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*Choices*

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## PREFACE

### **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 1994*.

The Friends of the CCBC, Inc., underwrote the professional design, typesetting, layout, printing and binding of *CCBC CHOICES 1994*. Members of the 1994-1995 Friends of the CCBC, Inc., Board of Directors are: President - **Rose Mary Leaver**; Vice-President - **Doris Grajkowski**; Recording Secretary - **Clare Seguin**; Treasurer - **Marlys Sloup**; Directors-at-Large: **Donald Crary**, **Tana Elias** and **Kate Odahowski**. Committee chairs include **Nancy Beck**, **Donald L. Crary**, **Barbara Huntington** 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 1994* 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 UW-Madison's School of Education. During 1994-95 a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Division for Libraries and Community Learning made CCBC resources and services available to public libraries and schools throughout Wisconsin. 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 1994, 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, from university faculty, and students in the process of becoming teachers and librarians that they want to find books with accurate information on matters important to the young people in their classrooms, schools and libraries. CCBC users know that today's children and young adults have questions and 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. Our criteria are simple: an excellent book is both interesting and accurate. The way in which these criteria are realized is as varied as the books themselves.

Throughout 1994 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 Obtain Books Listed 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 from 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 or trade editions and for books which are also available or only available in paperback editions at this time. Binding information is specified for books in paperback. 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 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. CCBC experience with small/alternative publishers for more than 15 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 1994***

If you live in Wisconsin, send \$3.00 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 three listed below are available free for postage and handling to Wisconsin residents. Wisconsin residents are invited to send a self-addressed, stamped business envelope to receive a current list of CCBC Materials; address this request to: Cooperative Children's Book Center, 4290 Helen C. White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706.

The following publications can be purchased:

- 1) *THE MULTICOLORED MIRROR: CULTURAL SUBSTANCE IN LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS* edited by Merri V. Lindgren (Highsmith, 1991)  
Available from: Highsmith Press. Phone 1-800-558-2110 to inquire or place an order.
- 2) *MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS*, 3rd edition, by Ginny Moore Kruse and Kathleen T. Horning (DPI, 1991)  
Available from: Publication Sales, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841 USA. Phone 1-800-243-8782 to inquire about this publication,

which is Bulletin No. 1923, or to place an order.

3) *FRIENDS OF THE CCBC NOTECARDS* featuring a full-color reproduction of one work each of Wisconsin artists 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.  
\$8.00 per packet includes postage and handling. Inquire about quantity prices and consignments. Do not phone the CCBC.

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

## **COMMENTS ON PUBLISHING IN 1994**

### **How Many Books Were Available for Sale during 1994?**

An abundance of books written, edited and published especially for children and young teenagers is available for the youth of this nation. U.S. book buyers, personal and professional alike, have a wealth of titles from which to choose. The 1995 edition of *CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN PRINT* (R. R. Bowker) cites 94,330 books "published in the U.S. for children and currently available for purchase," a remarkable increase of more than 6,177 titles reported available one year earlier.

The Cooperative Children's Book Center is a University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Education library of children's and young adult literature. We pay close attention to books published for an audience from infancy to age fourteen, the upper age in the definition of "children" used by the book awards committees of the Association for Library Service to Children of the American Library Association (ALA).

A few of our 1994 recommendations are suggested for readers ages fifteen, sixteen or older. These books fall into a different ALA category defined as "young adults," or youth ages 12-18.

Collections of children's and young adult literature at the CCBC generally do not include books published for adults, even though some books published for adults do appeal to (and occasionally are claimed by) teenagers.

### **How Many Books Were Published during the Year?**

As we look back at the calendar year of 1994, we estimate that at least 4,500 new books were published in the United States for children and young adults, an estimate similar to those we've made during each of the past two years.

The number for new books always varies from source to source, according to who is counting and which new books are included in the totals. Annual statistics compiled by other sources are released every March. CCBC estimates are typically conservative, in that the CCBC estimate cannot include reprintings, paperback editions of titles published earlier, large print books, book club editions, novelty books and other categories often reflected in the numbers provided within the book industry.

### **How Many Books Are in CCBC CHOICES 1994?**

Of the 187 books listed in *CCBC CHOICES 1994*, fifty-three represent the first published works of their authors or illustrators, and seven were joint efforts; 25 were originally published outside the United States, six of which are translations; and six were published by five small, independently owned and operated publishers. To our knowledge, 120 of the books we recommend in *CCBC CHOICES 1994* did not appear on any of the other nationally distributed lists of the year's best books as of February 15, 1995.

### **New Editions of Classic Works**

Naming a book as a classic is dependent as much on one's background as what someone may have read to you when you were young. During 1994 we noticed the publication of a significant number of memorable editions of literature familiar to one or more national or cultural groups.

Eric Blegvad's elegant translation of *TWELVE TALES* (McElderry) by Hans Christian Andersen, Langston Hughes' *THE DREAM KEEPER* (Knopf) illustrated by Brian Pinkney and James Weldon Johnson's *THE CREATION* (Holiday

House) re-created with art by James Ransome already resonate in the memories of many of today's adults. These and other fine new editions of classics offer an opportunity for all young readers to discover excellent literature that has stood the test of time among one or more parts of the reading public.

### **Searching for Multicultural Literature**

Currently there is no agreement in the children's literature community on a single definition for the word "multicultural," nor is a single definition necessary. At the CCBC we designate books by and about people of color as Multicultural Literature.

Multicultural literature continued to be highly visible in 1994. For the fourth consecutive year, many children's book publishers promoted both new and earlier books by means of special flyers, catalogs and mailings. Most of the literature journals, book review magazines and other professional publications concerning education, librarianship, books for children and young adults, and/or reading featured reviews, interviews, bibliographies, and articles about multicultural literature, continuing a trend of the 1990s. The mainstream bookstores we visited in several cities continued to prominently showcase books by and about people of color throughout the year.

#### *Books by and about Africans and African-Americans*

Such visibility for multicultural literature might lead one to the conclusion that more authors and artists of color contributed to the books published during 1994, and the number of books created by Black authors and illustrators did increase in 1994 compared to the number published during 1993. (The designation "Black" indicates that CCBC statistics include book creators from the Caribbean, England, and other countries whose works are published by U.S. publishers. Some books coming from Caribbean countries are also designated as Latino literature, for example, *THE RED COMB*.) CCBC statistics also include all books by Black book creators, regardless of whether or not the theme or topic of a book contains cultural substance. The statistics include *JOHN HENRY* as well as *SNOW ON SNOW ON SNOW*; the latter book involves a brown-skinned child playing outside on a winter day but contains no specific cultural substance.

Of the roughly 4,500 books published in the United States in 1994, 82 were created by Black authors and/or illustrators. (The CCBC documented 74 books in this category in 1993, 94 books during 1992, and 70 during 1991.) The 82 titles represent the published work of 50 authors and 29 illustrators or a total of 74 individual Black authors and illustrators during 1994.

Approximately 166 books specifically *about* African and/or African-American history, culture and/or peoples were documented at the CCBC during 1994.

Very few of these African-American book creators were new to the field of children's books in 1994. Notable among the new book creators are artists E. B. Lewis and Colin Bootman. Before 1994, Floyd Cooper distinguished himself as an artist; *COMING HOME PHILOMEL*, the book he wrote and illustrated about Langston Hughes shows him to be a gifted writer as well.

Several African-American authors and illustrators created more than two books each during 1994. Patricia cKissack's name is one four books published during the year; she co-authored three books with her husband Fredrick and one with their son Fredrick, Jr. The other writers, with three books each, are Phillis Gershator, Julius Lester and Angela Shelf Meaderis. Artists with three books each are Gershom Griffith, Brian Pinkney, Jerry Pinkney and Synthia Saint James.

Four of the authors listed in the above statistics were published posthumously: Frederick Douglass, Langston Hughes, James Weldon Johnson and Richard Wright; the late Romare Bearden's art accompanied poetry by the very much alive Ntozake Shange during 1994.

Of the titles by African-American book creators published in this nation during 1994, six books were published by four small, independently owned publishers, three of which are Black-owned presses. During forthcoming months, the CCBC will no doubt discover several additional titles in each category, but overall the numbers will not change much from the above documentation.

Julius Lester's retelling of *JOHN HENRY* (Dial), with the best illustrations created to date by artist Jerry Pinkney, was one of the outstanding single volumes in any category during 1994.

Increasingly we notice books that introduce young children to famous African-Americans by combining full-color illustrations with short texts, such those in as *ZORA HURSTON AND THE CHINABERRY TREE* (Lee & Low), *DEAR BENJAMIN BANNEKER* (Harcourt) and *COMING HOME* (Philomel), the picture story about Langston Hughes. Skillfully written by Belinda Rochelle, *WHEN JO LOUIS WON THE TITLE* (Houghton) tells of the pride that resulted for African-Americans after the famed boxer's victory; the story unfolds within the context of a contemporary child's personal growth in self-understanding.

During 1994, at least ten books for babies featured African-American characters in the illustrations. One such pair of board books was written by Eloise Greenfield and Monica Greenfield and illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist (HarperCollins). A second series of board books featuring Black characters included four written by Angela Johnson and illustrated by Rhonda Mitchell (Orchard). The third series we spotted for babies was the four-book *Jump at the Sun* set of board books created by Dessie and Chevelle Moore (HarperCollins).

Compared to preceding years, few substantial novels appeared by African-American writers. Jacqueline Woodson's *I HADN'T MEANT TO TELL YOU THIS* (Delacorte) stands out, as does Joyce Hansen's *THE CAPTIVE* (Scholastic). So does the epic-like novel *THE GLORY FIELD* by Walter Dean Myers (Scholastic). *THE GLORY FIELD* spans centuries of African and African-American history and culminates in a powerful glimpse of two cousins living today in separate worlds but bonded by the blood their ancestors shed in the soil of the rural South.

Patricia and Fredrick McKissack, Sr., created important books about history and people, including *CHRISTMAS IN THE BIG HOUSE*, *CHRISTMAS IN THE QUARTERS* (Scholastic) and *THE ROYAL KINGDOMS OF GHANA, MALI, AND SONGHAY* (Henry Holt) about life in medieval Africa. Pat and Fredrick, Jr., collaborated on the best book of several now available about the former Negro Baseball leagues, *BLACK DIAMOND* (Scholastic). Dolores Johnson's *SEMINOLE DIARY; REMEMBRANCES OF A SLAVE* (Macmillan) suggests some of the complex history yet to be written.

### *Books by and about Latinos*

We try to keep track of all that is published for young people and to notice trends and changes, often a greater challenge for us than others expect. Even though we continue to be contacted by representatives of the press from all parts of the nation in search of information about multicultural literature, typically we have not been able to provide reliable documentation about the numbers of books by other racial or ethnic groups that is comparable to that which we can provide on Black book creators.

We were able to make a concerted effort to document books by Latinos and about Latino themes and topics during 1994. Increased numbers of such books during 1993 and 1994 eased the challenge. Perhaps the U.S. publishers of children's and young adult books are, at long last, collectively realizing the existence of mainstream and specialized markets for Latino literature in English as well as for bi-lingual books. Perhaps there is an impact due to the CLASP Award administered through the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee's Center for Latin America, providing visibility for excellence in this type of publishing for the young. Maybe the increase resulted, in part, because a unit of the American Library Association will soon sponsor an award for outstanding writing for youth by a Latino writer. Regardless of the reason or reasons, we discovered an increase in new Latino literature in 1994, at least as many as 90 new titles were published. Some of them are cited below and others in the following section featuring bi-lingual books.

Nicholasa Mohr's autobiography, *GROWING UP IN THE SANCTUARY OF MY IMAGINATION* (Messner), and Gary Soto's autobiographical novel *JESSE* (Harcourt) will be especially appreciated by readers in adolescence. Photoessays such as *PIÑATA MAKER* (Harcourt) by George Ancona and *THE OTHER SIDE* by Kathleen Krull and David Hautzig (Lodestar) acquaint readers with contemporary individuals through intriguing personal profiles and fine photos.

Other significant Latino books in 1994 included *DE COLORES AND OTHER LATIN-AMERICAN FOLK SONGS FOR CHILDREN* (Dutton) compiled by José-Luis Orozco and appealingly presented by Dutton. *GRANDMOTHER'S NURSERY RHYMES* (Henry Holt) by Nelly Palacio Jaramillo sets a fine standard for excellent translation as well as child appeal. Both are bi-lingual.

### *Bi-Lingual Spanish-English Books*

Two bi-lingual books by poet Pat Mora, *THE DESERT IS MY MOTHER* (Pinata Books) and *LISTEN TO THE DESERT* (Clarion), celebrate the desert in quite different ways. A selection from a longer work by Sandra Cisneros, *THE HOUSE ON MANGO STREET*, made a graceful transition to picture book as *HAIRS = PELITOS*, published by Knopf. The incomparable poetry collection *COOL SALSA* (Henry Holt) edited by Lori Carlson provides teenagers with works in parallel texts by outstanding Latino poets.

*PLATERO Y YO = PLATERO AND I* by the Spanish writer Juan Ramón Jiménez represents the combined commitment to this project of Clarion Books with adapter Myra Cohn Livingston and illustrator Antonio Frasconi. Livingston's admiration for the longer work of this Nobel Prize winner inspired her to find a way to introduce it U.S. children. Handsome in all ways, this classic work deserves attention.

### *Books by and about American Indians*

The slow but substantial growth in the number of new books about contemporary Native people represents a welcome change observed since 1992. We especially appreciate photoessay books such as *EAGLE DRUM* (Four Winds) by Robert Crum and *EVERGLADES* (Boyd's Mills) by Peter Lourie.

Source notes and specificity about a book's content is always an aid in the evaluation of books of information; they are especially valuable in books by American Indians and about American Indian themes and topics. An increasing number of books now designate the specific Indian nation from which a tale or subject comes or about which a story is told. More books are also recognizing the importance of nomenclature and are using the names by which specific American Indian peoples refer to themselves. We are optimistic that such specificity will continue to be seen in future books of fiction, information and folklore concerning American Indian themes and topics.

CCBC records cite 31 specific Indian nations represented midst at least 70 books about American Indian themes and topics located at the CCBC during 1994. We know there are many other new books "out there," including those published by Indian educators for their students. We generally appreciate many of those we saw, and so do the teachers, librarians and content specialists who examined books here.

Important issues surrounding the desecration - and reclamation - of American Indian grave sites and burial remains are discussed in *BATTLEFIELDS AND BURIAL GROUNDS* (Lerner) by brothers Roger C. and Walter R. Echo-Hawk.

Two artists explored different aspects of the changing seasons in the Woodlands of North America. Canadian author-artist Leo Yerxa's poetic description of the change of the seasons is enhanced by his singular collage artwork for *LAST LEAF FIRST SNOWFLAKE TO FALL* (Orchard). In her conception of a Seneca tale of conflict and amicable resolution, Lois Ehlert incorporated ancient images, dazzling abstractions of traditional ribbon and beadwork and wildflowers into *MOLE'S HILL* (Harcourt).

### *Books by and about Asians and Asian-Americans*

There was a notable and welcome increase in the number and kinds of books by Asian-American book creators during 1994. We located 65 books in this category, though more undoubtedly exist. Compared to earlier years, fewer of the books are folktale adaptations, fewer are set during a war and more are contemporary. We especially noticed that more of the picture books are contemporary, such as *AT THE BEACH* (Henry Holt), *IS THAT JOSIE?* (McElderry), *MAMA BEAR* and *ON A WHITE PEBBLE HILL*, both published by Houghton.

One of the most affecting accounts of poverty and homelessness in fiction for youth can be read in Yoko Kawashima Watkins' autobiographical novel *MY BROTHER, MY SISTER AND I* (Bradbury), set in post-World War II Japan. The anthology *AMERICAN EYES* (Henry Holt) edited by Lori Carlson brings new visibility to the work of excellent Asian-American authors, presenting them to a young audience. We look forward to continued publishing in this area.

Laurence Yep continued to be prolific with several effective stories inspired by folklore, especially the little-known *THE GHOST FOX* (Scholastic).

### **Searching for Translated Children's Books**

Children's books translated into English for the first time and published in the U.S.A. continue to be very few in number. We are always gratified to discover a newly translated book first published in a language other than English. This type of publishing represents both a financial risk and a commitment to a world view on the part of a publisher. We commend the publishers that accept the economic risk of providing glimpses of what children in other nations are reading. Perhaps one of the new translated books will be the next HEIDI, PINOCCHIO, BAMBI or DIARY OF ANNE FRANK.

During 1994, we received books first published in fifteen non-English speaking nations. Although neither *CCBC CHOICES* nor the CCBC book examination collection is organized by publisher, we want to acknowledge some of the publishers. Because of co-publishing arrangements, often a book's publication history is unclear to one looking at the book in hand, but it is generally safe to estimate that altogether the internationally created picture books and texts of substantial length published in the U.S. during 1994 number well under one hundred, and possibly closer to eighty.

As always, most of the new translated books were picture books. Most of the picture books were published by North-South books, which has a direct connection with the book industry in Switzerland. Sweden is another source of many translated picture books, usually published here by R & S Books, which is a Swedish publisher providing its own English translations. We call attention to the distinctive illustrated book *THE RED COMB* by Fernando Picó, which came to the U.S. from both Puerto Rico and Venezuela and was published here by BridgeWater Books. Putnam published the incomparable picture story *THEY FOLLOWED A BRIGHT STAR*, based on a famous poem by Joan Alavedra written in Spanish in 1943 and later set to music by Pablo Casals.

The biggest commendation goes to the publishers of newly translated texts of substantial length, texts that do not depend upon illustrations. Compared to the preceding two years, we discovered comparatively more translated books of substantial length. We noticed ten such new books during 1994, very few in number, but more than we located during the preceding years.

*SISTER SHAKO AND KOLO THE GOAT*, a slim memoir from Turkey by Vedat Dalokay, was beautifully produced in English by Lothrop, Lee and Shepard. The Danish novel *THE BOYS FROM ST. PETRI* by Bjarne Reuter represents one of the several translated books published in the U.S.A. by Dutton during 1994. Although they are not included in *CCBC CHOICES*, we were pleased to see other longer translated books published by several publishers. *KEEPING SECRETS* by the internationally acclaimed Norwegian novelist Tormod Haugen was published by HarperCollins. One of the newly translated books published by Houghton Mifflin was *UMM EL MADAYAN* by Abderrahman Ayoub, translated from the Italian. Alfred A. Knopf published two fantasies by the Russian writer Eduard Uspensky. *GANEKWANE AND THE GREEN DRAGON*, first published in South Africa, appeared on the Albert Whitman's publication roster. Carolrhoda published several translated books as usual, one being the unusual picture book *PAPER BIRD* by Arcadio Lobato. Kane-Miller continues to seek and publish English translations as well as foreign language books for children. Other publishers with translated books during 1994 included Cobblehill, Farrar, and Grosset & Dunlap.

### **New U.S. Books First Published in English in Other Nations**

Shirley Hughes has long been appreciated for her carefully observed illustrations showing the ways preschoolers act and how their bodies move. Her thematic and artistic choices show her remarkable understanding of the interests of this audience. *HIDING* is one of Hughes' books published by Candlewick in the U.S. this year. We were also delighted to discover a single volume printing of Hughes' five volumes of Nursery Collection books. Although we prefer the original tiny single editions, knowing that this larger volume is in print is far superior to not having the five wee volumes available for sale in the U.S.

Although Peter Collington's picture books have appeared in the U.S. in previous years, they are quite unlike his provocative, futuristic illustrated novella *THE COMING OF THE SURFMAN* (Knopf). Deserving of wide popularity, we hope its unfamiliar format will not cause older readers to bypass the book.

Maude Casey, who grew up both in England and Ireland and now lives in England, offers a powerful narrative voice and lyrical prose in *OVER THE WATER* (Henry Holt), which holds the prospect of gaining teenage readers in the U.S.

We are pleased to have a third book of fine fiction for adolescent readers by Canadian writer Martha Brooks; her

short stories in TRAVELING ON INTO THE LIGHT AND OTHER STORIES (Orchard) are certain to find appreciative readers here.

The autobiographical writing of Oodgeroo is combined with folktales of Aboriginal origin in the book DREAMTIME, a unique volume from Australia published here by Lothrop.

### **Books by New Authors and Illustrators**

We are always gratified to discover excellent books by new writers and illustrators without celebrity status. We applaud the editors and publishers who run the risk of contracting for book projects to be created by writers and artists without name recognition. We also commend the sales representatives and booksellers who have enough confidence in some of the books by book creators unknown in this nation to actively promote such new titles.

Monalisa DeGross displays talent, wit and compassion in DONAVAN'S WORD JAR (HarperCollins), short "chapter book" fiction for which there is great demand due to the ease with which newly independent readers can read these books. Such books are difficult to write successfully, but DeGross makes it look easy.

ONE AFTERNOON (Orchard) by Yumi Heo suggests entirely new perspectives, both spatial and cultural, as a child goes on errands with his mother and becomes aware of the sounds he hears. Children delight in making the same noises. The highly original tall tale SWAMP ANGEL (Dutton) by Anne Isaacs was given exemplary illustrations by Paul O. Zelinsky and handsome picture book production by Dutton. Lolly Robinson's text for MAMA BEAR (Houghton) suggests her future success as a picture book writer.

Although the black-and-white decorative art in NEIGHBORHOOD ODES was created by David Diaz for the collection of poetry by Gary Soto (Harcourt, 1992), his SMOKY NIGHT (Harcourt) is a stunning first full-length picture book. Its paintings and mixed-media assemblages vividly suggest some of the fright and chaos a child might experience during an urban riot.

The extraordinary contemporary novel WALK TWO MOONS (HarperCollins) by Sharon Creech introduces a superb writer to readers on this side of the Atlantic. CATHERINE, CALLED BIRDY (Clarion), which takes place in 1290, was Karen Cushman's debut. Older readers will be looking for other books by these two talented novelists.

### **Humorous Books**

Outsiders to the world of the book industry assume there is much more humor and wit in children's books today than one actually can find. Once one moves beyond the downright silly books, true humor is difficult to spot. We find most but not all of the humor in the picture books published each year, although a growing number involve serious, mature themes and situations. The text for the hilarious TRUMAN'S AUNT FARM (Houghton) makes us eager to see future books by Jama Kim Rattigan. AFTER THE FLOOD (Houghton) by Arthur Geisert is full of invention and delight.

Novelists working with sad themes often are adept at creating effective contrasting humor. Theresa Nelson skillfully incorporated humor into EARTHSHINE (Orchard). Sharon Creech's remarkable grandparent characters in WALK TWO MOONS (HarperCollins) leave readers with great fondness for the phrase "Huzza, huzza." Creech effectively weaves memorable snatches of light dialogue into more than one serious episode, actually heightening the emotional impact. Katherine Paterson also continues to excel in this, as well as other respects.

