Scholastic, 1993. 32 pages. (0-590-45697-0) $14.95
When the earth was young, all creatures were newly created and all were content except for three ducks in a rice-farming village. These unhappy but clever ducks had only one leg each, so it wasn't long before they developed a petition about the matter to take to the Jade Emperor. The humorous, absorbing pourquoi tale explains how the ducks each received a special second leg and also why, once they figured out how to hide it, this manner of sleeping became so comfortable that the custom spread elsewhere. The watercolor illustrations employ an unconventional palette fitting both the tale and its ancient feudal Vietnamese locale. This 11 1/2" by 8 5/8" book can be seen well by a group as well as enjoyed by individuals. (Ages 5-8)

Gilman, Phoebe. SOMETHING FROM NOTHING. Scholastic, 1993. 32 pages. (0-590-47280-1) $14.95
"When Joseph was a baby, his grandfather made him a wonderful blanket..." So begins a merry double retelling of the tale in which the blanket becomes transformed into a wonderful jacket, then a vest, after that a tie, a handkerchief, a button and, as always, a wonderful story! The main tale set in an Eastern European village focuses upon each member of the human family and their activities inside and outside the two story house. A neatly planned sequence of frames across many lower pages shows a
mouse family likewise using scraps falling through cracks in the floor above to make something from almost nothing. A charming language pattern establishes Grandfather's role as tailor. The paintings for each page of the 11 3/4" by 9" parallel stories were done in oil and egg tempera. Humor, ethnic details and a large typeface are combined in a marvelously entertaining new version of a terrific recycling tale with a twist. (Ages 4-9)

Hamanaka, Sheila. SCREEN OF FROGS; AN OLD TALE. Orchard, 1993. 32 pages. (0-531-05464-0) $15.95
A wealthy but lazy boy named Koji lived long ago in Japan, and when he became a man, he was a lazy man - so lazy that rather than manage his property, he sold whatever possessions might provide the money he needed. Finally a frog as large as a man appeared to Koji, telling him what would become of the wildlife on the mountain if the woodcutters were to chop down the trees. Excellent use of white space and distinctive perspectives earmark the dramatic story. The full-color illustrations for the fast-moving 8 1/4" by 10 1/2" tale of transformation and gratitude are acrylic and collage on handmade kozo paper. (Ages 5-9)

Mayo, Gretchen Will. MEET TRICKY COYOTE! Walker, 1993. 36 pages. (0-8027-8199-3) $12.95
Mayo, Gretchen Will. THAT TRICKY COYOTE! Walker, 1993. 36 pages. (0-8027-8201-9) $12.95
Each volume includes five trickster tales from various Indian tribes, including Comanche, Maidu, Ute, Zuni and O'odham peoples. The fast pace and high-spirited humor common to Coyote stories makes them appealing to early elementary-school-age children; the author has taken accessibility one step further by retelling the stories with easy words and short sentences, making them perfect for transitional readers. Colorful acrylic paintings depicting Coyote as "shimmering" are in accordance with verbal descriptions of him common to some traditions. Each story is followed by an author's note which cites sources and often points out a story detail that reveals something about its natural or historical context. (Ages 6-9)

Embellishing each full-color page with decorations of gold, Ray's sweeping images convey order, unity and diversity within the sea and on the land, and midst ocean creatures, "winged fowl," earth creatures and - finally - two human beings. Ray used a jewel-like palette and an imaginative development of page space in her 12" x 9" rendering of the account in GENESIS of how the world began. The King James translation of the BIBLE serves as a basis for most of the text. A Spanish language edition is also available. (Age 3 and older)

A clever reversal of a familiar tale involves three croquet and badminton playing wolves whose houses are successively constructed of formidable material: bricks (pig applies sledgehammer); concrete (pneumatic drill + pig); and a fortress surrounded by barbed wire (dynamited by the persistent pig). After he tries to blow down the wolves' final house made of flowers, the pig's heart becomes tender, he dances the tarantula and they all enjoy games and tea. An unlikely conflict is resolved with an unlikely resolution, but it doesn't matter because everyone reading and seeing the full-color 11" by 8 3/4" fractured fairy tale will be laughing too hard to notice. (Ages 5-8)

Vuong, Lynette Dyer and Manabu Saito. THE GOLDEN CARP AND OTHER TALES FROM VIETNAM. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1993. 128 pages. (0-688-12514-X) $15.00

Vuong, Lynette Dyer. SKY LEGENDS OF VIETNAM. Illustrated by Vo-Dinh Mai. HarperCollins, 1993. 103 pages. (0-06-023001-0) $13.89


The small typeface indicates a certain reading challenge. One full-page illustration reproduced in full color decorates each story. (Ages 9-13) SKY LEGENDS OF VIETNAM also contains six stories, each one about the sun, the moon or the stars. The typeface is large, the illustrations are black and white and the overall book production modest compared to the other volume. However, Vuong's meticulous attention to cultural detail and notes is similar. (Ages 7-11)


Drawing from one of the oldest written stories known in modern times, the story of Gilgamesh tells of a king who was half-man, half-god and all-tyrant until he was humanized by a wild man who showed him a moment's compassion when he could just as easily have killed him. The balance between conflict and compassion provides the narrative tension in the first two volumes retelling the ancient Mesopotamian story. Glowing illustrations filled with cultural and historical details make the 5,000 year-old epic accessible to young readers in the late 20th century. (Ages 7-12)

See also: Christmas Gift; Complete Fairy Tales of Charles Perrault; Gift of Changing Woman; Magician's Visit; Nanabosho, Soaring Eagle, and the Great Sturgeon; Uninvited Guest
Blumberg, Rhoda. BLOOMERS! Illustrated by Mary Morgan. Bradbury, 1993. 32 pages. (0-02-711684-0) $14.95
Hooray for Libby Miller! In 1851, Libby arrived in Seneca Falls, New York for a visit with her cousin, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, dressed not in the tight-fitting corset and skirt of convention, but in free-flowing trousers that ballooned from her waist to her knees. One look and Elizabeth was convinced that this liberating outfit was for her as well. The rest, as they say, is history—women's history! This engaging text introduces young readers to women's rights pioneers Stanton, Amelia Bloomer and Susan B. Anthony, presenting the basic tenets of the fight for equal rights in direct, accessible language as the history of bloomers, a fashion that was much more than a fad, is told. (Ages 7-10)

Brown, Don. RUTH LAW THRILLS A NATION. Ticknor & Fields, 1993. 32 pages. (0-395-66404-7) $13.95
"On November 19, 1916, Ruth Law tried to fly from Chicago to New York City in one day. It had never been done before." She had practiced for the cold by sleeping on the roof of a hotel. Although she wore woolen and leather pant suits while flying, in public she covered these flying garments with a skirt because of the conventions dictating what women should wear. Even though she set a record that day by flying a 500-mile nonstop lap, neither Ruth Law nor that feat is well known today because darkness came while New York City was still two hours away. Brown's pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations reproduced in full color provide a strong sense of the woman and the flight. His first published book reads aloud with grace and its 8 1/4" by 10 3/8" size invites hands-on interest. (Ages 4-8)

Coerr, Eleanor. SADAKO. Illustrated by Ed Young. Putnam, 1993. 48 pages. (0-399-21771-1) $16.95
Sadako Sasaki is the child honored by the monument of a girl holding a large origami crane in the Hiroshima Peace Park. The monument is a strong expression for peace, representing the many who perished in Japan as a result of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. As she suffered from radiation sickness, Sadako and her friends are reported to have folded origami cranes, in accordance with the Japanese legend holding that if a sick person folds 1,000 cranes, the gods will restore her health. The same author who wrote the moving short fiction book SADAKO AND THE THOUSAND PAPER CRANES (Putnam, 1977) presents this adaptation of the script for a film of the same name. The striking 9 1/4" by 11 1/4" book includes a selection of the almost three hundred images artist Ed Young created for the film using pastels, many of which reflect images of origami cranes or those from nature. (Ages 8-11)

Cooper, Michael. PLAYING AMERICA'S GAME; THE STORY OF THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUE. Lodestar, 1993. 96 pages. (0-525-67407-1) $15.99
John Henry Lloyd. Cool Papa Bell. Smokey Joe Williams. Josh Gibson. These are baseball players of whom many people have
never heard, and yet they were among the best in their day, some of them contemporaries of more well-know players such as Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb. In a country in which sports heroes are elevated to the rank of superstar, these men, too, held their places of honor among their fans. The fact that their names are unfamiliar to so many today has nothing to do with their talent and ability, only with the color of their skin - they were black and played in the Negro League. Unlike the major league teams and players, theirs has not been a history held in high national esteem, even though they were revered by many in their time. This story traces Negro League baseball, which was played for almost the entire first half of the 20th century, from its early days when it grew out of the segregation of baseball teams in the late 19th century (during the 1880s, blacks and whites did play together on professional baseball teams), to its collapse in the late 1940s when players like Jackie Robinson, Larry Doby and Satchel Paige integrated professional baseball once again. Black and white photographs marking "the beginning of an important public record" are used throughout the text of this important and fascinating history. (Ages 11-14)

A social history of chairs and seating offers a summary of ways human beings have seated themselves and others throughout many centuries in some cultures and during relatively recent times in others. Giblin points out that although few chairs today indicate one's power or rank, "they still have meanings beyond their function as seats. Like the chairs of the past, they reveal many things about their owners - their tastes, their values, their economic status." Readers can find out about seating created by unknown designers: an almost 4,000-year-old folding Egyptian stool, the wide range of chairs developed in China after "barbarian couches" were introduced, and rulers' thrones carved from single blocks of wood in Zaire. Chairs bearing names of their originators are also discussed, such as Chippendale, Saarinen, Shaker and Wright. Regardless of whether Giblin writes about rockers, children's chairs or a popular culture send-up, every page spread includes one if not two superbly reproduced black and white photos. This exemplary book of information includes extensive, conveniently arranged source notes for easy exploration of related articles and books. Inviting page layouts and a large type face encourage browsing and stimulate close reading - in a favorite chair, of course! (Ages 9-13)

Greenfeld, Howard. THE HIDDEN CHILDREN. Ticknor & Fields, 1993. 118 pages. (0-395-66074-2) $15.95
According to the author, thousands of Jewish children were hidden in European homes during the Holocaust and survived. Courage, ingenuity and vigilance are reported, along with the high emotional toll on children removed from their names and families, from religious practice and identity, from homes and towns, from truth-telling in general. The adults interviewed for this
A compilation of amazing childhood reminiscences are now middle aged and living in the U.S.A. First-hand accounts are shown in italics and interspersed with the author's comments. Black and white photos are reproduced when available. A bibliography and index are included. (Ages 9-14)

Hamilton, Virginia. MANY THOUSAND GONE; AFRICAN AMERICANS FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM. Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. Alfred A. Knopf, 1993. 151 pages. (0-304-82873-9) $16.00

Here are Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglas. Here, too, are Chloe Cooley, Addison White and Jackson of Alabama. Hamilton has gathered together stories of individuals living in the time of slavery and laid them out in a powerful presentation that chronicles this chilling era in American history and the endurance of a people. Some of the names may be familiar to children, many others will not, but each vignette - each life - is compelling and lends itself to a greater understanding of the whole, such as how laws to protect free African-Americans were often ignored, while others were passed to strengthen the grip of owners in the south. In some cases, the vignettes are only fragments, pieces of a life, as if this is all that is known, and these serve as striking, painful reminders of how much has been lost, the "many thousand gone." Modifying her usual descriptive prose style, Hamilton pares language to a minimum here, writing in short, explosive sentences that propel people and events to the forefront, while the Dillons' moody black and white illustrations give shape to sorrow, grief, anger, bravery and pride, and expression to the overwhelming desire to be free. Honor Book, 1993 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Illustration. (All ages)

Levine, Ellen. FREEDOM'S CHILDREN; YOUNG CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS TELL THEIR OWN STORIES. Putnam, 1993. 167 pages. (0-399-21893-9) $16.95

Thirty African-American men and women who were children during the mid-twentieth century Civil Rights Movement recall its impact on them: what it was like to have your home bombed; to be jailed for civil disobedience; to be the first African-American youth integrated into an all-white classroom or school; to witness or take part in non-violent acts; to be inspired by the actions of the community. Recounted with invaluable first-hand insight and commentary and well organized in a meaningful sequence, the remembered experiences range from Segregation, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Integration, Sit-ins and Freedom Rides to the Children's Crusade, Mississippi Freedom Summer and the Selma Movement. Readers the same ages as these former "children of crisis" can glimpse moral courage and principled action through the compelling accounts. (Age 10 and older)


For twelve seasons between 1943 and 1954, teams in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League thrilled fans
throughout the Midwest and East playing fast-paced, competitive baseball. This history makes it clear that the woman who played these games were, without a doubt, talented, serious athletes. From its beginnings during World War II to its demise eleven years later, the League's history is placed skillfully and deliberately in the context of the times, including acknowledgement that "Although there were outstanding African-American woman ball players in the United States, none were invited to try out for the new league." The text includes reminiscences by women who played in the league and statistics on individual players and teams, while black and white photos sprinkled throughout show life both on and off the field. Wisconsin readers will especially enjoy references to teams such as the Milwaukee Chicks, Kenosha Comets and Racine Belles. (Ages 11-14)

