

CCBC

Choices

1996

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The Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC)

The Compilers of *CCBC Choices* 1996

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The Friends of the CCBC, Inc.

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Many thanks to participants in the CCBC-NET community for sharing comments about some of their favorite books of the year and outcomes of regional or local award book discussions.

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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 1996*.

The Friends of the CCBC, Inc., underwrote the professional design, typesetting, layout, printing and binding of *CCBC Choices 1996*. Members of the 1996-97 Friends of the CCBC, Inc., Board of Directors are: President-**Kathy Tessmer**; Vice-President-Fall 1996: **Denise Jansen**, Spring 1997: **Margaret Jensen**; Recording Secretary-**Renée Hoxie**; Treasurer-**Deb Kabler**; Directors-at-Large: **Donald Crary**, **Tana Elias** and **Megan McGuire**. Committee chairs include **Nancy Beck**, **Donald Crary**, **Jan Gessler**, **Barbara Huntington**, **Margaret Jensen** and **John Roberts**. Newsletter editor: 1996 **Ann Jarvella Wilson**, Spring 1997: **Tana Elias**.

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 1996* 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. An annual contract with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Division for Libraries and Community Learning makes specific CCBC resources and outreach services available to libraries and schools throughout Wisconsin. Additional information about the CCBC can be found near the end of this publication.

We created *CCBC Choices* within the environment of the Cooperative Children's Book Center. As a book examination center and 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 1996, 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.

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 from 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 and 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.

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 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 provided for books available only in paperback. While the CCBC typically does not attempt to keep track of the paperback book field in any way, we do know that 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. The books we recommend that are available in paperback editions only often have unique content which cannot be found in other books for children. We encourage you to pay attention to these books, and to the announcement of future paperback editions of books that are currently available only in hardcover.

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 17 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 1996*

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 53706-1403 USA.

For those residing outside Wisconsin, please write to the Friends of the CCBC, Inc. (address on page____) for information regarding the availability of this publication and for individual and quantity rates. You may also inquire about the availability of earlier editions of *CCBC Choices*. Please do not phone the CCBC to ask for this information.

Regardless of where they live, current members of the Friends of the CCBC, Inc., receive a copy of this edition of *CCBC Choices* 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 costs 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 53706-1403.

The following CCBC 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: Volume I, 1980-1990* (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. It is also possible to purchase this publication from the Friends of the CCBC. Write to: Friends of the CCBC, Inc., P.O. Box 5288, Madison, WI 53705-0288 USA regarding availability and price.

Multicultural Literature for Children and Young Adults: Volume II, 1991-1995 by Ginny Moore Kruse and Kathleen T. Horning will be published during 1997. Contact the DPI and/or the CCBC for information.

- 3) *Friends of the CCBC Notecards* featuring Trees and Seasons. A full-color reproduction of one work each of Wisconsin artists Nancy Ekholm Burkert (spring), Kevin Henkes (summer), Lois Ehlert (autumn), and Ellen Raskin (winter). Set of 8 notecards (blank inside), 2 of each illustration, with 8 envelopes. Available as long as supplies last from: Friends of the CCBC, Box 5288, Madison, WI 53705-0288 USA. \$8.00 per packet includes postage and handling in the U.S. A. Inquire about quantity prices and consignments, and about ordering cards by one artist or certain seasons. Please do not phone the CCBC to order or inquire about Notecards.

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

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT PUBLISHING IN 1996

How Many Books Were Available For Sale During 1996?

The current edition of *Children's Books in Print* (R.R. Bowker, 1997) cites 115,430 books "published in the U.S. for children and

currently available for purchase." That number represents a startling increase of more than 14,500 over the number of titles reported as available for purchase a year ago. The 1990-91 edition of *Children's Books in Print* (R.R. Bowker, 1990) cited a total of 66,268 books in print, which means almost 50,000 more books are available now than seven years ago.

This means that there is an abundance of books written, edited and published especially for children and young teenagers available for the youth of this nation, and an abundance of choices for individuals seeking out books for the young, whether for personal or professional reasons.

How Many Books Were Published During 1996?

As we look back at the calendar year of 1996, 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 three 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. CCBC estimates are typically conservative, in that the CCBC estimate does not include reprints, 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, most or all of which are included in the 115,430 books currently available for purchase. We suspect that the astounding increase in the number of books available for purchase is due to an increase in the publishing of many of these types of books. As a result, our estimate for the number of new books has remained steady in recent years.

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 Are In CCBC Choices 1996?

There are 232 books listed in *CCBC Choices 1996*. Of these, 69 represent the first published works of 58 authors or illustrators; 31 were originally published outside the United States, six of which are translations; and 13 were published by three small, independently owned and operated publishers. To our knowledge, 169 of the books we recommend in *CCBC Choices 1996* did not appear on any of the other nationally distributed lists of the year's best books as of January 31, 1997. Two of the books have an actual copyright date of 1995 but were not released until 1996; one was released in 1996 but has a copyright date of 1997.

Most of the books in *CCBC Choices 1996* are published for an audience ranging in age from infancy to fourteen years, 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 1996 *Choices* recommendations are suggested for readers age fifteen or older.

As we comment on some of the books published in 1996 on the following few pages, please note that not every book we discuss has been selected as a *CCBC Choice*. Books that are not recommended *CCBC Choices* are designated by the inclusion of publisher information after their titles.

New Editions of Classic Works

There is no definitive set of criteria for what makes a book a classic. It is dependent as much on one's background as what someone may have read--or had read to them--when they were young. This broad definition embraces the realization that our literary heritage is a collective one that is enriched by the contributions of many national and cultural groups and many kinds of books.

During 1996, we welcomed a new edition of Edgar Allan Poe's *Tales of Mystery and Imagination*, with its brooding artwork and handsome design, and a beautifully produced version of *The Nutcracker*, both books featuring stories that have endured for more than a century. A second elegant edition of *The Nutcracker* was published by Creative Editions/Harcourt Brace in 1996. It excites us to see such stunning examples of the book arts in which care and attention is paid to all aspects of the finished product, from paper selection to type style to illustration and design. We found a number of books in this edition of *CCBC Choices* to be exemplary in this arena.

Hanna's Sabbath Dress offers readers in this country a new English translation of a popular story in Israel. Eve Merriam's *The Inner City Mother Goose* bridges the gap between the 1960s and today, providing the opportunity for readers to measure how far we have--or have not--come. A newly illustrated edition of Eloise Greenfield's biography *Rosa Parks* (HarperCollins) will help ensure this

easy-to-read book will be available for today's young children. These and other fine new editions of classics offer an opportunity for young readers to discover excellent literature that has stood the test of time among one or more parts of the reading public.

The publication of *Sam and the Tigers* (Dial), which represented the joint efforts of Julius Lester and Jerry Pinkney to retell the story and recast the hurtful images of the *Little Black Sambo*, which was originally published in 1899, for a contemporary audience coincided with the appearance of *The Story of Little Babaji* (HarperCollins), in which Helen Bannerman's *Little Black Sambo* text appears with new illustrations and character names to reflect the story's setting in India. The attention given to both these books throughout the year had a side effect that will be disturbing to teachers, librarians, parents and others who are concerned with how inaccurate representation of a cultural group can negatively impact children: bookstore sales of the original version of Helen Bannerman's *The Story of Little Black Sambo*, which have always been steady, increased.

Related to new editions of classics in which time-honored stories are retold and/or newly illustrated, we noticed a number of hardcover reprints in 1996; more, it seemed, than ever before. Unlike a new edition of a book in which there has been fresh creative input, these reprints are reissues of previously published books, with their original text and illustrations. Reprints are yet another way that stories remain in the hands of young readers over the years. Among the reprints we were delighted to see in 1996 were *Hooray for Me!* (Tricycle Press) by Remy Charlip and Lilian Moore with the illustrations of Vera B. Williams, and *The Shopping Basket* by John Burningham (Candlewick).

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 1996. For the sixth consecutive year, many children's book publishers actively promoted both new and earlier books by and about people of color, although the special flyers, catalogs and mailings of recent years seemed to diminish in number and kind. 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.

Many new authors and artists of color are being published today compared to 1990. New books by and about people of color have never been more attractive in appearance and compelling in content. The winners of the Coretta Scott King and Américas Awards matter to book consumers and publishers. The Pura Belpré Award for outstanding Latino literature was given for the first time during 1996.

Still, we continue to worry that the collective attention span of Americans is beginning to move away from multicultural literature. It is critical that multicultural literature be viewed as a substantial component of children's book publishing, rather than a passing fad. Only then will its past be honored and its future be guaranteed as an integral part of all children's and young adult literature. If booksellers, librarians and teachers begin to operate under the premise that they have all the multicultural books they need, the publishing of excellent new books will dwindle, and the perspectives on multicultural experience in our country will be suspended in time. The continued--and increased--publication of a wide range of voices from a wide range of cultural perspectives will help ensure that all children will find validation in the books available to them to read, as well as a stronger understanding of what it means to be a citizen of their community, their nation and the world.

Books by and about Africans and African-Americans

The number of books created by Black authors and illustrators decreased slightly in 1996 compared to the number published during 1995. (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 with themes and topics related to Caribbean countries are also designated as Latino.)

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 *Slam!* as well as *The Paper Boy*; the first book is firmly grounded in the experience of an urban African-American teenager, while the latter involves a brown-skinned child on his early morning paper route.

Of the roughly 4,500 books published in the United States for young people in 1996, 92 were created by Black authors and/or illustrators. (The CCBC documented 100 books in this category in 1995, 82 books in 1994, 74 in 1993, 94 in 1992, and 70 in 1991.) The 92 titles represent the published work of 59 individual authors and 34 individual illustrators.

Approximately 172 books specifically about African and/or African-American history, culture and/or peoples were documented at the CCBC during 1996, as compared to 94 in 1995 and 166 in 1994.

Very few of the above number of African-American authors and illustrators were new to the field of children's books in 1996. Several African-American authors and illustrators created more than two books during the year. We documented five books written by Irene Smalls, four books by Walter Dean Myers and three each created by Nikki Giovanni, Angela Shelf Medearis, Brian Pinkney, and James Ransome.

Of the books by African-American book creators published in this nation during 1996, ten books were published by small, independently owned publishing companies. As is often the case, these small presses are more likely to take a chance with publishing new African-American authors and artists. In fact, seven of the ten titles published by the small presses represent the first published works of their authors and/or artists. Most notable among these is the introduction to African-American literature published by Zino Press, *Sweet Words So Brave* by Barbara K. Curry and James Michael Brodie, with illustrations by Jerry Butler.

Among the other books by and about Africans and African-Americans that we appreciated this year is the charged, political *Rebels Against Slavery* by Patricia C. and Fredrick L. McKissack, which acknowledges the many ways in which African-Americans revolted against their oppressors in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. It is a testament to the strong and aching desire for freedom and the energy, intelligence and spirit of a people. Toussaint L'Ouverture is one of the individuals profiled by the McKissacks, and he is also the subject of the biography *Toussaint L'Ouverture*, which is distinguished by the bold, dramatic paintings of the artist Jacob Lawrence.

Other well-written, exciting and inspiring biographies appearing in a fully illustrated picture book format include *Wilma Unlimited*, about the Olympic gold medalist who had polio as a child and featuring the distinctive multimedia artwork of David Diaz; *Bill Pickett*, a profile of one of the most well-known African-American cowboys which comes alive with the energetic scratchboard illustrations of Brian Pinkney; and *Minty*, a fictionalized biography of Harriet Tubman's childhood that is graced by Jerry Pinkney's powerful watercolor art.

Elinor Batezat Sisulu's *The Day Gogo Went to Vote* marks the historic 1994 elections in South Africa when Blacks were first allowed to vote. Here a small child describes her 100-year-old grandmother's determination to go to the polls.

There were few substantial novels by or about African-Americans in 1996, something that is quite unusual compared to recent years. Walter Dean Myers's *Slam!* and Martha Southgate's first novel, *Another Way to Dance* (Delacorte, 1996), look at the lives of contemporary African-American teens. While the fast-paced action of *Slam!* follows the life of an inner-city basketball hopeful, Southgate's book about a young aspiring dancer looks at how her immersion in an almost all-white world has left her culturally isolated.

Virginia Hamilton's unparalleled storytelling voice presents traditional black folktales in the beautifully produced *When Birds Could Talk and Bats Could Sing*, and in an exciting year for poetry Nikki Giovanni has three books in this edition of *CCBC Choices*, including the unmatched *Shimmy Shimmy Shimmy Like My Sister Kate*, which celebrates the writers of the Harlem Renaissance through their poems and Giovanni's down-to-earth yet dazzling commentary.