### **Sequels**

If one book is successful, publishers assume that young readers might enjoy others featuring the same characters. So it has always been. Some of the welcome sequels during 1994 included COCO GRIMES (HarperCollins) by Mary Stolz. Her unique sequence of books, each one increasingly difficult compared to the previous title, make it virtually impossible for readers to outgrow them. And who would want to, once A STORM IN THE NIGHT (1988), GO FISH (1991) and STEALING HOME (1992), all published by HarperCollins, became favorites!

Other sequels include more complex novels such as SAYING GOOD-BYE (Houghton) by Marie Lee, author of FINDING MY VOICE (Houghton, 1992), and MY BROTHER, MY SISTER AND I (Bradbury) by Yoko Kawashima Watkins, author of the incomparable SO FAR FROM THE BAMBOO GROVE (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1986).

### **The Search for Substantial Fiction**

Frances Temple recently burst into young readers' affection with *A TASTE OF SALT* (Orchard, 1992) and *GRAB HANDS AND RUN* (Orchard, 1993). Her carefully researched novel *THE RAMSAY SCALLOP* (Orchard), set in England and Spain during 1299, displays the versatility of this gifted writer along with her hallmark talent at moving well-developed characters through a complex plot at a breathless pace.

Theresa Nelson is another writer who has lived up to earlier promise with her fine novel *EARTHSHINE* (Orchard). Although *EARTHSHINE* involves attention to HIV and AIDS, Nelson is also one of several writers who is so skilled that the novel never becomes mired in moralizing.

*EARTHSHINE* is one of many of the novels published this year encompassing the theme of abandonment, loss or fending for oneself. Katherine Paterson's *FLIP-FLOP GIRL* (Lodestar) and Avi's *THE BARN* (Orchard) are among several of the other novels for which this theme was central but realized in entirely distinct and important ways.

Other writers whose earlier promise was realized this year include Gregory Maguire and Jacqueline Woodson.

### **Important Books of Information**

Young readers are taken seriously by many writers of informational books for children and young adults. The best nonfiction books are well organized for young readers without being "homework books." Most nonfiction books in the 1990s are highly visual. The best of them provide a context for the information and insights they convey; they avoid becoming flashy page-turning experiences equivalent to television channel surfing with a remote control device. Authors of excellent nonfiction books credit primary or other significant sources.

Memorable books of information published in 1994 are too numerous to cite and too wide-ranging in subject matter to summarize. They include books about children with HIV, suicide survivors, and Holocaust history. They also chronicle the lives of amazing individuals from other times, such as Crazy Horse, Langston Hughes and Harriet Beecher Stowe. The return of a wild creature to its habitat, child labor, contemporary scientific sleuthing, facts of life, and stark facts about human life in captivity - all never before organized or written in this way - are also among the subjects addressed this year.

Environmental issues were raised in a variety of nonfiction and fiction books including *THE THIRD PLANET* (Crown), *THE LIVING EARTH* (North-South), *EAGLE* (Candlewick), *EVERGLADES* (Boyd's Mills), *LOSTMAN'S RIVER* (Macmillan) and *SEVEN SPIDERS SPINNING* (Clarion). *CROCODILE SMILE; 10 SONGS OF THE EARTH AS THE ANIMALS SEE IT* (HarperCollins) features Lois Ehlert's memorable illustrations accompanying original music by Sarah Weeks, inventively exploring an environmental theme.

### **Inventive Books**

Even though the children's book-and-tape package is hardly new, another of the packaged sets produced in 1994 deserves special notice; Leatha Stanley's history of African-American music published by Zino Press introduces original music by Stanley in the context of cultural history.

Margaret Wild's picture book *OUR GRANNY* (Ticknor & Fields) irreverently and lovingly alters the standard grandmother image in describing women of various sizes, shapes and interests - grandmothers all.

Maya Angleou's *MY PAINTED HOUSE, MY FRIENDLY CHICKEN AND ME* (Clarkson Potter) brings the Ndebele houses and people into vivid relief through exciting writing and great photos as well as distinctive page layouts and typography. This offers a good example of a successful adaptation of a larger work for adults by photographer Margaret Courtney-Clarke.

Paul Goble's *IKTOMI AND THE BUZZARD* (Orchard) also features innovative typography; this feature alone makes the tale much more reader-friendly than most of Goble's other books.

*POLAR, THE TITANIC BEAR* (Little, Brown) is literally more than meets the eye, offering a social history, an account of the Titanic disaster, and a child's story about a toy. *POLAR* is a complex book, and daring in its own way.

The handsome *THREE GOLDEN KEYS* (Doubleday) by Peter Sis is perhaps one of the most inventive books of 1994, operating on several intellectual and visual levels as well as employing a variety of imaginative visual images and combinations of typefaces and texts.

*THE EAR, THE EYE AND THE ARM* (Orchard) by Nancy Farmer gives a new perspective to the adjective "inventive." This carefully plotted novel is set in the Zimbabwe of 2194.

### **Books Published by Small Publishers**

Differentiating between small and large publishers is becoming more and more difficult, in part because large publishers frequently rely upon packagers, and also because smaller publishing operations can produce and promote books more successfully than ever due to easier access to some of the necessary technology.

Lee & Low Books achieved remarkable visibility and overall success only a year ago. This year *ZORA HURSTON AND THE CHINABERRY TREE* by William Miller succeeds in originality, general appeal and cultural importance and *BEIN' WITH YOU THIS WAY* brings exceptional verve along with images of today's active children.

There is no single recipe for book publishing success, as both large and small publishers can attest. Typically smaller publishers offer either distinctive information or a unique point of view unlikely to be found in mainstream superstores selling relatively the same inventory across the nation. Sometimes the unpolished page layout or design or overall inexperience of the illustrator, writer or editor gets in the way of a well-intentioned book's success. *NATIVE AMERICAN ROCK ART* (Thomasson-Grant) by Yvette La Pierre offers information otherwise unavailable elsewhere and is therefore valuable, even though continuous uses of the male pronoun in the text and limited illustrations curtail its overall effectiveness. Yet such a book has not been published before this for young readers, and the information is important.

### **Reprints of Out-of-Print Books**

We're delighted to see Arnold Adoff's *MY BLACK ME* back in print from Dutton twenty-five years after its initial appearance.

Perhaps Marcel Aymé's charming fantasy *THE WONDERFUL FARM* illustrated by Maurice Sendak will catch on all over again with readers at the end of the century. Originally published in France in 1951, the slim novel for young readers is now available as a Harper Trophy paperback.

Candy Dawson Boyd's novel *CIRCLE OF GOLD* was first published in paperback ten years ago. In 1994 Scholastic also made a hardcover edition available, a surprising reversal of the typical order but a welcome way to showcase a well-liked story.

The Henry Holt paperback edition of Joyce Rockwell's novel *TO SPOIL THE SUN* (1976) may temporarily resolve the search for a reliable American Indian novel for middle school readers.

### **Book Publishing and Book Buying: Decisions, Decisions**

Much evidence indicates that the bookstore sales of children's books support much of the children's and young adult book publishing as well as book publishing for adults within several publishing houses in the United States at this time. During 1994 alarming publishing mergers and lay-offs caused concern as to whether or not the economy and/or the market can sustain this high number of books in print. Some of the publishers cited above for excellence during 1994 have already undergone substantial structural reorganization.

Some of books in *CCBC CHOICES* raise the questions stimulated by the new books of every year. What is a children's book, anyway? When and how do adults responsibly create opportunities for children to explore the somewhat frightening experiences of people - real or imaginary - they will probably never meet? When, can and should adults provide children with opportunities to find out about mean-spirited behaviors, racism and other injustices and/or criminal acts found in some circumstances and times in our nation? If some books can offer an environment for thoughtful books on serious themes and topics, do they also require sweet, coincidental endings?

Publishers make choices as to which manuscript to publish, which illustrator to contract with, which book to

advertise heavily, which author to send on tour. Book industry representatives make decisions about paperback editions and reprints with specific consumers in mind. In making these decisions, no doubt there is a market profile of the ever-increasing number of consumers who use personal resources for books and have one or more bookstores within a reasonable distance by car or public transportation. The consumers will include parents, other relatives and adults friends of children. Certain books sell in significant quantities because many older children and young teenagers buy popular culture and series books for themselves.

Recognition is often linked to buying for young consumers, who are more apt to choose a favorite author, a popular illustrator or a familiar series. Adult consumers often lean toward buying books they enjoyed in childhood or a book bearing an award label. There is no way to know how many manuscripts are not chosen for publication because their authors or illustrators are unknown or because the theme or topic has distinctive regional dimensions or because the book can't be pigeonholed. Any of these circumstances can make sales unpredictable (and possibly unlikely) in the bookstore superstores across the nation. Books by newly published writers and illustrators, books that are quirky, and books that seem to be largely regional in appeal need to be brought to attention so they can be valued for all they offer. There may be many readers who would enjoy them but never find them because these books lack the "brand name" or the immediate recognition that sell books by established authors and illustrators.

Another significant group of children's book consumers is the so-called institutional market - the public librarians, school library media specialists, classroom teachers, child care providers and academic librarians responsible for collections of literature for the young. Individuals within these groups select and purchase books for use by more than one child, family or student. "Institutional" sales most often utilize public funding. Public librarians with responsibilities for collection development cope with budgets that shrink or stay the same despite rising costs, even though circulation statistics for children's books reach all-time highs. Too often they must replace worn copies of children's favorites rather than selecting inventive new books coming to their attention. Increasing public library usage by home schools and agencies responsible for early childhood care add to the book-buying challenges for public librarians.

School library media specialists are faced with challenges similar to those of children's librarians in public libraries. In addition, they are faced with a greater variety of media to select, and they must select books to support the curriculum and books to engage students in all classrooms and courses, including new readers, very reluctant readers and gifted readers. Unfamiliar names and untested appeal hardly stand a chance. But these books are usually published at some risk with the assumption that there *are* readers for them, and they deserve that chance.

No matter who is buying the books for whom with what money for what purpose, the book industry expects that potential consumers will buy more than the best-sellers or more than the most heavily promoted books or most highly visible books or most familiar authors or series. We can tell this simply by looking at the numbers of titles published as quoted in the first paragraph of "Publishing in 1994." Someone is expected to buy most of these books. Although new children's books are available in print longer than most books published with adult readers in mind, a new title will not be in print indefinitely if the book doesn't sell well during its first printing.

But the numbers represent more than an abundance in yet another way. They also imply choice. Individuals buying books have the luxury - and difficulty - of making decisions because of the large number of books from which they can choose. Whether these decisions are spontaneous and unplanned or based upon complex judgments, total amount of money available for book buying, comparisons, special interests and unique needs, the fact that choices do exist cannot be overvalued among those who are committed to seeking out high quality books for the young.

The increase in the number of books published during 1994 represents decisions made by U.S. publishers to invest in children's books. Such an investment was made with the expectation that in all parts of the nation people are eager and ready to buy books for the young.

The CCBC offers an environment for discovery and learning, for making up one's own mind about the new books published and for making comparisons to tried and true books from other years and decades. *CCBC CHOICES* offers a wide variety of books for a wide variety of individuals, something for everyone, rather than a core selection for all.

## The Natural World

Allen, Judy. EAGLE. Illustrated by Tudor Humphries. U.S. edition: Candlewick Press, 1994. 24 pages. (1-56402-143-2) \$15.95

In spite of his teacher's assurances, young Miguel worries that he'll be attacked by an eagle when he and his class make a field trip to the Philippine rainforest near their school. His obsessive fear nearly ruins the trip for Miguel and just about everyone else, until a chance encounter with a real eagle absolves the boy of his worries. Softly colored realistic paintings skillfully capture the drama of Miguel's story, as well as the majesty of the rain forest. (Ages 4-8)

Ancona, George. THE GOLDEN LION TAMARIN COMES HOME. Macmillan, 1994. 40 pages. (0-02-700905-X) \$15.95

The coastal rain forest in southeastern Brazil is the only known natural habitat of the *mico* or golden lion tamarin, a small monkey about the size of a squirrel. With 98% of the Brazilian rain forest depleted, wild *micos* are becoming scarce but thanks to the tireless efforts of Andreia Martins and other Brazilian conservationists, *micos* born in captivity in zoos are slowly and successfully being introduced back into the wild. A lively text and color photographs document the painstaking work of Andreia, in addition to describing the habits of the *mico* and the reasoning behind human efforts to protect its native home. (Ages 7-11)

Arnosky, Jim. ALL ABOUT ALLIGATORS. Scholastic, 1994. 28 pages. (0-590-46788-3) \$14.95

An engaging science book for young children ably manages to give all the basic facts about this most fascinating of reptiles without making its subject any cuter or scarier than it really is. From the opening pages where a full-length gator stretches from the end of its tail to the tip of its nose across title page, dedication page and the first double-page spread of text, we know we are in the hands of an artist and scientist who respects his audience as much as he respects his subject. (Ages 3-8)

Arnosky, Jim. ALL NIGHT NEAR THE WATER. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1994. 32 pages. (0-399-22629-X) \$15.95

Where do ducks spend the night if they become old enough to leave the nest but not their mother? Arnosky shows a female mallard and her 12 ducklings moving "around shoreline weeds, through a driftwood maze, to a sandbar..." Although the creatures are not personified, preschoolers (and care-givers) will relate to active ducklings doing everything but falling asleep: "listening to frogs... watching the dark shapes of bats flying in the twilight..." Arnosky never adds a reed or spider that might not belong in the habitat. His respect for his subject and audience are evident in his spectacular watercolor paintings and lucid text reproduced in a large typeface. (Ages 2-6)

Bulla, Clyde Robert. WHAT MAKES A SHADOW? Illustrated by June Otani. (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science, Stage 1) HarperCollins, 1994. 32 pages. (0-06-022916-0) \$14.89 (paperback 0-06-44518-6, \$4.95)

A very basic science book uses short sentences and engaging full-color illustrations to explain a phenomenon of great interest to young children. The straightforward explanations are nicely balanced with suggestions for first-hand observations preschoolers can make about shadows in the world around them. (Ages 3-5)

Cole, Joanna. THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS IN THE TIME OF THE DINOSAURS. Illustrated by Bruce Degen. Scholastic, 1994. 48 pages. (0-590-44688-6) \$14.95

The indomitable teacher Ms. Frizzle and her lively students take a field trip to a dinosaur dig. Any study of paleontology would become infinitely more compelling if one could travel safely back in time, which is exactly what happens in these 32 short, profusely illustrated pages of well defined facts and wonderfully conceived fantasy. Just as it happens in other Magic School Bus books, the class moves safely and amazingly into its subject, whether it's the waterworks, Planet Earth, the human body, the solar system or the ocean floor. Cole once again develops a briskly paced plot and cheerful repartee for her racially diverse child characters, while Degen's full-color cartoon-like illustrations unearth humorous action along with important facts. (Ages 6-10)

Gillette, J. Lynett. THE SEARCH FOR SEISMOSAURUS; THE WORLD'S LONGEST DINOSAUR. Illustrated by Mark Hallett. Dial, 1994. 40 pages. (0-8037-1359-2) \$14.99

In 1985, hikers in the mesa country near Albuquerque, New Mexico, found enormous bones later

identified as a new species of dinosaur, *Seismosaurus*, meaning "earthshaker," a reference to the size of a 50-ton Jurassic Period creature. Paleontologist David Gillette gained the opportunity to name the newly discovered remains, but he and others were also challenged to remove them without damage. Absorbing reading about sophisticated technology linked with continuing study is expanded by color photos of field excavations and an artist's reconstructions. (Ages 5-10)

Hartmann, Wendy. ONE SUN RISES; AN AFRICAN WILDLIFE COUNTING BOOK. Illustrated by Nicolaas Maritz. U.S. edition: Dutton, 1994. 32 pages. (0-525-45225-7) \$13.99

"One sun rises over Africa. Two kestrels hover in the sky. Three elephants move like shadows..." Striking full-color paintings display 18 diurnal and nocturnal creatures in their natural habitats. This informative counting book begins with one sunrise and ends with another, neither sensationalizing nor hiding the occasional natural drama caused by a predator. Two pages of notes at the book's end offer information about each creature. Hartmann and Maritz both live in Capetown, South Africa, where the book was first published. (Ages 3-9)

Lauber, Patricia. WHAT DO YOU SEE & HOW DO YOU SEE IT? EXPLORING LIGHT, COLOR, AND VISION. Photographs by Leonard Lessin. 48 pages. (0-517-59390-4) \$17.00

Comprehensive without being complex, this text balances Lauber's absorbing explanation of color, vision and light with outstanding photographs and illustrations that further illuminate the concepts and principals described. In addition, each chapter includes activities which readers can undertake to further their understanding of the ideas - or simply because they're fun! (Ages 8-11)

Peters, Lisa Westberg. THIS WAY HOME. Illustrated by Normand Chartier. Henry Holt, 1994. 32 pages. (0-8050-1368-7) \$14.95

A lyrical text accompanied by handsome watercolor paintings tracks the nighttime migratory journey of a flock of young sparrows as they fly from Minnesota to the Georgia gulf coast one September, and then back again the following spring. The author integrates details from the "map-and-compass" theory of migratory bird navigation, which is further explained in a note at the book's end with the additional acknowledgement that scientists don't fully understand how migration works. (Ages 4-8)

Pringle, Laurence. SCORPION MAN; EXPLORING THE WORLD OF SCORPIONS. Photographs by Gary A. Polis. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1994. 42 pages. (0-684-19560-7) \$15.95.

Continuing his line of books about the life and works of contemporary natural scientists (*Bat Man, Bear Man, Jackal Woman*), Pringle turns our attention to desert biologist Gary Polis. This scientist's studies of scorpions living in their natural habitat, along with Pringle's cogent description of the scorpion's life cycle, do much to belie the creature's universally bad reputation. Accompanied by full-color pictures of Gary Polis at work, as well as some dazzling close-up shots of scorpions in the wild, it's sure to be a hit with young readers interested in "scary" animals. (Ages 8-12)

Radcliffe, Theresa. THE SNOW LEOPARD. Illustrated by John Butler. U.S. edition: Viking, 1994. 28 pages. (0-670-85052-7) \$13.99

Stunning realistic paintings are the hallmark of this arresting story of a mother snow leopard's determination to keep her weary cub moving through a blizzard so they can find food and shelter. The dangers of weather, predators, and harsh landscape provide natural counterpoints, creating dramatic tension in a survival tale. (Ages 3-6)

Ride, Sally and Tam O'Shaughnessy. THE THIRD PLANET; EXPLORING THE EARTH FROM SPACE. Crown, 1994. 48 pages. (0-517-59361-0) \$15.00

Using color photographs from NASA, physicist and astronaut Sally Ride introduces the scientific methods used when studying Earth from afar, and describes what data have revealed about the atmosphere, water and land that make up our biosphere. (Ages 7-11)

Schmid, Eleonore. THE LIVING EARTH. Translated from the German. U. S. edition: North-South, 1994. 28 pages. (1-55858-298-3) \$14.95

"There are more living organisms in a single handful of soil than there are people on the entire earth." An appealing, highly visual science book introduces young readers to the busy,

intriguing world that lives just beneath their feet and describes how this world is affected by human activity on the surface just above it. (Ages 4-8)

Zoehfeld, Kathleen Weidner. *WHAT LIVES IN A SHELL?* Illustrated by Helen K. Davie. (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science, Stage 1) HarperCollins, 1994. 32 pages. (0-06-022999-3) \$14.89 (paperback 0-06-445124-0, \$4.95)

A land snail, a turtle and a hermit crab serve as examples of three different kinds of animals that depend on shells for shelter in a basic picture-book introduction to a subject of interest to many children. Accurate, realistic color paintings also show different kinds of whelks, conchs, and scallop shells, as well as inside and outside views of living clams and oysters. (Ages 4-8)

See also: *The Desert is My Mother; Listen to the Desert; V for Vanishing*

### Seasons and Celebrations

Chapman, Cheryl. *SNOW ON SNOW ON SNOW*. Illustrated by Synthia Saint James. Dial, 1994. 32 pages. (0-8037-1457-2) \$14.89

Inspired by Christina Rossetti's poem "In the Bleak Midwinter," this picture story begins "Once upon a winter's day / I woke up / under blankets under blankets under blankets." Using repeating prepositional phrases, Chapman's young narrator tells of going out with a dog and sled to play. Although the dog disappears for a moment, all live "happily ever after ever after ever after." Saint James' artwork picturing a brown-skinned child and mother with abstract features was rendered in oil and acrylic on canvas. Her landscapes are filled with bright skies and a rainbow of playmates and snowsuits. (Ages 3-6)

Jewell, Nancy. *CHRISTMAS LULLABY*. Illustrated by Stefano Vitale. Clarion, 1994. 24 pages. (0-395-66586-8) \$14.95

"The donkey brought hay for the Baby's bed, / the lamb brought fleece to pillow His head. The cow gave the Baby a drink of her milk, the spider a blanket she spun from fine silk." Six additional lines complete the freshly conceived litany of gifts to the infant Jesus. A second visual story involving a frisky cat, a mouse and two tiny angels adds a wee bit of levity, but not enough to awaken those who will be calmed by this beautiful 9 3/8 x 8 3/8" volume. The glowing artwork in warm colors was created in oil paint on wooden panels. (Ages 2-5)

Mora, Pat. *PABLO'S TREE*. Illustrated by Cecily Lang. Macmillan, 1994. 32 pages. (0-02-767401-0) \$14.95  
Five-year-old Pablo tries to guess how his grandfather Lito will decorate the tree he planted to celebrate Pablo's adoption as an infant. One year the little tree was covered with balloons and another with paper lanterns. As part of Pablo's birthday celebration, Lito recounts the story of the tree, which is actually the loving tale of how he and Pablo's Mamá planned and waited for Pablo. Spanish words and phrases are incorporated into the text's flow, adding substance to the Mexican-American people and setting depicted. This warm, joyous book is illustrated with images created with cut paper and dyes. (Ages 2-5)

Oxenbury, Helen. *IT'S MY BIRTHDAY*. U.S. edition: Candlewick Press, 1994. 24 pages. (1-56402-412-1) \$9.95  
A delectable cumulative story begins with a child seeking ingredients for a birthday cake, gathering them, one by one, from an enchanting array of generous animal volunteers. After the eggs, flour, butter and milk, pinch of salt, sugar and cherries for the top are acquired by a helpful chicken, bear, cat, pig, dog and monkey, the whole cast sets out to make -- and eat! -- the cake in a playful birthday celebration. (Ages 2-4)

Schur, Maxine Rose. *DAY OF DELIGHT; A JEWISH SABBATH IN ETHIOPIA*. Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Dial, 1994. 32 pages. (0-8037-1414-9) \$15.89