Mitchell, Margaree King. UNCLE JED'S BARBERSHOP. Illustrated by James Ransome. Simon & Schuster, 1993. 32 pages. (0-671-76969-3) $15.00

Mitchell's first person narrative relates how her granddaddy's brother Jedediah Johnson, the only black barber in the county, was her favorite relative. She tells about his Wednesday night visits to her family, how he paid for the operation she needed to save her life, and how the Depression caused him to lose money he saved for a barbershop. This heartwarming story is the portrait of a generous, indomitable man whose personal dream was finally fulfilled when he is 79 years old. The 11 3/4" by 9 1/4" picture story is also a straightforward account of segregation and its impact on one family during a crisis; and of one man plying his trade to make a living. Ransome's dramatic illustrations created with oil paint on paper are reproduced in full color. (Ages 5-9)

Mochizuki, Ken. BASEBALL SAVED US. Illustrated by Dom Lee. Lee & Low, 1993. 32 pages. (1-880000-01-6) $14.95 (Distributed by Publishers Group West, 1-800-788-3123)

The treatment of Japanese-Americans during World War II is the subject of this remarkable first picture book. "Shorty," a young Japanese-American boy, has a hard time understanding why he and his family had to move out of their house and into a camp in the desert. "We weren't in a camp that was fun, like summer camp. Ours was in the middle of nowhere, and we were behind a barbed-wire fence. Soldiers with guns made sure we stayed there..." Everything at camp is different - and more difficult - than life back home: there are dust storms, the buildings have no privacy (even for going to the bathroom) and there is nothing for anyone to do. The day the Shorty's dad decides they need a baseball diamond marks a turning point in camp life as, first building the field and later competing in the games themselves, adults and children finally have something to hope and work for. Shorty, who has never been good at baseball, practices hard and eventually makes a game-winning hit in the camp championship. "But it wasn't as if everything was all fixed." Returning home after the war, he finds that he still must persevere against
prejudice and his own fears to succeed. The straightforward narrative movingly captures a young boy's bewilderment over events which make no logical sense to adults, let alone to children. Sepia-toned color illustrations by Lee evoke a sense of a past that is washed in sadness. (Ages 7-11)

Murphy, Jim. ACROSS AMERICA ON AN EMIGRANT TRAIN. Clarion, 1993. 150 pages. (0-395-63390-7) $16.95
In 1879, before he wrote TREASURE ISLAND, KIDNAPPED or A CHILD'S GARDEN OF VERSES, Robert Louis Stevenson journied from his native Scotland across the Atlantic Ocean and the vast continent of North America to San Francisco, so he could be with the woman he loved. Distance alone made it a trip of epic proportions, yet similar journey's were being made all the time by thousands who sought out America's shores and crossed its prairies and mountains in the hopes of starting new lives. Because he had little money, Stevenson traveled as they traveled - on trains packed with tired, hungry, hopeful people - rumbling west in stops and starts. This fascinating documentary of westward expansion, the transcontinental railroad and the diverse groups of people who came to this land, follows Stevenson on his journey west. Passages from his journal are interspersed throughout the text, providing thoughtful, illuminating commentary on the things he experienced and saw, from the disgraceful treatment of American Indians by settlers and emigrants alike, to the disgraceful treatment of the emigrants themselves by the railroads and others at whose mercy they were kept. The text is enhanced by dozens of black and white photographs and drawings, many from the records of state and local historical societies, including some in Wisconsin. (Ages 10-14)

Wearing European clothes for the first time, a young Japanese man traveled alone across the Pacific and then throughout the U.S. during the early 20th century. He marveled at the expanses of ocean and land. "The endless farm fields reminded him of the ocean he had crossed." Finally returning to Japan years later with his wife and daughter, he established a life in his birth nation and culture but never quite settles there emotionally. This young man was the grandfather of the narrator/artist who, like his elder, now understands longing for the home left behind and yet living where one has also experienced wonder. The juxtaposition of deep feeling with emotional distance underscores the theme. Say's full-page watercolor paintings present an 11 3/4" by 9 3/4" album-like sequence of landscapes and people with effective uses of light in this unique perspective on immigration. (Ages 8-12)

See also: A IS For Africa; Anna Is Still Here; Brown Angels; Bull Run; Champions; Christmas Gif'; Climbing Kansas Mountains; Eleanor Roosevelt; Great Migration; Hanna's Cold Winter; Mac & Marie & The Train Toss Surprise; Real McCoy; Snowed In; This Land Is My Land; Tinker vs. Des Moines
Freedman, Russell. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT; A LIFE OF DISCOVERY. Clarion, 1993. 198 pages. (0-89919-862-7) $17.95
Eleanor Roosevelt's biographers are challenged to unfold how her interests and opinions affected her husband's administration between 1932 and 1945 and how her example created a new image both of the First Lady and of women in general. They must show Eleanor's evolution from uncertain child into the woman whose public leadership became a force for justice and peace within the nation and beyond. They have to interpret the social dimensions of the times when Eleanor was young, during World War II and while the United Nations was a fledgling organization. They need to picture some of the ways she exemplified and championed racial equity while segregation still dominated public and private life.
Freedman met these challenges through skillful organization of an abundance of material, a thoughtful selection of personal details and a compelling prose narrative. His account presents documented facts and emotional truths to bring this dynamic, principled woman to life. An abundance of black and white archival photographs, material about Eleanor's personal home at Val-Kill and Freedman's well developed bibliographic essay about materials written for adults also distinguish a splendid biography. (Ages 9-14)

An intriguing, lively portrayal of Sequoyah and his tireless effort to develop and perfect a written language for the Cherokee people, and then the means by which that language was put to use, is woven into a history of the Cherokee Nation that encompasses the late 18th and much of the 19th century. The Cherokee Nation once covered much of what is now the southeastern United States. Expanding migration by white settlers had a devastating effect, however, not only forcing the Cherokee from their homes and land, but also, Sequoyah noticed, leading them to abandon the Cherokee traditions. It was this that led him to consider how he might preserve the Cherokee spoken language and traditions by creating a means to record them. According to to the author, Sequoyah was convinced that if his people gave up their language for that of the white's, as he saw many doing, "they would become separated from themselves, from what it meant to be Cherokee." A well-researched, compassionate telling of Sequoyah's life includes a copy of the Cherokee Alphabet he developed and is illustrated with black and white photographs of artwork portraying the revered Cherokee leader whose syllabary is still in use among the Cherokee people today. (Ages 11-14)

Lewin, Ted. I WAS A TEENAGE PROFESSIONAL WRESTLER. Orchard, 1993. 128 pages. (0-531-05477-2) $16.95
Portrait of the Artist as a Young... pro wrestler? It's true! Before he ever signed a contract to illustrate a children's book,
Ted Lewin was a teenage professional wrestler. It was a profession he came by naturally: he had a wrestler's build and his two older brothers, Mark and Donn, were in the business, as was his brother-in-law, Dangerous Danny McShain. But in-between matches, in locker rooms and at ringside, he was always sketching and painting pictures of the other wrestlers. With humor and understanding, Lewin gives us a first-hand look at the world of the professional wrestler back in the early 1950s. Numerous documentary black-and-white photographs and, of course, original sketches and oil paintings, round out the portrait. (Ages 8-14)

Littlefield, Bill. CHAMPIONS; STORIES OF TEN REMARKABLE ATHLETES. Illustrated by Bernie Fuchs. Little, Brown, 1993. 132 pages. (0-316-52805-6) $21.95

Ten athletes presented in this 11 1/2" by 8 1/2" volume are introduced briefly, then quoted and finally pictured through a chapter laced with dialogue. The athletes are Satchel Paige (baseball player), Julie Krone (jockey), "Pelé" (soccer player), Joan Benoit Samuelson (runner), Nate Archibald (basketball player), Susan Butcher (dogsled racer), Muhammad Ali (boxer), Billie Jean King (tennis player), Diana Golder (skier) and Roberto Clemente (baseball player). A two-page forward by Frank Deford suggests why this collection of material about sports figures stands out midst other books about sports celebrities, most of which are written to meet a formula of immediacy and success straight from daily sports news. Deford points out that "even the greatest champions continue to triumph in tandem with failure. Champions may be larger than life, but they are never above life." Fuchs' paintings of the athletes are each reproduced on a full page in full color, contributing another unique dimension to an absorbing book. (Ages 7-12)

Towle, Wendy. THE REAL McCoy; THE LIFE OF AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN INVENTOR. Illustrated by Wil Clay. Scholastic, 1993. 32 pages. (0-590-43596-5) $14.95

Born in Canada in 1844, Elijah McCoy, the son of former slaves, patented over 50 inventions throughout his life. This simply told history of an African-American inventor focuses on McCoy's achievements without minimizing the barriers he faced because he was black. Full-page illustrations by Clay show a man wholly dedicated to his work and his dreams. A role model for many African-Americans while he was alive, McCoy is once again a source of pride and inspiration. (Ages 7-10)


The first picture in this photobiography is of a little plaid book that is so unassuming as to be ordinary, the kind of book any girl might possess to record her private thoughts. The realization that this is THE diary hits with sudden force, like a physical blow. The power of this book is in that moment and many others like it as readers are reminded over and over again that
Anne Frank's life was as ordinary as it was extraordinary. In photographs that show her from babyhood through her early teens, prior to going into hiding, it is the captured moments of daily living that bring home the terrible enormity of what later happened - the toddler playing with friends in the yard, the girl of 10 just out of the water and wrapped in a bathrobe at the beach. In one sense, this is anybody's - and everybody's - family album. Early on in Anne's life, there were ominous developments in the world beyond that yard and beach, and throughout the text describing her family life, sidebars present information on Hitler's rise to power and the systematic internment and killing of the Jewish people. Anne's family protected her from knowing much of what was happening, even as they took steps to save themselves, but excerpts from her diary prior to and throughout the time they were in hiding reveal her growing understanding, at the same they reflect her hope that the best in people will ultimately prevail. Readers will be fascinated and moved by this powerful book from the Anne Frank House in The Netherlands which provides insight into the life and times of a girl whose words continue to touch the world. (Age 11 and older)

See also: Across America on an Emigrant Train; Daddy and Me; Faith Ringgold; Freedom's Children; Frida Kahlo; Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King; Lives of the Musicians; Many Thousand Gone; Oddballs; Ruth Law Thrills a Nation; Sadako; This Land Is My Land; Tinker vs. Des Moines; Visions

CONTEMPORARY PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

Atkin, S. Beth. VOICES FROM THE FIELD; CHILDREN OF MIGRANT FARMWORKERS TELL THEIR STORIES. Joy Street / Little Brown, 1993. 96 pages. (0-316-05633-2) $16.95
First-person narratives and/or poems represent ten voices representative of Hispanic migrant children and teenagers working in the Salinas Valley of California. This unparalleled photodocumentary children's book originated in migrant programs or in the fields where some of the children and teenagers agreed to tell their stories and be photographed. Atkin's brief introductory passages establish a context for each commentary. These children of Mexican heritage speak about work, family, fitting in, the gang, teen parents. Spanish was used in most of the interviews, the English translations of which offer an urgent witness and testimony to certain realities and experiences and, sometimes, also to hopes, as well. (Ages 9-14)

How is a fire truck built? Step by step and piece by piece. Simple text and large color photographs detail the crafting of one of these huge trucks, starting with the design process and ending with a shiny red pumper engine ready for the road. (Ages 5-10)
Dolphin, Laurie. NEVE SHALOM / WAHAT AL-SALAM; OASIS OF PEACE. Photographs by Ben Dolphin. Scholastic, 1993. 48 pages. (0-590-45799-3) $14.95

Shlomo Frankin and Muhammad Jabar both live in Israel. Shlomo, who is Jewish, lives in the village of Nataf with other Jewish families and has never had any Arab friends. Muhammad, who is Arab Moslem, lives in Abu Gosh, an old Arab village, and has never had any Jewish friends. The parents of each of these ten-year-old boys have decided to send their son to a remarkable school in a remarkable village called Neve Shalom (Hebrew) / Wahat al-Salam (Arabic), or Oasis of Peace. At the school, Arab and Jewish teachers together teach Arab and Jewish children, who learn about the customs, history and language of both cultures in a curriculum designed to foster friendship rather than fear. Text and photographs depicting first the separateness of Shlomo's and Muhammad's lives, and then their meeting and burgeoning friendship, build understanding of the current tenor of Arab and Israeli relations and hope for a peaceful future. (Ages 7-10)

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. CHEROKEE SUMMER. Photographs by Lawrence Migdale. Holiday House, 1993. 32 pages. (0-8234-0995-3) $15.95

Bridget is a ten-year-old Cherokee girl who lives in a mobile home near Tahlequah, Oklahoma, with her parents, brother and sister. An upbeat first-person text describes Bridget's typical summer activities: drawing pictures, hunting for crawdads, spending time with her grandparents, studying the Cherokee language on a computer at the library and attending a summer stomp dance. Information about Cherokee history, culture and contemporary issues is woven throughout Bridget's discussion, accompanied by color photographs of this energetic girl. (Ages 7-11)


(Distributed by W.W. Norton & Company)

Abdus is African-American, Annie is Irish-American, Marcos is Puerto Rican and Terri is Cambodian. These four friendly, appealing tour guides take readers on an exploration of the ethnically diverse Boston neighborhoods in which they live in a different kind of adventure story that combines lively, informative text with photographs and colorful graphics. Readers must turn back and forth through the pages as they make decisions about where to go and what to see next, accompanied each step of the way by one of the four children, who share information about their cultural heritages throughout the journey. Additional facts about the African-American, Irish-American, Latino and Cambodian cultures are provided in stimulating asides that will challenge children to consider the people and world around them.