Monica Greenfield's warm, welcome family picture book *Waiting for Christmas* brims with excitement as the much-anticipated day approaches. *Twas the Night Before Christmas* (Cartwheel/Scholastic) by Melodye Rosales retells the classic poem with Black language and characters, featuring the Black "Santy" who would have been familiar to African-American children in 1904, when this version of the story is set. Family times continue with *The Children's Book of Kwanzaa* by Dolores Johnson, a comprehensive look at this uniquely African-American celebration.

African heritage is a recurring theme in more than one picture book this year, including *The Magic Moonberry Jump Rope* by Dakari

Hru, *Mimi's Tutu* by Tynia Thomassie, and *The Conjure Woman* (Atheneum) written by William Miller and illustrated by Terea D. Shaffer. African-American family history also plays an important part in *What's in Aunt Mary's Room?*, Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard's second picture book about Susan and Sarah, two sisters who have a special relationship with their great-great Aunt Flossie.

Books by and about Latinos

At the CCBC, 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 one might expect. Typically we not been able to provide reliable documentation about the number of books by other racial or ethnic groups that is comparable to that which we can provide on Black book creators.

However, an increased number of books by Latinos and about Latino themes and topics since 1993 enabled us, beginning in 1994, to make a concerted effort to document the number of such titles. In 1996, we counted 92 new titles by Latinos and about Latino themes in topics. This was a welcome increase from the 70 titles we documented in 1995.

We hope this number continues to rise as U.S. publishers of children's and young adult books collectively realize the existence of mainstream and specialized markets for Latino literature in English, as well as for bilingual books. We also hope that book buyers recognize the importance of such books for Latino and non-Latino children alike.

Perhaps the Américas Award, with its mission to provide visibility for excellence in this type of publishing for the young, administered through the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee's Center for Latin America, will encourage the publishing of more Latino literature. Likewise, perhaps the efforts of REFORMA, a unit of the American Library Association, will also promote the publishing of Latino literature with the inception of its Pura Belpré Award which formally acknowledges outstanding writing for youth by a Latino writer. This bi-annual award was first given out in 1996.

After a 13-year hiatus the National Book Foundation has re-established a category for Young People's Literature. We were happy to see that their highest honor in this category went to a first novel by Chicano writer Victor Martinez. His book *Parrot in the Oven: mi vida* was widely lauded for its sharp realism as recounted through the distinctive voice of its young teen narrator.

Two new Latino artists also entered the ranks of children's publishing with picture books published in 1996. Hector Viveros Lee's *I Had a Hippopotamus* offers vibrant illustrations with just the right blend of fantasy and reality for his whimsical tale. Mexican-American artist Andrea Arroyo published her first two picture books this year: *In Rosa's Mexico* and *La Boda: A Mexican Wedding Celebration*. Both books are distinguished by visual details related to Mexican culture.

Children's Book Press published second books by two Latinas from Texas whom they had published previously. Gloria Anzaldúa's bilingual story *Prietita and the Ghost Woman=Prietita y la Llorona* features a heroic girl who risks her life to get a medicinal herb for her ailing mother. Carmen Lomas Garza once again treats us to her autobiographical paintings in *In My Family=En mi familia*.

Lyll Becerra de Jenkins published her third outstanding novel for teenagers in 1996. *So Loud a Silence* is set in her native Colombia and features a young male protagonist learning about parts of his family's history that were not usually mentioned. David Diaz's brilliant artwork for Eve Bunting's *Going Home* adds a rich cultural dimension to the story of a Mexican-American family returning to their Mexican hometown for the Christmas holidays.

Perhaps the most exciting Latino books of 1996 are two excellent collections of Latin American folktales. After a long dry spell in this area, it is purely coincidental that these two volumes were published in the same year. We recommend both *Jade and Iron*, edited by Patricia Aldana and Luis Garay, and *Golden Tales*, compiled and illustrated by Lulu Delacre, who also published a Spanish-language version entitled *De oro y esmeraldas*.

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. Unfortunately we continue to see stereotypes of American Indians in children's books as we approach the close of the 20th century. Iona Opie and Rosemary Wells's much-touted *My Very First Mother Goose* (Candlewick), for example, includes bunnies wearing feathers and headbands who stand outside a teepee selling Southwestern-style blankets to illustrate the European

rhyme “Up the Wooden Hill to Blanket Fair.” This patronizing nod toward multiculturalism is misguided at best.

We continue to look for the excellent books showing the realities of contemporary Indian life. We especially admire books in Lerner’s “We Are Still Here” series, such as *Weaving a California Tradition* by Linda Yamane and Dugan Aguilar, and *Four Seasons of Corn* by Sally M. Hunter and Joe Allen. We also appreciate *Powwow Summer* by Marcie R. Rendon and Cheryl Walsh Belleville, a photoessay which documents one Anishinabe family’s trip to two powwows.

Cherokee artist Murv Jacob lent his distinctive style to two very different books in 1996: Joseph Bruchac’s collection of American Indian poetry, *The Circle of Thanks*, and Gayle Ross’s traditional tale, *The Legend of the Windigo*. We greatly admire an outstanding collective biography written by Paula Gunn Allen and Patricia Clark Smith, *As Long as the Rivers Flow*, which tells of the lives of nine Native people, including Weetamoo, Jim Thorpe, Ben Nighthorse Campbell and Louise Erdrich. Speaking of Louise Erdrich, we also appreciated her first book for young readers, *Grandmother’s Pigeon*, an unusual picture story illustrated by Jim LaMarche.

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 22 specific Indian nations represented midst the 50 books about American Indian themes and topics located at the CCBC during 1996. Thirty-two specific Indian nations were noted in the 83 books documented in 1995.

We are certain many other new books are out there, including those published by Indian educators for their students. We generally appreciate many of the books we are able to examine, and so do the teachers, librarians and content specialists who examined books here.

Books by and about Asians and Asian-Americans

Last year we were optimistic about the increasing number of books by and about Asians and Asian Americans being published for children. In 1995 we located 91 books in this category, compared to 65 in 1994. Sadly, in 1996, this number dropped by almost half, as we were able to document only 49 books detailing the experiences of Asians and Asian Americans. Sixteen of these are retellings of folktales.

What the books lack in quantity, however, they make up for in quality. Substantial novels published for children and young adults include *Ribbons* (Putnam) by Laurence Yep, *The Long Season of Rain* by Helen Kim, *Necessary Roughness* by Marie G. Lee, and two translated novels: *The Friends* by Kazumi Yumoto, which was first published in Japan, and *Let One Hundred Flowers Bloom* (U.S. edition: Viking) by Feng Jicai, which originated in China.

Thai author Minfong Ho published two outstanding books in 1996. *Hush!* is a picture-book based on a lullaby she made up to sing to her son years ago when she was still living in northern Thailand. She remembers her own mother reciting children’s poems in Chinese to her when she was a child and her fond memories led her to translate some of them into English for American children. The result is *Maples in the Mist: Children’s Poems from the Tang Dynasty*, illustrated by Jean and Mou-sien Tseng.

Yumi Heo continues to contribute substantially to the small, growing body of literature about Korean and Korean-American themes and topics. Her newest book, *The Green Frogs*, is a retelling of a Korean folktale, illustrated with her marvelously playful style. A very different sort of book by a Korean-American author and illustrator is *Peacebound Trains*, written by Haemi Balgassi and illustrated by Chris K. Soentpiet. Although this work of short fiction is very specific to Korean-American experience, it has universal themes of family ties and survival against the odds that will appeal to a wide audience.

We especially admire two books from small, independent presses that combine folk art traditions, history and the lives of contemporary people. *In the Street of the Temple Cloth Printers* by Dorothy Field is a photoessay published by Pacific Educational Press that shows how a family in Ahmedabad, India, makes traditional cloths known as *matano chandarvo*. In conjunction with the Denver Museum of Natural History, Lee & Low published *Dia’s Story Cloth*, a remarkable book by Dia Cha that recounts Hmong history as it is told in a single but very detailed *pandau* or story cloth.

Two books dealing with U.S. history are notable for an emphasis on Asian-American experiences, albeit unhappy ones. Rhoda Blumberg does not shy away from telling children about the exploitation of Chinese workers in her book about the building of the transcontinental railroad, *Full Steam Ahead*. Young readers are not likely to forget the details she provides, such as the weight of a single shipment of dead workers' bones that were shipped back to China for burial. *The Children of Topaz*, Michael O. Tunnel and George W. Chilcoat's account of children's lives in the Topaz internment camp during World War II, uses excerpts from a third-grade classroom diary kept by Miss Hori and her students for several months in 1943.

Searching for Translated Children's Books

We are always gratified to discover children's books that originated in non-English-speaking countries and have been translated into English and published for children in the United States. 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*, *Pippi Longstocking* or *Diary of a Young Girl*. This aspect of children's book publishing continues to be a challenge from all perspectives, but one well worth the effort.

Children's books translated into English for the first time and published in the U.S.A. continue to be very few in number. During 1996, we received 60 books first published in twelve non-English-speaking nations. The biggest commendation goes to the publishers of newly translated texts of substantial length, texts that do not depend upon illustrations. Compared to the publishing situation two years ago, we have found comparatively more translated books in this category in the last two years. Still, the number is very small. We documented seven new books of substantial length during 1996 and eight in 1995.

This was a very exciting year for translated book, however. Although there were a small number of books, they originated in many different countries and dealt with many different themes. It is very unusual, for example, to see a novel from *any* Asian country translated into English and published for children in the United States. This year we had not one but two children's novels from Asia. *Let One Hundred Flowers Bloom* by Feng Jicai (U.S. edition: Viking), originally published in China, is set during the Chinese Cultural Revolution. From Japan we saw a remarkable contemporary novel, *The Friends*, by Kazumi Yumoto. This engaging, accessible story about three fifth-grade boys living in present-day Tokyo gives U.S. children rare insight into the lives of their contemporaries in another part of the world.

Two books from The Netherlands deal with difficult contemporary social issues that are universal. *Bruises* is a powerful novel by Anke de Vries about a child living in an abusive home and *Something Very Sorry* by Arno Bohlmeijer recounts a family's slow recuperation after a tragic automobile accident. From Germany, Gudrun Pausewang's powerful story of the Nazi Holocaust, *The Final Journey* (U.S. edition: Viking), is told through the eyes of an 11-year-old Jewish girl on her way to a death camp.

Norwegian writer Jostein Gaarder has quite a following on both sides of the Atlantic. Two of his novels were published in the U.S. in 1996 as adult trade books. *The Solitaire Mystery* (U.S. edition: Farrar) is a complex original story that many American teenagers will like very much, even though its main audience seems to be adults. *The Christmas Mystery*, on the other hand, has a great deal of child appeal and we predict that it will become a holiday read-aloud favorite in many American families.

Lastly, 1996 marks the year of the first "cyberbook" for children and it's a translated book at that! Bjarne Reuter's latest edition in his series about Buster Oregon Mortensen, *The End of the Rainbow*, has been made available in its entirety to people who have access to the World Wide Web. You can read it yourself at <http://www.penguin.com/usa/buster/index.htm> We applaud E.P. Dutton's pioneering spirit in the field of late 20th century children's book publishing.

Books in English in From Other Nations

Books for children and young adults that were originally published in other English-speaking nations, or that originated in these countries and were simultaneously published or distributed here in the United States, add depth and diversity to the scope of book publishing here.

Among the books that we enjoyed from Australia is *Foxspell*, from the outstanding writer Gillian Rubinstein. Rubinstein can be counted on for spell-binding, original stories, and *Foxspell* does not disappoint. This powerful, fluid novel, which also happens to have one of the most striking jacket art of the year, seamlessly moves back and forth between the real and the surreal as a boy who is

struggling with family changes finds solace as a member of the animal world in the form of a fox. Young children will be delighted with Mem Fox's *Zoo-Looking*, a warm, simple, rhyming story illustrated with U.S. artist Candace Whitman's bold torn-paper collages.

Canada's contributions include two outstanding books of information: *Anastasia's Album* and *On Board the Titanic*. These highly visual entries open the door to people and events in history in a wholly engaging way. The beautiful folktale collection *Jade & Iron*, a volume of Latin American tales, draws from Native and Latin traditions in countries whose cultures are too-often misunderstood or unknown in the United States and Canada. *In the Street of the Temple Cloth Printers* provides a fascinating look at the artisans in India who create temple cloths to tell a story.

Great Britain continues to be a source of outstanding books for young people here in the United States. This year, young fans of Dick King-Smith's indomitable, spirited Sophie will be pleased to see *Sophie's Lucky*, while Allan Ahlberg's *The Better Brown Stories* will give more advanced readers humorous insight into a writer's imagination and a few ideas of their own, perhaps, for story-making. *Robin of Sherwood*, retold by Michael Morpurgo and illustrated by Michael Foreman, finds the man in green once again defending justice and the cause of the poor against tyranny. Inquisitive British picture book creators ask *What's that Sound, Woolly Bear?* and *Do Pigs Have Stripes?*, while writer/photographer Ifeoma Onyefulu shares more about life in her native Nigeria in the outstanding photodocumentary *Ogbo*.