For more than 1,000 years, Jews have inhabited the high mountains of Ethiopia. Using the narrative voice of a young boy, Menelik, Schur describes the hardworking inhabitants of one of these Jewish communities. The villagers make pottery, prepare raw cotton or weave, work the soil they sharecrop, grind grain into flour and forge the iron for which they are known. Children help by collecting cow-dung for fuel or harvesting honey. The work and worries of the week are set aside for the Sabbath. Menelik tells how his mother bakes *dabo* (white Sabbath bread) and makes *waf* (peppery chicken stew). Families bathe and don clean *shammas* before the Sabbath eating, singing, rest and worship begin. Pinkney's full-color artwork contains important cultural details and was prepared using scratchboard, black ink, oil pastels, oil paints and gouache. (Ages 5-9)

Wensell, Ulises. *THEY FOLLOWED A BRIGHT STAR*. Based on a poem by Joan Alavedra. Translated from the German. U.S. edition: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1994. 32 pages. (0-399-22706-7) \$15.95

Joan Alavedra's 1943 poem about the Nativity *crèche* figures concluded with a tribute to peace and love. Basing the oratorio *El Pessebre* (1960) upon his Catalonian friend's poem, cellist-composer Pablo Casals sought to draw attention to the danger of nuclear war. Like Alavedra, he wanted to honor the spinning woman, the fisherman, the ploughman - symbols of working people promised and deserving of a joyous world, of transcendency. The full-color paintings of noted Spanish artist Ulises Wensell expand the smoothly translated dialogue. "Let the world rejoice," indeed, at the U.S. publication of such a splendid book! (Ages 4-8)

Winter, Jeanette. *THE CHRISTMAS TREE SHIP*. Philomel, 1994. 32 pages. (0-399-22693-1) \$14.95

For 25 years, beginning in 1887, Captain Herman Schuenemann cut evergreens to load in a ship he then sailed south on Lake Michigan from Manistique, Michigan, to Chicago. In 1912, a bottle washed up on the Wisconsin shore containing Captain Herman's message to his wife Hannah and their girls about a storm's severity, confirming his death and the loss of the ship. For 22 more years, Hannah Schuenemann and her three daughters continued to sail to Chicago bringing trees in time for Christmas. Based on a true event and real people, a relatively small (9 1/4 x 8 3/4") full-color picture book briefly relays this amazing piece of Great Lakes history. (Ages 5-9)

Yerxa, Leo. *LAST LEAF FIRST SNOWFLAKE TO FALL*. U.S. edition: Orchard, 1994. 32 pages. (0-531-06824-2) \$14.95

A Woodland Indian child travels by canoe and on foot with a parent to an island campsite. During a day and a night, autumn becomes winter. Details of the familiar transition seem new within a wondrous, sophisticated account distinctive in design and voice. First, a lengthy poetic commentary on creation: "before seeing, before being / before valentines and wild flowers... snow was born" and then - a unique naturalistic first person narrative. Neither uses conventional punctuation. "The blanket of leaves that yesterday / covered the earth / was now covered with a blanket / of snow / to keep her warm during her long winter sleep / My blanket was also covered in snow / I brushed the snow away / Gone were the colors of yesterday / I arose from the earth / and walked into the light / of a new season." Stunning full-color collage assemblages sometimes fill double-page spreads and at other times decorate one corner of a full page of text. Illuminated letters and images of falling leaves assist in expressing the delicate instant when the season changes. (Age 10 and older)

See also: *Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters; Snow Leopard; This Way Home; Winter Poems*

### **Folklore, Mythology and Traditional Literature**

Ehlert, Lois. *MOLE'S HILL*. Harcourt, Brace, 1994. 32 pages. (0-15-255116-6) \$14.95

Fox, Skunk and Raccoon have a problem. Mole's hill is in the way of the path they're planning to make to the pond before the next winter. Because Mole is attached to her home and doesn't want to move it, she thinks of a plan to help her three neighbors appreciate the beauty of her hill. A perfectly spare retelling of a traditional Seneca tale is appropriately illustrated with brilliantly colored, stylized art inspired by sewn beadwork and ribbon appliqué from Woodland Indian traditions. (Ages 3-9)

Gershator, Phillis. *TUKAMA TOOTLES THE FLUTE; A TALE FROM THE ANTILLES*. Illustrated by Synthia Saint James. A Richard Jackson Book / Orchard, 1994. 32 pages. (0-531-06811-0) \$15.95

Tukama ignores his grandmother's warning to stay away from the rocks near the sea. He would much rather play there all day than stay home and help her with the chores, despite her fear that he'll meet the same fate as other children who've played there - capture by the two-headed giant. Tempting fate once too often, Tukama falls into the giant's clutches, but he is able to use his wits - and his flute-playing - to trick the giant's wife into helping him escape. Synthia St. James' oil paintings, with their bold use of color and form, highlight the telling of this cautionary tale. (Ages 4-7)

Goble, Paul. *IKTOMI AND THE BUZZARD*. A Richard Jackson Book / Orchard, 1994. 32 pages. (0-531-06812-9) \$14.95

It seems that with each retelling of an Iktomi tale, Goble refines his style a little further, so that art and text are blended into a seamless aesthetic whole. Here he employs three different

typography styles to tell this humorous Lakota trickster tale in three different voices: that of the narrator, that of the narrator's critical alter-ego, and that of the vain Iktomi himself. In this particular tale, Iktomi manages to hitch a ride across a river on a buzzard's back but, in spite of the buzzard's generosity, Iktomi cannot resist making rude signs behind the bird's back, unaware that the buzzard is seeing it all by watching their shadows on the ground. Iktomi gets his come-uppance but, as usual, bounces back to find another unsuspecting sucker. But that's another story... (Ages 4-9)

González, Lucía M. THE BOSSY GALLITO = EL GALLO DE BODAS. Illustrated by Lulu Delacre. Scholastic, 1994. 32 pages. (0-590-46843-X) \$14.95

On his way to his uncle's lavish wedding, a showy rooster cannot resist two kernels of corn he sees in the street, even though eating them dirties his beak. He commands the grass to clean his beak and when it refuses, he tells the goat to eat the grass but the goat refuses as well. Each refusal leads to another demand from the bossy little rooster in this cumulative folk story from Cuba. Side-by-side bilingual text (with the Spanish set in a darker typeface to distinguish it from the English) is accompanied by full-color mixed media paintings that aptly capture the character of the arrogant *gallito*, as well as the exasperated neighbors he attempted to rule. Endnotes include a pronunciation guide and extensive notes about the story's background, cast and setting in Little Havana, Miami. (Ages 3-6)

Jaramillo, Nelly Palacio. GRANDMOTHER'S NURSERY RHYMES; LULLABIES, TONGUE TWISTERS, AND RIDDLES FROM SOUTH AMERICA = LAS NANAS DE ABUELITA; CANCIONES DE CUNA, TRABALENGUAS Y ADIVINANZAS DE SURAMÉRICA. Illustrated by Elivia. Henry Holt, 1994. 32 pages. (0-8050-2555-3) \$14.95

Familiar Hispanic nursery rhymes and riddles are presented in their original Spanish versions, along with outstanding translations into English which truly capture the spirit and usually the meanings of the originals. Watercolor illustrations enhance the playful exuberance of the rhymes. (Ages 18 months-6 years)

Lester, Julius. JOHN HENRY. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Dial, 1994. 40 pages. (0-8037-1607-9) \$16.99

The mythic railroad worker from the African-American oral tradition comes to life in this outstanding retelling that recounts his extraordinary accomplishments. Julius Lester's uses of anthropomorphism and anachronism mark the story with his own distinctive flair as a skillful storyteller for contemporary children. Jerry Pinkney's vibrant colored pencil and watercolor paintings depict John Henry as an ordinary mortal, just a little taller than everybody else. This is in keeping with Lester's historical note concerning the academic research into whether or not the legendary John Henry was based on a real man. The story retold for this picture-book account was based on three specific versions of the African-American folk ballad about the famous contest between John Henry and a steam drill in the building of Big Bend Tunnel in the Allegheny Mountains. Visual images of rainbows and meteors add cosmic scope throughout. The final page combines John Henry with another icon of power: the White House. Winner, 1994 CCBC Caldecott Award Discussion; Winner, 1994 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion; Illustration; and Honor Book, 1994 CCBC Newbery Award Discussion. (Ages 4-12)

Lester, Julius. THE LAST TALES OF UNCLE REMUS. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Dial, 1994. 156 pages. (0-8037-1304-5) \$16.89

Lester's incomparable storytelling shines once again in a collection of 39 tales that wholly honors and embraces the African-American oral tradition from which the stories emerged. Vibrant and witty, Lester's language resonates with voices of the past while firmly establishing the stories as tales for today. In his introduction, Lester writes that "storytelling is a human event, an act of creating relationship," and in his storytelling he creates a bond between storyteller and reader that is direct and friendly. Lester also notes in the introduction that while the character of Uncle Remus is sometimes criticized as a stereotype, "it is the same Uncle Remus who preserved the culture through the tales. Without Uncle Remus, how much of black folk culture would have survived?" Lester continues to preserve that culture in this volume of lively tales that are illustrated with Jerry Pinkney's black-and-white drawings, as well as full-color paintings that span across the two-page spread of some stories. Readers familiar with Lester's earlier Uncle Remus collections, *The Tales of Uncle Remus* (Dial, 1987), *More Tales of Uncle Remus* (Dial, 1988) and *Further Tales of Uncle Remus* (Dial, 1990) will welcome this collection chronicling additional adventures of Brer Rabbit, Brer Bear, Brer Fox and many others, while new readers to the tales will eagerly seek out the predecessors. (Ages 8-12)

Mayo, Gretchen Will. BIG TROUBLE FOR TRICKY RABBIT! (Native American Trickster Tales) Walker, 1994. 37 pages. (0-8027-8275-2) \$12.95

\_\_\_\_\_. HERE COMES TRICKY RABBIT! (Native American Trickster Tales) 38 pages. (0-8027-8273-6) \$12.95

Mayo continues her exploration of American Indian trickster tales begun with *Meet Tricky Coyote!* and *That Tricky Coyote!* (Walker, 1993) with these companion volumes that feature the exploits of Rabbit, who creates trouble and amusement for Coyote, Wolf, Grizzly Bear, Fox, Bobcat and others. Each volume contains five stories from various American Indian oral traditions; a brief note at the end of each story details from who or where this particular version was adapted. Simple, short sentences and appealing acrylic artwork are effectively combined in this book designed for transitional readers. (Ages 6-9)

Temple, Frances. TIGER SOUP; AN ANANSI STORY FROM JAMAICA. A Richard Jackson Book / Orchard, 1994. 32 pages. (0-531-06859-5) \$15.95

An engaging folktale from Jamaica features the trickster Anansi from African traditions. Here, Anansi plays two tricks: first he tricks Tiger into a swimming lesson so he can eat the good soup Tiger's spent the day cooking; next, he tricks a group of playful monkeys into taking the blame by teaching them a song with the chorus: "Just a little while ago / We ate the Tiger soup / Yum, yum, yum..." Illustrated with brightly colored collages, it is as satisfying as Tiger soup itself, and perfect for sharing in a preschool storyhour. (Ages 3-6)

Yep, Laurence. THE GHOST FOX. Illustrated by Jean and Mou-Sien Tseng. Scholastic, 1994. 70 pages. (0-590-47204-6) \$13.95

Little Lee becomes determined to outsmart a ghostly fox, even if he must defy the adults in his family and neighborhood. According to information provided by the publisher, an ancient Chinese literary tradition involved ghost storytelling. Yep adapted this tale from one collected by a seventeenth century scholar. The small volume looks like an easy "chapter book." Yes, it is easy, and it is also scary! (Ages 8-11)

See also: *The Baby Chicks Sing; The Creation; De Colores; Dreamtime; They Followed a Bright Star; The Three Golden Keys*

### **Historical People, Places and Events**

Bachrach, Susan D. TELL THEM WE REMEMBER; THE STORY OF THE HOLOCAUST. Photographs from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Little, Brown, 1994. 112 pages. (0-316-69264-6) \$19.95 (paperback 0-316-07484-5, \$10.95)

A sampling of materials from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum includes the excerpted texts from taped oral and video histories and photos of people, artifacts and maps. The specific stories of 20 young people link the artifacts through the effective device of museum-created "identity cards." The youth were born between 1911 and 1934 in Austria, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Poland and Romania; they suffered or died during the Holocaust in Europe between 1933 and 1945. The book is divided into three sections: Nazi Germany, The "Final Solution"; and Rescue, Resistance, and Liberation. A lengthy chronology, suggestions for further reading and glossary place the highly emotional material within its historical context. Dr. Bachrach received her Ph.D. in Modern European History from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. (Age 9 and older)

Foreman, Michael. WAR GAME. First U.S. edition: Arcade, 1994. 72 pages. 1-55970-242-7) \$16.95

Following a summer of soccer practice, four British youths enlist in the British Army, expecting to be home for the Christmas of 1914. After becoming immersed in war's realities, the young soldiers lose their innocence and - some of them - their lives. The heart of WAR GAME is based upon the documented instance of a Christmas cease fire during which British and German soldiers took time to bury their respective dead in a joint service, share food and gifts mailed from families, give haircuts and play soccer - all in a self-declared No-Man's-Land. That emotional oasis contrasts powerfully with final pages showing a bleak snowy terrain dotted with bloodstains transformed by Foreman's paintbrush into images of the poppies that later symbolized the casualties of that war. The 7 7/8 x 10 1/2" book's fictionalized text contains several deftly conceived light moments, an abundance of full-color original artwork and occasional black-and-white reproductions of posters, letters and photos. Foreman also created WAR BOY (U.S. edition: Arcade, 1990.), also about World War I. (Ages 8-12)

Freedman, Russell. *KIDS AT WORK; LEWIS HINE AND THE CRUSADE AGAINST CHILD LABOR*. Clarion, 1994. 104 pages. (0-395-58703-4) \$16.95

As an investigative reporter for the National Child Labor Committee during the early 20th century, photographer Lewis Hine documented the fact that children were being exploited in factories, mills, mines and fields across the nation. Just as Hine had found ways earlier to set up his camera quickly to record the faces of immigrant families in the harsh, poorly lit circumstances of Ellis Island, he bravely entered domains where he was unwelcome to document evidence of the little boys and girls laboring. Fifty-nine of Hine's photographs are reproduced here with great technical skill. His works retain the power to astonish and anger, as does Freedman's account of the psychological and physical oppression of children used as beasts of burden. Freedman's written portrait of Hine at work is equally moving; Hine was a man who defined his work and was later defined by that work. Born in 1874, Hine grew up in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. (Ages 8-14)

Getz, David. *FROZEN MAN*. Illustrated by Peter McCarty. A Redfeather Book / Henry Holt, 1994. 68 pages. (0-8050-3261-4) \$14.95

Hiking across the Alpine Similaun Glacier between Austria and Italy during 1991, two tourists discovered a frozen body. This hiking victim carried a tool from the Stone Age. The probable identity of the well-preserved corpse was unraveled through the combined efforts of scientists and others with academic knowledge of life more than 5,000 years ago in that region. As riveting as a modern thriller, the high interest, easy-to-read text is interspersed with color photos, black-and-white sketches and maps. (Ages 8-16)

Hansen, Joyce. *THE CAPTIVE*. Scholastic, 1994. 195 pages. (0-590-41625-1) \$13.95

Kofi was 12 seasons old in 1788 when his father, a royal man within the Ashanti Kingdom, was betrayed by a trusted slave. The boy's subsequent bondage followed several captures and escapes, each expertly unfolded through a first-person narrative, carefully developed action and colorful historical details. Moving from West Africa to New England and back in 1811, Kofi's story addresses the involvement of Africans in the slave trade, indentured servants, cultural differences and the incongruity of Christian doctrine. Hansen based her fast-paced novel on "The Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa, the African," and of what is known about the real Captain Paul Cuffe. Showing valuable glimpses of the rich cultural past brought by African captives to North America, *The Captive* offers unique depictions of late 18th century life in West Africa and in Massachusetts. (Ages 11-16)

McKissack, Patricia C. and Fredrick, Jr. *BLACK DIAMOND; THE STORY OF THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES*. Scholastic, 1994. 184 pages. (0-590-45809-4) \$13.95

After being shut out of major league baseball for nearly a century, African-Americans formed their own leagues. Any reliable recounting of this history must include examples of the heroes on and off the diamond, the scoundrels who sabotaged efforts to provide talented black athletes with a way to compete for audiences across the nation, and the conditions of pay and daily life endured by all involved in the Negro leagues. The authors meet that challenge by using primary source documents, oral histories, archival visual materials and unflinching details about acts of racism. (Ages 9-16)

McKissack, Patricia C. and Fredrick L. *CHRISTMAS IN THE BIG HOUSE, CHRISTMAS IN THE QUARTERS*. Illustrated by John Thompson. Scholastic, 1994. 68 pages. (0-590-43027-0) \$17.95

To depict daily life for the two communities living in parallel realities on a Virginia plantation during December, 1859, the authors gained access to primary source materials from Tidewater plantation records and held interviews there to find out more family histories. Wisely setting their text immediately before the outbreak of the Civil War, the McKissacks offer an amazing balance of perspectives while they report the distinctive culture of the Quarters. Showing the misery as well as the dignity of families in captivity, they allow readers to draw their own conclusions. Thompson's detailed paintings rendered in acrylic and reproduced in full-color recreate the season and the buildings as well as some of the individually distinct Afro-centric head-wraps of enslaved women and holiday decorations in the Big House. Both the text and the illustrations move far beyond conventional media-induced images of plantation life. Incomparable in scope, content and emotional impact, this well designed, easy-to-read account furnishes provocative information and offers dynamic year-round reading. Winner, 1994 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Writing. (Ages 8-13)

McKissack, Patricia and Fredrick L. *THE ROYAL KINGDOMS OF GHANA, MALI, AND SONGHAY; LIFE IN MEDIEVAL AFRICA*. Henry Holt, 1994. 142 pages. (0-8050-1670-8) \$15.95

The ancient civilizations of the Western Sudan flourished between 500 and 1700 C.E. Drawing upon recent scholarship in archeology, anthropology, linguistics and history, the McKissacks present a compelling Afro-centric interpretation of what is now known about these important kingdoms and trading centers. Extensive notes and a long bibliography document the authors' sources for this important book. (Age 10 and older)

Marrin, Albert. UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER; U.S. GRANT AND THE CIVIL WAR. Atheneum, 1994. 200 pages. (0-689-31837-5) \$19.95

So vivid are the descriptions in this outstanding biography of the commander in chief of the Union forces that readers may feel as though they've been picked up and set back down in the middle of a battlefield during The War Between the States. Marrin always sticks to the human dimensions of the Civil War in describing Ulysses S. Grant's role, bringing the subject matter ever closer to contemporary readers. Carefully documented, the text is further supported by numerous black-and-white photographs and newspaper illustrations from the Civil War era. (Ages 11-16)

Medearis, Angela Shelf. OUR PEOPLE. Illustrated by Michael Bryant. Atheneum, 1994. 32 pages. (0-689-31826-X) \$14.95

An African-American girl proudly compares the realities of her everyday life to the accomplishments of people of African descent throughout history. The stories her daddy has told her of builders, explorers, inventors, adventurers and heroes influence her present-day play and inspire her dreams for of the future. The connections between past and present are imaginatively drawn with watercolor and colored pencil illustrations for this cheerful picture book. Honor Book, 1994 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Illustration. (Ages 4-8)

Spedden, Daisy Corning Stone. POLAR, THE TITANIC BEAR. Illustrated by Laurie McGaw. Little, Brown, 1994. 64 pages. (0-316-80625-0) \$16.95

Once upon a time, a little American boy's mother, Daisy Spedden, created a book for him, a book about his Steiff bear, a story about a boy whose stuffed animal had traveled with him on the Titanic and survived. Created in 1913, the book was discovered decades later in Daisy's trunk. That homemade volume became the core of *Polar*, an astonishing record of the disaster as well as a social history. *Polar* can be understood on one or more levels. Most children will read it from the perspective of a child passenger on the Titanic. Some may see *Polar* as one example of the economic privilege of the few who could afford that voyage. Older readers will notice the epilogue that foreshadows the transience of such leisure. Archival photos of toys from the era, family pictures, entries from Daisy Spedden's diaries, and facts about the Titanic are successfully integrated within an intriguing volume. Because the juvenile appearing jacket art does not do justice to the content, children who can appreciate it the most will probably not notice the book on their own. (Ages 7-9)

Turner, Glennette Tilley. RUNNING FOR OUR LIVES. Illustrated by Samuel Byrd. Holiday House, 1994. 198 pages. (0-8234-1121-4) \$15.95

Escaping from slavery in Missouri, Luther and his younger sister, Carrie, are separated from their parents during their journey north on the Underground Railroad. Hoping to be reunited with them, the two continue on, guided by "conductors" and others whose commitment to the cause of abolition is as strong as the children's own desire for freedom. Among those they meet on their way are Frederick Douglass and Alan Pinkerton. An uplifting novel that follows one family as they build a new life that is rooted in freedom. (Ages 8-11)

See also: *The Barn; Battlefields and Burial Grounds; Bill; Brooklyn Doesn't Rhyme; The Christmas Tree Ship; The Circlemaker; Coming Home; Crazy Horse; The Days Before Now; Dear Benjamin Banneker; Escape From Slavery; First Apple; Goody O'Grumpity; Harriet Beecher Stowe; I've Got an Idea; Lostman's River; May'naise Sandwiches and Sunshine Tea; Missing Sisters; Native American Rock Art; On the Long Trail Home; The Sunday Outing; When Jo Louis Won the Title; Where the Flame Trees Bloom*

### **Biography and Autobiography**

Ada, Alma Flor. WHERE THE FLAME TREES BLOOM. Illustrated by Antonio Martorell. Translated from the Spanish by Rosa Zubizarreta. Atheneum, 1994. 75 pages. (0-689-31900-2) \$14.95

In eleven wonderfully entertaining chapters, Ada recreates scenes and characterizes people from her childhood in Cuba. Readers meet members of Ada's extended family and become acquainted with some of the stories she heard. Today's children can gain a sense of the lovely land and loving people she

recalls. All but three of the chapters were translated by the author's daughter. The occasional illustrations are reproduced in brown and white. (Ages 9-12)

Blos, Joan W., adaptor. *THE DAYS BEFORE NOW; AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOTE BY MARGARET WISE BROWN*. Illustrated by Thomas B. Allen. Simon & Schuster, 1994. 32 pages. (0-671-79628-3) \$15.00

When asked in 1951 to write an autobiographical essay for H.W. Wilson's *Junior Book of Authors*, Margaret Wise Brown submitted a characteristically lyrical, sensuous, and direct piece of prose. More than forty years later, Joan Blos recognized the essay as "vintage Margaret Wise Brown," in other words, a perfectly paced, child-centered picture-book text that required only a little shaping and editing by Blos and the pleasingly soft-edged illustrations of Thomas B. Allen to bring it to life. Their combined efforts have given us Brown's own autobiography, written in the style and form she single-handedly invented, nurtured and passed on to future generations. (Ages 3-9)