Inspired readers will want to follow some of the tips at the end of the text for exploring new neighborhoods and making a video like the one on which this book is based. (Ages 7-12)
King, Sandra. SHANNON; AN OJIBWAY DANCER. Photographs by Catherine Whipple. (We Are Still Here) Lerner, 1993. 48 pages. (0-8225-2652-2) $14.96 (paperback 0-8225-9643-1, $6.95)
This marvelous book uses photographs and text to depict the life of a 13-year-old Ojibway girl, Shannon Anderson, who lives with her grandmother, sisters and cousins in Minneapolis. Shannon's life is firmly rooted in her cultural heritage. A fancy dancer belonging to two drum and dance groups, Shannon goes through detailed preparations to get her intricate costumes ready for performances, but she is proud of her skills in the traditional ways of her people. "It's a good thing I'm Indian," she says to her grandmother, and her grandmother replies, "...always remember to be glad. Remember that wherever you go, all that you are goes with you." (Ages 7-11)

Trucks, trucks and more trucks, all of them BIG, are the subject of this book filled with photographs and facts. From under the hood to inside the cab to the trailers which are pulled behind, color photographs, new to this revised edition, reveal the many makes, models and uses of "big rigs." Brief text on each page provides an explanation of the truck pictured, including, when it has one, its nickname among truckers (a short trailer, for example, is called a "pup"). A glossary of some of the CB radio terms used by truckers when they're on the road is included in a section at the end of this book that will thrill young wheel enthusiasts. (Ages 3-6)

A Nigerian photographer selected 26 photographs from her homeland to illustrate this introduction to Africa. While the images she chose are specific to Nigeria, she states in an author's note that she attempted to capture what the people of Africa have in common: "traditional village life, warm family ties, and above all the hospitality for which Africans are famous." The color photographs were also chosen with the interests of young children in mind, as they show objects (drums, lamps, houses) and individuals (children) that will appeal to them greatly. (Ages 3-7)

Roessel, Monty. KINAALDÁ; A NAVAJO GIRL GROWS UP. (We Are Still Here) Lerner, 1993. 48 pages. (0-8225-2655-7) $19.95
Thirteen-year-old Celinda McKelvey is about to participate in her Kinaaldá, a Navajo coming-of-age ceremony for girls. Over two days, with the support of her extended family and friends, she will run a race, prepare a corncake to be baked in the earth and stay up through the night as traditional prayers are sung, all the while learning more about the Navajo culture. Celinda's preparations for and participation in this important event are recorded through documentary photographs and text that unite the history of the ceremony and the Navajo people with a girl's transition into womanhood. (Ages 7-11)
Strom, Yale. **UNCERTAIN ROADS; SEARCHING FOR THE GYPSIES.** Four Winds, 1993. 112 pages. (0-02-788531-3) $19.95

Strom's opening paragraph states that "with the collapse of communism, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany, Pandora's box has been opened, and its contents - nationalism, pan-Slavism, tribalism, and anti-Semitism - have created an atmosphere of intolerance" for which the "most easily identifiable targets" are the approximately ten million to eleven million Rom living in Europe. Strom presents the people typically called "gypsies" by outsiders through interviews with individuals, most of whom are young. He provides background information about the origin of the Rom in India and some of the reasons for their historic movement across Europe. Casual discrimination against the Rom as well as the intentional acts of prejudice, including those during the Holocaust, are discussed. Strom's many superb full-color photos alternate with others reproduced in black and white to extend the interviews. The book is organized by contemporary nation: Romania, which has 13 distinct Rom tribes; Hungary; Ukraine; and Sweden. A bibliography, glossary and notations for several songs add valuable elements to an important book. (Ages 9-14)

Wittsotck, Laura Waterman. **ININATIG'S GIFT OF SUGAR; TRADITIONAL NATIVE SUGARMAKING.** Photographs by Dale Kakakak. (We Are Still Here) Lerner, 1993. 48 pages. (0-8225-2653-0) $14.96 (paperback 0-8225-9642-3, $6.95)

A legend of the Ojibway people tells the story of Ininatig, the man-tree who saved the people from starving long ago when he showed them how to collect the sap that flowed from his skin when it was cut. The tradition of maple sugarmaking and thanking the trees each spring is continued at a sugarbush outside of Minneapolis by a 73-year-old Ojibway man named Porky, a member of the Loon clan, who has turned the annual event into a hands-on learning experience for adults and children alike. Text and photographs follow Porky, his family and friends, and countless visitors to the camp through the step-by-step process of sugarmaking, from collecting the proper tools to tapping the trees to boiling the clear sweet liquid into gold maple syrup or sugar. (Ages 7-11)

See also: Celebrating Kwaanza; It's Our World, Too!; Jackal Woman; Moon was the Best; Pablo Remembers; Powwow; Speaking Out; Talking Peace; Voices from the Future

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**ISSUES IN TODAY'S WORLD**


In a remarkable book for young readers, the former president succinctly explains the complexities of conflict between nations and peoples, as well as the challenges world leaders face in reaching peaceful resolutions to global conflict. Concern for
Children's Express. VOICES FROM THE FUTURE; OUR CHILDREN TELL US ABOUT VIOLENCE IN AMERICA. Edited by Susan Goodwillie. Crown, 1993. 254 pages. (0-517-59494-3) $19.00

Children and teenagers talk to peers about their lives at home, in shelters and on the street in this compelling series of interviews with children whose everyday lives are affected by, sometimes defined by, violence. These are profiles of children whose situations are not as uncommon as we might like to believe. They are surviving - sometimes barely - abuse, neglect, racism, homophobia, gangs and many other realities of a country in crisis, realities which define their concept of what is "normal" life in the United States. In brief introductions to each dialogue, the young interviewers comment on each person with whom they spoke, building a bridge that can help connect readers to individuals whose lives may be very different from their own.

This is not a book without hope, but it is one that establishes a sense of urgency about the need for change. (Ages 14 and up)

Hoose, Phillip. IT'S OUR WORLD, TOO! STORIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE. Little, Brown, 1993. 166 pages. (0-316-37241-2) $19.95

This text tells fourteen stories of contemporary children and teenagers who have successfully taken a stand on issues such as racism, sexism, the environment and violence, or who have undertaken projects to help others in their communities. Each of the children or groups of children profiled saw something happening that was unfair or frightening which compelled them to take action, and this understanding of injustice and fear is something with which children reading the book will immediately identify. The means to turn understanding into action is displayed in the profiles themselves, and in the Handbook for Young Activists section which tells children how they can replicate many of the techniques used by the young people, and emphasizes the ability children have to affect change. (Ages 8-14)

Kuklin, Susan. SPEAKING OUT; TEENAGERS TALK ON RACE, SEX, AND IDENTITY. Putnam, 1993. 165 pages. (0-399-22343-6) $15.96 (paperback 0-399-22532-3, $8.95)

Susan Kuklin spent one year with students and staff at the Bayard Rustin High School for the Humanities in New York City, which has a racially, culturally and economically diverse student body, to explore "how kids see themselves and each other." In a school environment that strives to minimize conflict and foster understanding, interviews with individual students and interactions among students of both similar and vastly differing
backgrounds reveal that hurt, confusion, anger and hope all abound. In discussions about race, culture, religion, sexuality, physical appearance and many other topics, the students openly reflect upon their own lives and relate their views about themselves and one another. This profile of individuals and a school community is clearly a mirror of the larger world as well. (Age 12 and older)

Rappaport, Doreen. TINKER VS. DES MOINES; STUDENT RIGHTS ON TRIAL. (Be the Judge, Be the Jury). HarperCollins, 1993. 153 pages. (0-06-025118-2) $14.89
When three students wore black armbands to school in 1965 to protest the Vietnam War and were expelled from school in Des Moines, Iowa, they brought a lawsuit against the school board which eventually was carried to the Supreme Court. Young readers are invited to participate in the historic Supreme Court decision in 1969 that extended First Amendment Rights to public school students. The details of the court case are presented chronologically, along with excerpts of the actual testimony, and at frequent intervals readers are asked to make a judgment based on the evidence presented. Black-and-white photographs of the real people involved in the case, as well as from daily school life at Roosevelt High in the mid-1960s, add to the book's appeal and accessibility. Brief interviews with both the plaintiffs and defendants conducted 27 years after the decision include comments from each concerning how the case changed their lives. An impressively researched and ingeniously crafted presentation of a topic of special importance to its intended audience. (Age 11 and older)

See also: Baseball Saved Us; Neve Shalom / Wahat Al-Salam; Take Action; Voices from the Field

UNDERSTANDING ONESELF AND OTHERS

Cole, Joanna. HOW YOU WERE BORN. Photographs by Margaret Miller. Revised edition: Morrow, 1993. 48 pages. (0-688-12060-1) $15.00
"Before you were born, you grew in a special place inside your mother's body called her uterus, or womb." Written with simple, direct language, Joanna Cole's book for parents to share with children was designed to help answer the question "Where did I come from?" Cole explains the biological aspects of reproduction and fetal development with the help of simple drawings showing the union of an ovum and sperm, and remarkable photographs taken inside the womb. The happiness and excitement parents feel over a child's birth is also discussed, accompanied by photographs showing parents preparing for, and then celebrating, the arrival of a child. This newly revised and updated edition shows parents and babies of diverse racial backgrounds and firmly establishes the importance of the one special child with whom the book is being shared. (Ages 3-6)

Jukes, Mavis. I'LL SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS. Illustrated by Stacey
Schuett. Alfred A. Knopf, 1993. 32 pages. (0-679-82690-4) $15.00
A young girl contemplates how she will say goodbye to her dying uncle in original, sensitive short fiction about a child dealing with grief and loss. First, she imagines what she would do if she could: "If she were a skywriter....Across the face of the moon she'd write - in silver letters: 'I love you.' and then: 'I'll see you in my dreams.'" Later, she thinks about what it will really be like when she goes to see him: "She would fly across the country on an airliner with a vapor trail behind it - a 767 like her uncle used to fly." In a brilliantly styled and structured story, Jukes uses two simple sentences firmly stated in the present tense ("She was not a skywriter. She was a little kid.") to connect the first and second parts of the story, like the fuselage connects the wings of a plane. The conditionally stated action throughout the rest of the text places a slight temporal distance between the child and the overwhelming reality she is about to face, making a difficult, frightening experience less threatening. Soft, exquisitely colored full-page illustrations by Schuett enhance the warmth of this unique book. (Ages 4-8)

Moutoussamy-Ashe, Jeanne. DADDY AND ME; A PHOTO STORY OF ARTHUR ASHE AND HIS DAUGHTER CAMERA. Alfred A. Knopf, 1993. 40 pages. (0-679-95096-6) $13.00
Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe's black and white photographs of her husband, Arthur, and her daughter, Camera, taken in the years before Arthur died of AIDS in February, 1993, when Camera was five, capture a warm father/daughter relationship in which his illness, while a factor in their lives - sometimes draining his energy or hospitalizing him - is never a factor in their love. Text accompanying the photographs is written in Camera's first person voice and describes her life with her father: "Daddy has some bad days and lots of good days....On good days we go to the tennis court....Or we sit in the sun and sing....On Daddy's bad days, I take care of him. I give him his pills. I take his temperature. I make him wait until the thermometer beeps, just like he does for me." A remarkable portrait of children's capacity for understanding, compassion and love. (Ages 3-5)

Senisi, Ellen B. BROTHERS & SISTERS. Scholastic, 1993. 32 pages. (0-590-46419-1) $12.95
The ups and downs of sibling relationships are explored in color photographs of sibling pairs that are accompanied by comments from the children on what it is like having a brother or sister who is younger than you, older than you, or even the same age. One brother/sister pair summed it up best: "Sometimes we're best friends....And sometimes we're worst enemies." (Ages 3-6)

See also: Abuela's Weave; Amelia's Road; Anna Is Still Here; Blessed Are You; Celebrating Kwaanza; Cherokee Summer; Come Home With Me; Crack in the Wall; Great Miracle Happened There; Halmioni and the Picnic; Home Field; Ininatig's Gift of Sugar; Kinaaldá; Margaret and Margarita; Maybe Yes, Maybe No, Maybe Maybe; My Name is Mariá Isabel; Nanabosho, Soaring Eagle, and the Great
ACTIVITIES