Picture This: Outstanding Picture Books

The great changes that have taken place in picture book production over the past several years seem finally to have leveled out a bit. We are seeing fewer and fewer of the big, splashy picture books for adults that glutted the market a few years ago. The biggest change we noted has been an increase in the number of gimmick books aimed at preschoolers, books that are created by publishing companies in-house. These usually represent a rehashing of a well-known title, such as stories adapted from Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little House books, now available in both picture book and board book editions. We saw dozens of board books published in 1996. Most of them, however, were reissues or adaptations of successful picture books. Few were created first and foremost as board books with babies in mind as the audience. A notable exception are two written and illustrated by Clara Vulliamy: *Wide Awake!* and *Good Night, Baby*. The daughter of beloved picture book artist Shirley Hughes, Vulliamy seems well on the way to becoming a reliable creator of picture books in her own right.

Midst all the gimmicks, it is heartening to see Kevin Henkes's extraordinary *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* at the top of the children's picture book best-seller list week after week. Leave it to the indomitable Lilly to show the big boys that literary quality and artistic integrity sells, given the chance. Along with *Lilly*, some other books that combined great art and child appeal in 1996 include Thacher Hurd's superhero parody *Art Dog*; Chris Raschka's understated tale of sibling rivalry and self-esteem, *The Blushful Hippopotamus*; Arthur Geisert's clever counting book, *Roman Numerals I to MM*; and Molly Bang's *Goose*, the small book with the big book inside.

Newcomers to the field of picture books are always welcome, especially when they're talented. We encourage you to keep an eye on the following new picture book creators: John Coy and Peter McCarty, who both make their first foray into the field with *Night Driving*; Andrea Arroyo, who illustrated two picture books in 1996, *La Boda* and *In Rosa's Mexico*; English author/artist Melanie Walsh, whose playful *Do Pigs Have Stripes?* shows that she has met a toddler or two in her day; and Lisa Maizlish, who manages to create a wild wordless fantasy using photographs as her medium in *The Ring*.

Artists of books for children continue to use innovative design as an integral part of the story. In 1996 we were especially appreciative of *Kofi and his Magic* by Maya Angelou and Margaret Courtney-Clarke which uses photographs and typefaces of different styles and sizes to tell the story of a West African boy. Lynn Reiser once again shows herself to be a master of picture-book design in *Beach Feet*, a book that is at once a poem, a story and a book of information. We also greatly admire the fun (and challenging!) interactive picture book by English author/artist John Rowe, *Can You Spot the Spotted Dog?*

The On-Going Saga: Our Search for Substantial Fiction

From the time we received Suzanne Freeman's debut novel *The Cuckoo's Child* early in the year we were excited about fiction in 1996, and our enthusiasm never waned. Freeman's deeply layered novel set in 1962 offers no easy answers as a young girl deals with the disappearance of her parents and her own need for stability and the certainty of love. Rachel Vai's *Daring To Be Abigail* is indeed a daring, humorous, honest look at pre-adolescent girls and the lengths they will go to in order to be accepted by their peers. E.L.

Kongisburg looks at *The View from Saturday* as she explores the mysteries of fate and circumstance and the ways in which lives can be transformed by human kindness. In *Crash*, Jerry Spinelli examines the world from a bully's point of view in a wry and funny but wholly humanizing novel that provides an unusual perspective on a scenario to which many children can relate. *Jip* is outstanding fiction from Katherine Paterson filled with both tenderness and cruelty as a young boy's life is turned upside down and then around by the discovery of his origins.

Among the excellent novels for older readers is *The Snake-Stone* by British author Berlie Doherty in which a teenager's search for his birth mother leads him home in several ways. The face-paced basketball action in Walter Dean Myers's *Slam!* is skillfully woven into the larger court of life as an inner city teenager's basketball dreams are complicated by changes in his life. Frances Temple's *The Beduins' Gazelle* richly recreates another time, place and culture in a beautifully written novel of love and adventure set in the desert of North Africa among the Muslim people of the Beduin tribes in the year 1302. Budge Wilson has realized nine singular women at various points of understanding and enlightenment in her welcome collection of short stories *Mothers & Other Strangers*, while Helen Kim's *The Long Season of Rain* reveals a Korean woman's deep pain and sadness as seen through the eyes of her young daughter. *The Long Season of Rain* was a National Book Award Nominee. The winner of that award in 1996 was *Parrot in the Oven: mi vida*, by Victor Martinez, a powerful first-person narrative describing the forces of race and class which shape, but do not wholly define, an urban Mexican-American teenager's life.

Among the books not in this edition of *CCBC Choices* but which we draw to your attention is Alice Mead's look at history-in-the-making in *Adem's Cross* (Farrar Straus Giroux), which is written from the point of view of a Kosovar teenager caught up in the violence and political turmoil between the Kosovars and the Serbians in the war in the Balkans.

We appreciate the ways in which these and other works of fiction published in 1996 offer young readers the opportunity to continually challenge themselves and their understanding of the human experience. Books that can both entertain and enlighten in this way are truly a gift.

Measured Words: A Poetry Renaissance

Throughout the country we are in the midst of what has been termed a poetry renaissance. The increased attention being given to poetry publishing, poetry reading and poetry writing at this time has certainly made its mark on children's book publishing. This is evidenced by the diverse and exciting books of poetry and verse we appreciated throughout the year.

We know the appearance of *Falling Up* (HarperCollins), a new collection of poems by the ever-popular and ever-humorous Shel Silverstein, will be greatly welcomed by children, as will the funny, clever poems in *A Pizza the Size of the Sun* (Greenwillow) from Jack Prelutsky.

Among the books included in this edition of *CCBC Choices* are those which represent current trends in poetry publishing for children in an exemplary way. They include unparalleled anthologies such as *Shimmy Shimmy Shimmy Like My Sister Kate*, Nikki Giovanni's exploration of the origins and legacy of the writers of the Harlem Renaissance along with her stimulating reader response to their words; and *I Feel a Little Jumpy Around You*, a collection of poems in which male and female experience has been juxtaposed by editors Naomi Shihab Nye and Paul Janeczko. They include fully illustrated picture book anthologies such as Tony Johnston's *My Mexico=México Mío*, bilingual poems about Mexico; Barbara Juster Esbensen's keenly observant nature poems in *Echoes for the Eye*; and *The Palm of My Heart*, a unique and powerful collection of poems by African-American children with the emotionally stirring art of Gregory Christie. There are also single poems that move gracefully across the pages of an entire book, as in Joanne Ryder's *Night Gliders*, and books like *Maples in the Mist*, Minfong Ho's translation of selected poems from the Tang Dynasty in China which gives children in the United States an opportunity to experience the poetry of other cultures.

Fact-Finding: Important Books of Information

We applaud the number of books addressing work and labor issues that were published in 1996. Among them are Emily Arnold McCully's *The Bobbin Girl*, a picture book set in a textile factory in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1830s; *Growing Up in Coal Country*, Susan Campbell Bartoletti's bold exposé on the youngest of the exploited coal mine workers in Pennsylvania's mining towns in the late 19th and early 20th century; and *Big Annie of Calumet*, a profile of the 1913 strike among copper miner's in Michigan's Upper Peninsula in 1913 by Jerry Stanley. *Life Around the Lake* by Maricel E. Presilla and Gloria Soto looks at how women in central

Mexico have turned their skill as master embroiders into a means of economic survival. These and other books provide young people with critical insights into issues of social and economic justice in this country and around the world.

Other outstanding books of information include *Orphan Train Rider* by Andrea Warren, a chilling and personal look at a practice which sent over 200,000 children west on "orphan trains" in search of families; as often as not, they were taken in by families in search of laborers. *Full Steam Ahead* is Rhoda Blumberg's riveting documentary of the building of the transcontinental railroad and the classism and racism that was the foundation upon which the tracks were laid. In *The Children of Topaz*, Michael O. Tunnell and George W. Chilcoat use a classroom diary kept by Japanese-American children at the Topaz internment camp in Utah during World War II as the launching point for discussing the politics and policies that defined these young people's lives during that time. Susan Kuklin's *Irrepressible Spirit* profiles human rights activists in countries throughout the world, including our own, while women athletes take the field in *Winning Ways*, Sue Macy's delightful, informative look at the history of women's sports in America.

Book Publishing and Book Buying: So Many Choices

The increase in the number of books published during the 1990s represents decisions made by U.S. publishers to invest in children's books. Such investments are made with the expectation that in all parts of the nation people are eager and ready to buy books for the young. Indeed, much evidence continues to indicate that the bookstore sales of children's books supports much of the children's and young adult book publishing industry, as well as book publishing for adults within several publishing houses, in the United States at this time.

The increase also represents an overwhelming number of choices. These choices begin with publishers, who decide which manuscripts to publish, which illustrators to contract with, which books to advertise heavily, which authors to send on tour. Book industry representatives make decisions about paperback editions and reprints with specific consumers in mind. All of these decisions have an impact on the book-buying public: they determine what books we will ever see in print and, once books are published, which ones we are most likely to hear about. At the same time, the book industry expects that potential consumers will buy more than the best-sellers or the most heavily promoted, highly visible books or the most familiar authors or series or they would not invest in the hundreds and hundreds of other titles that they produce.

Commercial sales in bookstores are driven by parents and other adults, and by young people themselves in the case of some popular culture and series books which older children are often eager to obtain for their own recreational reading. The other 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 and are responsible for building collections that represent the diverse needs and interests of their users.

No matter who is buying what books for whom, consumers of books for the children and young adults have the luxury--and difficulty--of making choices because of the large number of titles available. Whether their 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 Cooperative Children's Book Center offers an environment for discovery and learning, for making up one's own mind about the new books published each year and for making comparisons to books from other years and decades. We create *CCBC Choices* to identify the outstanding titles of the current publishing year in the hope that it will provide librarians, teachers, parents and others with assistance in navigating the wide and exciting array of choices available to them. But *CCBC Choices* is a guide, not a rule book. While we certainly have made an effort to find as many of the outstanding books of the year as possible, inevitably, in the course of the coming months and years, other books will come to our attention that we will have wished we'd included. Likewise, as mentioned earlier, not every book is for every child. The purpose of *CCBC Choices* is to offer a wide variety of books for a wide variety of individuals. We have attempted to compile a list that provides something for everyone, not a core selection for all.

The Natural World

Arnosky, Jim. *All About Deer*. Scholastic, 1996. 26 pages. (0-590-46792-1) \$15.95

Arnosky's introduction to a favorite species serves to answer the sorts of questions young children typically have about deer, such as "What are antlers made of?" and "Why do deer run away from us?" Like the two previous volumes in this series, *All About Alligators* (Scholastic, 1994) and *All About Owls* (Scholastic, 1995), it has just the right balance of text and pictures so that it can be read either as a storybook or as an early science book. (Ages 3-6)

Arnosky, Jim. *Nearer Nature*. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1996. 160 pages. (0-688-12213-2) \$18.00

The artist/naturalist shares his observations about outdoor life on and around his Vermont farm throughout an entire winter season. In Part One Arnosky focuses on the natural cycles of farm animals and the wild animals whose lives quietly intersect on a regular basis, as evidenced through the tracks they leave in the snow. Nearby Pickerel Cove provides the setting for Part Two of the book in which the author comments on the muskrats, otters, turtles, mink, and winter stone flies he frequently watches there. The elegantly designed book is liberally illustrated with the author's pencil drawings, and these, combined with his conversational tone, give readers the sense that they are spending a few months with a good friend who enjoys pointing out the wonders of nature. Arnosky's genius here, as elsewhere, is his uncanny ability to get across his vision of the whole through his close-up observations of the tiny pieces. (Ages 9-14)

Bash, Barbara. *In the Heart of the Village: The World of the Indian Banyan Tree*. Sierra Club, 1996. 32 pages. (0-87156-575-7) \$16.95

Beneath a banyan tree's broad, expansive covering, the people of a small village in India find a center for community life. School children gather for a class, traders exchange goods, and villagers seek shelter from the mid-day sun. Later in the day, children will play in and around the tree and old men will gather to talk. All the while, high up in its branches, egrets and owls nest, langur monkeys play, and rose finches, fairy bluebirds and other birdlife feast on ripe red figs. The human and wildlife activity in around this tree that is sacred to the people of India is followed from dawn to dusk to dawn in a singular, informative text with full-color illustrations that stretch across each two-page spread. (Ages 8-11)