Brust, Beth Wagner. *THE AMAZING PAPER CUTTINGS OF HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN*. Ticknor & Fields, 1994. 80 pages. (0-395-66787-9) \$15.95

During a visit to the Hans Christian Andersen Museum in Odense, Denmark, the author learned about the paper cuttings often created by Andersen as gifts to young people. In an amazing book illustrated with 33 black-and-white paper cuttings, Brust shares her admiration for this dimension of the Danish writer whose world fame stems from autobiographical writings based on his harsh early years. The bibliography and source notes are organized according to the six short chapters. (Ages 8-12)

Cooper, Floyd. *COMING HOME; FROM THE LIFE OF LANGSTON HUGHES*. Philomel, 1994. 32 pages. (0-399-22682-6) \$15.95

Cooper's lyrical prose and striking full-color paintings are combined in a brief, moving portrait about a prominent writer of the Harlem Renaissance. His grandma took care of young Langston Hughes in Kansas; she had once worked on the Underground Railroad, and so he heard those stories, along with ones she told him about John Brown, the Buffalo soldiers and his own grandfather. Although Hughes apparently felt emotionally homeless as a youth, his life and works continue to offer both hope and home to many. *A tour de force* by Floyd Cooper. (Ages 4-12)

Dalokay, Vedat. *SISTER SHAKO AND KOLO THE GOAT; MEMORIES OF MY CHILDHOOD IN TURKEY*. Translated from the Turkish by Güner Ener. U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1994. 96 pages. (0-688-13271-5) \$14.00

In a memoir about his Turkish boyhood, Vedat Dalokay writes about the village woman whose independence and individuality remained memorable to him throughout his adulthood. Dalokay, an architect who once served as Ankara's mayor, recalled the dignity of Sister Shako whose stable shelter was granted by his father, the village landlord. He muses about her kinship with six goats, the way she created spaces for them and for herself, and the large space she occupied in his heart. He also mourns the later flooding of the entire village during the construction of a modern dam, resulting in the loss of its thousand-year-old melon gardens, almond and walnut trees, its minaret, its people and history. Ener's graceful translation of this brief, powerful text is set on beautifully designed pages. (Ages 9-14)

Fritz, Jean. *HARRIET BEECHER STOWE AND THE BEECHER PREACHERS*. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1994. 144 pages. (0-399-22666-4) \$15.95

Born in 1811, Harriet Beecher Stowe was the third living daughter of the renowned Henry Beecher who made no secret of his preference for sons. Nineteenth century constraints upon girls and women frequently thwarted her preferences and hopes in childhood and adult life. The national and international impact of her anti-slavery story *Uncle Tom's Cabin* initially published in installments in 1851, established a reputation that many agree has outshone that of her preacher father and brothers. Fritz had access to primary resources in the Stowe-Day Library; that scholarship as well as her facility in developing compelling biographical writing about significant individuals in U.S. history are evident in this portrait of a white woman living in a time that perhaps enabled her to understand the tyranny of slavery from the perspective of domestic servitude. (Ages 11-16)

Mohr, Nicholasa. *GROWING UP IN THE SANCTUARY OF MY IMAGINATION*. (In My Own Words) Julian Messner, 1994. 118 pages. (0-671-74171-3) \$14.00

An autobiographical memoir of a major U.S. author unfolds many of the experiences and insights that later fueled her outstanding novels and short fiction for youth, including *El Bronx Remembered*, *Felita*, *In Nueva York* and *Nilda*, all initially published by Harper, as well as her varied works for adult readers.

Providing the same strong sense of place and people and the emotional content one discovers in her fiction, Mohr's selection of details underscore her memories, her strong sense of family and the spirituality of her mother's culture. Mohr's imagination offered deliverance and salvation throughout the years when she (along with many other Puerto Rican - American children whose first home was New York City and first language was English) found herself discounted by the educational system and invisible in the larger society. (Age 12 and older)

Oodgeroo. DREAMTIME; ABORIGINAL STORIES. Illustrated by Bronwyn Bancroft. U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1994. 96 pages. (0-688-13296-0) \$16.00

An original and unusual collection that begins with a series of stories that are humorous, revealing and unflinchingly honest reminiscences about Oodgeroo's childhood with her Aboriginal family on Stradbroke Island, off the coast of Queensland, Australia. In Part II, Oodgeroo retells a number of Aboriginal legends and in doing so places her own story firmly in their midst. Bancroft draws upon her Aboriginal heritage in her full-page black-and-white and color paintings and detail artwork that beautifully capture both the natural and emotional landscape of the stories. (Ages 11-14)

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. DEAR BENJAMIN BANNEKER. Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Gulliver Books / Harcourt, Brace, 1994. 32 pages. (0-15-200417-3) \$14.95

Beginning to teach himself mathematics and astronomy at age 57, Benjamin Banneker later became known for his scientifically developed predictions concerning the weather. He was the first black person to create a published almanac. Banneker can also be remembered for the forthright letter he wrote in 1791 to Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson concerning slavery and the need for equal opportunity for all people. This 11 1/4 x 8 1/4" picture biography created by a wife-and-husband team brings to life Banneker's early years and later accomplishments. The full-color illustrations were rendered using scratchboard colored with oil paint. (Ages 5-9)

St. George, Judith. CRAZY HORSE. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1994. 180 pages. (0-399-22667-2) \$17.95

St. George recreates several decades of this famous leader's life by describing what is known about *Tashunka Witko*, his people and the battles in which they fought. This highly readable, compelling portrait of a man who consistently refused to be photographed and whose most famous battle offers continuing controversy shows him to be a man "of and for his people" and "only secondly as the celebrated Oglala warrior of Sioux Wars fame." In addition to traveling throughout the Northern Great Plains where "Crazy Horse" and his people had camped, hunted, wintered and fought, St. George made extensive use of primary source material at the Nebraska State Historical Society, such as transcripts of interviews with people who had known him and other documentation from people who had survived the Sioux Wars. (Ages 10-16)

Stevenson, James. FUN - NO FUN. Greenwillow, 1994. 32 pages. (0-688-11674-4) \$14.00

Stevenson catalogs a collection of his own childhood memories, categorizing each recollection as "Fun" or "No Fun." From joyous ("Fun was when we raked up all the leaves, when my friends and I could jump in the pile") to sad ("No fun was when my parents went on a trip without me"), each reminiscence is enhanced with simple watercolor illustrations that are visual extensions of the mood. Children will recognize the truth in these memories and the feelings they evoke as if they were there own. (Ages 4-8)

Swanson, Gloria M. and Margaret V. Ott. I'VE GOT AN IDEA; THE STORY OF FREDERICK MCKINLEY JONES. Runestone Press / Lerner, 1994. 95 pages. (0-8225-3174-7) \$13.13

From the time he was a small child taking apart his father's watch, Frederick McKinley Jones showed a fascination and genius for things mechanical. By the time he was fourteen, the young African-American was admired for his expertise with car engines. By the time he was seventeen, he was designing and building racing cars. Jones' inventive mind was never quiet, and over the course of his life, from 1893 to 1961, he acquired over 60 patents for his ideas, which ranged from movie theater ticket machines and sound systems to mobile refrigeration units that enabled perishable food to be carried long distances. An appealing biography focusing on his personal and professional life and containing numerous black-and-white photos of Frederick Jones in his wide and varied creative pursuits. (Ages 9-11)

See also: *Escape from Slavery; Focus; Frank Lloyd Wright for Kids; Jacques-Henri Lartigue; Jazz; Kids at Work; Scorpion Man; Unconditional Surrender; Zora Hurston and the Chinaberry Tree*

### Contemporary People, Places and Events

Ancona, George. THE PIÑATA MAKER = EL PIÑATERO. Harcourt, Brace, 1994. 40 pages. (0-15-261875-9) \$16.95 (paperback 0-15-200060-7, \$8.95)

In Ejutla de Crespo, a village in southern Mexico, seventy-seven-year-old Don Ricardo makes piñatas for all the festive occasions. Tio Rico, as the children call him, is clearly valued among children and adults alike in the community. Color photographs and text show how Tio Rico makes both traditional and unusual piñatas for parties and holiday celebrations. A brief author's note at the end of this bilingual book provides suggestions for making simple piñatas. (Ages 8-10)

Angelou, Maya. MY PAINTED HOUSE, MY FRIENDLY CHICKEN, AND ME. Photographs by Margaret Courtney-Clarke. Clarkson Potter, 1994. 40 pages. (0-517-59667-9) \$16.00

In Angelou's engaging first-person narrative young readers meet Thandi, an eight-year-old Ndebele girl in South Africa. Thandi relates details of her own life and of Ndebele culture, and these details are brought into focus through Courtney-Clark's shining, colorful photographs of Ndebele people. The Ndebele custom of painting houses with intricate, colorful patterns forms the inspiration for the design of this vibrant book that is an invitation to friendship. (Ages 5-8)

Brown, Tricia. L'CHAIM; THE STORY OF A RUSSIAN ÉMIGRÉ BOY. Photographs by Kenneth Kobre. Henry Holt, 1994. 44 pages. (0-8050-2354-2) \$15.95

Zev Tsukerman is a young émigré from the Ukraine whose family has settled in San Francisco. A narrative written in Zev's first person voice and accompanied by lively full-color photographs depicts Zev's life in his new country, where he attends a Jewish day school, takes *kung fu* lessons, plays computer games, and learns about the religion he was never before able to practice. (Ages 8-11)

Crum, Robert. EAGLE DRUM; ON THE POWWOW TRAIL WITH A YOUNG GRASS DANCER. Four Winds Press, 1994. 48 pages. (0-02-725515-8) \$16.95

"I almost can't remember a time when I wasn't a dancer," says nine-year-old Louis Pierre. Louis, a Pend Oreille Indian, lives on the Flathead Reservation in Montana. Louis' knowledge of traditional dance has been passed on to him from his grandfather, along with an understanding of the importance of dance to the history and culture of his people. This photodocumentary shows Louis as he learns a new dance - the grass dance - and dances it in a powwow for the first time. (Ages 8-11)

Krull, Kathleen. THE OTHER SIDE; HOW KIDS LIVE IN A CALIFORNIA LATINO NEIGHBORHOOD. Photographs by David Hautzig. (A World of My Own) Lodestar, 1994. 48 pages. (0-525-67438-1) \$15.99

Twelve-year old Cinthya Guzman and brothers Francisco and Pedro Tapia, ages eight and twelve, all were born in Mexico and are living now in Castle Park, a Latino neighborhood in Chula Vista, California. For all three, moving to the United States meant making many adjustments, but because Chula Vista is only seven miles from Tijuana, Mexico, they have also been able to remain grounded in their cultures of birth, regularly returning to visit family. Text and photographs examine the similarities and differences of the children's lives and communities on both sides of the border. (Ages 7-11)

Kunstadter, Maria A. WOMEN WORKING A TO Z. Photographs by Shari Stanberry. Highsmith Press, 1994. 32 pages. (0-917846-25-7) \$15.00

"When you grow up, what do you want to be? A girl can be anything from A to Z. Look through this book and see the many things girls just like you have become. Then, think some more. Your opportunities are endless." Twenty-five women in traditional and non-traditional vocations such as airplane pilot, engineer, mother, postmaster and zookeeper are briefly profiled in this text that includes two photos of each woman - one of her at work today, and one of her as a child. The entry for the letter Y is "You...When you grow up, just like the girls in this book, you can use your special talents to be anything you want to be." (Ages 5-8)

Lourie, Peter. EVERGLADES; BUFFALO TIGER AND THE RIVER OF GRASS. Boyds Mills Press, 1994. 47 pages. (1-878093-91-6) \$16.95

Writer-photographer Peter Lourie's desire to learn about the Everglades takes him on a journey into the "River of Grass." His guide is Buffalo Tiger, chief of the Miccosukee Indians, who grew up in the Everglades more than sixty years ago, when the area was not yet polluted and the tribe could still live off of the land. Lourie's appreciation for this unique and fragile environment, and for Buffalo Tiger's willingness to share his personal experience and expertise, unfolds through full-color photos and a text that skillfully weaves a brief, fascinating history of the Miccosukee into a compelling portrait of nature in

the "grassy water," an environment which is in danger of dying. (Ages 9-11)

Peterson, Cris. EXTRA CHEESE, PLEASE! MOZZARELLA'S JOURNEY FROM COW TO PIZZA. Photographs by Alvis Upitis. Boyds Mills Press, 1994. 32 pages. (1-56397-177-1) \$13.95

Author Cris Peterson explains how the milk from her dairy farm in Grantsburg, Wisconsin, becomes cheese that tops the home-made pizza which is a Friday-night tradition in her home. The simple, appealing narrative, accompanied by full-color photographs, describes what happens from farm to factory in order to turn milk into cheese. (Ages 5-8)

Raimondo, Lois. THE LITTLE LAMA OF TIBET. Scholastic, 1994. 40 pages. (0-590-46167-2) \$15.95

A child is recognized as the new incarnation of Ling Rinpoche, the late tutor of the Dalai Lama. He lives in exile in the mountains of Dharamsala, India, studying scriptures, reading religious stories and otherwise preparing spiritually to pass on Buddhist teachings to his people. This young monk was six years old during the year when Raimondo was granted permission to interview and photograph him. Her photographs are reproduced in full color, providing unparalleled glimpses of his daily discipline and that of those who teach him. The Tibetan alphabet is reproduced on the endpapers. (Ages 7-10)

See also: *Day of Delight; Frozen Man; The Search for Seismosaurus*

### Issues in Today's World

Bunting, Eve. SMOKY NIGHT. Illustrated by David Diaz. Harcourt, Brace, 1994. 36 pages. (0-15-269954-6) \$14.95

A young African-American child describes a night of fear when rioting occurs in his city neighborhood. "Rioting can happen when people get angry," his mother explains to him. "They want to smash and destroy. They don't care anymore what's right and what's wrong." In the middle of the night, a fire forces the boy and his mother to flee their apartment building and take refuge in a shelter, where African-American, Korean-American and Latino neighbors, some of whom are strangers to one another, have gathered in the confusion. Tensions between African-American and Korean-American residents of the neighborhood are specifically addressed. The child's anxiety is soothed but not extinguished by his mother's deliberate calm for the sake of her child, and these are the most powerful elements of the text. David Diaz' explosive artwork is a powerful complement - he sets his intense paintings against a multi-media backdrop that is suggested by elements of the text and created with items culled from everyday life. (Ages 6-10)

Echo-Hawk, Roger C. and Walter R. Echo-Hawk. BATTLEFIELDS AND BURIAL GROUNDS; THE INDIAN STRUGGLE TO PROTECT ANCESTRAL GRAVES IN THE UNITED STATES. Lerner, 1994. 80 pages. (0-8225-2663-8) \$19.95

In part I of this thought-provoking text, the authors discuss the significance of American Indian burial practices to the cultures and examine the history of Indian burial ground desecration in the United States, exploring the centuries-old double-standard that has seen white graves respected, and protected by law, while American Indian graves were being legally robbed, and even destroyed. In Part II, they chronicle the successful efforts of their own tribe, the Pawnee, to reclaim and rebury their dead. A book remarkable in both tone and content, explaining events and actions in light of the attitudes toward indigenous peoples that prevailed at various times throughout United States history, but never excusing injustice. Illustrated with historical and contemporary photographs. (Age 12 and older)

Mullins, Patricia. V FOR VANISHING; AN ALPHABET OF ENDANGERED ANIMALS. HarperCollins, 1994. 32 pages. (0-06-023556-X) \$15.00

Mullins' incredibly detailed collage artwork highlights animals which are in danger of becoming extinct in this alphabet book with an environmental twist. From A (Pink Fairy Armadillo) to Z (Cape Mountain Zebra), each page is alive with natural color and form. Information provided for the animals includes their common and scientific names and the countries or regions in which they are found - for now. (Ages 5-10)

Nye, Naomi Shihab. SITTI'S SECRETS. Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter. Four Winds Press, 1994. 32 pages. (0-02-768460-1) \$14.95

Mona's grandmother, Sitti, lives "on the other side of the earth" in a Palestinian village on the West Bank.

Despite their uncommon language, she and her grandmother share daily life and special moments together when Mona and her father take a trip to visit Sitti. Upon her return to the United States, Mona writes a letter to the president: "If the people of the United States could meet Sitti, they'd like her for sure. You'd like her, too." Paired with Nancy Carpenter's sun-drenched illustrations, Naomi Shihab Nye's poetic text explores a child's feelings and fears about a grandparent living far away in a part of the world that most children in the United States know only one-dimensionally, if at all, through reports in the news. (Ages 6-10)

See also: *Eagle; Everglades; The Golden Lion Tamarin Comes Home; Kids at Work; The Living Earth; Lostman's River; The Royal Kingdoms of Ghana, Mali and Songhay; Tell Them We Remember; The Third Planet*

### Understanding Oneself and Others

Bauer, Marion Dane, editor. AM I BLUE? COMING OUT FROM THE SILENCE. HarperCollins, 1994. 273 pages. (0-06-024254-X) \$14.89

Sixteen original works of short fiction created for this anthology by a who's-who of accomplished authors of young adult literature "explore aspects of growing up gay or lesbian or with gay or lesbian friends or parents." The editor writes that "one out of ten teenagers attempts suicide. One out of three of those does so because of concern about being homosexual... The intention of this anthology is to tell challenging, honest, affecting stories that will open a window for all who seek to understand themselves or others." The authors are C. S. Adler, Francesca Lia Block, Bruce Coville, Nancy Garden, James Cross Giblin, Ellen Howard, M. E. Kerr, Jonathan London, Lois Lowry, Gregory Maguire, Lesléa Newman, Cristina Salat, William Sleator, Jacqueline Woodson, Jane Yolen and editor Marion Dane Bauer. A one-page biography for each author is included. (Age 16 and older)

Carlson, Lori M. editor. AMERICAN EYES; NEW ASIAN-AMERICAN SHORT STORIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS. Introduction by Cynthia Kadohata. Edge Books / Henry Holt, 1994. 144 pages. (0-8050-3544-3) \$14.95  
Ten authors use "their own voices and visions - their American eyes - to Americanize all of us in new ways," according to the editor. Some of the stories involve experiences of assimilation or prejudice. Others examine the theme of Home and/or Homeland. Two are excerpted from longer works. The authors are Peter Bacho, Lan Samantha Chang, Mary Chen, Cynthia Kadohata, Marie G. Lee, Katherine Min, Nguyen Duc Minh, Faye Myenne Ng, Ryan Oba and Lois-Ann Yamanaka. Short biographies of the authors are included; their backgrounds and experiences vary, in that their heritages are Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Japanese and Vietnamese. (Age 14 and older)

Harris, Robie H. IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL; CHANGING BODIES, GROWING UP, SEX & SEXUAL HEALTH. Illustrated by Michael Emberley. Candlewick Press, 1994. 89 pages. (1-56402-199-8) \$19.95 (paperback 1-56402-159-9) \$12.99

A fact-filled book about the birds and the bees comes complete with its own personal bird and bee, cartoon characters whose sidebar questions and comments enliven the serious, direct explanations and illustrations concerning human sexuality and sexual health. Intended for prepubescent males and females, the information is organized into six sections: What is Sex?; Our Bodies; Puberty; Families and Babies; Decisions; and Staying Healthy. (Ages 9-12)

Kuklin, Susan. AFTER A SUICIDE; YOUNG PEOPLE SPEAK UP. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1994. 121 pages. (0-399-22605-2) \$15.95 (paperback 0-399-22801-2, \$9.95)

These interviews with suicide survivors include people who are family members, friends and schoolmates of someone who committed suicide as a teenager as well as individuals who attempted suicide but survived. Kuklin chose not to include statistics or try to explain suicide or those who attempt it. Her stated reasons are "to help other survivors; to encourage people who are feeling suicidal to talk about it with a professional or a trusted adult; and to help people understand that suicide is never a way to solve problems." Kuklin's black-and-white photos of her interviewees and their families bring human faces to the moving accounts, reminding readers that this dimension of experience is real. (Ages 11-18)

Wiener, Lori S., Aprille Best, and Philip A. Pizzo, compilers. BE A FRIEND; CHILDREN WHO LIVE WITH HIV

SPEAK. Foreword by Robert Coles. Albert Whitman, 1994. 40 pages. (0-8075-0590-0) \$13.95  
More than 350 youth with AIDS or HIV infection came to the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland during the decade beginning in 1983. While undergoing treatment, the children and teenagers met with social workers who gave them opportunities to express their feelings in a variety of ways. *Be A Friend* is a 41-item collection of selected art and writings of youth between ages 5 and 19. The slim volume has bright page colors and is divided into three sections: I Often Wonder...; Living with HIV; and Family, Friends and AIDS. In comments preceding the powerful collective testimony, Dr. Robert Coles observes that "these children... ask questions, speculate, turn to moral, philosophical, and spiritual reflection. In a sense the words and pictures... affirm the rock-bottom humanity of the young speakers and writers, the artists." (Ages 9-14)

### Activities

Creasy, Rosalind. BLUE POTATOES, ORANGE TOMATOES. Illustrated by Ruth Heller. Sierra Club Books for Children, 1994. 40 pages. (0-87156-576-5) \$15.95

Blue potatoes, orange tomatoes, purple string beans, yellow zucchini, red corn and a colorful array of radishes. These aren't your everyday garden-variety vegetables...or are they? From writing to seed companies to planting, caring for and harvesting the crop, readers are shown how they can grow uncommon varieties of the foods we eat. The text includes general gardening tips as well as guidelines for growing specific foods. Mouth-watering illustrations reflect a garden's bounty. (Ages 7-11)

Hall, Nancy Abraham and Jill Syverson-Stork. LOS POLLITOS DICEN; JUEGOS, RIMAS Y CANCIONES INFANTILES DE PAÍSES DE HABLA HISPANA = THE BABY CHICKS SING; TRADITIONAL GAMES, NURSERY RHYMES, AND SONGS FROM SPANISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES. Illustrated by Kay Choraó. Little, Brown, 1994. 32 pages. (0-316-34010-3) \$15.95

Seventeen songs and rhymes from a variety of Spanish-speaking countries are presented in Spanish with English translation in this appealing collection. Kay Choraó's lovely, lively color illustrations span each double-page spread, which features one or two songs or rhymes with musical notation and directions for any accompanying hand-clapping, jump-roping, pantomiming, or other activity involved. (Ages 9 months - 4 years)

Thorne-Thomsen, Kathleen. FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT FOR KIDS; HIS LIFE AND IDEAS. Chicago Review Press (814 N. Franklin St., Chicago, IL 60601), 1994. 138 pages. (pbk. 1-55652-207-X) \$14.95