Fleischman, Paul. COPIER CREATIONS; USING COPY MACHINES TO MAKE DECALS, SILHOUETTES, FLIP BOOKS, FILMS, AND MUCH MORE! Illustrated by David Cain. HarperCollins, 1993. 122 pages. (0-06-021053-2) $13.89 (paperback 0-06-446152-1, $8.95) There is a seemingly endless list of creative ideas just waiting to be realized inside this book that shows how to use a photocopy machine and other simple supplies such as scissors, tape, pens and a ruler to make dozens of different projects. Among those not listed in the title are stationery, notecards, jigsaw puzzles, iron-ons and stamps. Step-by-step instructions and illustrations keep the process for each project on track, while helpful sidebars titled "Other Possibilities" encourage creative copiers to experiment with additional ideas. (Ages 8-12)

Gryski, Camilla. FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS. U.S. edition: Morrow, 1993. 48 pages. (0-688-12436-4) $14.00 (paperback, $6.95) Children can make their own colorful bracelets from embroidery thread in enticing patterns like diagonal stripe, arrowhead, double-diamond and zigzag y following the friendly, step-by-step instructions in this book. Simple color diagrams clarify the steps, while photographs of finished bracelets provide artistic inspiration. (Ages 8-12)

Love, Ann and James Drake. TAKE ACTION; AN ENVIRONMENTAL BOOK FOR KIDS. Illustrated by Pat Cupples. U.S. edition: Tambourine, 1993. 96 pages. (0-688-12464-X) $13.93 Throughout sections titled "Wildlife Matters," "Endangered Species," "Endangered Spaces" and "How to Take Action," facts about nature and the environment are integrated with suggested activities that promote understanding of the concept of extinction, the impact of poison on the food chain and other ideas related to how people have affected the rest of the natural world. The emphasis is on how kids, both individually and together, can make a difference in helping the environment and reversing the trend of destruction by taking action in their homes, their communities and around the world. (Ages 7-11)

Sohi, Morteza E. LOOK WHAT I DID WITH A LEAF! (NatureCraft) Walker, 1993. 32 pages. (0-8027-8215-9) $14.95 A walk in the woods will never be the same again once children see how leaves can be turned into a menagerie of colorful, amazing animals. From fish to frogs, elephants to lions, roosters to cows, the vivid creations assembled here are put together using nothing but leaves (with a little glue) and imagination. Sohi provides simple directions, helpful hints and a few do's and dont's in a direct, encouraging manner that will foster the artist in every child. (Ages 6-10)
THE ARTS

Tidbit-filled cameo sketches of the famous reveal infamous habits and quirks for a generation accustomed to thumbnail glimpses of celebrity personalities. Brief selected musical "notes" add other facts. Twenty musicians are thus introduced to young readers who have not heard of most or all of them: Vivaldi, Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Verdi, C. Schumann, Foster, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Gilbert & Sullivan, Satie, S. Joplin, Ives, Stravinsky, Boulanger, Prokofiev, Gershwin and W. Guthrie. Personal details and anecdotes are linked to the unconventional full-color art accompanying each two-page account. Material typically unavailable in encyclopedias brings European and American musicians to life. By their unconventional approach, Krull and Hewitt may just have revolutionized the generally dull form of collective biography for young readers. (Ages 7-14)

Lawrence, Jacob. THE GREAT MIGRATION; AN AMERICAN STORY. HarperCollins, 1993. 48 pages. (0-06-023038-X) $22.89
According to Lawrence, his sequence of paintings, begun in 1940 when he was 22 years old, involves the "exodus of African-Americans who left their homes and farms in the South around the time of World War I and traveled to northern industrial cities in search of better lives." This book reproducing the entire series in full color was published on the occasion of the 1993 exhibition "Jacob Lawrence: The Migration Series." Images of dignity and hope are mingled with those of hard work and harsh experience created in what became panels containing an epic sweep of a people on the move. Lawrence's introduction and brief narrative accompanying the paintings offer insights into this aspect of U.S. history and his immediate family's migration experience. The closing page of this significant book contains a poem by Walter Dean Myers in which tribute is paid to the theme of the paintings and to the people. (Ages 9 and older)

Littlechild, George. THIS LAND IS MY LAND. Children's Book Press (6400 Hollis Street, #4, Emeryville, CA 94608), 1993. 32 pages. (0-89239-119-7) $15.95
Seventeen dazzling, thought-provoking paintings by artist George Littlechild, a member of the Plains Cree Nation, are the focus of this stunning book. In the open, engaging narrative that accompanies each vivid reproduction, most of which are full page, the artist explains the meaning and symbolism found in his paintings, making both the art and the artistic process wholly accessible to children. Describing the painting "Red Horse in a Sea of White Horses" he writes: "...an Indian Warrior sits atop a red horse. Not at home in how own territory, the red horse sits among the white horses, who find him different and don't
understand him....The red horse represents me." The artist also paints a moving portrait in words of his own life and of Native experience in this singular book that celebrates the relationship between individual, art and culture. (Ages 9-14)


What might daily life have been like for the young boys apprenticed to the master craftsmen of Renaissance Florence? Perhaps the lads were physically tired, hungry, lonely, confused by the machinations of patronage, occasionally beaten and - once in a while - locked in isolation for daring to express an opinion contrary to that of the Maestro. Thirteen-year-old Arduino sees or experiences all that and more in the only work by this Spanish novelist to be published to date in the U.S.A. in translation. Young U.S. readers can be swept into the intrigue of the plot, while details concerning the creation of paintings commissioned for a palace chapel as well as apprenticeship become backdrops for a brief story set in the cultural capital of its times. (Ages 10-12)

Sills, Leslie. VISIONS; STORIES ABOUT WOMEN ARTISTS. Albert Whitman, 1993. 64 pages. (0-8075-8491-6) $18.95

In a compact volume measuring 9" by 11", Sills showcases the life and art of four women: Mary Cassatt, Leonora Carrington, Betye Saar and Mary Frank. The handsome volume contains photographs of the artists as a young girls as well as later in life; color photographs of selected works indicate potential child appeal about them while the text engages interest in their progressive and distinctive spirits. Only Cassatt is at all visible within other books for children. Carrington's origins in northern England exposed her to Celtic legends, Christian stories about miracles and Catholic saints and family suggestions that she raise fox terriers rather than attend art school. After learning about surrealism in art, Carrington ultimately emigrated to Mexico where she continued to "see the invisible" and create "fantasies with otherworldly creatures." Saar's early fascination with found objects extended into a career involving three-dimensional assemblages, a famous one being "The Liberation of Aunt Jemima," her response as an African-American artist to outsider notions about kitchen slaves. In recent years Saar continues to transform ordinary objects, including circuit boards, into artistic statements. Born in England, Frank was sent to the U.S. in 1940 to live with grandparents. Throughout her career sculpting and, more recently, creating monoprints, Frank explores universals: life and life experience. Detailed picture credits and bibliographies conclude Sills' second fine work about women artists, the first of which was INSPIRATIONS (Albert Whitman, 1989). (Ages 9-14)

Turner, Robyn Montana. FAITH RINGGOLD. (Portrait of Women Artists) Little, Brown, 1993. 32 pages. (0-316-85652-5) $15.95
Two additions for a fine series involve two artists recently brought to attention in different ways, and so these two books about Frida Kahlo and Faith Ringgold are certain to be of interest. Recent books about Kahlo for adults and other media and commercial attention to her gained new visibility for this Mexican artist. Ringgold's children's books TAR BEACH (Crown, 1991) and AUNT HARRIET'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN THE SKY (Crown, 1992) originated from her three-dimensional story quilts and thrust other works based on her African-American heritage into the spotlight as well. Like the other 11 1/4" by 8 3/4" books in the series, each of these concise biographies contains material documented from sources typically not tapped in children's books about artists. Each is generously illustrated with reproductions of artwork reproduced in full color. (Ages 7-12)

See also: Brown Angels; I Was A Teenage Professional Wrestler

**POETRY**

Feelings, Tom, compiler and illustrator. SOUL LOOKS BACK IN WONDER. 1993. 32 pages. (0-8037-1001-1) $15.99
In a powerful introduction the compiler/artist writes about the way African creativity has sustained the people in the past and how "it still flows - seeking, searching for new ways to connect the ancient with the new, the young with the old, the unborn with the ancestors." Feelings reminds readers about being "part of a collective that shares a common history and future." A stunning 9 3/4" by 10 5/8" volume melds striking art with 13 inspiring poems by Maya Angelou, Lucille Clifton, Alexis De Veaux, Mari Evans, Darryl Holmes, Langston Hughes, Rashidah Ismaili, Haki R. Madhubuti, Walter Dean Myers, Mwatabu Okantah, Eugene B. Redmond, Askia M. Touré and Margaret Walker. Feelings' process for creating the full-color illustrations done in mixed media is explained in detail; they originated with sketches made in Ghana and Senegal, West Africa; Guyana, South America; and in the United States. Biographical paragraphs about each poet appear at the end of this splendid volume. (Age 9 and older)

Hudson, Wade, selector. PASS IT ON; AFRICAN-AMERICAN POETRY FOR CHILDREN. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Scholastic, 1993. 32 pages. (0-590-45770-5) $14.95
A 10 3/4" by 8 5/8" picture book poetry anthology ranges in theme and mood from Eloise Greenfield's light-hearted "To Catch a Fish" to "Incident" by Countee Cullen. A line from "Listen Children" by Louise Clifton suggested the title of the collection. Other poets represented by the 19 selections are Gwendolyn Brooks, Henry Dumas, Paul Laurence Dunbar, James A. Emanuel, Mari Evans, Nikki Giovanni, Nikki Grimes, Langston Hughes, Lessie Jones Little, Lindamichellebaron (yes, that's her name) and Naomi Long Madgett. The title also represents the compiler's hope that a fine heritage will be introduced to a generation for whom this
African-American poetry and some of these poets are unfamiliar. Cooper's illustrations painted in oil wash appear in full color on every page. Brief information is provided about each poet. (Ages 4-9)

A young African-American girl ponders the answer to the question "What do you want to be?" and her imagination is alive with possibility: "I want to be big but not so big that a mountain or a mosque or a synagogue seems small. / I want to be strong but not so strong that a kite seems weak." Each stirring dream is expressed in Moss' exquisite, sensual writing that sends the child's strands of thought soaring into a realm where anything is possible, and then tethers them to concrete images that make what can only be imagined something tangible after all. Pinkney's illustrations, grounded in the writer's images, are filled with movement, color and light. (Ages 3-6)

Myers, Walter Dean. BROWN ANGELS; AN ALBUM OF PICTURES AND VERSE. HarperCollins, 1993. 40 pages. (0-06-022917-9) $16.00
Original rhymes and poems accompany old photographs of young African-American children collected earlier by Myers. Myers comments in his brief opening statement that these were children loved in their time by the adults who prepared them for a photograph, and valued by the person behind the camera. By immortalizing these Brown Angels, Myers implies the importance of all children. In writing about them, he specifies their beauty and worth. Preschoolers will enjoy paging through the album to see other children in photographs. Older children might make up stories about them and their families or wonder about photographs kept by their family. Adults can reflect upon what can be understood by seeing the faces, little suits and dresses, ribbons and ties, bare feet and toys. This exquisitely designed and printed album of brown-toned photos is wonderfully decorated with the recurring image of a full-color bird in flight. Elegant bookmaking expresses Myers' tender respect for these children of yesterday. (All ages)

Prelutsky, Jack. THE DRAGONS ARE SINGING TONIGHT. Illustrated by Peter Sis. Greenwillow, 1993. 40 pages. (0-688-12511-5) $14.93
The seventeen fast-paced, funny poems about dragons that comprise this collection are wonderfully illustrated in two-page color spreads that are as delightful as the poems themselves. The lively rhythms and pleasing rhymes make these verses a natural for memorization ("I'm tired of being a dragon, / Ferocious and brimming with flame, / The cause of unspeakable terror / When anyone mentions my name. / I'm bored with my bad reputation / For being a miserable brute, / And being routinely expected / To brazenly pillage and loot."), but Peter Sis' visual interpretations of each poem, filled with creativity and humor, will ensure that the book itself remains in the hands of readers long after they have memorized its contents. (Ages 8-11)
Thomas, Joyce Carol. BROWN HONEY IN BROOMWHEAT TEA. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. HarperCollins, 1993. 32 pages. (0-06-021088-5) $14.89