Cole, Joanna. *The Magic School Bus inside a Beehive*. Illustrated by Bruce Degen. Scholastic, 1996. 48 pages. (0-590-44684-3) \$15.95

Once again the school bus and its occupants shrink down to a miniature size to accommodate the latest of Ms. Frizzle's unusual field trips. Wearing bee costumes complete with pollen baskets, the students must convince the guard bees that they're "family" in order to gain access to the hive. Luckily, the students have done their homework so they know just how to bee-have and, luckily, Ms. Frizzle has brought her bee pheromone spray along so that they'll smell like bees. Of course they pass the test and soon the class is abuzz with bee knowledge as they comb the area. Cole and Degen provide the usual mix of science and fantasy, sprinkled liberally with good humor and bad puns. This one hums. (Ages 4-9)

Duffy, Dee Dee. *Forest Tracks*. Illustrated by Janet Marshall. Boyds Mills, 1996. 32 pages. (1-56397-434-7) \$8.95

A very simple, patterned text invites young children to look at a distinctive set of tracks, listen to a corresponding animal noise and guess which animal will be on the next page. The streamlined, boldly colored flat illustrations are perfectly suited to the text since they encourage children to zero in on the important details in this visual, verbal guessing game. (Ages 2-4)

Esbensen, Barbara Juster. *Swift as the Wind: The Cheetah*. Illustrated by Jean Cassels. Orchard, 1996. 32 pages. (0-531-09497-9) \$15.95

Superb realistic paintings accompany a concise text that describes the physical and behavioral characteristics of the world's fastest land animals. Although the information presented here is straightforward enough to serve children doing school reports, it is also written so well that it would make a good read-aloud for children interested in animals, or even children who are just plain interested in good stories. (Ages 4-9)

Guiberson, Brenda Z. *Into the Sea*. Illustrated by Alix Berenzy. Henry Holt, 1996. 32 pages. (0-8050-2263-5) \$15.95

The life cycle of a sea turtle is recounted in a lyrical text that focuses on her constant struggle for survival in a beautiful, but often treacherous, undersea world. Berenzy's luminous paintings, created using gouache and colored pencil on both black and white paper, give viewers a true sense of the wide expanse of life in the ocean. (Ages 3-7)

Lauber, Patricia. *Hurricanes: Earth's Mightiest Storms*. Scholastic, 1996. 64 pages. (0-590-47406-5) \$16.95 (pbk: 0-06-445159-3, \$4.95)

A gripping opening chapter follows the path of destruction left from Long Island to Canada by a deadly hurricane in 1938. With 600 casualties and devastating damage in an area taken completely by surprise, scientists vowed to learn all they could about the science of these storms in an attempt to forecast them and predict their paths so that residents could be forewarned. A clear account of what scientists have learned to date is accompanied by numerous diagrams and documentary photographs. (Ages 8-14)

Lauber, Patricia. *You're aboard Spaceship Earth*. Illustrated by Holly Keller. (Let's Read-and-Find-Out Science) HarperCollins, 1996. 32 pages. (0-06-024407-0) \$14.95

Lauber sets the stage by using the analogy of a crew's limited supplies on board a space shuttle ("They cannot get more of anything.") to get across the idea of earth's limited supply of air, food and water. She then goes on to describe earth's natural cycles and the impact human beings have had on them, especially in the past 100 years. (Ages 4-8)

Markle, Sandra. *Creepy, Crawly Baby Bugs*. Walker, 1996. 32 pages. (0-8027-8843-7) \$15.95

Short chapters about how insects start life, grow, take care of themselves, take care of their young, adapt to their environments and reach maturity are generously illustrated with clear close-up, color photos that make the subject all the more interesting. The author has also provided a glossary/index for quick reference and two suggestions for how young children can observe baby bugs and record their observations without capturing or harming them. (Ages 4-8)

Otto, Carolyn B. *Raccoon at Clear Creek Road*. Illustrated by Cathy Trachok. (Smithsonian's Backyard) Soundprints, 1995. (1-56899-175-4) \$15.95

Two days after her kits are born, a mother raccoon leaves her nest in the hollow tree to go out in search of food. Her quest takes her through a nearby suburban backyard where garbage cans hold the promise of a feast. A series of small natural incidents provide a sense of drama in an appealing story, illustrated with realistic full-color paintings and packaged with a cassette tape. (Ages 3-6)

Reiser, Lynn. *Beach Feet*. Greenwillow, 1996. 32 pages. (0-688-14401-2) \$15.00

There's more to this book than first meets the eye--or foot! On one level, it's a simple rhyming story about feet on the beach ("Scrunch feet, squash feet / squish feet, splash feet..."). But on every page we also find several "foot notes" that provide information about marine biology and each of these is cleverly related to the human feet described in the rhyming story. The footnote accompanying "squash feet," for example, tells us that the air bladder on sargassum seaweed pops when stepped on. Lynne Reiser's expert design holds it all together and makes it easy to read in several different ways. All in all, a remarkable feat! (Ages 3-8)

Ryder, Joanne. *Jaguar in the Rain Forest*. Illustrated by Michael Rothman. (Just for a Day) Morrow, 1996. 32 pages. (0-688-12991-9) \$15.93

The latest volume in Ryder and Rothman's outstanding "Just for a Day" series uses a second-person point of view to describe one night in a jaguar's life as he hunts along the forest floor in a South American rain forest. Ryder's text is poetic and informative, while Rothman's detailed acrylic paintings are based on his primary research in a rain forest in French Guiana. (Ages 3-7)

Tyers, Jenny. *When It Is Night, When It Is Day*. U.S. edition: Houghton Mifflin, 1996. 32 pages. (0-395-71546-6) \$14.95
Just about the time the camel closes his eyes at the end of the day, nocturnal animals are waking up and beginning their nightly activities. These behaviors are contrasted with those of diurnal animals who become active just about the time the hedgehog closes his eyes at the beginning of the day. The sophisticated style of Tyers's brightly colored etchings provides a perfect balance for the clean simplicity of her text. (Ages 3-6)

Wallace, Karen. *Imagine You Are a Tiger*. Illustrated by Peter Melnyczuk. Henry Holt, 1996. 25 pages. (0-8050-4636-4) \$14.95
Strikingly realistic paintings offer a close-up view of the everyday life of a tiger cub. With just a few lines of text per page and without anthropomorphizing the subject, the book invites young listeners to imagine what life would be like if they were little tigers themselves. (Ages 2-5)

See also: *Dick King-Smith's Animal Friends; Circle of Thanks; Do Pigs Have Stripes; Echoes for the Eye; Four Seasons of Corn; Lost; Night Gliders; Starry Messenger; What's That Sound, Woolly Bear?; Where Once There Was a Wood*

Seasons and Celebrations

Bunting, Eve. *Going Home*. Illustrated by David Diaz. HarperCollins, 1996. 32 pages. (0-06-026296-6) \$14.95
After sleeping under the stars for three nights, Carlos and his family finally arrive by car in time to celebrate Christmas in La Perla, Mexico. Even though there is no work for Mama and Papa in their home village, La Perla is still home for them. Mama even blew kisses "at the sun-filled winter sky" as soon as the family car crossed the border from the USA into Mexico. Warm welcomes and celebrations of Christmas await the family in La Perla, along with expressions of pride in the English language Carlos and his sisters acquired since their last visit. The walls of Grandfather's La Perla house "bulge with talk and rememberings." Distant La Perla has never felt like home to five-year-old Nora, ten-year-old Delores and young Carlos. Home for them is the house where they live all year while working in the fields with their parents. During this visit Carlos begins to understand about the "opportunities" his parents and grandparents hold in such high regard. Exuberant paintings superimposed over full-color photographs of folk art assemblages detail the specific people and locales of a joyous reunion. The composition of several paintings suggests the traditional Christmas story. A font designed especially for the dialogue-filled text is set on sun-colored pages. This rich story for all seasons has multi-dimensional characters and a plot that does not minimize hard labor at the expense of hope. (Ages 5-9)

Fox, Mem. *Wombat Divine*. Illustrated by Kerry Argent. U.S. edition: Harcourt Brace, 1996. 32 pages. (0-15-201416-0) \$15.00
Wombat is finally old enough to take part in the annual Nativity play, but finding the perfect role for him to play proves difficult. He's too heavy to fly as the Archangel Gabriel, too short to be one of the three kings, and too clumsy to play the innkeeper. Part after part proves a poor match for Wombat, until his friends remember the most important role of all. "He lay quiet and still....He even fell asleep, just as a real baby would." Australian author Mem Fox's warm, appealing holiday story is illustrated with humor and sympathy for Wombat's plight by Kerry Argent's full-color art. (Ages 5-8)

Gaarder, Jostein. *The Christmas Mystery*. Illustrated by Rosemary Wells. Translated from the Norwegian by Elizabeth Rokkan. U.S. edition: Farrar Straus Giroux, 1996. 222 pages. (0-374-12329-2) \$23.00
Like Joachim, the boy with a mysterious Advent calendar, readers can journey geographically from Norway to the Bethlehem stable with the elusive Elisabet and the lamb. Readers can also travel in time back to the stable. The inventive story within a story concludes with a twist as all of the puzzle pieces come together. Families can read the engaging 24-chapter story one day at a time during December. Splendid bookmaking and full-color paintings decorate a volume that just might be destined for status as a holiday classic. To Bethlehem! *Honor Book, 1996 CCBC Batchelder Award Discussion* (Read aloud: ages 6-8; read independently: ages 8-11)

Ghazi, Suhaib Hamid. *Ramadan*. Illustrated by Omar Rayyan. Holiday House, 1996. 32 pages. (0-8234-1254-7) \$15.95

Hakeem is a Muslim who will fast all day long with his family during the month of Ramadan, the holiest month of the Islamic calendar. Like Muslims all over the world and throughout the U.S.A., Hakeem and his family do not eat or drink anything during the day until the sun has set. Hakeem's mother makes a variety of foods for them to eat until the break of dawn "when there is enough light to see the difference between black thread and a white thread."

They then perform the first of five daily prayers, do good deeds, and repair broken relationships. Children who are not Muslim will learn much from this account illustrated in full color. Children who are Muslim will see some of their values and practices reflected in a book with information rarely published for the general public in the U.S.A. Rayyan's illustrations succeed in differentiating between contemporary and historic times. (Ages 6-9)

Goldin, Barbara Diamond. *While the Candles Burn: Eight Stories for Hanukkah*. Illustrated by Elaine Greenstein. Viking, 1996. 58 pages. (0-670-85875-7) \$15.99

Rather than explaining how the holiday is observed, eight stories emphasize why Hanukkah is celebrated: miracles, traditions, religious commitment, peace, honoring women, charity, and rededication. The book begins with Goldin's brief general history of Hanukkah. Seven traditional, well-documented tales originate from Afghanistan, Israel, Eastern Europe, the Babylonian Talmud and Hebrew scripture. Goldin's original story coincides with the eighth day. Story illustrations appear on every page spread. The image of a menorah begins each chapter, and each menorah has an additional candle. The illustrations are monoprints overpainted with gouache. (Ages 8-11)

Greenfield, Monica. *Waiting for Christmas*. Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Scholastic, 1996. 32 pages. (0-590-52700-2) \$15.95

On Christmas Eve an African-American brother and sister anxiously await the end of the day and the beginning of Christmas morning. Jan Spivey Gilchrist's wintery acrylic paintings aptly capture the children's anticipatory mood, heightened by the short, lyrical lines of the text. (Ages 3-6)

Harris, Robie. *Happy Birth Day!* Illustrated by Michael Emberley. Candlewick, 1996. 24 pages. (1-56402-424-5) \$16.99

Illustrations that are even larger in scale than an infant would be in reality show the first minutes and hours of a newborn child's life. A mother's comforting voice tells an invisible older child about that precious day. It's a busy birth day: cutting of the umbilical cord, a first cry, being braceleted, getting cleaned up and measured, nursing, wearing a little cap for warmth and falling asleep--over and over, even with lots of relatives eager to meet the new family member. The artwork was done in pencil and pastel and can be easily seen by a group of preschoolers or children sharing the 12 x 10" book in a family setting. (Ages 1-6)

Hunter, Sally M. *Four Seasons of Corn: A Winnebago Tradition*. Photographs by Joe Allen. (We Are Still Here) Lerner, 1996. 40 pages. (0-8225-2658-1) \$14.96 (pbk: 0-8225-9741-1, \$6.95)