Both a biography and an activity book, this unique text takes a hands-on approach to presenting the famous architect's life and work. The engaging biography, illustrated with black-and-white photographs and line drawings, is punctuated with information and ideas that are expanded upon in the activity section of the book. Most of the 21 activities are designed to enhance understanding of Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture and architectural philosophy, which was strongly rooted in observation of the world around him and the desire to create a unity with nature. (Ages 8-11)

See also: *De Colores; "I Have a Song to Sing, O!"*

### The Arts

Cech, John. JACQUES-HENRI LARTIGUE; BOY WITH A CAMERA. Four Winds Press, 1994. 32 pages. (0-02-718136-7) \$15.95

Born in Paris in 1902, Jacques-Henri Lartigue got his first camera when he was seven. "I know that many, many things are going to ask me to have their pictures taken and I will take them all," he wrote in his diary. Young Jacques-Henri's keen eye and innate sense of when to click the shutter resulted in photographs that suspend movement and transcend time. He captured his family and friends in the midst of action and forever froze the moment, creating images that are humorous, exciting and sometimes even eerie. Jacques-Henri's black-and-white photographs are the cornerstone of a wholly approachable and engaging text telling about his early life and the pictures he took. (Ages 8-11)

Jones, K. Maurice. SAY IT LOUD; THE STORY OF RAP MUSIC. Millbrook Press, 1994. 128 pages. (1-56294-386-3) \$19.90 (paperback 1-56294-724-9, \$12.95)

"Rap is the voice of a population that has been ignored by mainstream leaders and institutions. It is a culture," writes the author in the first chapter of this book that is a fascinating exploration of Rap music. Jones begins by tracing the origins of rap from African societies where great value was placed on the skills of oratory - the embellished word. He continues by looking at the experience of the African in the western world, from times of bondage to the present day, always focusing on the importance of language and expression in variant forms within the culture. He then turns his attention to rap as an artistic/musical form, discussing its musical stylings, individual performers and the very global nature of the music. Color and black-and-white photographs of performers illustrate a text dynamic in both design and content. (Ages 12-16)

Langstaff, John, editor. "I HAVE A SONG TO SING, O!"; AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SONGS OF GILBERT AND SULLIVAN. Illustrated by Emma Chichester Clark. Piano arrangements by Brian Holmes. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1994. 74 pages. (0-689-50591-4) \$17.95

In his introductory note to young readers, John Langstaff writes that when he was a child, his entire family sang - and even acted out - Gilbert and Sullivan songs. "There were solos, duets, and trios we performed together, with everyone joining in the rousing chorus refrains." Whether this collection is used to add to the repertoire for family sing-alongs and classroom choruses, or to prepare young theatergoers for a Gilbert and Sullivan experience, the sixteen songs chosen from eight operettas will undoubtedly please, as will Emma Chichester-Clark's full-page illustrations - in both color and black-and-white - that perfectly embody the zany Gilbert and Sullivan style. Even Brian Holmes' musical arrangements are a delight, with directions such as "Pompous but bold," "Jaunty and boastful" and "With matter of fact haughtiness" to help young singers cast just the right mood to the song. Preparing for a long car trip? This is a book to bring, O! (Ages 8-12)

La Pierre, Yvette. NATIVE AMERICAN ROCK ART; MESSAGES FROM THE PAST. Illustrated by Lois Sloan. Thomasson-Grant (One Morton Drive, Suite 500, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903; 804/977-1780), 1994. 48 pages. (1-56566-064-1) \$16.95

Petroglyphs and pictographs - carvings and paintings on rocks - done by the earliest human inhabitants of North America, can be found from Nova Scotia to the deserts of the Southwest. Yvette La Pierre explores what is known and how it was determined, as well as what is not known, about these ancient forms of art and communication and the people who created them. Though the illustrations and the fictionalized scenarios that open each chapter seem to assume that rock artists were always male, the unique information presented here makes this a valuable text, which includes photographs of rock art throughout North America. Among the "Sites to Visit" listed in the final chapter is Roche a Cri State Park in Wisconsin. (Ages 8-12)

Monceaux, Morgan. JAZZ; MY MUSIC, MY PEOPLE. Foreword by Wynton Marsalis. Alfred A. Knopf, 1994. 64 pages. (0-679-85618-8) \$18.00

An exciting collection of multi-media portraits and short biographies of performers who have made jazz music a vital, vibrant art form. The artwork pulsates with the color, tones and rhythms of each performer's music, while the narratives are transformed beyond mere telling of fact by smooth, delightful descriptions of musical stylings and the author/artist's relation of his own listening experiences. Readers will discover Buddy Bolden, Leadbelly, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Ethel Waters, Charlie Parker, Nat King Cole and many others in this unique and lively history of jazz. (Age 11 and older)

Orozco, José-Luis, compiler. DE COLORES AND OTHER LATIN-AMERICAN FOLK SONGS FOR CHILDREN. Selected, arranged and translated by José-Luis Orozco. Illustrated by Elisa Kleven. Dutton, 1994. 56 pages. (0-525-45260-5) \$16.99

Each of the twenty-seven Latin American songs, chants and rhymes chosen by performer/songwriter Orozco for inclusion in this text are presented with lyrics in Spanish and English, simple musical arrangement, and explanatory notes about the song's subject and how it is traditionally sung. Kleven's brightly colored collage illustrations are lively, joyous accompaniments to the music. (Ages 5-10)

Wolf, Sylvia. FOCUS: FIVE WOMEN PHOTOGRAPHERS. Albert Whitman, 1994. 64 pages. (0-8075-2531-6) \$18.95

The five photographers whose lives and work are profiled span 130 years of the art of photography. Each of them has, through the style, content and purpose of her work, made a unique and stunning contribution to photographic arts. Julia Margaret Cameron was a 19th century portrait photographer who focused on revealing the inner essence of her subjects through her pictures. Margaret Bourke-

White chronicled history as it happened through her lens in the mid-20th century. Flor Garduño captures life, rituals and traditions in Latin American cultures on film. Sandy Skoglund creates avant garde still-life photographs that expose her quirky and expansive imagination. Lorna Simpson pairs images with words to challenge prejudice and stereotypes as she creates art rooted in African-American history and her own experience as an African-American woman. A fascinating documentary of five distinct approaches to art - and life - filled with photographs displaying each women's unique perspective. (Ages 11-14)

See also: *The Amazing Paper Cuttings of Hans Christian Andersen; Luka's Quilt; They Followed a Bright Star*

### Poetry

Brink, Carol Ryrie. GOODY O'GRUMPITY. Illustrated by Ashley Wolff. North-South, 1994. 32 pages. (1-55858-327-0) \$14.95

Ashley Wolff's autumn-hued, hand-colored linoleum prints lend bold visual context to Carol Ryrie Brink's lively poem, making a 17th century Pilgrim settlement come alive. The mouthwatering smells coming from Goody O'Grumpity's spice cake - "...cinnamon bark and lemon rind, / And round, brown nutmegs grated fine..." - waft across pages showing details of Pilgrim life. Wolff did research for her illustrations in Plymouth, Massachusetts, which is also the origin of the 17th century spice cake recipe included at the end of this picture book. (Ages 5-9)

Carlson, Lori, ed. COOL SALSA; BILINGUAL POEMS ON GROWING UP LATINO IN THE UNITED STATES.

Introduction by Oscar Hijuelos. An Edge Book / Henry Holt, 1994. 123 pages. (0-8050-3135-9) \$14.95

"Life / to understand me / you have to know Spanish / feel it in the blood of your soul. / If I speak another language / and use different words / for feelings that will always stay the same / I don't know / if I'll continue being / the same person." ("Learning English" by Luis Alberto Ambroggio.) In sections titled "School Days," "Home and Homeland," "Memories," "Hard Times," "Time to Party" and "A Promising Future," poems of 29 Latin American writers are presented in both English and Spanish. A collection rich with language and memories, events and emotions grounded in Latino experience. (Age 12 and older)

Florian, Douglas. BEAST FEAST; POEMS AND PAINTINGS. Harcourt, Brace, 1994. 48 pages. (0-15-295178-4) \$14.95

"Just when you think you know the boa, / There's moa and moa and moa and moa." The boa and twenty other common and no-so-common critters (armadillo, bat, grasshopper, rhea, sloth, etc.) are subjects of these witty, playful poems, each of which is accompanied by a full-page color illustration. Verbal and visual puns abound in the poems and paintings, which are a creative delight. "The kangaroo loves to leap. / Into the air it zooms, / While baby's fast asleep / Inside its kangaroom." Get the picture? (Ages 7-11)

Grimes, Nikki. MEET DANITRA BROWN. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Lothrop, Lee and Shepard, 1994. 32 pages. (0-688-12074-1) \$15.00

Thirteen poems about the friendship of two young African-American girls living in a city neighborhood. Title character Danitra Brown has a strong sense of heritage, self and self-respect, giving her a dynamic presence. Her best friend, Zuri Jackson, is shy and less confident, but it is her narrative voice which carries each poem, the themes of which extend from their friendship and families to growing up African-American and female. Together, Nikki Grimes' free-verse text and Floyd Cooper's warm-toned paintings capture the moments of joy and moments of sadness that best friends share. (Ages 7-10)

Mora, Pat. THE DESERT IS MY MOTHER = EL DESIERTO ES MI MADRE. Illustrated by Daniel Lechón. Piñata Books / Arte Público Press (University of Houston, Houston, TX 77204), 1994. 32 pages. (1-55885-121-6) \$14.95

A lovely extension of the metaphor expressed in the title, the text of this poem is a soothing recitation of the many ways in which the desert cares for the speaker: "I say feed me. / She serves red prickly pear on a spiked cactus. / I say tease me. / She sprinkles raindrops in my face on a sunny day..." Each double-page spread pairs a single idea stated in English and Spanish on the left page with the artist's full-color visual rendering of the concept on the right. (Ages 4-7)

Mora, Pat. LISTEN TO THE DESERT = OYE AL DESIERTO. Illustrated by Francisco X. Mora. Clarion, 1994. 24

pages. (0-395-67292-9) \$14.95

"Listen to the owl hoot, whoo, whoo whoo. / Listen to the owl hoot whoo whoo whoo. = Oye la lechuza, uuu, uuu, uuu. / Oye la lechuza uuu, uuu, uuu." A simple, rhythmic poem in which each colorful double-paged spread invites the reader to listen to - and hear - a different desert sound expressed in both English and Spanish. The repeating pattern and rhythm of each line creates a pleasing sense of certainty, and also anticipation, about what the next page will bring, while pacing the poem to evoke a sense of having stopped for a moment to listen to the sounds of the desert - and the languages. Francisco Mora's paintings combine geometric patterns with images suggested by the text to form a pleasing backdrop. (Ages 4-7)

Rogasky, Barbara, selector. WINTER POEMS. Illustrated by Trina Scharf Hyman. Scholastic, 1994. 40 pages. (0-590-42872-1) \$15.95

Twenty-five poems evoke possibilities of the season - its weather, bird-watching, skiing, moon, deer, geese, even its germs, as well as its indoor warmth. It's the warmth that readers of this incomparable anthology can experience, the warmth resulting from reading or hearing superb classic poetry in many voices and forms; from seeing pictures of a home, its people, its work and its pleasure; from noticing landscapes and families in new ways. Hyman's paintings reproduced in full color on every page were rendered in acrylics on illustration board, contributing significantly to the excellence of the appealing volume. (Ages 5-14)

Schertle, Alice. HOW NOW, BROWN COW. Illustrated by Amanda Schaffer.

Browndeer Press / Harcourt Brace, 1994. 32 pages. (0-15-276648-0) \$14.95

"You come across her standing there / as common as a box. As square. / Her lower jaw revolves the cud; her hooves stand foursquare in the mud. / Come closer. View with mild surprise / the gentle softness of her eyes." In "The Cow" and fourteen other poems, poet Alice Schertle both contemplates and celebrates cows in verses that range from thoughtful to whimsical to outrageous. In "Taradiddle," she even writes of the stuff of which legends are made: "...She landed hard, / they say, / and afterward was slightly lame. For several days / the curious came to stare, / and many hoped / that she would dare / to try the trick again. / They went away dissatisfied. / She never tried / to jump again, / but gazed for hours at the moon. / They never found the dish and spoon." Amanda Schaffer's bold full-page oil paintings delightfully realize the mood and setting of each verse. (Ages 7-10)

See also: *Christmas Lullaby; The Creation; The Dream Keeper; Grandmother's Nursery Rhymes; My Black Me*

### **Books for Babies and Toddlers**

Bunting, Eve. FLOWER GARDEN. Illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt. Harcourt Brace, 1994. 32 pages. (0-15-228776-0) \$13.95

A pleasant, lilting text describes the shopping expedition of a brown-skinned toddler and her dad who are planning a special surprise for mom's birthday. The shifting perspectives of the brightly colored *goauche* paintings add to the sense of anticipation felt by all involved in the preparations for a celebration. (Ages 2-4)

Fleming, Denise. BARNYARD BANTER. Henry Holt, 1994. 32 pages. (0-8050-1957-X) \$15.95

Boldly colored batik-like illustrations enliven a noisy account of an array of farm animals-- all in their proper places except for one wayward goose who muddles her way in and out of every picture. An engaging read-aloud for young children presents playful sounds and images as well as an invitation to participate in a 32-page long goose hunt. (Ages 2-4)

Greenfield, Eloise. SWEET BABY COMING. Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. HarperFestival / HarperCollins, 1994. 12 pages. (0-694-00578-9) \$5.95

An African-American family looks forward to the arrival of a new baby in this board book written from the point of view of their young daughter who appears to be about two years old. Greenfield's simple verses capture the sense of excitement, curiosity and, yes, a bit of trepidation on the part of the soon-to-be older sister. (Ages 6 months-2 years)

Greenfield, Monica. THE BABY. Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. HarperFestival / HarperCollins, 1994. 12 pages. (0-694-00577-0) \$4.95

A straightforward account of a baby's repertoire ("The baby kicks/cries/sleeps/eats/yawns/stretches/eats again...") is accompanied by engaging watercolor illustrations of an African-American mother and child. (Ages 6 months-2 years)

- Heo, Yumi. ONE AFTERNOON. Orchard, 1994. 32 pages. (0-531-06845-5) \$15.95  
Minho accompanies his mother on her errands through noisy city streets ("honk/honk/denga/denga") as she stops at the laundromat ("tump-thud/tump-thud"), the beauty parlor ("snip/snip/snip"), the ice cream store ("reeeeeeee"), the pet store ("wuf/wuf/tweedle/wuf"), the shoe repair store ("whurra/whurra") and the supermarket ("kaching!clink/clink") before returning to a comparatively quiet home ("plink!"). Yumi Heo's mixed-media illustrations use collage and oil painting to capture the hub-bub of an urban routine, seen through the eyes (and ears) of a small child. While this Korean-American artist's style is uniquely modern, Heo's text is comfortably traditional and child-centered, reminiscent of Margaret Wise Brown. Honor Book, 1994 CCBC Caldecott Award Discussion. (Ages 2-4)
- Hoban, Tana. WHAT IS THAT? Greenwillow, 1994. 10 pages. (0-688-12920-X) \$4.95  
----- WHO ARE THEY? Greenwillow, 1994. 10 pages. (0-688-12921-8) \$4.95  
Board books in black and white show the silhouettes of things familiar to most young children. *What Is That?* shows objects such as pacifier, stroller, balloon, and car while *Who Are They?* shows animals such as ducks, pigs, dogs, and cats. (Ages 2 months-2 years)
- Hughes, Shirley. HIDING. U.S. edition: Candlewick Press, 1994. 20 pages. (1-56402-342-7) \$13.95  
Continuing her excellent series of books aimed at young toddlers, Shirley Hughes has chosen a favorite activity of the very young, and has expanded upon it a bit with her witty verbal and visual treatments. After a small girl describes the ways she and her baby brother enjoy hiding from their parents and each other, she goes on to talk about instances in which things or people seem to hide -- the sun behind clouds, mom's wallet when it's time to go shopping, etc. (Ages 18 months-3 years)
- Johnson, Angela. JOSHUA BY THE SEA. Illustrated by Rhonda Mitchell. Orchard, 1994. 10 pages. (0-531-06846-3) \$4.95  
A small but self-confident African-American boy recounts the events of a quiet day at the seaside. Within the confines of a small, square board book, artist Rhonda Mitchell remarkably manages to capture the immensity of the ocean and Joshua's sense of wonder in its presence. (Ages 2-4)
- Johnson, Angela. JOSHUA'S NIGHT WHISPERS. Illustrated by Rhonda Mitchell. Orchard, 1994. 10 pages. (0-531-06847-1) \$4.95  
The same small boy featured in *Joshua by the Sea* is a little less confident at bedtime, when the wind brings night whispers into his bedroom. But self-reliant Joshua knows just what to do: go down the hallway to find Daddy so that they can listen to the night whispers together. (Ages 2-4)
- Narahashi, Keiko. IS THAT JOSIE? Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1994. 27 pages. (0-689-50606-6) \$14.95  
From the time she awakens in the morning to the time she goes to bed at night, a small Asian-American girl imagines all the every-day activities of an ordinary human girl to be the comparable every-day actions of various animals: Josie's thumping down the stairs becomes a kangaroo hopping, for example, and her evening bathing becomes a dolphin diving. Watercolor paintings show an energetic child accompanied by the pictures she has inside her head. (Ages 2-4)
- Rathmann, Peggy. GOOD NIGHT, GORILLA. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1994. 36 pages. (0-399-22445-9) \$12.95  
As the zookeeper makes his final nocturnal rounds, bidding his animal charges good-night, he is followed by a mischievous young gorilla who unlocks the cage of every animal after the keeper passes. Before long, there's a long line of animals following the unwitting zookeeper all the way home to his bedroom! Wryly expressive illustrations help to tell the story in this perfect bedtime book for young children who will delight in the little gorilla's antics. (Ages 2-5)
- Scott, Ann Herbert. HI. Illustrated by Glo Coalson. Philomel, 1994. 32 pages. (0-399-21964-1) \$14.95  
Waiting in line with her mother at the post office, little Margarita greets every stranger who passes by, only to be ignored. By the time she reaches the front of the line, she has become so dejected that she doesn't even hazard a smile at the postal clerk, so she is pleasantly surprised

when the postal clerk greets *her* first! Glo Coalson's watercolor paintings aptly capture a Latina toddler's many moods, expressed through body postures and facial expressions. (Ages 2-4)

Shaw, Nancy. SHEEP TAKE A HIKE. Illustrated by Margot Apple. Houghton Mifflin, 1994. 32 pages. (0-395-68394-7) \$13.95

The irrepressible sheep in their fifth picture-book adventure have ventured out on a nature walk, only to fall in the mud and get lost besides! But, not to worry, they've unknowingly marked their trail with their own bits of fleece along the way. (Ages 2-4)

Vulliamy, Clara. BLUE HAT RED COAT. U.S. edition: Candlewick Press, 1994. 12 pages. (1-56402-361-3) \$4.95

Beginning with a pair of orange mittens, a blue hat and a red coat, one small toddler disrobes, piece by piece, stopping only at the pink birthday suit. A clever board book combines dressing (actually, undressing!) with color concepts in a simple storyline that invites toddlers to guess which article of clothing will be removed next. It even has a perfect toddler-inspired ending: "All gone!" (Ages 9 months-2 years)

See also: *All Night Near the Water; Christmas Lullaby; It's My Birthday; The Nursery Collection; One Sun Rises; Pablo's Tree; Snow on Snow on Snow*

### Picture Books

Belton, Sandra. MAY'NAISE SANDWICHES & SUNSHINE TEA. Illustrated by Gail Gordon Carter. Four Winds Press, 1994. 32 pages. (0-02-709035-3) \$14.95

Belton's child narrator remembers her grandmother's stories, especially the one about her friendship with Bettie Jean and the fun they had with imaginary play. One family was working class and the other was not. Belton handles an important theme seldom approached in books for the young in a picture book story featuring African-American characters. (Ages 5-8)

Best, Cari. TAXI! TAXI! Illustrated by Dale Gottlieb. Little, Brown, 1994. 32 pages. (0-316-09259-2) \$14.95

Tina, a school-aged daughter of divorced parents, looks forward to the Sunday afternoons she spends with her *papi*, driver of the most yellow taxi in New York City. Each Sunday, Tina and Papi drive to the country to tend their flower and vegetable garden and to enjoy quiet times in each other's company. Spanish words and phrases are sprinkled throughout this realistic picture of life in a bilingual, divorced family. Boldly colored pastel paintings enhance the spirited account of a loving relationship between a father and daughter. (Ages 4-8)

Blanco, Alberto. ANGEL'S KITE = LA ESTRELLA DE ANGEL. Illustrated by Rodolfo Morales. English translation by Dan Bellm. Children's Book Press (6400 Hollis Street, #4, Emeryville, CA 94608), 1994. 32 pages. (0-89239-121-9) \$13.95

An enchanting picture book featuring lively, colorful collage art and an engaging, original story about Angel, a young man who consoles himself over the disappearance of the church bell in his Mexican town by making beautiful kites. His "comets" and "stars," as the kites are called, cheer everyone but Angel himself, until he creates one particular kite that is not only beautiful, but magical as well. Originally written in Spanish, the text is presented in English and Spanish. The singular illustrations are alive with detail created from items that the artist in every child will recognize: string, foil stars, tissue paper, fabric and other art box treasures. (Ages 4-7)

Cisneros, Sandra. HAIRS = PELITOS. Illustrated by Terry Ybáñez. Apple Soup / Alfred A. Knopf, 1994. 32 pages. (0-679-96171-2) \$15.00

A young Latina lyrically describes the hair of every member of her family, as each is distinctively unique. She especially delights in her mama's hair which has "...the warm smell of bread before you bake it / ...the smell when she makes room for you on her side of the bed..." This eloquently spare celebration of differences within one close-knit, loving family first appeared as a short chapter in Cisneros's adult novella, *House On Mango Street*. For this picture-book edition the text is printed in Spanish and English and the striking illustrations playfully extend the theme of individuality. (Ages 3-7)

Friend, Catherine. THE SAWFIN STICKLEBACK; A VERY FISHY STORY. Illustrated by Dan Yoccarino. Hyperion, 1994. 32 pages. (1-56282-474-0) \$13.95

As Katie and her younger brother, Mark, sit with their Grandpa in his icehouse waiting for a fish to bite, they imagine a series of incredible -- and highly improbable -- fish lurking below the ice; in fact, Mark thinks he can even see them when he peers down into his ice hole. And when he catches his first whopper, Katie and Grandpa conspire to turn it into a whopper of a different sort -- the horrible, humongous sawfin stickleback. Dan Yoccarino's human figures have large, round heads atop tiny bodies, adding to the humor and overall "fishiness" of the story. (Ages 4-8)

Gauch, Patricia Lee. TANYA AND EMILY IN A DANCE FOR TWO. Illustrated by Satomi Ichikawa. Philomel, 1994. 32 pages. (0-399-22688-5) \$15.95