African-American experience is depicted in twelve original poems that exquisitely express feelings of pride, joy, love, wonder, sorrow and hope, and delicately extract and magnify moments imbedded in everyday life. "I spring up from mother earth / She clothed me in her own colors / I was nourished by father sun / He glazed the pottery of my skin..." begins the affirming opening poem, "Cherish Me." The simplest gestures take on the significance of ritual in "Mama" ("...She bows to the plant for permission / Prunes a small twig / Carries it like a healing flower / Over and over the rising road..."). "Family Tree" mourns losses of the past ("...This forest down by the blue-green water / That first spearated us / Mother from son / Father from daughter / Sister from sister... / I look across water / And cry for our trembling / Family tree"), while the title poem, speaking of the present, cautions, "There are those who / Have brewed a / Bitter potion for / Children kissed long by the sun." The final offering, "Becoming the Tea," assures that "...like the steeping brew / The longer I stand/ The stronger I stay." Floyd Cooper's intimate paintings warmly reflect and extend the theme of the text. Steeped in tones of brown, rust and gold, they are themselves a celebration of African-American life. Winner, 1993 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Illustration. (Ages 5-10)

Willard, Nancy. A STARLIT SOMERSAULT DOWNHILL. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Little, Brown, 1993. 32 pages. (0-316-94113-1) $15.95

Rabbit is skeptical about joining friend bear in his cave for the winter when the clover is still smelling sweet. ("The fields are broad, the hills are wide. / A pity we should stay inside.") But when the first nip of cold stings the air, he quickly joins bear in his den, only to find that he is far too restless to slumber the months away. This lyrical, lively poem is touched with humor and filled with joy as rabbit leaps his way "in starlit somersaults downhill" through the lively winter world to his liking. Jerry Pinkney's illustrations spanning each two-page spread fill the pages with autumn and winter light. (Ages 2-4)

See also: Christmas Gif'; When It Snowed That Night

BOOKS FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS


Simple, appealing rhymes and colorful illustrations depict
familiar routines that start and end the day in these two cheerful board books. "This little baby has eyes and a nose, a tickly tummy, and wiggly toes" begins the text of THIS LITTLE BABY'S MORNING, which follows a little girl through the morning routine of diaper-changing, dressing and eating breakfast, and then "this little baby's ready to play!" THIS LITTLE BABY'S BEDTIME traces a little boy's nighttime routine of bath, story-time and cuddling with daddy before "A kiss on the nose, then turn out the light--Shh! This little baby's asleep for the night." (Ages 9 months - 2 years)

Fleming, Denise. IN THE SMALL, SMALL POND. Henry Holt, 1993. 32 pages. (0-8050-2264-3) $15.95
"In the small, small pond / wiggle, jiggle, tadpoles wriggle / waddle, wade, geese parade..." There's a lot of activity in and around the small pond, beginning with a child at water's edge who's trying to catch a frog. Each page follows the pattern of offering two deliciously onomatopoeic words, followed by a single critter's corresponding activity. The words truly become part of the visual story as well, as large typeface playfully bounces around the page, echoing the activity it describes. Larger-than-life paintings, filled with color and energy and humor, extend and enhance the sense of life and wonder in an underwater world. Winner, 1993 CCBC Caldecott Award Discussion. (Ages 18 months-3 years)

"It's time for bed, little mouse, little mouse / Darkness is falling all over the house..." The opening sentence sets the pattern for a gentle bedtime story in which a mother mouse, goose, cat, cow, horse, fish, sheep, bird, bee, snake, dog, deer and human call their babies to bed. Appealing watercolor paintings show each of the animals in their natural setting, only slightly anthropomorphized in that, like the human child, all the animals are struggling to stay awake just a little bit longer. (Ages 18 months-4 years)

Two active children -- a little girl and her baby brother -- star in a new series by the brilliant British author/illustrator. Each of the volumes focuses on a single action that contributes to the distinctiveness of a young preschooler's perspective. In GIVING the sister describes both good and bad aspects (eg. giving the cat a ride in a baby carriage; the cat giving a scratch in return). In BOUNCING, an activity both she and her baby brother enjoy immensely, she describes where, when and how it can be done, while at the same time acknowledging her parents' lack of enthusiasm for the sport. Young children with whom these books are shared are sure to come up with a favorite activity of their own: Rereading. (Ages 18 months-3 years)
The young child narrator admires her best friend for all the things she can do well -- run fast, climb high, jump far and even eat spaghetti with a fork. But when this impressive individual accepts an invitation to a sleep-over, she surprises her host by seeing monsters where there are only curtains blowing in the breeze. Brightly colored, stylized illustrations depict the best friend who-can-do-no-wrong as being just a little bit older than her young devotee, making the story’s resolution all the more satisfying for young readers. Both of the young friends are Black. (Ages 2-4)

Lightly colored paintings on textured cloth give an appropriately old-fashioned flavor to the classic Mother Goose counting rhyme, although closer examination reveals the children pictured here as decidedly modern. The complete version of the rhyme is used, ending with "19, 20 / My plate's empty." (Ages 2-4)

"Woof! Woof! Woof!" says Buster. "WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!" answers the very large dog across the valley. At least Buster thinks it's a very large dog. But Rooster hears a giant rooster, Cow a terrible bull, and Little Mouse a mean rat (who no one else can hear, but "they're all too polite to say."). Children will love following this brave if misguided foursome as they seek out the elusive animals who frighten them in order to chase them away. Buster, Rooster, Cow and Little Mouse are boldly realized in Webster's charming, humorous illustrations that span each double-page spread. (Ages 2-4)

Millie is such a kind and generous sheep that she gladly gives her wool to a bird, a badger and a rabbit who are building warm winter nests. When winter comes, the three of them are warm but Millie has no coat! A kind farmer who was planning on knitting a sweater for herself comes to Millie's rescue by instead knitting a sweater for the good-hearted sheep. An engaging, amusing story uses brightly colored stylized paintings and a patterned text that will hold the attention of young listeners. (Ages 2-4)

Betsy is a blue frog in a world of green frogs but that's the least of her worries. She prefers leaping and turning and twisting to hopping and jumping. "It's called dancing," she tells the green frogs. Soon all the frogs giving the new moves a try -- except for one, who sticks to hopping and jumping.
"There's room for everything," Betsy reassures them when the new converts try to make the die-hard hopper change his ways. Cut-paper collages of froggy figures in motion stand out boldly against a stark white background, making this a perfect choice for group reading. (Ages 2-4)

See also: Little Red Hen; Noah's Ark; Rat and the Tiger; Something from Nothing; Tomorrow on Rocky Pond

**PICTURE BOOKS**


Yunmi's Korean grandmother has lived with her U.S. family in New York City for two months but is still reluctant to use English words when she sees Yunmi's school friends, even though she was a teacher in Korea. Rather than proving to be the embarrassing situation Yunmi expects, a school picnic provides Yunmi and her classmates with an opportunity to encourage this very smart, exceedingly gracious woman to enjoy herself in a social setting.

The picnic features Halmoni's kimbap, which she has made as a treat for them all, as well as a chance for her to turn the jump rope. The children find out that it is polite to call her Halmoni (grandmother) but rude to address an elder by her name. A contemporary story by the Korean-born author of YEAR OF IMPOSSIBLE GOODBYES (Houghton Mifflin, 1991) specifies ways to understand how someone new to a language might feel. Korean language words are used in context within this cheerful 10 1/4" by 7 1/2" picture story illustrated in full color. (Ages 5-8)


(Distributed by Publishers Group West, 1-800-788-3123)

Until Carlos' mom finds another job, she can only afford a small dingy apartment for the two of them to live in. Carlos tries to brighten it up, first by painting leaves on a crack in the wall to make it look like a tree branch, then by placing shining stars made out of gum wrappers on the branch. But each day his mom returns from her job hunt so exhausted that she never notices Carlos' handiwork. A realistic story about one child's attempts to cheer up a discouraged parent in a time of stress has a completely unpredictable surprise ending. (Ages 4-8)

Henkes, Kevin. OWEN. Greenwillow, 1993. 24 pages. (0-688-11450-4) $14.00

Owen the mouse and Fuzzy the blanket have been constant companions for a lifetime. "Fuzzy goes where I go," Owen asserts. And Fuzzy does with little fuss or bother until nosy Mrs. Tweezers from next-door comments that Owen is too old to cling to a security blanket. With their neighbor's helpful advice, Owen's parents try every trick in the book to separate the two, but Owen always manages to outsmart them. The situation seems hopeless until Owen's mother comes up with a solution that
makes everyone happy. Black pen and watercolor paintings add
touches of humor to the marvelously plotted, skillfully worded
story with universal appeal for the little mouse in all of us.
(Ages 3-8)

Gilchrist, Jan Spivey. INDIGO AND MOONLIGHT GOLD. Black Butterfly
/Writers and Readers (P.O. Box 461, Village Station, New York,
NY 10014), 1993. 32 pages. (0-86316-210-X) $13.95
Standing on her front porch gazing at the nighttime sky, Autrie
wishes she could freeze time. Not only could she keep the stars
forever, but Mama would always be watching over her from the
window, bathed in night's colors of indigo and moonlight gold.
Yet Autrie knows that night turns to day, warm breezes grow cold,
and "Mama's don't sit and watch forever." The prospect of change
doesn't frighten her, however, because Mama's love has helped her
grow strong. Gilchrist's luminous oil paintings lend a quality
of mystery to this African-American mother's and daughter's
special bond. (Ages 5-8)

Howard, Elizabeth Fitzgerald. MAC & MARIE & THE TRAIN TOSS
32 pages. (0-02-744640-9) $14.95
Anticipation builds on a warm summer night long ago as Mac and
Marie wait eagerly for the Florida training making its way north
to rumble by the Big House where they live near Baltimore. Uncle
Clem has a job on the train and has promised to toss them a
surprise as it passes! Big brother Mac isn't as fidgety as
Marie, but even he has a hard time waiting. As the two children
pass the time, Mac dreams of the day when he, too, will work on
the railroad as a fireman or an engineer, travelling across the
land. Skillfully paced text measures the waiting time perfectly,
slowly building to the moment when the train finally approaches,
and marking its passing in a rush of words that leaves the reader
breathless. Afterwards, there is Mac and Marie's discovery of
Uncle Clem's package. The beautiful shell inside is a solid
reminder to Mac of the places he will someday see. Lovely
colored pencil and water color illustrations by Carter illuminate
the beauty and mystery of this midsummer night and echo the
warmth of the African-American family's relationships depicted in
the text. (Ages 5-8)

Kalman, Maira. CHICKEN SOUP BOOTS. Viking, 1993. 36 pages. (0-
670-85201-5) $15.00
Kalman's highly original artistic and literary perspectives
distinguish a picture book about people at work. A traveling
salesman, composer, doorman, artist, short-order cook and a fire-
fighter are just a few of the occupations described. Each of
them are connected by a child-narrator's voice as she talks about
the various workers she encounters in her neighborhood. Her
witty stream-of-consciousness description reveals as much about
herself, her family and her neighborhood as it does about the
world of work. (Ages 4-8)

Kasza, Keiko. THE RAT AND THE TIGER. Putnam, 1993. 32 pages. (0-
The rat tells the story of his friendship with a tiger, a big tough fellow who often uses his size and strength to his advantage. When the two play cowboys, for example, the rat has to be the bad guy. When the tiger divides a doughnut, the rat gets the little piece. The tiger is surprised one day when the rat gets angry and asserts himself, placing the shoe firmly on the other foot. Skillful, fun-filled, watercolor illustrations accompany an engaging story which will strike a chord with rats and tigers everywhere, even those who are posing as small children. (Ages 2-5)

Ketteman, Helen. THE YEAR OF NO MORE CORN. Illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker. Orchard, 1993. 32 pages. (0-531-05950-2) $14.95
Because Beanie is too young to help with the corn planting and Old Grampa's too old, the two of them share a story on the front porch instead. Old Grampa tells Beanie about a planting season long ago when the farmers were besieged with first a flood, then a tornado, next a hot spell and finally crows, so that every last kernel of corn had been carried away by one natural disaster or another. Ever resourceful, Old Grampa had whittled corn to plant that year. Parker's expressive watercolor paintings accompany a text which is half tall tale, half family story and completely entertaining. (Ages 4-8)

McLellan, Joe. NANABOSHO, SOARING EAGLE, AND THE GREAT STURGEON. Illustrated by Rhian Brynjolson. Pemmican Publications (1635 Burrows Avenue, #2, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2X 0T1 Canada), 1993. 48 pages. (0-921827-23-7) $9.95 paperback
When two Ojibway girls go fishing with their grandfather, they brag about the number of fish they'll catch as they ride in their grandfather's truck to the lake. After listening to the two girls, grandfather shares a Nanabosho story about a time the trickster hero and his friend Soaring Eagle were greedy when they stocked up on fish for the winter. Engaging watercolor illustrations capture the humor and the wisdom of this story within a story. They even take the story one step further by including border illustrations which depict the challenges faced by an older brother who was left home to do the laundry. (Ages 4-8)