Planting in the spring; tending in the summer; harvesting, storing and giving thanks in the fall; food throughout the winter. These are the four seasons of corn for the Winnebago, or Hochunk, people. Twelve-year-old Russell, a member of Hochunk Nation who lives in St. Paul, is learning about the importance of corn from his grandfather, who takes Russell, his brothers, sisters and cousins to the country each year to plant and care for a field. But the corn is more than food for the Hochunk, it is also considered a gift from the spirits. As Russell and his family give attention to the corn every season in the midst of their busy city lives, they reaffirm ties to their heritage and knowledge of the ways of their people. Text and color photographs comprise another welcome portrayal of contemporary American Indian lives. (Ages 7-11)

Johnson, Dolores. *The Children's Book of Kwanzaa: A Guide to Celebrating the Holiday*. Atheneum, 1996. 159 pages. (0-689-80864-X) \$16.00

Linoleum block prints add to the elegance of this attractive volume which includes a wealth of information on the history of Kwanzaa, the Seven Principles, crafts to make before Kwanzaa, gifts you can make yourself, recipes, suggested programs, and a suggested time-line for scheduling Kwanzaa preparations. An especially valuable feature of this book is its extensive historical background for each of the Seven Principles so that children can

relate them directly to their African heritage. (Ages 8-14)

Kinsey-Warnock, Natalie. *The Fiddler of the Northern Lights*. Illustrated by Leslie W. Bowman. Cobblehill/Dutton, 1996. 32 pages. (0-525-65215-9) \$14.99

Eight-year-old Henry had heard just about all of Grandpa Pepin's wild stories, and he didn't believe them, either. How was he to know that when he and Grandpa went skating up the frozen river one winter night they would actually see the Northern Lights dance? Could he have imagined that later they would be visited by the legendary fiddler? When the wind is howling, this fanciful winter story might come to mind. If so, listen for the sound of a fiddle. Striking artwork in full color suggests a winter landscape in an earlier time. (Ages 7-10)

Kleven, Elisa. *Hooray, A Pi_ata!* Dutton, 1996. 32 pages. (0-525-45605-8) \$15.99

Clara and her friend Samson go shopping for a special pi_ata for Clara's birthday party and they find just the one Clara wants. Trouble is, she likes it so well she can't bear the thought of breaking it! Filled with lots of intriguing visual details, Kleven's bright picture story about a young Latina girl and her African-American friend is a true celebratory delight from beginning to end. (Ages 4-7)

McCutcheon, John. *Happy Adoption Day!* Illustrated by Julie Paschkis. Little, Brown, 1996. 24 pages. (0-316-55455-3) \$15.95

The lyrics to a children's song from John McCutcheon's album *Family Garden* provide the upbeat text for this picture book. The expressive paintings suggest a folk art style and show the family as a white mother and father who adopt an Asian child. Other family structures that appear in the book include an African-American single father and a white lesbian couple. (Ages 3-6)

Matthews, Mary. *Magid Fasts for Ramadan*. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Clarion, 1996. 48 pages. (0-395-66589-2) \$15.95

During the month of Ramadan, practicing Muslims fast each day between sunrise and sunset. This year, seven-year-old Magid wants to fast, too, but his parents say he is too young. Determined to fast anyway, Magid gets permission from Mama to skip breakfast each day and then secretly gives his lunch to the geese in the irrigation ditch behind his house. But he comes to discover that fasting is far more difficult than he imagined and, more importantly, that honesty is as important as devotion. While Magid's mother would not have kept her head covered in the house as the full-color illustrations depict, this is nonetheless a welcome story set in Egypt about a contemporary Muslim family. (Ages 6-9)

Moss, Marissa. *The Ugly Menorah*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 1996. 32 pages. (0-374-38027-9) \$14.00

Spending the eight days of Hanukkah with her widowed grandmother, Rachel is surprised and disappointed to discover Grandma's menorah is a plain wood board with tin cylinders. But when Grandma tells her the story of the menorah's origins in the days when she and Grandpa were young and poor, Rachel is able to see its sweet and shining beauty. Full-color, full-page illustrations accompany a tender family story. (Ages 5-8)

Peterson, Cris. *Harvest Year*. Photographs by Alvis Uptis. Boyds Mills, 1996. 32 pages. (1-56397-571-8) \$14.95

Wisconsin author Cris Peterson teams with photographer Alvis Uptis to look at harvest time across the nation throughout the calendar year in a simple, effective photodocumentary. Each two-page spread focuses on one month's harvest with color photographs, crisp, enticing prose and a map that highlights the mentioned states. The purpose is not to show every food crop in every state, but rather to give readers a sense of the many kinds of food that is grown or harvested throughout the country, as well as the endless cycle of the harvest year. What Wisconsin crop is highlighted? Why cranberries, of course! (Ages 6-8)

Pitcher, Caroline. *The Snow Whale*. Illustrated by Jackie Morris. Sierra Club, 1996. 24 pages. (0-87156-915-9) \$15.95

After a snowstorm, Laurie and her little brother, Leo, build a great white whale in the snow. "Where does the snow come from?" Leo asks, and Laurie, in an exasperated, big-sisterly tone, tells him how "the water rises up from the ocean and goes into the clouds" to fall down again as rain or snow. The children's snow whale is a gentle and

magnificent beast that spurs their imaginations until the weather warms and a heartbroken Laurie asks "Where has the whale gone?" to which Leo gently replies, "Snow whale's gone home." A captivating story is matched by outstanding design and lovely full-color illustrations. (Ages 3-6)

Rendon, Marcie R. *Powwow Summer: A Family Celebrates the Circle of Life*. Photographs by Cheryl Walsh Belleville. Carolrhoda, 1996. 48 pages. (0-87614-986-7) \$16.13 (pbk: 1-57505-011-0, \$7.95)

"According to Native tradition, the circle of life is endless. It has no beginning. There is no end." Marcie Rendon's text and Cheryl Walsh Belleville's many color photographs look at some of the ways in which one Anishinabe family celebrates the circle of life: by opening their arms and their hearts to welcome foster children into their family, by keeping close ties among the generations, by grieving together in the aftermath of a death. The Downwind family--parents, children, foster children--is profiled over the course of a summer, during which time they go on the powwow trail, attending two gatherings where they become part of a larger community, thus entering the circle of life in yet another way. At powwows, ceremonies and dances also mark the continuous cycle of connections and changes important in Anishinabe culture. The open, engaging narrative explains the importance of the rituals and traditions at the powwows by using comparisons that will resonate for many non-Native readers. The book also discusses how, by emphasizing the importance of family and community, the Downwinds are maintaining ties to traditional Anishinabe ways, ties that keep them strong in the wake of many challenges that Native peoples face in contemporary times. (Ages 7-11)

Woodtor, Dee Parmer. *Big Meeting*. Illustrated by Dolores Johnson. Atheneum, 1996. 32 pages. (0-689-31933-9) \$16.00

"It happens the third week of August, in some places the second, when people get together Down Home." Extended families from most heritages hold regular family gatherings, but reunions have particular significance for many African-American families. Readers are reminded of or introduced to this special experience through one family's visit Down Home, "a place to run free" according to the young narrator. Grandma Bessie's place and the Little Bethel A.M.E. Church serve as the geographic locales for Down Home family events rich in emotion and memory. Johnson's characters have distinctive faces and great body language. Her etchings and aquatints with watercolor and colored pencil illustrations are wonderfully effective in this warm story celebrating and elevating small, happy moments in a conscious echo of the mid-20th century. (Ages 3-8)

Van Laan, Nancy. *La Boda: A Mexican Wedding Celebration*. Illustrated by Andrea Arroyo. Little, Brown, 1996. 32 pages. (0-316-89626-8) \$15.95

The traditional Zapotec wedding ceremony borrows elements from both Native and Catholic traditions. Here a young girl learns about them by asking her patient *abuela* countless questions as the two participate in the wedding ceremony of Alfonso and Luisa. The curved lines of Arroyo's stylized illustrations suggest sweeping movement as the entire town participates in this joyous community event. Even the typography helps to tell the story. (Ages 4-7)

See also: *The Circle of Thanks; A Day at Damp Camp; In My Family=En mi familia; In the Street of the Temple Cloth Printers; My Steps; Nearer Nature; The Nutcracker; Remember That; The Seasons Sewn; Titch and Daisy*

Folklore, Mythology and Traditional Literature

Aardema, Verna, reteller. *The Lonely Lioness and the Ostrich Chicks: A Masai Tale*. Illustrated by Yumi Heo. Alfred A. Knopf, 1996. 32 pages. (0-679-86934-4) \$17.00

Mother Ostrich leads four miniatures of herself--single file--to feed under a tree where a lioness happens to be sleeping. The chicks become confused and run, *pamdal*, in every direction. The lioness lures them to follow her--single file--to her den. Mother Ostrich implores Gazelle, Hyena, Jackal and Mongoose to come to her aid. Interlaced with onomatopoeia, this highly entertaining tale is only a tad scary because its creatures simply cannot be taken seriously. Heo's extraordinarily effective paintings cleverly extend the Masai story. Visual humor stems

from the way each creature looks and moves and from the hapless chicks, in particular. The unusual combination of colors and shapes combines with an overall page layout exactly suiting the action. *Honor Book, 1996 CCBC Caldecott Award Discussion* (Ages 4-9)

Aldana, Patricia, editor. *Jade and Iron: Latin American Tales from Two Cultures*. Translated by Hugh Hazelton. Illustrated by Luis Garay. U.S. edition: Greenwood/Douglas & McIntyre, 1996. 64 pages. (0-88899-256-4) \$18.95

This unique anthology contains 14 tales from Native and Latin sources. The title refers to “worlds that co-exist in Latin America and are still struggling to find a way to live together.” The tales are told or retold here by various Latin American authors and folklorists, including Carmen Diana Dearden. Each tale is four pages or less in length. Their origins vary: an Indian legend from southern Brazil and a Chimane Indian tale from the Brazilian Amazon; a Pemon legend and two folktales from Venezuela; three legends from individually distinct peoples of Chile; a legend of the Cora Indians of western Mexico and a tale from colonial Mexico; a folktale from Zapatera in Lake Nicaragua; and a Guatemalan folktale. Seventeen full-page illustrations created in pen and ink and watercolor are reproduced in full color. The editor is originally from Guatemala, while the illustrator was born in Nicaragua. (Ages 9-12)

Clement, Gary. *Just Stay Put: A Chelm Story*. U.S. edition: Greenwood/Douglas & McIntyre, 1996. 32 pages. (0-88899-239-4) \$14.95

One day lazy Mendel decides to walk to Warsaw. Stopping to rest, he removes his boots and points them in the direction of Warsaw, so he'll know which way to walk after he awakens. Upon waking from his nap, Mendel walks backward into his own village, one that seems to him to be so like home that he stays put. Like other citizens of the imaginary village of Chelm, Mendel is downright serious--and foolish. Fresh and varied page layouts contribute substantially to this Chelm story based on Isaac Bashevis Singer's classic story “When Schlemiel Went to Warsaw.” Clement plays successfully with scale and perspective to render humorous full-color illustrations done in pen and ink and gouache. (Ages 5-9)

Delacre, Lulu, reteller and illustrator. *Golden Tales: Myths, Legends & Folktales from Latin America*. Scholastic, 1996. 73 pages. (0-590-48186-X) \$18.95

After much research the 12 classic tales Delacre selected for this volume bring 13 nations and four native cultures together. The tales are from the lands of the Taino (a Taino myth, a Puerto Rican legend, a Dominican legend, and a Cuban folktale); the land of the Zapotec (a Chatino myth, a Zapotec myth, and a Mexican legend); and the land of the Muisca (an Inca/Quechua myth, a Quechua folktale from Bolivia, and a Quechua legend from Bolivia). Delacre's 37 paintings were done in oil and are reproduced in full color. Her linocuts recreate selected motifs of ancient Latin American rock and textile artists. The source notes and index/pronunciation guide increase enjoyment and use of the collection. A visually identical Spanish language edition was published at the same time: *De Oro y Esmeraldas: Mitos, Leyendas y Cuentos Populares de Latinoam rica*. Scholastic, 1996. (0-590-67683-0) \$18.95 (Ages 8-12)

Goble, Paul, reteller and illustrator. *The Return of the Buffaloes: A Plains Indian Story about Famine and Renewal of the Earth*. National Geographic Society, 1996. 32 pages. (0-7922-2714-X) \$15.95

The winter food supplies of the Lakota people are depleted. The children are too weak from hunger to play. Even though spring has already arrived, the buffalo have not returned to the Great Plains. Two young men are dispatched to go far into the hills and find the buffaloes for their starving people. They meet a mysterious and wonderful woman who leads them into a cave, addresses each as Grandson and causes the famine to end. Extensive author's notes and the details about both *parfleches* and buffalo hunting make this volume especially valuable to anyone wanting information about the Lakota people. Goble's illustrations were created in India ink and watercolor. His earlier book *Buffalo Woman* (Bradbury, 1984) featured a tale about a different visitation of this holy Mother Earth figure. (Ages 8-12)