In this new 11 1/2 x 8 3/4" picture story about a small wiggly child who wants to be a ballet dancer, Tanya meets Emily, one of those kids with inborn coordination and grace. But Emily is also new to the class and always alone afterwards. The indomitable Tanya approaches Emily, demonstrating to "dance" an ostrich and a flamingo, even though it's difficult for Emily to do that when they are called a *jefe* or an *equilbire*. Gauch and Ichikawa's best book yet shows the action, imagination and fun of two children, each talented in different ways. (Ages 3-7)

Geisert, Arthur. AFTER THE FLOOD. Houghton Mifflin, 1994. 32 pages. (0-395-66611-2) \$16.95

Everyone familiar with the Noah's Ark story knows that the ark rested on Mount Ararat after the flood, but it takes the special skills of Arthur Geisert to show how Noah *et al.* moved the ark and all its passengers down onto dry land below and then turned the ark over to build a shelter. Geisert's trademark fascination with pulleys and ramps is evident, as is his droll humor, and his imagination suggests other practicalities, as well. "Seeds and shoots were planted. Trees began to bloom. There was time for the family." Detail is important in Geisert's stunning etchings, appropriately tinted with the colors of the rainbow. A welcome sequel to *The Ark* (1988) also published by Houghton. (Ages 4-10)

Guback, Georgia. LUKA'S QUILT. Greenwillow, 1994. 32 pages. (0-688-12155-1) \$14.00

The traditional Hawaiian quilt Luka's *tutu* (grandmother) makes for her looks nothing like the elaborate, brightly colored quilt Luka had pictured in her head, and she cannot hide her disappointment when Tutu presents it to her. When the two attend a Lei Day celebration, Luka's nontraditional approach to lei-making gives Tutu an idea about enhancing the quilt to suit both generations. Charming cut-paper collages reveal a surprising amount of cultural detail through the folk-art-style illustrations. (Ages 4-8)

Harrison, Joanna. DEAR BEAR. U.S. edition: Carolrhoda, 1994. 32 pages. (0-87614-839-9) \$18.95

Katie is afraid of the bear she imagines living in the closet under the stairs, so her mom suggests she write him a letter telling him to go away. Thus begins an engaging correspondence between the two and, after a series of letters, Katie is no longer afraid. In fact, she is anxious to meet the bear, who turns out to be a lonely teddy. Perceptive readers will no doubt realize that Katie's parents are behind it all, helping to channel Katie's imagination along a more positive route. In any case, it all works, thanks to Harrison's adept use of illustrations to show Katie's mental images of the bear, growing friendlier with each turn of the page. (Ages 4-8)

Isaacs, Anne. SWAMP ANGEL. Illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky. Dutton, 1994. 36 pages. (0-525-45271-0) \$14.99

"On August 1, 1815, when Angelica Longrider took her first gulp of air on this earth, there was nothing to suggest that she would become the greatest woodswoman in Tennessee. The newborn was scarcely taller than her mother and couldn't climb a tree without help." So begins this original tall tale about a woman who'd give Paul Bunyan a run for his money. Isaac's amusing, folksy account centers on Angelica's magnificent battle with a huge bear known as Thundering Tarnation who'd been terrorizing the whole state of Tennessee -- that is, until he crossed paths with the great woodswoman nicknamed "Swamp Angel." Zelinsky's brilliantly rendered illustrations were painted with oils on cherry, maple, and birch veneers, as would befit the greatest of Tennessee woodswomen. His wry, larger-than-life depictions of the Swamp Angel and her "most wondrous heap of trouble" provide the perfect complement to Anne Isaacs' delightful story. (Ages 3-8)

- Lee, Huy Voun. *AT THE BEACH*. Henry Holt, 1994. 24 pages. (0-8050-2768-8) \$14.95  
 There's no better place for Xiao Ming to practice his Chinese character writing than in the sand at the beach, where real people and objects mirror the images of the characters he's writing. Cut-paper collages work beautifully to convey abstract symbols through simple, concrete images, from "big" (a man stretched out on the beach) to "good" (mother and child together). (Ages 6-10)
- McMullan, Kate. *GOOD NIGHT, STELLA*. Illustrated by Emma Chichester Clark. U.S. edition: Candlewick Press, 1994. 24 pages. (1-56402-065-7) \$14.95  
 With all sorts of questions running through her head (Can your eyeballs fall out? If a vampire bites you, will water spurt out your neck when you try to drink?), Stella just can't fall asleep. Even her dad's suggestion ("Try closing your eyes") doesn't help. And, besides, she can't stop swallowing! Kate McMullan has perfectly characterized the mind-set of an imaginative, restless child who has more energy than anyone else in her household. Luckily, Stella has an equally imaginative dad who comes up with a solution that suits everyone. The amusing illustrations show a wide-eyed Stella whose brain stays switched on long after everyone else has gone to sleep. (Ages 5-8)
- Meddaugh, Susan. *MARTHA CALLING*. Houghton Mifflin, 1994. 32 pages. (0-395-69825-1) \$14.95  
 The dog who suddenly began speaking after a bowl of alphabet soup went to her brain instead of her stomach in *Martha Speaks* (Houghton, 1992) is back again. This time she's learning that there's a downside to communication. Not all words are pleasing, and three in particular are downright rude: "No dogs allowed." When Martha wins a vacation to a seaside resort in a telephone contest, she must suffer the ultimate indignity of being disguised as a human. Once again, Susan Meddaugh combines understatement, dialogue balloons and humorously expressive illustrations to allow Martha to speak for herself. (Ages 4-8)
- Miller, William. *ZORA HURSTON AND THE CHINABERRY TREE*. Illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu. Lee & Low (228 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017), 1994. 32 pages. (1-880000-14-8) \$14.95  
 A picture-book account of the childhood of African-American writer Zora Neale Hurston focuses on the influence of her mother, who told Zora all the world belonged to her, contrary to the messages she got from her father and society at large. When her mother died, young Zora, who liked climbing trees, wearing pants, and listening to old men spin their stories at the town store or around a night-time camp fire, promised herself that she would live up to her mother's expectations. Miller has chosen small, significant details to give a sense of Zora's intellect and personality through his spare account of her childhood. Somber pencil and watercolor paintings provide the perfect match for the text and depict Zora as a strong, active girl, even when she appears in the background as an observer. (Ages 6-9)
- Nikola-Lisa, W. *BEIN' WITH YOU THIS WAY*. Illustrated by Michael Bryant. Lee & Low (228 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017), 1994. 32 pages. (1-880000-05-9) \$14.95  
 A rhyming, patterned text celebrates human diversity with an otherwise straightforward series of observations about physical differences. Energetic watercolor and colored pencil illustrations show children of various colors and sizes at play in a busy city park. (Ages 3-6)
- Olaleye, Isaac. *BITTER BANANAS*. Illustrated by Ed Young. Boyds Mills Press, 1994. 32 pages. (1-56397-039-2) \$14.95  
 Set in the heart of the African rain forest, this original story by a Nigerian writer has many folkloric qualities. Young Yusef gathers palm sap to sell at the market but notices with dismay that someone has been raiding his stores. When he discovers that the thieves are a family of baboons, he devises a scheme to discourage them from stealing from him. Frequent repetition of the phrases "Oh no! Oh no!" and "Oh yes! Oh yes!" to signal a bad or good turn of events, along with a generous use of onomatopoeia, makes this a great read-aloud. Ed Young's stunning artwork features his pastel and watercolor paintings, employed with a cut-paper technique that layers images to give a three-dimensional sense of the dense rain forest. (Ages 4-8)
- Peterson, Jeanne Whitehouse. *MY MAMA SINGS*. Illustrated by Sandra Speidel. HaperCollins, 1994. 32 pages. (0-06-023859-3) \$14.89  
 "My mama sings me no new songs. We get along with used tunes from the radio, and hymns she learned

with the Harmony Choir....She has one song for when daffodils are blooming, and winter is over, and everything's turning green, green, green, - and one for hot, hot summer nights when I'm too sticky to sleep. Then my mama sings me the same soft blues her mama taught her. Low and slow, the wavery tune smooths the warm sheets in my tiny room." A poetic text describes the loving relationship between a young African-American boy and his single-parent mother, and the special role that music plays in their lives. When the mother loses her job, she comes home too sad to sing, and in his need for reassurance the little boy imagines his own song to make his mother happy again. Sandra Speidel's warm, colorful paintings fill many of the two-page spreads. In some instances, this creates a difficulty in reading the words from a distance, but it will not detract from sharing this lyrically written picture book one on one. (Ages 4-7)

Pinkney, Brian. *MAX FOUND TWO STICKS*. Simon & Schuster, 1994. 32 pages. (0-671-78776-4) \$15.00

On a day when Max doesn't feel like talking to anyone, he sits brooding on the front steps of his apartment building until he notices two sticks on the ground. They make perfect drum sticks, and as people in Max's neighborhood pass by and say hello, Max responds by beating a rhythm with his sticks on something left behind by the previous passer-by. Primary and secondary colors brighten Pinkney's sweeping scratchboard illustrations which are filled with rhythmic motions. Honor Book, 1994 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Illustration. (Ages 3-7)

Pinkney, Gloria Jean. *THE SUNDAY OUTING*. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Dial, 1994. 32 pages. (0-8037-1198-0) \$14.99

A prequel to *Back Home* (Dial, 1992), *Sunday Outing* shows the days and steps leading up to Ernestine's visit to her relatives' rural southern home. Both stories, set in the early 20th century, provide a view of one middle-class African-American family's means of keeping in touch and passing down family traditions to their children. In *Sunday Outing* the Pinkneys depict Ernestine's close relationship with her Aunt Odessa through their mutual interest in trains and adventure. A wise elder, Aunt Odessa knows exactly how to encourage Ernestine's budding sense of independence and assure that the child will be able to make the long train trip back home by herself. (Ages 5-8)

Rattigan, Jama Kim. *TRUMAN'S AUNT FARM*. Illustrated by G. Brian Karas. Houghton Mifflin, 1994. 32 pages. (0-395-65661-3) \$13.95

Young Truman has learned from experience to approach his Aunt Fran's gifts with caution but what could possibly go wrong with an ant farm? Well, it's an *aunt* farm, for starters. And the aunts begin to arrive immediately to get down to business with their daily schedule of events: Tickle Practice, Headstands, Roller Skating, Hug Relay, Stories, Naps, Listening, and Tiptoeing. It's all too much for one small boy to handle, and Truman has to find a way to engage the help of other nieces and nephews. Delightfully playful illustrations show a great variety of dancing, singing, napping, cookie-baking, soccer-playing, and, of course, head-standing aunts, marching their way through the story. (Ages 4-8)

Reiser, Lynn. *THE SURPRISE FAMILY*. Greenwillow, 1994. 32 pages. (0-688-11672-8) \$13.93

The surprise begins with an egg which cracks open under the watchful eye of a little boy, immediately recognized as "mama" by the fluffy yellow chick who emerges. It continues with five duck eggs which "mama" generously places in the chicken's empty nest some months later. Each generation has a slightly different way of doing things but all live together happily, awaiting the next surprise. Lynn Reiser's excellent pacing is accomplished with a patterned text and an outstanding design and layout, illustrated by cheerfully colored watercolor and pen-and-ink paintings. (Ages 3-6)

Rochelle, Belinda. *WHEN JO LOUIS WON THE TITLE*. Illustrated by Larry Johnson. Houghton Mifflin, 1994. 32 pages. (0-395-66614-7) \$14.95

Jo Louis is so tired of people making fun of her name that she dreads her first day in a new school. But her grandpa manages to raise her spirits by telling her the story behind her name, a story that begins when he was a young man and had just arrived in Harlem on the day of the fighter Joe Louis's great victory. Artist Larry Johnson is so skillful with a paint brush that he manages to pull feeling and drama from the stance of a listening child, and he aptly characterizes the grandfather and granddaughter with expressions of great mutual affection and respect. (Ages 5-8)

Ryder, Joanne. *A HOUSE BY THE SEA*. Illustrated by Melissa Sweet. Morrow, 1994. 32 pages. (0-688-12676-6) \$14.93

"If I could live in a little house / I'd live in a house by the sea..." Joanne Ryder's gentle, rhyming text voices the dreams of a small boy and his sister who long for the every-day adventure and excitement a

seaside home would provide. Charming watercolor paintings of the two brown-skinned siblings deftly depict their wildly imaginative and playful vision of a perfect life. (Ages 3-5)

- Sis, Peter. *THE THREE GOLDEN KEYS*. Doubleday, 1994. 56 pages. (0-385-47292-7) \$19.95  
Peter Sis grew up in Prague, and this book represents his homage to the city of his childhood. His tribute involves three keys, three stories and three aspects of the famous Czech city. Memories entwine with history, legends, specific houses and streets, the ancient stone bridge and the famous astronomical clock, images of cats and the lure of three padlocks. With its subtle colors and complex images, *The Three Golden Keys* is one of the most elegant, intriguing books published during this decade. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis participated in the editing of the elaborately produced 12 x 10 1/2" volume. *The Three Golden Keys* succeeds on multiple levels and surely invites repeated "readings" of several kinds. (Age 5 and older)
- Spinelli, Eileen. *IF YOU WANT TO FIND GOLDEN*. Illustrated by Stacey Schuett. Albert Whitman, 1994. 32 pages. (0-8075-3585-0) \$14.95  
Expertly composed acrylic and pastel paintings illustrate an imaginative color concept book in which a young boy and his mother look for objects of particular hues in the busy streets of their urban neighborhood. From the bright blue mail box to the steely gray pigeons, mother and son find every color of the rainbow because they know exactly where to look. (Ages 3-5)
- Sun, Chyng Feng. *MAMA BEAR*. Illustrated by Lolly Robinson. Houghton Mifflin, 1994. 32 pages. (0-395-63412-1) \$14.95  
From the moment she first saw it in the toy shop window, Mei-Mei has desperately wanted the huge stuffed bear, even though she knows her mama doesn't earn enough money in her job at the neighborhood Chinese restaurant to buy such extravagant luxuries. Mei-Mei manages to earn some money of her own with occasional odd jobs around the restaurant but she still can't save enough to buy "the softest, warmest bear in the whole world." Luckily, Mei-Mei's mama is soft and warm and gives great bear hugs, and that is the most important thing of all. The warm, quiet tone of the refreshingly realistic story is echoed in the softly colored illustrations that accompany it. (Ages 4-8)
- Sun, Chyng Feng. *ON A WHITE PEBBLE HILL*. Illustrated by Chih-sien Chen. Houghton Mifflin, 1994. 32 pages. (0-395-68395-5) \$14.95  
What a glorious adventure Mimi has at the dinner table where she climbs a tree (or broccoli stalk) on top of a white pebble hill (or bowl of rice) to see a far-off lake (or vegetable soup). The child's imagination goes wild during an otherwise routine dinner, and both the author and the illustrator have remarkably left plenty of room for interpretation on the part of individual readers. Come and get it! (Ages 4-8)
- Weston, Martha. *APPLE JUICE TEA*. Clarion, 1994. 32 pages. (0-395-65480-7) \$14.95  
Because her grandmother lives far away, Polly doesn't see her very often. When she does come to visit Polly and her mom and dad, she seems like a stranger and Polly is reluctant to include her in her life. But Gran is obviously an old pro with children and she knows just the right way to give Polly the time and space she needs to get acquainted. The muted tones of Martha Weston's pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations perfectly carry her understated story about the challenges of being a family together and apart. (Ages 3-6)
- Wild, Margaret. *OUR GRANNY*. Illustrated by Julie Vivas. U.S. edition: Ticknor & Fields, 1994. 32 pages. (0-395-67023-3) \$13.95  
"Some grannies...baby-sit / drive trucks / fix the plumbing / go to college / travel / write books / work in an office / play in a band / or make sick people better. Our granny marches in demonstrations." Two children describe their own Granny's home life, physical appearance and activities in comparison to those of many other grannies in a fresh book that combines the comfort of things familiar with the surprise of the unexpected. Margaret Wild's warm, witty text and Julie Vivas' soft, vibrant watercolors showing grannies of all shapes, sizes and colors engaged in various activities combine to form a book that celebrates difference and love. (Ages 2-4)
- Wormell, Mary. *HILDA HEN'S SEARCH*. U.S. edition: Harcourt, Brace, 1994. 32 pages. (0-15-200069-0) \$13.95  
All elements of design, from composition to typeface, work together to create an exquisite picture story of Hilda Hen's search for the perfect spot to build her nest. When there's no room for a nest in the chicken

coop, Hilda wanders throughout the barnyard but each time when she thinks she has found the right cozy spot (the hay mow, a bicycle basket, a laundry basket, etc), something happens to make her change her mind. (Ages 4-7)

See also: *All About Alligators; The Bossy Gallito; The Christmas Tree Ship; Day of Delight; The Days Before Now; The Desert is My Mother; Eagle; Fun-No Fun; Goody O'Grumpity; Iktomi and the Buzzard; John Henry; Listen to the Desert; Meet Danitra Brown; Mole's Hill; My Painted House, My Friendly Chicken and Me; One Sun Rises; Our People; Sitti's Secrets; Smoky Night; Snow Leopard; They Followed a Bright Star; This Way Home; Tiger Soup; Tukama Tootles the Flute*

### Easy Fiction

Calmenson, Stephanie. MARIGOLD AND GRANDMA ON THE TOWN. Illustrated by Mary Chalmers. An I Can Read Book / HarperCollins, 1994. 64 pages. (0-06-020813-9) \$14.00

A new hat, a windy trip to the park, lunch in a restaurant and silly pictures in a photobooth are the highlights of Marigold's special day with Grandma in this simple chapter book that captures a dynamic, loving grandmother/granddaughter relationship. Marigold and Grandma, who are rabbits, are convincingly personified in Calmenson's warm text and Chalmers' charming illustrations. (Ages 6-8)

DeGross, Monalisa. DONAVAN'S WORD JAR. Illustrated by Cheryl Hanna. HarperCollins, 1994. 71 pages. (0-06-020191-6) \$13.89

Third grader Donovan Allen collects words like other kids collect trading cards. When his word jar becomes filled to the brim with the slips of paper on which the words he's collected and memorized are written, Donovan has a problem. What should he do with all of them? Donovan's search for the perfect solution is at the center of this story featuring his loving, supportive African-American family. A perfect read-aloud! (Ages 7-10)

Hesse, Karen. SABLE. Illustrated by Marcia Sewall. A Redfeather Book / Henry Holt, 1994. 81 pages. (0-8050-2416-6) \$14.95

Tate has always wanted a dog, so when the skinny stray wanders into her yard one October, she's determined to keep it. She names the dog Sable because of her dark, silky coat. But when Sable proves to be too much to handle - always wandering off and returning with things that belong to the neighbors - both Mam and Pap agree the dog has to go, and Sable is given away to a doctor in another town. Tate's anger at losing her dog turns to single-mindedness - she'll do whatever it takes to prove to her parents how important it is for her to get Sable back. An unsentimental, satisfying animal story featuring strong prose and a compassionate, capable young girl as protagonist make this a noteworthy transitional reader. (Ages 8-11)

Picó, Fernando. THE RED COMB. Illustrated by María Antonia Ordóñez. Translation and adaptation by Argentina Palacios. U.S. edition: BridgeWater, 1994. 48 pages. (0-8167-3539-5) \$14.95

Because Pedro Calderón has received rewards for capturing runaway slaves, considered "lawbreakers," he is envied by other young men in his Puerto Rican village. "Black folks should help black folks, not hurt them," counsels Old Rosa Bultrón. Ultimately Rosa tricks Pedro and saves a runaway girl. Picó is a history professor in Puerto Rico. The Cuban-born artist, whose illustrations appear in full color in this 8 1/2 x 9 1/4" book, has lived in Puerto Rico since 1961. (Ages 7-11)

Russell, Ching Yeung. FIRST APPLE. Illustrated by Christopher Zhong-Yuan Zhang. Boyds Mills Press, 1994. 127 pages. (1-56397-206-9) \$13.95

An easy-to-follow story set in China during the late 1940s involves nine-year-old Ying, an active girl whose constant activities bring almost daily mishaps. Ying's determination to get an apple for her grandmother requires her to do boring chores, and she gets into one scrape after another. The idea that there are children as well as adults who have only read about but never tasted "sweet and crunchy" apples will intrigue many U.S. readers. The fast-paced plot includes cultural details that do not get in the way of the sparkling dialogue that may have a few too many American idioms; however, these will make the short "chapter book" even more appealing for U.S. readers, even as a "read-aloud." (Ages 6-9)

Stolz, Mary. COCO GRIMES. HarperCollins, 1994. 89 pages. (0-06-024233-7) \$13.89

Thomas, who has just turned eleven, is dying to go to Miami to meet Coco Grimes, a man who once

played baseball in the Negro Leagues. But Grandfather's old pickup truck is too unreliable to make the trip across Florida. Thomas' disappointment turns to excitement when Grandfather is able to borrow a car, but his visit to Coco Grimes in Miami proves disconcerting when the former athlete talks with excitement and certainty about his days on the playing field one minute and is confused and yelling at Thomas the next. The fourth book featuring this African-American grandfather and grandson whose relationship continues to grow was preceded by other equally successful books to read aloud or for newly independent readers: *Storm in the Night* (1988), *Go Fish* (1991) and *Stealing Home* (1992), all published by HarperCollins. (Ages 7-10)

See also: *Polar the Titanic Bear; The Sandman and the Turtles; Twelve Tales*

### Fiction for Children

Avi. THE BARN. Orchard, 1994. 106 pages. (0-531-06861-7) \$13.95

When his father becomes ill, nine-year-old Ben leaves boarding school in Portland, where he's been since his mother's death the previous year, and returns to his family's home in the Oregon Territory to help his older brother and sister take care of Father and run the farm. The "fit of palsy" Father suffered has left him as helpless as an infant, unable to feed himself, clean himself, or communicate in any way. Caring for Father, Ben desperately looks for signs of improvement - the smallest movement, the tiniest sound. Finally, he determines that if he, Nettie and Harrison construct - with no one's help - the barn that Father had wanted so badly to build, Father will have something to live for. It is Ben's trust that this barn - this gift - will make Father better that is at the heart of this bittersweet story of determination and faith as only a child knows them. (Ages 9-12)

Bauer, Marion Dane. A QUESTION OF TRUST. Scholastic, 1994. 130 pages. (0-590-47915-6) \$13.95

Fourteen-year-old Brad is having a hard time accepting the fact that his mother is divorcing his father. Even though she seems much happier, he refuses to visit or talk to her, and he expects his eight-year-old brother, Charlie, to do the same. Throwing all of his energy and emotion into the care of a stray cat and her kittens who are living in their backyard shed, Brad is devastated when he and Charlie find one of the kittens dead, and he is certain the mother cat is at fault. Only when he is at risk of losing everything he will let himself care about does Brad finally reach out to *both* his parents, and in doing so realizes that beyond his hurt and anger, love has never gone away. (Ages 10-14)