Mathers, Petra. VICTOR AND CHRISTABEL. Alfred A. Knopf, 1993. 32 pages. (0-679-83060-X) $15.00
The story of true love overcoming all odds has certainly been told before, but never with such a flair for the outrageous. Victor and Christabel are crocodiles (and very vivid ones at that). He is a lonely crocodile man working as a museum guard, she is a lonely crocodile woman who finds it difficult being assertive. ("She always did as she was told. Knowing this, she had long ago decided to live alone.") When Christabel's horrid cousin Anatole arrives on her doorstep one dark and stormy night, she just can't turn him away, which is unfortunate because Anatole is a not-so-nice magician and he eventually turns Christabel into a painting. He drops the painting off at the
museum where Victor works and, with one look, Victor is
enchanted. Witty text and playful illustrations, which are boldly
realized and delightfully detailed, combine to create a true
original romance. Trips to the museum may never be the same
after children experience this entertaining story that was
inspired by an actual 15th century painting, Saint Ursula's Dream
(by Vittore Carpaccio), which is pictured on the verso of the
title page. (Ages 4-7)

Protopopescu, Orel Odinov. THE PERILOUS PIT. Illustrated by
pages. (0-671-76910-3) $14.00
When Katie, sitting peacefully under a tree reading a book,
throws the pit from a peach she's been eating over her shoulder,
she sets off a chain reaction of dramatic events. The pit hit a
cat who ran into the street causing a car to swerve into a
fireplug which burst causing a tidal wave to sweep up a boy on a
skateboard... and that's just the first page! The illustrations,
marked by a distinctive use of heavy black line, suggest an
earlier era both in style and content. The events in this
humorous tall tale take on epic proportions before things calm
down again... just as the oblivious Katie reaches for another
peach. (Ages 4-8)

Reiser, Lynn. MARGARET AND MARGARITA = MARGARITA Y MARGARET.
Greenwillow, 1993. 32 pages. (0-688-12240-X) $14.00
Margaret, who speaks English, and Margarita, who speaks Spanish,
meet on a trip to the park with their mothers. The language
barrier immediately distances the adults (Margaret's mother
buries her nose in a book while Margarita's mother concentrates
on her knitting), but the two little girls, who at first peer
shyly at one another from behind their mother's skirts, soon are
chattering away. The openness of young children is warmly
depicted in this simple bilingual text. Each mother/daughter
pair speaks the same or similar phrases in their own language on
facing pages as Margaret and Margarita experience the joy of
newfound friendship. The English words are in blue, and the
Spanish words are in red. By the end of the book, most of the
dialogue is red and blue intermingled as the children excitedly
speak a mix of both languages. Whimsical watercolor
illustrations add to the celebratory tone. (Ages 3-6)

Seymour, Tres. HUNTING THE WHITE COW. Illustrated by Wendy
$15.95
When a white cow gets loose from a Kentucky family's pasture,
first Daddy and Mr. Matthew try to catch it and can't; then
Daddy, Mr. Matthew, Uncle Bill and Uncle Bob go after it and
miss; and finally Daddy, Mr. Matthew, Uncle Bill, Uncle Bob and
Papaw try to find it and fail. "That cow is one tough dude,"
comments Mr. Matthew after every unsuccessful attempt. A white
Southern cadence adds character and humor to the delightful
story, traits which are further enhanced with distinctive details
in the softly shaded watercolor and pencil illustrations.
Multiple layers of plot are skillfully depicted in the illustrations which are themselves layered to show simultaneous actions; for example, a single spread shows the hunting party setting out while the cow grazes peacefully in a field beyond them and a child sits impatiently on the front porch behind them.

Honor Book, 1993 CCBC Caldecott Award Discussion. (Ages 3-8)

Shannon, George. CLIMBING KANSAS MOUNTAINS. Illustrated by Thomas B. Allen. Bradbury, 1993. 32 pages. (0-02-782181-1) $15.95

When they made a flour-dough map of their home state, Kansas, there was hardly a bump on it, so what in the world was his dad talking about when he invited Sam to go mountain-climbing one Sunday afternoon? Out of curiosity and boredom, Sam agreed to go but he couldn't see any mountains, not even when his dad stopped the car next to the grain elevators where he worked. "The thing that makes a mountain is a high, quiet view," his dad tells him, after he grins his "got you" grin. Viewing Kansas from their "mountaintop" Sam sees that it looks the same -- and different. And driving home across the flat landscape, the father and son together are the same -- and different. An exquisitely eloquent story uses humor and metaphorical language to bring two characters to life as they share an unforgettable yet private experience. With very few words, the author has managed to reveal truths and complexities of human relationships that many novelists fail to elicit -- perhaps that's what happens when you set out to climb a Kansas mountain. (Ages 4-8)


Bare spots in the grass serve as bases, maple trees behind home plate provide a backstop and barn swallows are like fans in bleachers when young Matt and his dad get in a quick game of baseball before early morning farm chores. With his dad coaching, Matt's perfecting his stance and his hitting this summer but his real growth can probably be attributed to the fact that dad makes time for a little one-on-one baseball before the hectic pace of daily life takes over. David Spohn's understated, gentle story of a father and son relationship in a rural interracial family is itself a little solace in a busy world. (Ages 3-7)


A city child's description of her grandmother's rural home includes ordinary details that she herself finds extraordinary: the pantry, the bathtub with feet, the dirt-floor in the cellar and, of course, the cistern out back. Coziness and quiet comfort are the hallmarks of her overnight visit with her grandma and great aunt. Stunning illustrations were created from black paper cut freehand and placed over sheets of painted ricepaper, giving an ethereal quality to everyday places and occurrences. Outstanding reproduction and distinguished book design enhance
the mood of sharing a special place with a beloved family member. Grandmother is depicted in the illustrations as Asian-American, while her grandchildren are biracial (Asian/white). (Ages 4-8)


When a little girl's parents leave for a trip to Paris, she tells them, "Remember the special things to tell me...the things I'd like if I were there...So the mother remembered." This beautifully composed book pairs Zolotow's quiet, gentle narrative with full-page photographs by Hoban in which each of the mother's treasured memories are visually realized. An enlarged detail of the photo appearing opposite enhances each page of text. The perfect resolution of this warm, loving book will leave those who experience it sighing with pleasure and satisfaction. (Ages 3-5)

See also: Abuela's Weave; Amelia's Road; Arctic Spring; Bloomers!; Calvin's Christmas Wish; Counting Cranes; Dragons Are Singing Tonight; Grandfather's Journey; In a Small, Small Pond; Little Red Hen; Nana's Birthday Party; Outside Dog; Ruth Law Thrills a Nation; Screen of Frogs; Snowed In; Something from Nothing; Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig; Tomorrow on Rocky Pond; Uncle Jed's Barbershop; Why Duck's Sleep on One Leg; Woman Who Fell From the Sky; section on Books for Babies and Toddlers

**EASY FICTION**


"We already have two Mariás in this class. Why don't we call you Mary instead?" So begins the first day at a new school for nine-year old Mariá Isabel Salazar Lopez, who is proud of her real name, and the Puerto Rican family heritage it represents. Mariá Isabel can't get used to the strange new name Mary Lopez, but she is shy and doesn't know how to tell her teacher. If that weren't enough, her mother gets a job and is no longer at home when Mariá Isabel finishes school each day. Mariá Isabel's struggle to adapt to changes, and to find her voice, is at the center of this inviting story exploring important issues of identity and understanding. (Ages 8-10)

Altman, Linda Jacobs. AMELIA'S ROAD. Illustrated by Enrique O. Sanchez. Lee & Low, 1993. 32 pages. (1-880000-04-0) $14.95

(Distributed by Publishers Group West, 1-800-788-3123)

A young child living in a Mexican migrant family hates "the road," which to her symbolizes another round of backbreaking work, degradation and insecurity. More than anything else she would like to feel a sense of belonging in one place, but it is unlikely that will ever happen. Then she discovers the "accidental road," an overgrown path that leads to a place no one else frequents, and she claims it for her own. A poignant yet realistic story of a plucky young girl who comes up with her own solution to a problem is stunningly illustrated with full-color
acrylic paintings. (Ages 7-9)

Castañeda, Omar S. ABUELA'S WEAVE. Illustrated by Enrique O. Sanchez. Lee & Low, 1993. 32 pages. (1-880000-00-8) $14.95 (Distributed by Publishers Group West, 1-800-788-3123)
When it comes to weaving, young Esperanza couldn't have a better teacher than her grandmother, a Mayan elder who is well-known for her beautiful tapestries in the rural area of Guatemala where they live. But when it comes to taking the weavings into town to sell in the market, her grandmother insists on staying behind. She is afraid that the birthmark on her face will discourage customers from buying their work, and she is especially anxious for the elaborate weaving she and Esperanza worked on together to get the attention it deserves. Abuela's reluctance to enter the marketplace makes Esperanza feel self-conscious about the items she has for sale, until she sees customers walking past the commercial stalls to look at her weavings. Brightly colored, distinctive illustrations by a talented new artist add to the overall appeal. Authentic cultural details enrich both the text and the pictures in this unusual story of a child's first steps toward pride and self-sufficiency. (Ages 6-9)

Griffith, Helen V. GRANDADDY AND JANETTA. Illustrated by James Stevenson. Greenwillow, 1993. 32 pages. (0-688-11227-7) $14.00 Young listeners and readers will find the spunky protagonist and amiable grandparent enjoyed earlier in this companion volume to GEORGIA MUSIC (Greenwillow, 1986) and GRANDDADDY'S PLACE (Greenwillow, 1987). A third five-chapter story begins as Janetta travels alone by train from Baltimore to Georgia. She wonders about the changes during the year that has elapsed since her last visit to the rural home of Momma's childhood. Does Granddaddy remember what she looks like? Will she remember him?
At once Janetta notices that Granddaddy's beard is gone, while he wastes no time living up to his reputation in the humor department: "I thought to myself, if that child has grown a beard, how will I ever know her?" Yes, there are changes at Granddaddy's, small ones contributing to a family's memory of itself. Granddaddy is good at telling stories, sometimes ones from Momma's childhood. Janetta is good at listening and also at enjoying the mule she once named Star, the egg-laying chickens, and the cat. Griffith's ability to create distinctive, plausible, likable characters through dialogue, and Stevenson's skill in creating full-color art done in black line with watercolors, combine once again with success to delineate a heart-warming bond between two generations. (Ages 4-8)

Hru, Dakari. JOSHUA'S MASAI MASK. Illustrated by Anna Rich. Lee & Low, 1993. 32 pages. (1-880000-02-4) $14.95 (Distributed by Publishers Groups West, 1-800-788-3123)
Joshua loves to play the kalimba, an instrument tied to his African heritage. His family enthusiastically encourages him to perform with it in the school talent contest, but the thought has him mortified - the kids in school will laugh! It would be different if could rap and dance like popular Kareem Cooper.
Even when Uncle Zambezi gives Joshua a Masai mask to wear in the show, Joshua can't help wishing he were Kareem. But when the power of the mask allows Joshua to experience other people's lives firsthand, he develops a new appreciation for his own, especially when he and his kalimba save the show! Brightly colored full-page illustrations provide a vivid backdrop for the text. (Ages 5-8)

Sophie, "lady farmer" extraordinaire, approaches her sixth birthday with her usual determination and single-mindedness. As witnessed in SOPHIE'S SNAIL (Delacorte, 1989) and SOPHIE'S TOM (Candlewick, 1992), she continues to work tirelessly to add to her herds, with the recent addition of a white rabbit (named, as Sophie understood it, "Al Beano"). Although school lacks farming lessons, Sophie enjoys learning things and realizes the necessity of reading, writing, and arithmetic to successful farm management. Her classmates are less interesting, but Sophie manages to get along in her own inimitable way, seeking out farmer's son Andrew, and barely tolerating tidy, pretty Dawn. Sophie's fans will welcome her back in this easy-to-read short novel illustrated with occasional pen and ink drawings. (Ages 7-9)

Patron, Susan. MAYBE YES, MAYBE NO, MAYBE MAYBE. Illustrated by Dorothy Donahue. Orchard, 1993. 87 pages. (0-531-05482-9) $14.95
PK is a middle sister. She is stuck between Megan, who is almost-a-teenager and has perfect toes and brilliant ideas and hardly any time for PK, and Rabbit, who is five and has a billion questions which it is PK's job to answer. They're all growing up so fast! When Mama announces that they'll be moving to a new apartment, PK feels lost in the midst of all that is changing. Even riding her best friend, Bike, makes her feel only a little better. She is worried about Rabbit, who worries too much, worried about Bike, and, most of all, she is worried about how the magical hamper stories she got at the old apartment will reach her at the new one. "You have drama in your blood, PK," her mother tells her, and PK likes the sound of that. But she has to believe it before changes aren't so scary after all. PK is an original. (Ages 8-10)

Marisol wants a dog, but grandfather says no. "They have fleas and ticks and who knows what." But when a skinny brown dog with perky ears and a bright nose wanders into their yard, she is quick to point out that this dog has no fleas. It's only a matter of time before she's talked grandfather into feeding the dog, then letting her buy him a collar, and, of course, she has to give him a name. This beginning reader set in Puerto Rico integrates simple Spanish words with easy text as it tells the story of a little girl, her soft-hearted grandfather and a little
brown dog named Pancho. (Ages 4-7)