Hamilton, Virginia, reteller. *When Birds Could Talk & Bats Could Sing: The Adventures of Bruh Sparrow, Sis Wren, and*

***Their Friends*. Illustrated by Barry Moser. Blue Sky/Scholastic, 1996. 63 pages. (0-590-47372-7) \$17.95**

Unforgettable winged creatures practically fly off the pages of this elegant volume. Virginia Hamilton has selected and retold eight African-American folktales first written down in heavy black dialect by folklorist Martha Young, who collected the stories from former slaves on her father's plantation in Alabama. In each of the brief stories, the creatures behave like humans with human weaknesses: pride, selfishness, and just plain nosiness. The stories are written in a prose style known as *cante fable*, meaning that songs and verses are woven into the story and each one ends with a moral. The characters themselves are brilliantly characterized by a combination of Hamilton's perfectly crafted dialogue and Barry Moser's stunning watercolor paintings. In spite of the human attributes Moser gives Miss Bat and the birds through the facial expressions and the hats they wear, we never forget that they are creatures of the sky, thanks largely to a page design which causes viewers' eyes to sweep upward as they follow the characters' antics, making an inevitable fall from grace all the more dramatic. *Honor Book, 1996 CCBC Newbery Award Discussion (Ages 7-12)*

Heo, Yumi, reteller and illustrator. *The Green Frogs: A Korean Folktale*. Houghton Mifflin, 1996. 32 pages. (0-395-68378-5) \$14.95

"Long ago when tigers still smoked pipes..." a pair of naughty frogs always did the opposite of what their mother told them to do. This *pourquoi* tale explains why frogs always cry "Gaegul! Gaegul! Gaegul!" whenever it rains and why--in Korea--"children who don't listen to their mother are called *chung-gaeguri* or green frogs." Heo remembers hearing the story of the green frogs when she was a little girl in Korea. Her humorous illustrations suggest swampy, underwater, and microscopic images. They were created with oil paint and pencil and are reproduced in full color-- mostly shades of green. (Ages 3-8)

Osborne, Mary Pope, reteller. *Favorite Norse Myths*. Illustrated by Troy Howell. Scholastic, 1996. 87 pages. (0-590-48046-4) \$17.95

According to Osborne's introductory comments, Norse myths celebrate humor, wisdom, friendship, and heroism. She uses simple, clear language and yet retains the original mythic tone of the 14 tales she retells here. Separate glossaries with phonetic pronunciations identify Norse gods, giants, mythical creatures, the Nine Worlds, and special objects in the tales, such as the rainbow bridge which connected the world of humans to the world of the gods. Readers looking closely at Howell's 14 full-color paintings will discover hints of images based on rock art. The ancient rock art also inspired the decorative images found throughout this amazing collection. Howell's art was rendered on rag board in acrylics with oil washes for the 11 x 8¹/₄" volume. (Ages 8-12)

Paterson, Katherine, reteller. *The Angel & the Donkey*. Illustrated by Alexander Koshkin. Clarion, 1996. 32 pages. (0-395-68969-4) \$15.95

A greedy soothsayer named Balaam and his faithful donkey are visited by an angel messenger of the Lord just as the indecisive Balaam wonders if he should follow King Moab's command to put a curse on the Israelites. On three occasions his donkey saves Balaam from the angel's sword. Paterson's prose is easy to read and chock full of natural dialogue in a marvelously human tale from the Hebrew scriptures. She explains a bit about recent Biblical research helpful to her as she shaped this comic story from *Numbers* for today's young readers. Koshkin's luminous artwork elegantly complements the lively tale. His lush illustrations and endpapers were executed in watercolor, tempera and gouache for this handsome 10³/₄ x 10¹/₂" volume. If there were an award for the outstanding painted image of an angel, Koshkin would win that trophy hands down. (Ages 7-12)

Ross, Gayle, reteller. *The Legend of the Windigo: A Tale from Native North America*. Illustrated by Murv Jacob. Dial, 1996. (0-8037-1898-5) \$14.99

Trouble comes to the ancient inhabitants of a North American woodland village when a Windigo arrives. This "giant creature made of stone with eyes like deep caves that hypnotize human beings" also feeds on them, too. Although the people outwitted it then, their method causes the Windigo to exist now in the form of mosquitoes. It continues to eat humans--one bite at a time. Jacob's detailed, intricately patterned artwork suggest a dark forest full of activity. His illustrations were rendered in acrylics on watercolor paper. In an endnote Ross tells about the time when she first began to think about this trickster tale. She was with Utah Phillips and other storytellers gathered about a Northern Wisconsin campfire. (Ages 7-10)

See also: *Harald the Ruthless; The Inner City Mother Goose; Life Around the Lake; In the Street of the Temple Cloth Printers; Prietita and the Ghost Woman=Prietita y la Llorona; Robin of Sherwood; While the Candles Burn*

Historical People, Places and Events

Balgassi, Haemi. *Peacebound Trains*. Illustrated by Chris K. Soentpiet. Clarion, 1996. 46 pages. (0-395-72093-1) \$14.95

During these years while her mother, or *umma*, is away in the U.S. Army, young Sumi lives with her grandmother or *harmuny*. Sumi feels particularly lonesome for Umma one day, so Harmuny tells the girl what happened when Umma was a baby in Seoul, Korea, in 1951. Fleeing from Seoul and increasing dangers, Harmuny and Sumi's grandfather, or *harabujy*, took their children and the belongings they could carry and started walking toward far away Pusan. Finally Harabujy decided that the best chance his wife and their children might have for survival would be to ride with hundreds of other desperate refugees on top of the last train going South. The family made it safely, but they never saw Harabujy again. The story is based on actual experiences in the lives of Balgassi's mother and grandmother. Both she and Soentpiet were born in Seoul. Soentpiet's marvelous watercolors grace each page, expanding the contemporary and historical scenes and specifying cultural details. This compelling fictional account is divided into eight short sections. (Ages 8-12)

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. *Growing Up in Coal Country*. Houghton Mifflin, 1996. 127 pages. (0-395-77847-6) \$16.95

An account of work and childhood chronicles the horrific circumstances in which children labored and lived in the coal mining towns of northeastern Pennsylvania during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Stimulated by hearing the personal stories of her husband's grandparents, the author began to record many oral histories. She read old mining records, visited museums and studied old photographs. She reports how women and children worked at home, how children's schooling and health suffered, and how the cycle was repeated from generation to generation. Bartoletti's masterfully developed narrative allows her human subjects to speak for themselves. The varied array of memorable black-and-white photos documents their experience. (Ages 9-16)

Blumberg, Rhoda. *Full Steam Ahead: The Race to Build a Transcontinental Railroad*. National Geographic, 1996. 160 pages. (0-7922-2715-8) \$18.95

Blumberg makes history come to life with her compelling style that presents the building of the transcontinental railroad as an intricately plotted story played out by heroes, villains, and a dozen or more first-class scoundrels. Even though it reads like a good novel, her story is rooted in extensive historical research using both primary and secondary sources. Black-and-white documentary photographs, cartoons from period newspapers, and 19th century etchings provide readers with an expansive visual context of the time and place. Although she occasionally uses dated terms such as "Indian brave" in her written description of the events, Blumberg also provides helpful late-20th century interpretations of the race and class politics that contributed to the exploitation of Chinese, Irish, African-American and Native American laborers and the government policies that allowed for mass genocide of Native people to make way for the railroad tracks. (Ages 9-14)

McCully, Emily Arnold. *The Ballot Box Battle*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1996. 32 pages. (0-679-87938-2) \$17.00

Cordelia, the heroine of this picture story which takes place in 1880, loves horses so much that she willingly volunteers to help her elderly neighbor Mrs. Stanton care for her horse in exchange for daily riding lessons. More than anything, Cordelia would like to learn to jump a four-foot fence, although she can't imagine the old woman teaching her to do something quite so daring. But Mrs. Stanton, it seems, is quite a dare-devil in her own right. In a smoothly executed flashback sequence, the woman recounts some events from her early 19th century childhood when she broke a social taboo by attending a boys' academy where she became one of the school's best pupils. This childhood experience set her on her life-long struggle for women's rights. Mrs. Stanton, of course, is Elizabeth Cady Stanton, shown here as both a child and as a mature woman who tried -- unsuccessfully -- to cast a ballot whenever there was an election. Through the eyes of young Cordelia, perceptive readers will see that Mrs. Stanton was every bit as courageous as those who jump four-foot fences. McCully's style, both verbal and visual, is understated but her message about equal rights is clear. Most of today's young readers will no doubt be amazed that the right to vote was something women fought long and hard to attain. (Ages 5-8)

McCully, Emily Arnold. *The Bobbin Girl*. Dial, 1996. 32 pages. (0-8037-1828-4) \$14.89

Ten-year-old Rebecca Putney has to stand on a box to reach the company ledger and sign her name after working all week with other girls and women in a New England textile mill in the 1830s. Rebecca is less naive than she might appear because innocence disappeared quickly in a workplace replete with injustices, injuries, and 12-hour work days. Loosely basing the story on the well-documented childhood experiences of Harriet Hanson Robinson, McCully focuses on the Lowell mill workers' first strike in Lowell, Massachusetts. Watercolors and pastels illustrate each page of a picture book story replete with written and visual historical details. A page of historical information concludes the book. (Ages 8-11)

McKissack, Patricia C. and Fredrick L. McKissack. *Rebels against Slavery: American Slave Revolts*. Scholastic, 1996. 181 pages. (0-590-45735-7) \$14.95

Contrary to typical early Hollywood portrayals of chattel slavery as it was practiced in the Americas, people of African heritage were not contented in enslavement. The McKissacks' award-winning *Christmas in the Big House*, *Christmas in the Quarters* (Scholastic, 1994) demonstrates that historic reality. *Rebels against Slavery* introduces young readers to some of the brave "men and women, slaves and free blacks, Northerners and Southerners, whites and Native Americans" who knowingly risked their lives in active revolt against slavery. The defiance of individuals such as Toussaint Louverture, Gabriel Prosser, Harriet Tubman, Nat Turner, Denmark Vesey and the rebels on the *Amistad* are described. Black-and-white archival photos document this carefully researched, compelling account. A chronology and extensive bibliography are included. *Honor Book, 1996 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Author* (Ages 11-16)

Macy, Sue. *Winning Ways: A Photohistory of American Women in Sports*. Henry Holt, 1996. 217 pages. ((0-8050-4147-8) \$15.95

Sue Macy's exciting, inspiring history traces women's participation in both recreational and organized sports from the corseted croquet players and adventurous bicyclists of the 19th century to the many amateur, professional and recreational pursuits of thousands of women and girls today. Her narrative addresses the many changing beliefs about women's physical abilities over time, beliefs affected not only by a growing understanding of human physiology, but also by the very fact that there were women out doing the very things it was said they couldn't do! She also discusses how these changes were interconnected to women's changing socio-political status over time. A rich collection of black-and-white photographs of women athletes, a chronology of Firsts, Records and Other Noteworthy Events, and a list of organizations and other resources related to women and girls in sports, rounds out a unique and welcome book. (Age 11 and older)

Murphy, Jim. *A Young Patriot: The American Revolution as Experienced by One Boy*. Illustrated with prints. Clarion, 1996. 101 pages. (0-395-60523-7) \$15.95

Joseph Plumb Martin was 15 in 1776 when he enlisted in the revolutionary army for what became seven years of military duty of a sort he could never have imagined at the outset. Typical Revolutionary War history available to the young does not picture the unromanticized ordinary soldiering endured by Joseph and others of his time. Murphy's well-documented, carefully developed narrative is divided into eight chapters and abundantly illustrated with reproductions of engravings, several early maps, a handbill, and a painting. A three-page chronology of the American Revolution, three-page bibliography of additional sources, and five-page index complete the singular book. (Ages 9-14)

Sisulu, Elinor Batezat. *The Day Gogo Went to Vote: South Africa, April 1994*. Illustrated by Sharon Wilson. U.S. edition: Little, Brown, 1996. 32 pages. (0-316-70267-6) \$14.95

A six-year-old black child tells how her 100-year-old *gogo* (grandmother) is determined to vote in the first general election in South Africa. Gogo has not left home for years, not even to attend church. The family is incredulous. "Do you want me to die not having voted?" Gogo asks her astonished relatives, and so she goes to the polls. The child's-eye view of the historic election is an effective device for including information in context about the voting procedures in the unprecedented 1994 election. Sisulu was born in Zimbabwe and now lives in Capetown, South

Africa. Wilson visited South Africa before creating the artwork for this inspiring picture book story with pastels on sanded board. (Ages 7-10)