Blos, Joan W. BROOKLYN DOESN'T RHYME. Illustrated by Paul Birling. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1994. 86 pages. (0-684-19694-8) \$12.95

Writing about her family for a school assignment, eleven-year-old Rosey Sachs, a first generation Jewish American born in 1895, begins to understand her teacher's statement that, in doing so, she will come to know herself. Rosey's stories about her family and friends become a means by which her own compassion for those around her is revealed. Each chapter of this appealing text is a separate story by Rosey that warmly depicts Jewish life around the turn of the century in Brooklyn. (Ages 8-10)

Collington, Peter. THE COMING OF THE SURFMAN. U.S. edition: Alfred A. Knopf, 1994. 32 pages. (0-679-84721-9) \$16.00

The Surfman's arrival in a bleak urban neighborhood brings with it a transformation. Rival gangs, the Hammers and the Nails, lay down their weapons to ride the waves in the surfing tank the Surfman builds for them. The young narrator, who has always been caught between the gangs, begins to sense purpose in helping the Surfman repair the machine when it fails. But when the wave machine breaks down for an entire day and the narrator is unable to fix it - he was always too busy thinking about surfing to pay close attention to what the Surfman was telling him - the truce breaks down with it, and the destruction that follows results in the Surfman's departure. Thought-provoking without being didactic, Peter Collington's highly original picture book for older readers features full-page, full-color paintings heavy with emotional impact. The grim urban environment is traced in hard edges and shaded in grays and blacks, while the respite from this oppression brought on by the Surfman's activities is realized in the use of neon-bright colors. (Ages 8-12)

Creech, Sharon. WALK TWO MOONS. HarperCollins, 1994. 280 pages. (0-06-023337-0) \$15.89

Singular, vividly realized characters are at the heart of this moving, funny and astonishing novel. On a cross-country trip to Idaho to visit her mother, thirteen-year-old Sal fascinates and delights her

grandparents with the story of mystery surrounding her best friend Phoebe Winterbottom, or Peeby as Gram and Gramps refer to her. But in telling Phoebe's story, Sal is also telling her grandparent's her own - how she is dealing with the changes in her life since her mother left their Kentucky home and she and her father moved to Ohio. The narrative moves back and forth between Sal on the road with her grandparents and Sal's story of Phoebe, but throughout, she privately reflects on her own memories of life back in Kentucky before her mother went away, when things seemed calm and whole. The journey west with her grandparents, who are colorful, quirky characters with boundless love, is healing for Sal as she comes to understand and accept why her mother went away. An added bonus for Wisconsin readers are the stops Sal and her grandparents make in downtown Madison and the Wisconsin Dells as they journey west. Winner, 1994 CCBC Newbery Award Discussion. (Ages 10-14)

DeFelice, Cynthia. *LOSTMAN'S RIVER*. Macmillan, 1994. 160 pages. (0-02-726466-1) \$13.95

Tyler's family moved to Florida to escape their past, but the past catches up with them in an unpredictable way when someone who appears to be a naturalist engages 13-year-old Tyler to draw certain plume birds for him and then is murdered. Tyler becomes involved in protecting what would now be called part of the Everglades ecosystem. The setting is Lostman's River in the Ten Thousand Islands region of Florida, the year is 1906, and the action is plentiful in this fast-paced first-person novel with a surprisingly contemporary theme. The author used the resources of the Seminole Museum in writing her book. (Ages 10-13)

Dorris, Michael. *GUESTS*. Hyperion, 1994. 119 pages. (0-7868-2036-5) \$13.89

A novel offering young readers the opportunity to consider the life and perspective of an American Indian child at the time of the first European settlement in North America features Moss, a young boy who is unhappy that his father has asked outsiders to share his village's harvest meal. "Someday, you'll understand," his father tells him, but to Moss that answer is only another way in which he is treated as a child. Impatient to grow up and unhappy at the change in tradition, Moss ventures alone into the forest, thinking he will have his "away-time," the time when a boy seeks out solitude in the hopes of returning with his adult identity and new understanding. But in the forest Moss finds Trouble, a girl from his village whose desire to go against tradition makes her as restless and unhappy in her own way as he is in his. (Ages 9-11)

Farmer, Nancy. *THE EAR, THE EYE AND THE ARM*. A Richard Jackson Book / Orchard, 1994. 311 pages. (0-531-08679-3) \$18.95

When the three children of General Amadeus Matsika connive their way out of their high-security home, they are looking for change and excitement. They find it, but the ordeal of being kidnapped provides more than they had expected. Moving from an ancient toxic waste dump, to Resthaven, where people attempt to live in the ways of long ago, to the hideout of a powerful street gang in the Mile-High MacIlwaine Hotel, the children are always one step ahead of the trio of mutant detectives--the Ear, the Eye, and the Arm--who are following their trail in the hopes of rescuing them. Set in Zimbabwe in the year 2194, this complex, action-filled adventure of the future combines elements of science fiction with Shona mythology and a running sense of humor. Honor Book, 1994 CCBC Newbery Award Discussion. (Ages 10-14)

Fine, Anne. *FLOUR BABIES*. U.S. edition: Little, Brown, 1994. 178 pages. (0-316-28319-3) \$14.95

The constituents of Room 8 were always Sads or Bads--the regular Lads and Brains were placed elsewhere. So it's not too surprising when Room 8 pursues a Flour Baby project for the Science Fair under the mistaken expectation that it will culminate in a glorious flour explosion. Carting around a six pound sack of flour for three weeks, let alone keeping it dry, clean and constantly tended, is not their idea of fun. The premise is ripe for comedy which the author delivers, but these students, despite their teacher's and their own low expectations, discover a great deal about caring, responsibility and themselves during the course of the project. (Ages 11-14)

Hickman, Janet. *JERICHO*. Greenwillow, 1994. 135 pages. (0-688-13398-3) \$14.00

Stuck at her grandmother's in boring Gatesville is not the way twelve-year-old Angela was counting on spending her summer, but she and her mother must stay to help Grandma take care of GrandMin, Angela's great-grandmother. Struggling with loneliness, first love, and the difficulty of watching someone she loves dying, Angela wishes she could be any place else but the tiny town that was once known as Jericho. In an effective weaving of stories, Angela's emotional turbulence over the course of the

summer is used as a launching point to tell the story of GrandMin's life, which is locked in the elderly woman's memory so that the reader is able to discover what Angela will never know. (Ages 11-14)

Koertge, Ron. *TIGER, TIGER, BURNING BRIGHT*. A Melanie Kroupa Book / Orchard, 1994. 179 pages. (0-531-06840-4) \$15.95

The dusty beauty of the desert landscape features prominently in this adventurous novel about growing up and growing old. Jesse's grandfather, Pappy, swears he's seen tiger tracks in the California desert near their home. If his mother finds out, Jesse is sure she'll have Pappy put in a nursing home. Pappy's forgetfulness, like when he fell asleep while cooking, already has her worried. She thinks it's too dangerous for Pappy to be on his own anymore, while Jesse thinks it would kill Pappy to send him away. Determined to prove that Pappy is fine, Jesse sets out on a course that almost ends in disaster before both he and his mother are able to see the other side of truth. (Ages 10-13)

McEwan, Ian. *THE DAYDREAMER*. Illustrated by Anthony Browne. HarperCollins, 1994. 192 pages. (0-06-024426-7) \$14.00

Ten-year-old Peter Fortune has a knack for winding up in the most unlikely of situations: terrorized and held at bay by a doll in his sister's collection, climbing inside the skin of William, the family cat, or disappearing altogether with the help of vanishing cream, just to name a few. Peter's vivid imagination is at the bottom of it all in this unusual novel that invites readers to suspend disbelief and explore the wonder of it all. Anthony Browne's full-page black-and-white drawings provide an intriguing balance to the highly colorful workings of Peter's mind while capturing the mood - foreboding, warm, frightening - of each of Peter's adventures. (Ages 10-12)

Maguire, Gregory. *MISSING SISTERS*. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1994. 152 pages. (0-689-50590-6) \$14.95

Out of necessity, feisty Alice Colossus has learned to make her own way. This twelve-year-old has a hearing disability that affects her spoken communication and, as the novel begins, she lives in an orphanage operated by a unique array of Catholic nuns. As Alice attempts to find out about her birth family, readers become caught up in the drama surrounding her search. Thoughtful readers will also begin to notice Maguire's accumulating array of images related to doubles, mirror images, opposites, twins and - sisters. Dualities abound: each nun and girl has two names, the city of Troy is half-dissolved in mist, a bus passenger becomes a savior as well as a persecutor, Alice lands the part of Eliza Doolittle and shares the two-pronged role with another girl. Maguire is on-target with several touchy matters, such as the characterization of a white couple of good will who adopted an African-American child during the 1960s. His playful sense of description and beautifully phrased prose complement a satisfying story with memorable characters. (Ages 9-12)

Maguire, Gregory. *SEVEN SPIDERS SPINNING*. Clarion, 1994. 132 pages. (0-395-68965-1) \$13.95

A hyperactive, off-the-wall novel for young readers involving the escape of seven rare Siberian snow spiders *en route* to a laboratory at Harvard University. The spiders end up building webs on the outskirts of Hamlet, Vermont, where the school year has just begun. In the class of the almost-too-good-to-be-true teacher Miss Earth, the Tattletales and the Copycats, rival clubs of girls (Tattletales) and boys (Copycats), are already planning for the next round of their ongoing battle of the sexes. Horror! Unbeknownst to the Copycats, the Tattletales, Miss Earth, or the rest of Hamlet's citizenry, the seven spiders are making their way one by one to Miss Earth's classroom. Has it been mentioned that the bite of a Siberian snow spider is deadly? (Ages 8-11)

Morpurgo, Michael. *THE SANDMAN AND THE TURTLES*. Philomel, 1994. 79 pages. (0-399-22672-9) \$14.95

A lovely fantasy adventure set on the coast of Wales, where each year Michael spends his summer vacations with his cousin and best friend, Barry. But this year Barry has a broken leg, so Michael finds himself spending his mornings on the beach with Barry's seven-year-old sister, Polly. When Polly demands that they build a giant out of sand, Michael complies. When Polly insists they save the giant from the incoming tide, Michael balks, but then finds himself busily scooping out a channel in the sand in order to protect their creation. Then the Sandman, as Polly calls him, begins to stretch and come alive, and Michael can barely believe his eyes. But to Polly, it's perfectly natural - of course the Sandman and all the other characters who feature in Gramps' wonderful stories are real! A warm, lively family is at the center of this charming, funny story in which the boundaries between real and imagined are delightfully blurred. (Ages 8-10)

Nelson, Theresa. *EARTHSHINE*. A Richard Jackson Book / Orchard, 1994. 182 pages. (0-531-06867-6) \$15.95  
Slim's dad has AIDS, and the twelve-year-old is hoping for a miracle. As unlikely as it seems, she gets one - in a way - a miracle of love, courage, strength and understanding. As Slim struggles with the fact that her father's condition is worsening, the adults around her have the wisdom to let her be herself, to feel and not feel, to rage and be silent, all in her own time. Surprisingly, there are light moments. A deeply moving, unsentimental novel seamlessly weaves life, death and a bus trip to Oz into a tapestry of human experience. (Ages 11-14)

Paterson, Katherine. *FLIP-FLOP GIRL*. Lodestar, 1994. 120 pages. (0-525-67480-2) \$13.99  
After her daddy dies, Vinnie, her little brother, Mason, and Momma must move from Washington to Virginia to live with Grandma. To make matters worse, Mason won't talk to anyone - he hasn't since Daddy died - and Vinnie thinks that everyone is so concerned about him that no one cares about her. Then Vinnie meets Mr. Clayton, her new fourth grade teacher; the attention he gives Vinnie and her capacity to imagine become her greatest source of pleasure. Sometimes Mr. Clayton also pays a lot of attention to another girl in her class - Lupe - but Vinnie is certain that she herself is the one he finds special. As a result, when Mr. Clayton announces he is getting married, her feelings of betrayal and jealousy are so strong that she lashes out in an act of anger which powerfully satisfies her rage, but then terrifies her into letting Lupe being blamed as the perpetrator. Firmly grounded in Vinnie's point of view, Paterson's storytelling magnificently renders the emotional landscape of childhood. (Ages 10-12)

Reaver, Chap. *BILL*. Delacorte Press, 1994. 216 pages. (0-385-31175-3) \$14.95  
Thirteen-old-Jess, her dog Bill, and her father live in rural Kentucky, where he scrabbles out their livelihood by making moonshine. Through the agent attempting to put her father out of business, so to speak, Jess glimpses the promise of a new life for herself. To whom and what will she be true? The late author's skill is evident; he created believable characters about whom readers care, weaving both humor and action into a first-person narrative set in prohibition years. (Ages 10-13)

Stewart, Elisabeth J. *ON THE LONG TRAIL HOME*. Clarion, 1994. 106 pages. (0-395-68361-0) \$13.95  
Basing a short adventure novel upon her own great-grandmother's escape from the historic and tragic Trail of Tears endured by the Cherokee people, Stewart succeeds in creating characters whose motivations and actions seem credible for their circumstances and time. Meli is the protagonist determined to return home in this 11-chapter survival story set in various parts of Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Tennessee and North Carolina. (Ages 10-13)

Woodson, Jacqueline. *I HADN'T MEANT TO TELL YOU THIS*. Delacorte, 1994. 115 pages. (0-385-32031-0) \$14.95  
"Sometimes Lena walked like somebody broken. When I found myself behind her in the crowded hallway, I wanted to punch her back straight, to yank her head up, to focus her eyes away from the floor. Other times she moved through the hallway like a steel wall, impenetrable and upright. Then I was a little bit afraid that she would turn around, see me behind her, and explode." In Chauncey, where issues of race and class mean everything, twelve-year-olds Marie and Lena seem an unlikely match in friendship. Marie, who is middle class and black, is at first irritated but eventually intrigued by the efforts of Lena, a new girl at her school who is poor and white, to be friends with her. The friendship that develops between them helps Marie deal with the hurt and confusion she feels over her mother's desertion, and gives Lena respite from life with an abusive father. Together, the two girls create a haven - for Lena, it is a place of safety and comfort, for Marie a place to build strength and find courage. For them both, it is also, quite simply, a place to be children a few moments longer. Honor Book, 1994 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Writing. (Ages 11-14)

See also: *The Captive; Coco Grimes; Donovan's Word Jar; The Ghost Fox; John Henry; Last Leaf First Snowflake to Fall; Platero and I; Running for Our Lives; Sable; War Game*

### **Fiction for Teenagers**

Brooks, Martha. *TRAVELING ON INTO THE LIGHT AND OTHER STORIES*. U.S. edition: A Melanie Kroupa Book / Orchard, 1994. 146 pages. 0-531-06863-3) \$14.95  
Eleven short stories highlight teenagers moving into adulthood, a transition which is depicted by this Canadian author as seldom smooth, and often traumatic. Rather than the common cliches of first love,

friends, and school angst, these young men and women deal with issues ranging from caring for their own children to irrevocable parental rejection. The author's empathetic and elegant prose creates characters which ring true, and their often harsh lives are not without humor and beauty. The last three stories pick up where the novel *TWO MOONS IN AUGUST* (Joy Street Books, 1991) left off, following Sidonie and Bobbi Fallows into adulthood. (Age 14 and older)

Casey, Maude. *OVER THE WATER*. U.S. edition: An Edge Book / Henry Holt, 1994. 246 pages. (0-8050-3276-2) \$15.95

"We live in England, but. We live in England but all year long we are preparing for the journey home." Mary has lived in England for all of her life, but it is Ireland that is still considered "home" to her family, especially her mother, who "is so afraid of scornful glances at her Irish voice (in England) that she opens her mouth to no one." In Ireland with her family during the summer of her 14th year, Mary is at a loss for what it means to be "home" - to be grounded in a sense of self and connected to a place. Her relationship with her mother creates even greater isolation, for it seems she is judged harshly by her mother on everything she says and does. But with the help of her mother's youngest sister, Aunt Nuala, Mary slowly begins to understand and accept the beauty, the sadness and the strength of her Irish identity - an identity she carries with her wherever she goes. Casey's exquisitely written, powerfully moving narrative depicts a young woman's seeringly painful and joyous journey of discovery and self-acceptance. (Age 14 and older)

Cushman, Karen. *CATHERINE, CALLED BIRDY*. Clarion, 1994. 169 pages. (0-395-68186-3) \$13.95

12th day of September (1290): "I am commanded to write an account of my days: I am bit by fleas and plagued by family. That is all there is to say." Fourteen-year-old Catherine has struck a deal: she can forego spinning, a task she loathes, if she agrees to keep a diary of her daily life. Catherine's chronicle of her life as lady-of-the-manor-in-training (a position she has no desire to fulfill) is witty, acerbic and altogether delightful. Over the course of a year, Catherine writes about events ranging from the number of fleas she's had to pick off herself (29 one day) to arrangements being made for her pending marriage to the man she calls "Shaggy Beard" - a marriage Catherine - independent of mind and spirit - does not wish to make. A fascinating and entertaining novel rich with detail of life in the middle ages. (Age 12 and older)

Howarth, Lesley. *MAPHEAD*. Candlewick Press, 1994. 154 pages. (1-56402-416-4) \$14.95

Maphead has problems. He wants to meet his mother for the first time, which is problem enough, but he also has to deal with being an alien from the Subtle World who's trying to act like a run-of-the-mill human boy. Some things get easier with practice, like natural sounding speech patterns and hanging out with friends, but others remain a mystery, like just how to tell his human mother who he is, and how to convince his alien father that he'd like to keep up this existence for a while, rather than traveling on to commune with plants as usual. Wholly original characters and a science fiction plot firmly grounded in contemporary England make this quick-moving novel outstanding in its genre. (Ages 10-14)

Lee, Marie G. *SAYING GOODBYE*. Houghton Mifflin, 1994. 219 pages. (0-395-67066-7) \$14.95

Cambridge, Massachusetts, is a long way from Arkin, Minnesota. Starting her freshman year at Harvard College, Ellen Sung quickly realizes that the distance from college to her home town is measured in more than miles. In Arkin, where her family was more concerned with fitting into their Midwest surroundings than emphasizing their cultural identity, she was labeled "Oriental" by members of the community. But at Harvard, she is looked upon as "Korean-American," and with this comes wonderful discoveries about her cultural heritage, but also pressures and expectations she could never have imagined. When tensions build between members of an African-American and Korean-American student group on campus, Ellen feels torn between loyalty to her closest friend - her African-American roommate, Leecia - and loyalty to her fellow Korean-American students, and must struggle with difficult decisions to come to her own point of truth. A courageous novel exploring racism, identity and friendship continues Ellen's story, which began in *Finding My Voice* (1992) and continued in *If It Hadn't Been for Yoon Jun* (1993), both published by Houghton. (Age 14 and older)

Marsden, John. *LETTERS FROM THE INSIDE*. U.S. edition: Houghton Mifflin, 1994. 146 pages. (0-395-68985-6) \$13.95

When Mandy and Tracey first begin exchanging letters as pen pals, everything seems straightforward as they write about school, home, their love lives. As the letters grow more personal, a real friendship begins to take hold. At the same time, Mandy begins to suspect that Tracey is not always being honest

about the details of her life. When her suspicion is confirmed, she presses Tracey to tell the truth - and the truth is that Tracey is in prison. Tracey expects this will scare Mandy off, but Mandy continues to write - about her daily life and about the problems in her own life - most of which center on her violent older brother, while Tracey slowly reveals more and more about her own life in prison. While she won't tell Mandy the crime she committed, the tough, hard-edged girl Tracey describes herself as being is not the person Mandy recognizes as the real Tracey - the Tracey who reveals herself in her writing. With Mandy's support and encouragement, Tracey begins to drop the tough facade and dares to imagine a life beyond the walls of prison when she turns 21. Told entirely through the correspondence, this intense novel moves skillfully from the mind of one young woman to the other, and its masterful pacing establishes and then heightens the anxiety as it draws toward a conclusion that is devastating in its implications. (Age 15 and older)

Myers, Walter Dean. *THE GLORY FIELD*. Scholastic, 1994. 375 pages. (0-590-45897-3) \$14.95

An ambitious novel tracing the history of an African-American family from its first member to come to this country in 1753 - in the bonds of slavery - up to the present time. The fictitious Lewis family's story begins with a short chapter telling of the capture of eleven-year-old Muhammad Bilal in Sierra Leone, Africa. Each subsequent section of the book moves the story forward in time and follows the family's journey from place to place - from the Civil War and then the turn of the 20th century on Curry Island off the coast of South Carolina, to Chicago in 1930, to Johnson City, South Carolina in 1964, and finally to Harlem in 1994. As the story moves forward in time, it is enriched with greater and greater detail about the daily life of that generation of family members and the social and political climate in which they lived. At the same time that he creates a compelling history of an extended African-American family, Myers paints an unflinching portrait of life for African-Americans in the United States at various times and places throughout this nation's history. Honor Book, 1994 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Writing. (Ages 11-14)

Reuter, Bjarne. *THE BOYS FROM ST. PETRI*. Translated from the Danish by Anthea Bell. U.S. edition: Dutton, 1994. 215 pages. (0-525-45121-8) \$14.99

At first a small group of young men only think of pranks to achieve secretly, and these are accomplished undetected. Their strenuous initiations continue without anyone else discovering what is literally happening on top of their heads, above the church sanctuary. The group becomes bold, planning actions of greater consequence, dangerous actions. But are they still a group or club, or are they now a gang? When, if ever, is such activity justified? The nation is Denmark, the time is World War II, and the Nazis occupy the village. Gunnar and Lars are brothers, their father is a pastor, and the family boarder might be Jewish. All in the group have various motives. The novel is suspenseful, full of action and even a dash of first love. Although the outcome is unrealistic, breathless readers probably won't mind a happier ending than actual historical events would have provided. (Ages 12-15)

Schur, Maxine Rose. *THE CIRCLEMAKER*. Dial, 1994. 182 pages. (0-8037-1354-1) \$14.99

"Nothing is really unconnected. Nothing exists alone." This is what twelve-year-old Mendel concludes after his father teaches him about the power of circlemaking in their Jewish culture and religion: "only the closed circle can keep us whole." Mendel's understanding of what this means is severely tested after he must flee his village, leaving behind his parents and everyone and everything that is familiar to him, to avoid conscription into the czar's army. Making the dangerous journey across the Green Border, the forest that separates Russia from the Austrian Empire, Mendel is thrown together with Dovid, an older boy from his village who has always cruelly bullied him, and this pairing and the events they encounter help Mendel learn that closing the circle is not just about connectedness, it is about remaining true to one's self. An author's note provides historical information on the setting of this novel, which takes place in the Ukraine in 1852, during a time when Jewish boys from ages 12-18 were seized for 25 years of service in the army of Czar Nicholas I. (Ages 11-15)