Williams, Vera B. SCOOTER. Greenwillow, 1993. 147 pages. (0-688-09376-0) $15.00

Elana Rose Rosen and her mother moved to an apartment on the 8th floor of 514 Melon Hill Avenue, and, according to Elana, she loved it from the first minute. Not so, says her mom, but that doesn't matter because as soon as her scooter was unpacked, Elana was out on the sidewalk practicing jumps. A minor accident proves to be one way to get acquainted, and Elana does - with other kids from the building, like Jimmy Beck, Eduard from 4K, Adrienne whose parents own the store and Vinh and Siobhan and Beryl, who wears lipstick already. And with Petey, the child who brought home Elana's scooter after the accident, the child who always wears a hat, which is OK, but doesn't talk, which isn't. Elana also gets to know some of the adults in her building: Benny Portelli the super, Mom's longtime friend Celia, and Mrs. Grenier, the most trying of the grown-ups. Elana can also be trying, and even stages a major pages-long absolutely authentic tantrum following a misunderstanding with her mother. In addition to scooter tricks, Elana creates personal acrostics, makes vegetable soup and even allows Mrs. Grenier to show her how to make a good fat pom-pom. Elana, her mother and the community in which they live are marvelously characterized. On every page in the 29 brief chapters, Williams' black and red artwork provides something visual, from inventive wordplay to a soup recipe to a few scooter tire tracks. This highly original novel involves the Security provided by a Community, seems Old-fashioned in comforting ways, Offers an unforgettable main character, is Emotionally honest and Rolls along fast while dealing with matters of immediacy to children. (Ages 4-7 for listening and 8-11 for reading and doing)

See also: Baseball Saved Us; Chicken Soup Boots; Climbing Kansas Mountains; Grandfather's Journey; Great Miracle Happened There; Hanna's Cold Winter; I Want To Be; I'll See You in My Dreams; Magician's Visit; Sadako; Uncle Jed's Barbershop; Vejigante Masquerader

15. Fiction for Children

Bauer, Marion Dane. A TASTE OF SMOKE. Clarion, 1993. 106 pages. (0-395-64341-4) $13.95

Thirteen-year-old Caitlin is a very contemporary protagonist looking forward to an annual camping trip with her older college-age sister Pam, who finds a reason to stop at the Hinckley Fire Museum on the way to their campsite. Caitlin resents the delay, and she rebels against Pam when she realizes that the camping trip has become an excuse for her sister to see more of Alex, a college boyfriend who works at the nearby museum. Caitlin takes off into the woods where she meets Frank, an odd-acting boy of her age whose mysterious appearances make her finally realize he
is the ghost of someone who did not escape the terrible fire a century earlier. Set in St. Croix State Park near Hinckley, Minnesota, this fast-moving fantasy is grounded in the reality of the devastation caused by the Hinckley Forest Fire of 1894. The contemporary sibling conflict and ghost story are played out in a region adjacent to northwest Wisconsin. (Ages 10-13)

Boyd, Candy Dawson. CHEVROLET SATURDAYS. Macmillan, 1993. 176 pages. (0-02-711765-0) $14.95
Joey Davis, certain that he belongs in the gifted and talented program at his school, has difficulty getting along with his teacher when he starts fifth grade. To make matters even worse, his mother's remarriage has destroyed Joey's dream of his divorced parents ever reconciling their differences. Joey is determined to make his new stepfather pay the price, even though the latter is trying hard to be Joey's friend by including the boy in his work routine every Saturday. Joey knows Mr. Johnson will never take his father's place and gradually realizes that Mr. Johnson knows it, too. The complexities of adjusting to changes in family life are skillfully and realistically woven into a fast-paced novel starring a true-to-life African-American boy who is at once exasperating and vulnerable. (Ages 9-12)

Chetwin, Grace. THE CHIMES OF ALYAFALEYN. Bradbury Press, 1993. 234 pages. (0-02-718222-3) $15.95
Tamborel eagerly awaits the day he will have his own heynim, the musical chimes that float in the air above the heads of adults and teenagers, keeping literal and figurative harmony among the citizens of Alyafaleyn. But long after his peers have "snagged" their first heynim, the space above Tamborel's head remains silent and empty. The villagers wonder about Tamborel's odd inability to snag heynim, but are far more interested in discussing his friend Caidrun. Precocious Caidrun wields a power far beyond her years over all heynim, and when she uses that power on a whim she becomes feared and shunned by all except Tamborel. In a genre that sometimes seems overrun with derivative stories and archetypes, Grace Chetwin has created a unique plot and realistic protagonists in this first volume of a new series. (Ages 10-14)

Cooper, Susan. THE BOGGART. McElderry Books, 1993. 196 pages. (0-689-50576-0) $18.95
In a deft meshing of ancient magic and modern culture, the lives of three contemporary children become entangled with the Boggart, a mischievous spirit from the Western Highlands of Scotland. Inadvertently transported from Scotland to the U.S.A., the Boggart makes his American debut with small tricks: hiding hockey sticks and hats, rearranging bookshelves and filling the sugar bowl with salt. But in a country which has forgotten the Wild Magic, the Boggart's antics cause tension instead of the usual Scottish tolerance. Bewildered by the many differences of his new home, the Boggart is amazed by the unfamiliar, but when he begins toying with traffic signals and streetcar wires, his innocent pranks become dangerous. This story of the collision of
Sixteen voices are commandingly woven into a fascinating, fast-paced account of the Civil War battle of Bull Run. Blending humor, excitement and danger with a grim depiction of war, Fleischman moves in and out of the lives of characters who represent diverse backgrounds, experiences and points of view: north, south, black, white, male, female, military, civilian, etc. Among them are southern colonel Oliver Brattle, whose passion for battle has long ago died; Lily Malloy, the anxious sister of a northern soldier; and Gideon Adams, who "passes" for white in order to fight for the North. Each of the sixteen characters speaks in separate chapters that advance the story while remaining firmly rooted in the experience of the individual. The action begins in the days and weeks preceding Bull Run, and advances up to and through the disastrous battle, when lives are changed forever. Chapter headings identifying each speaker are enhanced by David Frampton's woodcuts, unique for each character, which further distinguish the shift from one distinctive voice to the next. The author has provided a listing of the various characters and the pages on which they speak at the end of the book so that the work may be easily adapted for the stage or readers' theater. Honor Book, 1993 CCBC Newbery Award Discussion. (Age 11 and older)

Hamilton, Virginia. PLAIN CITY. Scholastic, 1993. 194 pages. (0-590-47364-6) $13.95

Twelve-year-old Buhlaire is completely mystified about her family's immediate past, a subject her mother, aunts and uncles never discuss. Who was her father, she wonders, and why did he leave them? When Buhlaire finds out that he's living right in the same town as she is, she sets out to find him, certain that he may hold the key that will unlock the mystery of her past. Hamilton's carefully crafted novel about a young biracial girl's search for identity is filled with imagery of frozen landscapes, winter storms and a sudden spring thaw, all of which symbolize Buhlaire's emotional state during her quest for truth. (Ages 11-14)


When non-swimmer Chloe leaves town for the summer to avoid the dreaded hair contract that her friends concoct ("We, the undersigned, do hereby agree that if one of us is having a bad hair day, she will call the other undersigneds, and we will all go into the pool together"), she is motivated by the need to escape total immersion, not by any desire to spend time with Bernadette, her stepfather's sister. Bernadette is equally uninspired with the planned visit, and neither she nor Chloe have any premonition of the upcoming T-Back War in which they will
play integral roles. Humor highlight's Chloe and Bernadette's relationship, but their story goes much deeper as they explore such human issues as superstition, sexism, media power, personal ethnics and love. (Ages 10-14)

In Jonas' world, there is no pain, no conflict, no poverty or injustice. Everything, including the work you will do for the rest of your life, is carefully planned out and controlled. On his twelfth birthday, Jonas, along with all the other twelve-year-olds, is assigned his life role in the community by the Elders: apprentice to the Giver. It's not what he expected. He's never even heard of the Giver, but as he learns under this mysterious man who keeps the history, he begins to receive memories of another place and time, and his perceptions of his perfect world start to radically alter. This gripping tale, set in a not-so-distant-future time, raises provocative issues for discussion and has a dramatic ending that will leave readers clamoring to offer their own interpretations of events. (Ages 10-14)

Lydia's story, as she tells it, began in Bucharest, Rumania, where readers meet her as a strong-willed playmate. Because her parents divorced and also because of the increasing hostility toward Rumania's Jewish population during World War II, Lydia is sent to the safety of a kibbutz in Palestine. She proceeds to make life miserable for herself, the other children and her teachers, not to mention her journalist father and the new woman in his life. Lydia displays genuinely painful adjustments to family upheaval, the move to a different country, a new style of daily living and the stranger in her father's home to whom she must be minimally civil if not affectionate. Ultimately, Lydia's indomitable spirit triumphs over her personal adversities. Contemporary young U.S. readers will empathize with the challenges Lydia conquers. (Ages 10-13)

Temple, Frances. GRAB HANDS AND RUN. Orchard, 1993. 165 pages. (0-531-05480-2) $14.95
Twelve-year-old Felipe and his younger sister, Romy, literally are running for their lives. Along with their mother, they are trying to escape El Salvador, haunted by fears of what has happened to their father, Jacinto, whose disappearance has propelled them into flight. Jacinto's political activities against the government had made him a target. Now that he has apparently been caught, their mother is following the advice he once gave her: "If they come for me, you and the children - grab hands and run." Felipe, Romy and their mother, Paloma, must rely on their strength, their wits, and most of all, one another, to survive as they journey by any means they can find through Central America and Mexico and on into the United States, where
they are fugitives still. Insight into human nature, understanding and the political barriers to justice in many countries, including our own, are blended into this swiftly-moving first-person narrative that ends with a chapter set in Wisconsin. (Ages 11-14)


Anna Markus, a young Dutch Jewish girl, has survived years of hiding during World War II to be reunited with her parents at war's end. But her aunt's and uncle's and her best friend, Marga, all have disappeared. Her parents refuse to talk about what happened to any of them, or about their own experiences during the war. "I know everything," Anna tells them after she has a dream in which Marga is dead, but she doesn't, really, and the silence in her home is both frightening and enraging. Then Anna meets Mrs. Neumann, the woman in the white house where she has imagined a German soldier was hiding, waiting to capture her still. Mrs. Neumann's young daughter, like Anna, was hidden during the war. Unlike Anna, Mrs. Neumann's daughter has not yet returned. Mrs. Neumann is willing to talk to Anna about what happened, and to share her pain and her hope, and this helps Anna begin to come to terms with her own experience. This sequel to HIDE AND SEEK (Houghton Mifflin, 1991) tells the next chapter in the lives of children who survived the Holocaust, but still had to struggle to reclaim their lives. (Ages 10-13)


Kazul, the female King of the Dragons, Queen Cimorene, Morwen the witch and various other companions set out on a quest to recover the King's magic sword, stolen by the malicious wizards. Along the way, they encounter setbacks in the form of mud, wizard magic and invisible dusk-blooming chokevines. A witch that refuses to wear pointy hats and has nine cats, not one of which is black, is just one of the characters defying tradition in this unconventional fantasy. In a tale which began with a princess who proved she didn't need a prince in DEALING WITH DRAGONS (Jane Yolen/Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1990) and continued in SEARCHING FOR DRAGONS (Jane Yolen/Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991), breaking time-honored expectations is the rule rather than the exception in this series. The conclusion of this volume sets the stage for a fourth book in the Enchanted Forest Chronicles. (Ages 10-12)

See also: Christmas Gif'; Gilgamesh the King; Revenge of Ishtar; The Apprentice

**FICTION FOR TEENAGERS**

Grant, Cynthia D. UNCLE VAMPIRE. Atheneum, 1993. 151 pages. (0-689-31852-9) $13.95
Sixteen-year-old Carolyn knows a terrifying secret: her Uncle Toddy is a vampire, and she, along with her twin sister, Honey, is one of his victims. Slowly but surely, he is draining her life away, and she is becoming more and more a shadow, a fragment of her real self. Her parents refuse to see what is happening and she is afraid to tell anyone else - people will think she is crazy! Honey, too, remains silent, for the very same reason. Told as chilling vampire tale, this is a haunting, emotionally graphic story about incest. Carolyn is absolutely convinced Uncle Toddy is a vampire because the truth of what he is really doing is even more frightening to bear, but in the powerful, shocking climax of this gripping first-person narrative, the truth finally is revealed. An unforgettable story of terror and survival. (Age 12-16)

Hodge, Merle. FOR THE LIFE OF LAETITIA. Farrar Straus Giroux, 1993. 214 pages. (0-374-32447-6) $15.00
Twelve-year-old Laetitia is a promising student who's been selected to attend a government-run secondary school in the town of La Puerta on her Caribbean island home. Her family is proud and pleased, and yet will barely have enough money for books and uniforms, let alone for the long bus and taxi rides between their rural village and La Puerta each day. Enter Laetitia's long-absent father who now lives in town with a new wife and child and who has agreed to take his eldest daughter in as a boarder during the week. Although he is not on the best of terms with his former family and he and Laetitia barely know each other, he, too, is proud of his daughter's academic promise and seems happy to have her join his family. As Laetitia adjusts to a new school and a new family, she must learn to cope with the strong prejudices against rural working-class people that continually find expression in both places. Memorable characters, a strong sense of place and a thought-provoking storyline distinguish an excellent and absorbing first novel by a West Indian writer. (Age 12-16)