Stanley, Jerry. *Big Annie of Calumet: A True Story of the Industrial Revolution*. Crown, 1996. 102 pages. (0-517-70097-2) \$18.00

A strike became inevitable in 1913 after Copper Country mine owners refused a hearing to Upper Michigan miners organized to improve their wages and working conditions. Seven days a week for more than five months, 25-year-old Annie Clemenc marched carrying an American flag at the head of a protest parade. As a hospital worker, this woman had seen first-hand the injuries typically suffered by miners in cave-ins. As the wife and daughter of miners, she knew much about the dangers and deaths. In the early 20th century, U.S. workers had few legal rights to organize for safe working conditions and higher wages. Thousands of people ultimately became involved on both sides. The strike and ongoing parades led to bitter economic repercussions for women and men engaged in the protest. Violence and bloodshed became common. While mining families were gathered for Christmas party, a false fire alarm caused 80 children to die in the surge of people fleeing the building. By highlighting the basic rights for which Annie and the protesters struggled, Stanley underscores the relationship between workers' rights and human rights. By focusing the narrative upon a previously unsung labor leader, he captures the strength and importance of women in the labor movement. The abundant archival black-and-white graphics contribute an important dimension to the compelling, fast-moving narrative. Informed adult readers might wish the author had found a way to acknowledge the unsalaried domestic roles of the women protesters, and they might also debate Stanley's generous version of Henry Ford's role. *Big Annie of Calumet* is an important book that brings to life an appalling, heartbreaking segment of U.S. labor history rarely detailed for young readers. (Ages 10-15)

Tanaka, Shelley. *On Board the Titanic. (I Was There)* U.S. edition: Madison Press/Hyperion, 1996. 48 pages. (0-7868-0283-9) \$16.95

Harold Bride worked in the wireless room of the *Titanic*, while Jack Thayer and his parents had access to the luxury oceanliner's first class accommodations. Bride later became an important witness during subsequent U.S. and British investigations. Thayer insisted for years he had seen the *Titanic* break in two on the night of the sinking and in 1985 he was proved right. Based largely on these two survivor's experiences, the easy fictionalized narrative is filled with dialogue. A wide range of compelling photographs, cross-section illustrations, drawings and paintings in full color, charts, and other visual material are handsomely placed on all pages of a gripping account. Daisy Spedden's *Polar, the Titanic Bear* (Little, Brown, 1994) is an excellent companion to this book. (Ages 8-14)

Tunnell, Michael O. and George W. Chilcoat. *The Children of Topaz: The Story of a Japanese Internment Camp, Based on a Classroom Diary*. Holiday House, 1996. 74 pages. (0-8234-1239-3) \$16.95

Journal entries kept by Miss Hori's third grade class from March 8 to August 12, 1943 provide the springboard for an account of day-to-day life in the Topaz Relocation Center as it was experienced by Japanese-American children. Their brief, upbeat entries describing camp life stand in stark contrast to the grim realities described in the text and shown in the accompanying documentary black-and-white photographs. (Ages 8-14)

Warren, Andrea. *Orphan Train Rider: One Boy's True Story*. Houghton Mifflin, 1996. 80 pages. (0-395-69822-7) \$15.95

Orphan trains were part of so-called "placing out" programs in New York City and other Eastern cities between 1854 and 1930, an effort to find homes for white children without parental support. Lee Nailling was one of these children. In 1926 Nailling rode with his younger brother on an "orphan train" to Texas. His story is skillfully interlaced with Warren's chilling overview of these social service programs. Because even today many survivors are unwilling to identify themselves as former "train kids," Nailling's witness offers a rare glimpse into the lifelong impact of his experiences. Black-and-white archival photos and Nailling family photos give human faces to information about the formal system that sent more than 200,000 children into homes where often they were expected to provide hard labor without receiving comfort or real family status in return. (Ages 9-16)

See also: *The Apprenticeship of Lucas Whitaker; As Long as the River Flows; The Beduins' Gazelle; Children of the Longhouse; The Children's Book of Kwanzaa; The Cuckoo's Child; Dear Mrs. Parks; Dia's Story Cloth; Favorite Norse Myths; Fire at the Triangle Factory; Following My Own Footsteps; Golden Tales; Harald the Ruthless; Jip; The Long*

Season of Rain; Painting Dreams; Ramadan; The Seasons Sewn; The Snow Walker; Stories in Stone; Sweet Words so Brave; What Zeesie Saw on Delancey Street; When I Left My Village; While the Candles Burn; With Needle and Thread; section on Biography and Autobiography

Biography and Autobiography

Allen, Paula Gunn and Patricia Clark Smith. *As Long as the Rivers Flow: The Stories of Nine Native Americans*. Scholastic, 1996. 328 pages. (0-590-47869-9) \$15.95

Native American leaders and achievers in politics, entertainment, athletics and the arts are the subject of this collective biography featuring nine individuals who affirm American Indian accomplishments, traditions and values through their success in a wide variety of arenas. The women and men profiled come from American Indian nations across what is now the United States. They include the woman warrior Weetamoo (Pocasset), tribal leader Geronimo (Apache), humorist Will Rogers (Cherokee), athlete Jim Thorpe (Sac and Fox), ballet dancer Maria Tallchief (Osage), United States Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (Northern Cheyenne), tribal leader Wilma Mankiller (Cherokee), artist Michael Naranjo (Santa Clara Pueblo) and writer Louise Erdrich (Turtle Mountain Chippewa). (Ages 11-14)

Brewster, Hugh. *Anastasia's Album*. U.S. edition: Madison Press/Hyperion, 1996. 64 pages. (0-7868-0292-8) \$17.95

The inviting design and layout of this 10¹/₄ x 10¹/₄" biography of Anastasia Romanov, the youngest daughter of Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, features dozens of photographs of the young grand duchess and her family throughout the volume. Samplings of Anastasia's accomplished artistic efforts also grace many pages. Hugh Brewster writes of Anastasia and her family with an eye on the everyday aspects of these highly privileged individuals' lives, but does not ignore the political overtones that led to their ultimate tragedy. Excerpts from her letters to teachers and friends serve to bring this portrait of Anastasia into even sharper focus, while mention of the questions that still surround her death may send intrigued readers in search of additional information. (Ages 10-13)

Cooney, Barbara. *Eleanor*. Viking, 1996. 40 pages. (0-670-86159-6) \$15.99

Powerful visual design and skillfully understated text combine to introduce young readers to Eleanor Roosevelt before she became one of the most influential women of the 20th century. In paintings that brilliantly echo the emotional tenor of the story while capturing a sense of the time and place in which she lived and the economically privileged class to which she belonged, Eleanor is pictured as a small, almost incidental figure in many of the illustrations. It is the way she felt while growing up, but when she leaves her family and America to attend boarding school in England at the age of 15, Eleanor begins a transformation. Under the guidance of her headmistress and mentor, Mademoiselle Souvestre, and in the loving, supportive, challenging atmosphere that her school, Allenwood, provides, she gains assuredness and self-esteem. "Mlle. Souvestre had opened the world to Eleanor." And Eleanor had opened herself to the world, as Cooney's paintings reflect, carrying herself with dignity into whatever the future would bring. (Ages 7-10)

Davis, Frances A. *Frank Lloyd Wright: Maverick Architect*. Lerner, 1996. 128 pages. (0-8225-4953-0) \$22.95

This straightforward account of Wright's life focuses on his innovative work as an architect but it doesn't shy away from describing the ups and downs of his personal and professional life. Numerous black-and white photographs of the man and his work accompany the well-researched text. (Ages 11-16)

Deneberg, Barry. *An American Hero: The True Story of Charles A. Lindbergh*. Scholastic, 1996. 255 pages. (0-590-46923-1) \$16.95

From his record-setting trans-Atlantic flight in 1927, to his role in the conviction of the man accused of kidnapping and murdering his child, to his relationship with the Germans and his isolationist sentiments in the year's just prior to World War II, Charles Lindbergh's actions have made him one of the most acclaimed and one of the most controversial public figures in our country's history. With skill and restraint, Barry Deneberg sifts through myriad perspectives on Lindbergh's life to present both facts and opinions on the famous aviator. As he does so, a picture

of Lindbergh from childhood through his later years emerges, a picture that emphasizes the complexities behind headlines and lets readers make up their own minds about his character and the motivations for his actions. A fascinating, well-researched biography that includes black-and-white photos and an extensive bibliography. (Ages 12-15)

Fleischman, Sid. *The Abracadabra Kid: A Writer's Life*. Greenwillow, 1996. 198 pages. (O-688-14859-X) \$16.00

Novelist Sid Fleischman's memories are vivid, fresh and funny as he shares stories from his life. Fleischman writes in a friendly, conversational, never sentimental tone about growing up in San Diego during the Depression, and of a passion for magic that led to his early career as a traveling performer. But when he began to write, he found he could use his skills as a conjurer in a different way as well. Of special interest to young fans of his novels are Fleischman's explanations of how some of the people and events in his life found their way into his books for children. Black-and-white photographs round out this delightful autobiography. (Ages 10-14)

Freedman, Russell. *The Life and Death of Crazy Horse*. Drawings by Amos Bad Heart Bull. Holiday House, 1996. 166 pages. (O-8234-1219-9) \$19.95

Russell Freedman's thoughtful narrative on the life of the great Sioux leader portrays a man of dignity, conviction and courage who spent his life resisting the United States government in its efforts to displace, restrain, and destroy his people. Crazy Horse is seen as an individual of destiny from the time he was a child, but how that destiny would play itself out was unknown. He neither gloried in nor turned his back on the warfare that was an inevitable part of the Sioux's battle for survival. He never signed a treaty with the whites. The description of Crazy Horse's elderly parents riding off with their son's body after he was murdered cannot be forgotten. Black-and-white reproductions of ledger art created by Oglala Sioux artist Amos Bad Heart Bull in the late 19th century are used to illustrate this stirring biography. (Ages 11-15)

King-Smith, Dick. *Dick King-Smith's Animal Friends: Thirty-One True Life Stories*. Illustrated by Anita Jeram. U.S. edition: Candlewick, 1996. 95 pages. (1-56402-960-3) \$19.99

What at first glance seems to be a collection of animal stories is actually an autobiographical portrait of the author, told through his recollections of animals he has known. Beginning with one of his earliest memories (riding an elephant at the zoo) and ending with an animal he encountered while writing this book (a crow that perches outside his study window), the chronological arrangement serves to show us King-Smith's growth from boyhood through young adulthood and middle age to his present status as an elderly gent. Throughout, he has maintained his lifelong interest in animals of all species (though long-haired dachshunds figure prominently, and deservedly so). Anita Jeram's lively watercolor illustrations perfectly complement King-Smith's light, humorous tone and make this volume a perfect selection as a family read-aloud. (Ages 4-12)

Krull, Kathleen. *Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the Fastest Woman in the World*. Illustrated by David Diaz. Harcourt Brace, 1996. 40 pages. (O-15-201267-2) \$16.00

Wilma Rudolph defied the odds to win three gold medals at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome, a record for American women. Rudolph's Olympic achievement resulted from incredible determination, and in this strikingly illustrated picture book biography, she is profiled as an individual of remarkable energy and fortitude from the time she was a small girl. Disabled by polio as a child, it was thought that Wilma Rudolph would never walk again, let alone run her way into the history books. With bold full-color illustrations set against intriguing sepia-toned photographs depicting the text's background elements, artist David Diaz captures Rudolph's spirit, power and pride, as well as the loving, supportive African-American family and community in which she was raised. Author Kathleen Krull grounds the story with details of Rudolph's family life, her wishes and dreams, and the times in which she lived, so that the athlete's extraordinary accomplishments never overwhelm the human story that is at the heart of the book. *Honor Book, 1996 CCBC Caldecott Award Discussion* (Ages 5-10)

Lowery, Linda. *Georgia O'Keeffe*. Illustrated by Rochelle Draper. Carolrhoda, 1996. 47 pages. (O-87614-860-7) \$15.95 (pbk: 0-87614-898-4, \$5.95)

"Georgia O'Keeffe held the bone up high. She peered through the hole in the middle." Linda Lowery's

uncomplicated prose captures the spirit of Georgia O'Keeffe's life and art in this welcome biography for young readers. As an art student, O'Keeffe (who was born in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin) was skilled at pleasing others, but it wasn't until she decided to draw to please herself that her true talent and vision began to emerge. Color illustrations depicting O'Keeffe, her friends and companions, and her art appear on each double-page spread of this profile that emphasizes her fulfillment as an artist and her singular career. (Ages 6-8)

Lowery, Linda. *Wilma Mankiller*. Illustrated by Janice Lee Porter. Carolrhoda, 1996. 56 pages. (0-87614-880-1) \$15.95 (pbk: 0-87614-953-0, \$5.95)