Sebestyen, Ouida. *OUT OF NOWHERE*. Orchard, 1994. 183 pages. (0-531-06839-0) \$15.95

When Harley's mother and her latest boyfriend abandon him on a highway in the Arizona desert, he's determined to make it on his own; at thirteen, he's been through this before. Still, when middle-aged May offers Harley a ride, he can't help but be a little hopeful. May is on her way home - a home she hasn't been to in more than thirty years, about to start her life over after a divorce. Harley is sure she could use some help - sure he can convince her she does if he tries. May reluctantly agrees, and from this hesitant beginning grows a union that embraces the meaning of family. (Ages 12-15)

Soto, Gary. JESSE. Harcourt, Brace, 1994. 166 pages. (0-15-240239-X) \$14.95

"By the time I was seventeen, in junior college, and living on fruit snatched from neighborhood trees and Top Ramen, I no longer thought God was the creaks rising from the wood floor. I knew God was found in prayer, not in the sudden closing of the hallway door just as you stepped from the bathroom." A provocative opening to a provocative novel about a young Mexican-American man coming face to face with adulthood, and the havoc it plays on his dreams. Jesse has left high school early, eager to start junior college and get an education. An aspiring artist, he lives with his older brother, Abel, and the two attend classes each weekday and then work as field laborers on the weekend to earn money for food. But Jesse sometimes wonders if he hasn't entered the adult world too quickly. His life at home with his mother and stepfather wasn't easy, but being out on his own means a struggling survival and decisions that can bring their own kind of difficulty and pain. The political struggles of César Chávez and migrant laborers figure prominently in this novel set in the early 1970's, while the Vietnam war rages quietly in the background. (Age 15 and older)

Temple, Frances. THE RAMSAY SCALLOP. A Richard Jackson Book / Orchard, 1994. 310 pages. (0-531-06836-6) \$17.95

A riveting adventure spanning across much of Europe in the middle ages follows the journey of fourteen-year-old Elenor and Lord Thomas, the man to whom she is betrothed, who have been sent on a religious pilgrimage from England to Spain by the priest in their village of Ramsay. Father Gregory hopes that their travel to the holy place of Santiago will bring atonement for the sins of the Ramsay villagers. He also hopes that Elenor, who is frightened of marriage, and Thomas, whose experience on The Crusade has left him disillusioned and weary, will find love along with companionship. With strong characterizations and attention to historical details, Temple's chronicle of Thomas' and Elenor's travels on the Pilgrim Way paints a vivid picture of this aspect of medieval life. (Ages 11-15)

Watkins, Yoko Kawashima. MY BROTHER, MY SISTER AND I. Bradbury, 1994. 275 pages. (0-02-792526-9) \$16.95

Continuing the story begun in *So Far From the Bamboo Grove* (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1986), Yoko, now thirteen, her sister Ko, seventeen, and brother Hideyo are living in poverty in Kyoto, Japan, in the years immediately following World War II. For them, a cup of rice is precious, and a handful of vegetable greens and fruit peelings are a treat on the day Hideyo turns 21. They are also still hoping to find their father, who has been missing since the war. Their struggles are complicated after a fire destroys the warehouse in which they'd been living and seriously injures Ko. Drawing strength from one another, they never lose hope or grow bitter, and hard work and acts of kindness which they bestow upon others comes full circle in their lives. (Age 12 and older)

Wright, Richard. RITE OF PASSAGE. Afterword by Arnold Rampersad. HarperCollins, 1994. 151 pages. (0-06-023420-2) \$12.89

The story of fifteen-year-old Johnny Gibbs was written in the 1940s but published for the first time in 1994. A good student with a loving family, Johnny comes home from school one day and his world is torn apart: he is told he is being sent away. Unknown to Johnny, his parents were really his foster parents, and welfare authorities have determined that Johnny must move to another family placement. Frightened and dazed, Johnny bolts into the streets of New York, entering a nighttime world of loneliness and fear wholly foreign to him. Over one night, Johnny careens on a whirlwind course of events that are survival-driven, forced to make split-second decisions that will forever change his life. Set in the 1940s, the themes of this tale of racism and urban violence are chillingly timely still. (Age 14 and older)

See also: *Am I Blue?*; *American Eyes*; *The Call of the Wild*; *The Ear, the Eye and the Arm*; *Earthshine*; *Jericho*; *Walk Two Moons*

#### New Editions of Classic Literature

Adoff, Arnold, editor. MY BLACK ME; A BEGINNING BOOK OF BLACK POETRY. Revised edition: Dutton, 1994. 83 pages. (0-525-45216-8) \$14.99

The compiler's new introduction to the 20th anniversary edition of his important fifty-poem anthology encourages youth to "use these poems for power and love" and to "Stay strong for yourself. Strong for the people." He suggests that the poems are "for *all* sisters and brothers. Of every race. Every open face." The 26 poets represented include Imamu Amiri Baraka, Sam Cornish, Lucille Clifton, Julia Fields, Nikki Giovanni, Langston Hughes, Ray Patterson and Sonia Sanchez. (Age 11 and older)

Andersen, Hans Christian. TWELVE TALES. Selected, translated and illustrated by Erik Blegvad. U.S. edition: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1994. 92 pages. (0-689-50584-1) \$18.95

This elegant edition of Andersen tales translated by Blegvad, whose first language is Danish, should itself become a classic. The handsomely designed volume is enhanced by Blegvad's more than five dozen illustrations rendered with ink line and watercolor; one or more are wonderfully reproduced in full color on each double page spread. Blegvad's introduction expresses pride in Andersen's triumphs over personal adversity and the literary acclaim achieved by his fairy tales that "speak with great clarity of universal truths and human qualities." (Ages 5-9)

Douglass, Frederick. ESCAPE FROM SLAVERY; THE BOYHOOD OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS IN HIS OWN WORDS. Edited and illustrated by Michael McCurdy. Foreword by Coretta Scott King. Alfred A. Knopf, 1994. 63 pages. (0-679-84652-2) \$15.00

This handsomely designed edition is a shortened version of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written by Himself*. Initially published in Boston by the Anti-Slavery Office in 1845, it was the first of Frederick Douglass's three autobiographies. In this edition, the action and events of the longer work are emphasized for young readers. Although the editor reports separating some of Douglass's paragraphs and chapters for clarity in modern times, he says the author's own words, spelling and distinctive punctuation were retained. A helpful introduction provides the context for each section. Eleven black-and-white drawings by McCurdy are interspersed among Douglass's inspiring passages. (Ages 11-16)

Hughes, Langston. THE DREAM KEEPER AND OTHER POEMS. Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Introduction by Lee Bennett Hopkins. Alfred A. Knopf, 1994. 83 pages. (0-679-84421-X) \$12.00

This handsome volume features Brian Pinkney's dignified scratchboard artwork accompanying Hughes' 66 poems for youth, 59 of which appeared in an earlier edition. The splendid layout and design, choice of paper and judicious use of two colors for the text add elegance to this tribute to an important poet who wrote both in dialect and in standard English. (Age 11 and older)

Hughes, Shirley. THE NURSERY COLLECTION. U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1994. 52 pages. (0-688-13583-5) \$17.00

Five of Shirley Hughes' miniature-sized easy concept books (*Bathwater's Hot*, *When We Went to the Park*, *Colors*, *All Shapes and Sizes*, and *Noisy*) are compiled into a single volume measuring 10 1/2 and 8 3/4." A welcome reissue. (Ages 2-4)

Jiménez, Juan Ramón. PLATERO Y YO = PLATERO AND I. Selected, translated and adapted from the Spanish by Myra Cohn Livingston and Joseph F. Domínguez. Illustrations by Antonio Frasconi. Text ©1957. Translation and illustrations ©1994. Clarion, 1994. 47 pages. (0-395-62365-0) \$14.95

Designed to introduce today's youth to the winner of the 1956 Nobel Prize for Literature and to introduce a classic known to most children in the Spanish-speaking world, this intriguing volume captures the essence of a place and time: Moguer, an Andalusian village in the South of Spain, in 1914. Readers are invited to consider the universals within a man's specific musings as he travels by donkey, enjoying the festivals and people of the countryside and yet understanding their poverty and loss. Nineteen one-page passages from Jiménez' longer work of 138 chapters appear in side-by-side Spanish and English translations. The excerpts are illustrated with superb full-color images created in woodcuts and mixed media by Uruguayan-born Antonio Frasconi. (Ages 9-12)

Johnson, James Weldon. THE CREATION. Illustrated by James E. Ransome. Holiday House, 1994. 32 pages. (0-8234-1069-2) \$15.95

Ransome's paintings accompanying Johnson's poem alternate between two types of images, one being a contemporary male storyteller under a large shade tree with five African-American children. The other images show some of the landscapes and creatures named in this poem about the beginning of the universe according to a story in *Genesis*. Excerpted from Johnson's poetic sermon, *God's Trombones*, this full-color picture book can be an inspiration as well as an introduction to the works of an achiever of the past century. (Ages 4-9)

London, Jack. THE CALL OF THE WILD. Illustrated by Barry Moser. Introduction by Gary Paulsen. Macmillan, 1994. 127 pages. (0-02-759455-6) \$19.95

In an introduction as stark and spare as London's fictional terrain, Paulsen provides comments about

Klondike gold rush times and what he calls London's "classic man-dog story and grand adventure epic." Those remarks are juxtaposed with Paulsen's observations concerning tourism and permanent alterations to that vast landscape: "It is all gone, all changed, all tamed and pacified and cleaned and boiled and sanitized..." All the more reason, he writes, "...to open these pages and let Jack London take you back." The sixteen black-and-white drawings by Moser that appear throughout the elegantly designed and produced volume were rendered in ink, watercolors, and graphite with brush, pen and pencil. (Age 11 and older)

See also: *They Followed a Bright Star*; section on Folklore

### **The Compilers of *CCBC CHOICES 1994***

**Kathleen T. Horning** is a librarian and coordinator of Special Collections at the Cooperative Children's Book Center of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is also a children's librarian at Madison Public Library. She was the editor of *ALTERNATIVE PRESS PUBLISHERS OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS: A DIRECTORY* (3rd ed., 1989) and the co-author with Ginny Moore Kruse of *MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS* (3rd ed., DPI, 1991). She was a contributor to *THE MULTICOLORED MIRROR: CULTURAL SUBSTANCE IN LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS* (Highsmith, 1991). She developed a column on Small Press Children's Books for *BOOKLIST* and collaborated on one about Issues in Public Library Services for Children published in *WILSON LIBRARY BULLETIN*. She chaired ALA/ALSC's 1995 John Newbery Medal Committee and has served on ALA/ALSC's Notable Children's Books Committee and an earlier Newbery Medal Committee. She chaired USBBY's Hans Christian Andersen Award Committee which selected U.S. nominees for the international award in 1992. She served on the ALA/SRRT Coretta Scott King Award Committee and chaired ALA/ALSC's first Committee on Social Issues in Relationship to Materials and Services for Children. Katy frequently lectures to librarians on issues in evaluating literature for children and young adults. She has a B.A. in Linguistics and a Master's Degree in Library and Information Studies, both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Ginny Moore Kruse** is a librarian and director of the Cooperative Children's Book Center of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a former classroom teacher, school librarian, public librarian and college teacher of children's literature. As part of the CCBC's outreach services, she frequently lectures at the CCBC and elsewhere and teaches continuing education courses on contemporary children's literature themes and topics, and intellectual freedom and books for youth. Ginny is active on state and national intellectual freedom committees and is the founder of the award-winning CCBC Intellectual Freedom Information Services. She has chaired or served on national children's literature award and distinction committees including the John Newbery, Randolph Caldecott, Mildred L. Batchelder, May Hill Arbuthnot, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Coretta Scott King, Boston Globe-Horn Book, Jane Addams, and Teachers' Choices committees. She chaired the Editorial Advisory Board of the ALA journal *BOOK LINKS* during its first four years and just completed a term on the Advisory Board of *CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IN EDUCATION*. She is co-author with Kathleen T. Horning of *MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS* (3rd edition, DPI, 1991) and contributor to *THE MULTICOLORED MIRROR; 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 of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Megan compiled and edited *CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY WISCONSIN AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS ABOUT WISCONSIN; AN IDENTIFICATION RECORD OF TITLES PUBLISHED IN 1993 (1994)* and is currently working on the 1995 edition of this unique documentation record. She produced the CCBC 30th Anniversary commemorative program booklet and a bibliography of Virginia Hamilton's works in 1993. With Ginny and Katy, she co-teaches Educational Telecommunications Network (ETN) continuing education courses for librarians and teachers across the state, and she is an active member of the American Library Association. Megan oversees daily information requests received at the CCBC public service desk and manages the CCBC's book examination collection, as well as planning and supervising the transfer of CCBC cataloging on OCLC. Megan has worked as a writer and editor on several publications in the Madison area, and continues this work in various capacities outside the CCBC. Megan 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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## **Vision Statement**

All children and young adults deserve excellent literature which reflects their own experience and encourages them to imagine experiences beyond their own, which satisfies their innate curiosity, and which invites them to dream. We believe such literature fosters a fundamental understanding of themselves and one another, stimulates their creativity, and, most importantly, enriches their lives.

At the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC), a library of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, we are committed to identifying excellent literature for children and adolescents and bringing this literature to the attention of those adults who have an academic, professional, or career interest in connecting young readers with books. The identity of the Cooperative Children's Book Center is grounded in literature for children and young adults. This is reflected in its collections, its role as a book examination center and research library, and its staff expertise in book arts, book evaluation, multicultural literature, alternative press publishing, and intellectual freedom. Within each of these areas, the CCBC is acknowledged as a leader and a catalyst for change. We are committed to fulfilling these roles by advocating and actively modeling a philosophy that embraces diversity, promotes understanding and respects the rights of the individual child.

The concepts of access and inclusiveness are vital to the discussion and evaluation of literature for children and young adults. These elements are also central to any discussion of the CCBC itself with regard to its collections and information services. Therefore, the CCBC seeks to expand both the means by which CCBC information is made available and the types of information to which users have access. We will be at the forefront in:

- collecting a wide range of contemporary and historical literature for children and young adults, including literature published by alternative presses and that created by current and former Wisconsin residents;
- encouraging awareness and discussion of issues essential to literature for children and young adults;
- advocating the First Amendment rights of children and young adults by:  
1) providing Wisconsin teachers and librarians with in-depth information on literature whenever a minor's access to books is questioned, and 2) preparing Wisconsin teachers and librarians to respond to challenges to intellectual freedom;
- providing educational support for students in higher education and individuals with an interest in literature for children and young adults;
- shaping electronic means of access to and dissemination of information about literature for children and young adults, within the School of Education, across the university, throughout the state of Wisconsin, and beyond; and
- networking nationally and internationally with colleagues in related fields to create coalitions which recognize the importance of high quality materials for all children and young adults.

The CCBC is a unique and vital gathering place for books, ideas and expertise. The CCBC vision for the future is the continued pursuit of excellence in literature for children and young adults by whatever resources are available, unwavering commitment to the First Amendment rights of children and young adults, and the establishment of a national and international network to connect all who share the belief that excellent literature can insure a brighter future for the world's children.

## **Purpose**

The Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is a noncirculating examination, study and research children's and young adult literature library for adults. The purposes of the CCBC are: 1) to provide a collection of current, retrospective and historical books for

children and young adults; 2) to provide Wisconsin librarians, teachers, students and others informational and educational services based on the collection; and 3) to support teaching, learning and research needs related to children's and young adult literature.

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

### **Collection**

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

### **Access**

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

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

Beginning in January 1995, all materials cataloged at the CCBC are in OCLC and in the University of Wisconsin-Madison Electronic Library on-line catalog. CCBC records until 1990 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 university students and faculty and Wisconsin librarians and teachers, usually by advance arrangement. Specialized reference assistance and children's literature consultation is also available by mail and phone to the above constituents anywhere in the state. Intellectual freedom information services are available to anyone serving minors in Wisconsin libraries and schools.

Tours and/or lectures are arranged as possible for university classes, library and school book selection groups and school inservice groups coming to the Book Center. CCBC publications on selected children's and young adult literature topics are available along with selected award and distinction lists and annual CCBC Wisconsin-related literature publications. Children's and young adult literature displays can be seen by walk-in library users. Monthly book discussions apply literary standards and book evaluation techniques to new books and are open to any student, faculty member, librarian, teacher or other interested adult who reads some of the scheduled books beforehand, as are the annual awards discussions.

Continuing education courses are taught throughout the year by the CCBC professional staff. As possible, the CCBC participates in statewide and regional conferences through the provision of book examination exhibits and/or leadership in scheduled sessions. A two-day children's and young adult literature conference is cosponsored every other year. The CCBC often cosponsors conferences and workshops provided by UW-Madison Extension Programs.

Persons interested in attending lectures, workshops or conferences or in obtaining CCBC publications are asked to send a self-addressed, stamped envelope when they write requesting a list of CCBC Materials or a copy of *THE CCBC THIS SEASON*, a quarterly flyer briefly listing current CCBC on-campus and off-campus information and program services.

## Governance of the Cooperative Children's Book Center

*The CCBC Executive Committee* is responsible for policies and funding of the Cooperative Children's Book Center. During 1994-95, the Executive Committee was comprised of School of Education Associate Dean **Michael Streibel** with **Michael Subkoviak**, Interim Dean of the School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Administrator **William Wilson**, DPI Division for Libraries and Community Learning, 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 1994-1995 Advisory Board was chaired by **Kris Adams Wendt**, Assistant Director, Rhinelander District Library.

Members of the 1994-95 Advisory Board are: **Karen Adams**, Library Media Specialist, Rhinelander Elementary Schools; **Susan Matoba Adler**, Assoc. Lecturer and Doctoral Candidate, Department of Curriculum & Instruction, School of Education, UW-Madison; **James Brownlow**, Librarian, Bay Lane Middle School, Muskego;

**Eve Bruce**, Media Specialist, Willow Springs Elementary School, Menomonee Falls; **JoAnn Gadicke**, Media Specialist, Howards Grove School District; **Mary Louise Gomez**, Assistant Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, UW-Madison; **Miriam Hansen**, Resource Sharing Coordinator, Indianhead Library System, Eau Claire;

**Dianne M. Hopkins**, Associate Professor, School of Library and Information Studies, UW-Madison (1994); **Jacque Karbon**, Consultant, Reading Education, Program Development Section, Division for Instructional Services, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; **John Kean**, Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, UW-Madison & CCBC Faculty Contact with the University Library Committee;

**Thomas R. Kennedy**, Supervisor of Library/Media, School District of Beloit; **Ellen Last**, Consultant, English/Language Arts Education, Division for Instructional Services, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; **Char Lemke**, District Director of Media and High School Library Media Specialist, Arcadia School District; **Anne Lundin**, Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information Studies, UW-Madison (1995);

**JoAnne Marshall**, Reading Specialist, Iowa-Grant Elementary/Middle School, Livingston; **Mildred McDowell**, Media Specialist, Francis Starms Early Childhood Center, Milwaukee; **Judy Moberg**, Library Media Specialist, Fox Point School District, and children's literature instructor, Dept. of Curriculum & Instruction, UW-Milwaukee; **Lillian Nolan**, Youth Librarian, Fond du Lac Public Library;

**Mary Pinkerton**, Chair, Department of English, UW-Whitewater; **Christine Prevetti**, Librarian, Finney Public Library, Milwaukee; **Cathy Retzer**, 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;

**Gyneth Slygh**, Doctoral Student, Department of Curriculum & Instruction, School of Education, UW-Madison; **Kris Stabo**, Youth Librarian, Maude Shunk Youth Library, Menomonee Falls; **Joan Thron**, Doctoral Student, Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, UW-Madison (1994) & Lecturer in Literature/Language/ Education, UW-Green Bay;

**Carole Troxel**, 5th Grade Teacher, Jefferson School, Richland Center; **Elizabeth Vollrath**, Youth Services Librarian, Portage County Public Library, Stevens Point; and **Shirley S. Wilbert**, Professor of Library Science, College of Education and Human Services, UW-Oshkosh.

**Mary Keefer**, EMC Coordinator and Reference Librarian, UW-Oshkosh, chairs the CCBC Long Range Planning Committee. Other members are **Mary Ann Ehrhike**, Elementary Librarian, Douglas Elementary School, Watertown; **Dianne Hopkins** (1994); **Gretchen Revie** (1994); **Gyneth Slygh** (1995) and **Joan Thron** with the CCBC professional staff.

## 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 1994*

included: graduate students **Dana Bjerke, Tara DeLeon, Polly Forsell, Katie Jones (1994), Bonnie Kalla, Kimberly King, Nina Lindsay (1994), Lesley Lundgren, Gail Oosterhuis (1994), Kathy Richter and Stacey Walpert;** and undergraduate students **Susan Burke (1994), Emily Edgette, Jenny Henrichs, Margaret Heuring, Nikki Jacob, Aimee Ray, Shari Seidel (1995) and Tammy Woznick (1994).**

Volunteer staff members from the Friends of the CCBC, Inc., during 1994-1995 were retired professional librarians **Marion Fuller Archer (1994), Sally A. Davis and Barbara Seif,** along with professional librarian **Tana Elias** and graduate students **Gretchen Dombrock (1995), Julie Fingerson (1995), Martha Flotten (1994), Nina Lindsay (1995), Megan McGuire (1994) and Beth Wright.**

### **Public Service Schedule**

The CCBC is open twelve months a year for public service to adults interested in contemporary or historical children's and young adult literature. 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.

## INDEX

### INTRODUCTION

In keeping with the CCBC's emphasis on multicultural literature, this year's index intends to provide basic access to the ethnic background of the persons, fictional and real, portrayed in this year's *CCBC CHOICES* selections. These entries are as specific as possible, and include cross-references to point the reader to other groups of interest. For example, "Asians and Asian-Americans" includes a cross-reference to "Japanese and Japanese-Americans" and other culturally-specific sub-groups. For fictional works, the index includes broad groupings based on human and community relationships and themes, such as "Siblings" or "Urban Violence." The enhanced index, being a trial effort, does not seek to be comprehensive; rather, it seeks to provide access to this year's selections in light of traditional and contemporary storytime and classroom uses, such as a storytime theme of grandparents or a classroom unit on AIDS.

The books indexed include only those published for children and young adults in 1994. Other works are referenced in the text but not indexed.

Entries for titles, book creators, ethnic backgrounds/origin, and relationships are interfiled, and arranged in word-by-word order. The filing arrangement ignores both cases, all articles (including those in Spanish), and all punctuation. "Mc" and "Mac" are identified at the beginning of the letter "m." Citations for subject entries point only to the title's annotated entry, not for other locations in which the title may appear. For space reasons, only the main title was included in this year's index; bilingual books include entries under both English and Spanish titles.

The CCBC is interested in how *CCBC CHOICES* readers use this index and in any suggested improvements for providing partial subject access.

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