Seventeen-year-old Camila is the only daughter of an Anglo father and a Colombian mother. She has grown up in the United States and most of what she knows of her mother's heritage comes from stories her mother told about her childhood growing up in San Javier, a small town in Colombia where her father was something of a local hero. Camila's maternal grandmother was rarely mentioned in her mother's stories. After her mother's death, Camila agrees to represent her at a local celebration in honor of her famous grandfather. But there is a mix-up in the flight arrangements and Camila arrives in San Javier a full 24 hours before anyone else in her family knows she's there. And that gives her just enough time to try to find out who her grandmother was and why she is never mentioned. The details she manages to uncover reveal much about her heritage that her mother probably could never have divulged, details that Camila's status as an outsider likely sharpen and amplify. Lyll Becerra de Jenkins'
brilliant novel explores the depths of human identity connected to gender, culture and age, even as she spins out all the intrigue of a great mystery story and keeps the reader riveted to the page. Winner, 1993 CCBC Newbery Award Discussion. (Age 12 and older)

Johnson, Angela. TONING THE SWEEP. Orchard, 1993. 103 pages. (0-531-05476-4) $13.95
In a family composed of three strong, independent women (daughter, mother, grandmother), it's often what's left unsaid among them that resonates the loudest for the youngest family member, 14-year-old Emmie. Now that Grandmother Ola is dying with cancer, Emmie feels compelled to hear the truth behind their silences. She knows that something awful happened long ago that no one ever mentions. What was it? In a spare, eloquent first novel, Angela Johnson shows that silence can dull the pain of tragedy but can never really cure it. Emmie discovers that one must ring the dead into heaven with great noise, by elegizing, keening or even by striking a plow with a hammer, a folk ritual known as "toning the sweep." (Age 12 and older)

Mori, Kyoko. SHIZUKO'S DAUGHTER. Henry Holt, 1993. 227 pages. (0-8050-2557-X) $15.95
"People will tell you that I've done this because I did not love you. Don't listen to them. When you grow up to be a strong woman, you will know that this is for the best." These words, left in a suicide note, and memories are all that 12-year-old Yuki has to comfort her after her mother's death. Her cold, distant father provides no strength, nor does the new wife he takes one year later. Yuki becomes buried in bitterness and anger as she grows. She feels she must fight her stepmother for the right to keep every memory of her mother that is rooted in physical things, while she becomes more and more aware of the pain her mother endured in a marriage that not only had no love, but also wiped out her strength to endure. Only art, and running, and visits to her grandparents where the memory of her mother is enshrined provide respite for Yuki from the constant battles she is waging at home, and it is only in leaving home for good that she is finally able to free herself from her bitterness and grief. This emotionally intricate novel set in contemporary Japan takes place over seven years and follows Yuki from adolescence through age 19, when she has grown into the strong woman her mother knew she would someday become. (Age 12-16)

Ross, Ramon Royal. HARPER & MOON. Atheneum, 1993. 181 pages. (0-689-31803-0) $14.95
The friendship that binds 12-year-old Harper, Moon, a newly enlisted soldier, and Olinger, the storekeeper living up on the mountain, is put to a test when Harper discover's Olinger's body during a winter storm. The sheriff suspects Moon, and true to his usual reserved nature, Moon does little to defend himself from the allegations. Not sure what to think, Harper must balance what he has always felt for Moon and Olinger with what he is learning about Moon's childhood, his experience in the
military, and other's opinions of the two men. This sympathetic portrayal of a unique intergenerational friendship, set during World War II, convincingly presents Harper's dilemma as he is confronted by fact, innuendo and his own belief in Moon and Olinger. (Ages 12-16)

There is nothing demure or coy in these short stories about a memorable family, based on the author's own childhood experiences. Billy, Vicky, Danny and Tycho are inventive and independent children, whether they're playing a favorite car game of telling their life stories as excrement, talking scornfully about the "pituh" people (the popular, conventional kids at school), or watching pedestrian reactions to the fake vomit they've splashed on the sidewalk. Ten short stories feature the hugely entertaining opinions and actions of the siblings as they grow from elementary to high school, reveling in their differences the entire time. (Age 12-16)

Wolff, Virginia Euwer. MAKE LEMONADE. Henry Holt, 1993. 200 pages. (0-8050-2228-7) $15.95
"This word COLLEGE is in my house / and you have to walk around it in the rooms / like furniture." It's to earn money for college that fourteen-year-old LaVaughn takes a babysitting job working for 17-year-old single mother Jolly after school. Taking care of Jeremy, who's two, and baby Jilly is a huge job, and it's not made any easier by the fact that Jolly's life is barely balanced on the brink of disaster. One night she comes home beaten up. Another night she doesn't come home at all. But even as LaVaughn assumes more and more responsibility for this small, struggling family, she senses she is gaining something vital from being with all of them, even Jolly, or perhaps especially Jolly.
Stunning, provocative prose ("Bathing with Jilly / is like going someplace warm into a tribe / and doing rituals. She decorates my face with suds / and fills the bathroom with cooing sounds nobody but a baby makes, / like she's sending signals / to Martians.") and solid characterizations are combined in this intriguing novel that looks like a narrative poem, but is actually lines of text broken to reflect the rhythm of spoken language. Honor Book, 1993 CCBC Newbery Award Discussion. (Ages 12-16)

See also: Bull Run; Chimes of Alyafeleyn; Giver; Grab Hands and Run; Plain City; T-Backs, T-Shirts, Coat and Suit

NEW EDITIONS OF CLASSIC LITERATURE

A beautifully produced volume with a new translation of
Perrault's eleven stories emphasizes his "sharpness of wit" and "astringency." Thirty-four pages of background information include careful notes for each tale, a short biography of Perrault and a detailed bibliography. While the scholarly effort requires commendation, this appealing edition of the classic French tales deserves attention as both a gift for children and a future library standby for its versions of Little Red Riding Hood, The Sleeping Beauty, Bluebeard, Puss-in-Boots and Cinderella along with less well known tales by the 17th century writer. The full-color art appearing on most page spreads ranges from whole page illustrations to tiny detailed drawings that offer direct appeal for the young. (Ages 5 - 8 for listening and ages 9 - 11 for reading independently)


The long-standing tradition of Christmas Gif' and other African-American Christmas practices and writings were detailed three decades ago in the original edition of this classic anthology. From Christian to secular in theme, the assemblage of Christmas stories, poems, memories, spirituals and recipes reflects a rich cultural heritage. The anthology includes writings by Gwendolyn Brooks, Countee Cullen, Frederick Douglass, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Lorenz Graham, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston and Gabriela Mistral. In the introduction, Mrs. Augusta Baker comments on the scarcity of culturally authentic Christmas selections before Librarian Charlemae Hill Rollins collected such material with children and families in her Chicago community in mind. Artist Ashley Bryan's more than five dozen original black-and-white linoleum prints illustrate or decorate every page spread, complementing the multiple moods within this elegant and appealing new edition. (All ages)

See also: How You Were Born; Magician's Visit; section on Folklore, Mythology and Traditional Literature
Kathleen T. Horning is a librarian and coordinator of Special Collections at the Cooperative Children's Book Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is also a children's librarian at Madison Public Library. She is the editor of ALTERNATIVE PRESS PUBLISHERS OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS: A DIRECTORY and the co-author, with Ginny Moore Kruse, of MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS (Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 1991). She was also a contributor to THE MULTICOLORED MIRROR: CULTURAL SUBSTANCE IN LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS (Highsmith, 1991). She collaborates with Janice Amato in a monthly column in WISCONSIN LIBRARY NEWS, "Raising the Issue: Library Services for Children." Horning frequently lectures to teachers and librarians on issues in evaluating literature for children and young adults. She has served on ALA/SLJ's Notable Children's Books Committee, the John Newbery Medal Committee, and in 1991 she chaired the USBBY's Hans Christian Andersen Award Committee which selected the US nominees for the international award in 1992. She has just completed a three-year term as a member of the ALA/SLJ Coretta Scott King Award Committee and is currently the chair of the 1995 Newbery Committee.

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 teaches continuing education courses. She is active on state and national Intellectual Freedom committees and is the founder of the award-winning CCBC Intellectual Freedom Information Service. She has chaired or served on national children's literature award and distinction committees including the Newbery, Caldecott, Batchelder, International Board on Books for Young People, and Teachers' Choices. She chairs the Children's Advisory Board of the ALA national RCIF board. She is a co-author with Kathleen T. Horning of ALTERNATIVE PRESS PUBLISHERS OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS: A DIRECTORY (2nd edition, 1991) and contributor to THE MULTICOLORED MIRROR: CULTURAL SUBSTANCE IN LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS (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.

Megan Schliesman is a librarian and administrator at the Cooperative Children's Book Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She produced the CCBC 30th Anniversary public service announcement and is currently compiling and editing CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY WISCONSIN AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATORS AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS ABOUT WISCONSIN: AN IDENTIFICATION RECORD OF TITLES PUBLISHED IN 1992 (1993). With Ginny and Janice, she teaches Educational Telecommunications (ETN) continuing education courses for librarians and teachers across the state. She has worked as a writer and editor on several publications in the Madison area, and continues this work in various capacities outside the CCBC. She has a B.A. degree in English from UW-Whitewater and a Master's Degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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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 was established in 1963.
The library collection contains review copies of newly published juvenile books, recommended children's and young adult trade books, historical children's books, contemporary and historical reference materials related to children's and young adult literature, children's and young adult books by Wisconsin authors and illustrators, and alternative press books for children.

Access

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

Author, title, illustrator, translator and subject catalog entries are made for children's and young adult books. Any known national award or distinction or selection tool recommendation is noted in the endpaper 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.

Author, title, illustrator, translator and subject 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.

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 William Wilson, Division for Library Services, with State Superintendent John Benson, 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 1993-1994 Advisory Board is chaired by Mary Kayko, E. H. Coordaner and Reference Librarian, UW-Oshkosh.

Members of the 1993-94 Advisory Board are: Karen Adams, K-5 Library Media Specialist, Rhinelander Elementary Schools; Mary Jo Aman, Education Librarian, Golda Meir Library Curriculum Collection, UW-Milwaukee; Grace Balwit, Doctoral Student, Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, UW-Milwaukee; Rebecca Babik, Assistant, Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, UW-Milwaukee; James Brownlow, Library, Bay Lane Middle School, Muskego; Eve Bruce, Media Specialist, Willow Springs Elementary School, Sussex, and 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; Miriam Hansen, Resource Sharing Coordinator, Indianhead Library System; Dianne M. Hopkins, Associate Professor, School of Library and Information Studies, UW-Madison; Jacque Karbon, Consultant, Reading Education, Program Development Action, Bureau for School Improvement, Division for Instructional Services, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; John Kean, Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, UW-Madison; Thomas R. Kennedy, Supervisor of Library Media, School District of Beloit; Ellen Last, Consultant, English/Language Arts Education, Program Development Action, Bureau for School Improvement, Division for Instructional Services.
for Instructional Services, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; Char Lemke, District Director of Media and High School Library, Menomonee Falls High School; Lillian Nolan, Youth Librarian, Fond du Lac Public Library.

Mary Pinkerton, Associate Professor, English Department, UW-Whitewater; Christine Prevetti, Librarian, Finney Public Library, Milwaukee; Cathy Retzer, K-5 Media Specialist, Medford Area Elementary School; Marianne Scheele, Acquisitions Librarian, Reference and Loan Library, Bureau for Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; Kris Stabo, Assistant High School Librarian, Mount Bledom High School, Menomonee Falls; Joan Thron, Festival Student, Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, UW-Madison; Stephanie Tschannen-Moran, Professor, English Education, UW-Madison; Joyce Tschannen-Moran, Professor, English Education, UW-Madison; Elizabeth Vollrath, Youth Services Librarian, Portage County Public Library; 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 Megan Schliesman, the CCBC is staffed by undergraduate and graduate students. The student staff during the creation of CCBC CHOICES 1993 included: Tana Elias, Margaret Hall, Ruth Hartman (1993), Joseph Hoopman, Chastity Johnson, Katie Jones (1994), Kimberly King, Nicole Klemz, Darla Lager, Kathy Leavitt (1994), Gail Oosterhuis, Kathy Richter, Gretchen Revie, Noelle Rydell, Claire Sandler, Amy Sinn and Dawn Warner.

Volunteer staff members from the Friends of the CCBC, Inc., during 1993-1994 were Marion Fuller Archer and Sally A. Davis, along with Martha Flotten and Megan McGuire (1994).

Public Service Schedule

The CCBC is open twelve months a year to provide 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.