The first woman Chief to lead the Cherokee Nation did not have an easy path to her distinguished office. She endured displacement and racism as a child, and continued prejudice, including sexism among her fellow Cherokee, as she reached adulthood. But Wilma learned to believe in herself and her ability to help her people. Linda Lowery uses short, simple sentences to skillfully tell Wilma Mankiller's story, resulting in an inspiring biography for new readers. Janice Lee Porter's distinguished full-color artwork appears on each two-page spread. (Ages 6-8)

Myers, Walter Dean. *Toussaint L'Ouverture: The Fight for Haiti's Freedom*. Illustrated by Jacob Lawrence. Simon & Schuster, 1996. 40 pages. (0-689-80126-2) \$16.00

Toussaint L'Ouverture dreamed of freedom for the people of African descent in Haiti, and when Blacks started to revolt against their French and Spanish oppressors in the late 18th century, he proved to be a brilliant military strategist whose leadership was invaluable and inspiring to his people. Jacob Lawrence created 41 bold, harrowing paintings to tell the story of Toussaint and slavery and the struggle for freedom in Haiti. His dramatic, emotional art is balanced by Walter Dean Myers's skillful, measured narrative that serves to tell a riveting story while pacing the runaway power of the images. *Honor Book, 1996 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Illustrator* (Ages 9-12)

Osofsky, Audrey. *Free to Dream, The Making of a Poet: Langston Hughes*. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1996. 112 pages. (0-688-10605-6) \$16.00

An engaging narrative chronicles the life of the celebrated African-American poet who rose to fame during the Harlem Renaissance but whose words endure today in poems that talk of high hopes and hard times for his people. Langston's childhood, early adulthood and writing career are all addressed with avid attention to the thoughts, feelings and experiences that he wove into his writing. Beautiful design elements such as bordered black-and-white photographs and reproductions of publications in which Langston's poems appeared add to the elegance of cream-colored pages and the overall design of this handsome volume that pays tribute to the life and voice of Langston Hughes. (Ages 10-14)

Pinkney, Andrea D. *Bill Pickett: Rodeo-Ridin' Cowboy*. Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Gulliver/Harcourt Brace, 1996. 32 pages. (0-15-200100-X) \$16.00

The child of former slaves, Bill Pickett grew up on the wide open Texas prairie. "He was quick as a jackrabbit, more wide-eyed than a hooty owl--and curious." The eager boy developed his own unique style of cow wrestling in which he sunk his teeth into the animal's lip to keep it under control. Observer's called it bulldogging, and it was to become Bill's trademark in a distinguished career as a cowboy and rodeo rider. Almost one in four cowboys who rode the western states in the 19th century was Black, author Andrea Pinkney notes in historical information that follows the text of this lively biography. Bill Pickett was among the most famous of them all. Brian Pinkney's scratchboard illustrations capture the expansive feeling of the western landscape and the energy of humans and animals in motion on the pages of this 11¹/₄ x 9¹/₂" book. *Honor Book, 1996 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Illustrator* (Ages 7-10)

Schroeder, Alan. *Minty: The Story of Young Harriet Tubman*. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Dial, 1996. 40 pages. (0-8037-1889-6) \$16.89

"I'm gonna run away," the sad, angry Minty tells her mother after the Missus throws her rag doll into the fire. Later,

after she is beaten by the overseer, the young girl who is a slave on a Maryland plantation tells her parents once again that she will flee. Realizing their daughter's determination, they subtly but deliberately begin to show her things she will need to know to survive: how to find her way to north by moss on trees and one shining star; how to swim a river; how to find food in the forest. Alan Schroeder's moving story never strays from what is possible in this fictional biography of the life of young Harriet Tubman. Jerry Pinkney's full-color paintings are rendered in pencil, colored pencil and watercolor. Light and dark dance across the pages of this 11³/₄ x 9³/₄" book as he skillfully and beautifully brings his vision of Minty's story to life. *Winner, 1996 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Illustrator* (Ages 7-10)

S's, Peter. *Starry Messenger: Galileo Galilei*. Frances Foster Books/Farrar Straus Giroux, 1996. 32 pages. (0-374-37191-1) \$16.00

Peter S's evokes a sense of fragile wonder and enduring discovery as the life of Galileo Galilei unfolds in this beautifully composed biography. S's offers children multiple points of entry into the 17th century astronomer's life: through the brief, eloquent, understated prose; through snippets of information, including quotes from the Galileo and his contemporaries, that are artfully arranged on the pages; and through stirring, incomparable artwork that is as delicate and richly detailed as the heavens themselves. This exquisite 12¹/₄ x 9¹/₄" book, which took its title from Galileo's own book of the same name, will touch both the minds and the hearts of readers. *Honor Book, 1996 CCBC Caldecott Award Discussion* (Ages 8-12)

See also: *Artist in Overalls; The Ballot Box Battle; Big Annie of Calumet; Dear Mrs. Parks; Going Back Home; In Flight with David McPhail; In My Family=En mi familia; On Board the Titanic; On the Bus with Joanna Cole; Orphan Train Rider; Painting Dreams; Rebels against Slavery; Sweet Words so Brave; Talking to Faith Ringgold; Under My Nose; When I Was Your Age; Winning Ways; A Young Patriot*

Contemporary People, Places and Events

Anderson, Joan. *Batboy: An Inside Look at Spring Training*. Photographs by Matthew Cavanaugh. Lodestar, 1996. 48 pages. (0-525-67511-6) \$15.99

Kenny Garibaldi is a batboy for the San Francisco Giants during spring training in Scottsdale, Arizona. It's a lot of work for the 13-year-old, who must prepare uniforms and equipment before a game, be ready to predict and meet the needs of individual players, and help clean up the locker room at the end of each tiring day. But in return, Kenny gets to work side-by-side with some of the biggest names in major league baseball, and make friends with potential stars of the future, as he learns about the long, hard road to the major leagues. Text and color photographs put greater emphasis on the hard work involved and less on the glamour of life as a professional athlete. (Ages 8-12)

Angelou, Maya. *Kofi and His Magic*. Photographs by Margaret Courtney-Clarke. Designed by Alexander Isley Design. Clarkson Potter, 1996. 36 pages. (0-517-70453-6) \$17.00

A dazzling photoessay combines an energizing, poetic text with crisp, colorful photographs and an engaging, playful design. Seven-year-old Kofi lives in Bonwire, the West African village known for its beautiful Kente cloth. Kofi likes to weave, and he likes to travel. "I sit down, Close my eyes, Open my mind," Kofi explains, and he is transported to other places in Africa that he has always wanted to see. Kofi's magic is his vivid imagination, but his journey comes alive for readers through words and images depicting both his own life and each place he visits with a joyous sense of appreciation and discovery. *Honor Book, 1996 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Author* (Ages 6-8)

Cooper, Martha and Ginger Gordon. *Anthony Reynoso: Born to Rope*. Clarion, 1996. 32 pages. (0-395-71690-X) \$14.95

Anthony Reynoso is nine years old and lives with his parents in Guadalupe, Arizona. Like his father and grandfather before him, Anthony is practicing to become a *charro*, or Mexican cowboy. He is a skilled rider and roper, but there is always more to learn from his father, with whom he also performs in exhibitions. Anthony's first-

person voice provides the narrative for this engaging photoessay in which readers get a glimpse into other aspects of Anthony's life and community as well, from his interest in basketball, to the importance of extended family gatherings, to his excitement at the pending arrival of a new baby brother or sister. (Ages 7-10)

Cummins, Julie. *The Inside-Outside Book of Libraries*. Illustrated by Roxie Munro. Dutton, 1996. (0-525-45608-2) \$15.99

From the grand architecture of the Library of Congress to the tiny one-room building on Ocracoke Island, North Carolina, libraries throughout the United States vary from place to place in their scope and scale, but share a commitment to meeting the information and/or recreational needs of the communities they serve. Many readers will recognize the public library, school library, and bookmobile environments even though the specific places featured are unknown to them. But a tool lending program that is part of Berkeley Public Library, the library serving inmates at Folsom State Prison, and the Andrew Haskell Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped are among those profiled which will open their eyes to the many and varied ways libraries take shape and serve the diverse interests and needs of people throughout our country. Julie Cummins's text and Roxie Munro's expansive art combine to create a fun, informative volume. (Ages 6-10)

Onyefulu, Ifeoma. *Ogbo: Sharing Life in an African Village*. U.S. edition: Gulliver/Harcourt, 1996. 24 pages. (0-15-200498-X) \$15.00

A singular, shining book features Obioma, a six-year old girl in eastern Nigeria who tells readers about ogbos, or age groups, in her community. From the time they are young, children of the same general age identify with their ogbos, which extend beyond family ties to embrace the community as a whole. Members of ogbos play and work together and help one another in time of need. It is a connection that lasts throughout their lives, regardless of where they later live. Through text accompanied by lively color photographs, Obioma tells about the ogbo to which each member of her immediate family belongs in beautifully designed and realized book. (Ages 7-10)

Rotner, Shelley and Julia Pemberton Hellums. *Hold the Anchovies! A Book about Pizza*. Photographs by Shelley Rotner. Orchard, 1996. 24 pages. (0-531-09507-X) \$15.95

Young pizza lovers will learn how a pizza is made in this mouth-watering photo-essay. Simple text and bold color photographs show where the ingredients for each part of the pizza--dough, sauce, cheese, and toppings--come from, and how they are combined to make the delicious treat. A basic pizza recipe is included. (Ages 3-6)

Sandoval, Dolores. *Be Patient, Abdul*. Margaret K. McElderry, 1996. 32 pages. (0-689-50607-4) \$15.00

Abdul lives in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone. The seven-year-old sells oranges to earn money for his school fees, but when business is slow, he has a hard time being patient: he loves to learn and wants to be sure he'll be able to continue his education. The day that Momma marches in the big parade to celebrate the anniversary of Sierra Leone's independence, Abdul's worries come to an end, but not before he's learned to appreciate what patience can bring, and not before readers have learned a little about contemporary life for a child in this West African nation. A picture book featuring full-page, full-color acrylic illustrations and a text well-suited for emergent readers. (Ages 5-7)

Schur, Maxine Rose. *When I Left My Village*. Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Dial, 1996. 62 pages. (0-8037-1562-5) \$14.89

Young Menelik describes the dangerous journey he and his family make in an effort to flee Ethiopia, where they face intense oppression and scorn because they are Jewish. The forced flight of thousands of the *Beta Israel*, the Jews of Ethiopia, to Israel in the mid 1980s and early 1990s was the inspiration for this perilous story in which Menelik tells of his family's efforts to escape by foot down the mountains and across plains. Fighting exhaustion and near starvation, Menelik and his family finally reach a border camp, where they wait and hope that Israel will come to their rescue. Menelik's story is grounded in cultural details, as well as the fervent hope for freedom. Menelik was introduced in an earlier story, *Day of Delight* (Dial, 1994). (Ages 8-10)

Strom, Yale. *Quilted Landscape: Conversations with Young Immigrants*. Simon & Schuster, 1996. 80 pages. (0-689-80074-6) \$18.00

Writer and photographer Yale Strom turns a keen and understanding eye on children and young adults who are recent immigrants to the United States. Twenty-six young people who range in age from 11 to 17 discuss when, how and why they came to the United States; what their life is like here; who and what they left behind; and their plans and hopes for the future. Though the children come from countries all over the world, and from diverse social and economic backgrounds, their experiences in this country are often similar as they must meet the challenges of culture and language barriers and discrimination and prejudice, and deal with the conflicts that can arise when family and cultural expectations clash with a new way of life. Each profile includes black-and-white photographs of the child and a brief summary of facts about the country from which he or she came. An important book that encourages readers to consider what it means to be a newcomer, and what sustains us as a nation. (Ages 11-14)

See Also: *Bruises; Chibi; The Circle of Thanks; Dia's Story Cloth; The Friends; Hurricanes; I'm Tougher than Asthma!; In the Heart of the Village; Irrepressible Spirit; Life around the Lake; So Loud a Silence; Something Very Sorry; Weaving a California Tradition; section on Seasons and Celebrations*

Issues in Today's World

Fleischman, Paul. *Dateline: Troy*. Collages by Gwen Frankfeldt & Glenn Morrow. Candlewick, 1996. 79 pages. (1-56402-469-5) \$15.99

Thirty-three sound bite passages rework *The Iliad* while opposite pages contain collages composed of newspaper fragments. The clippings report 20th century warfare, murders, terrorist acts, celebrity scandals, human rights abuses, corruption, sexism, abandonment--and more. Detailed photo credits document the graphics. Fleischman runs a risk by demonstrating his remarkable versatility as a writer in this particular manner. Neither classics enthusiasts nor Homer himself would appreciate this truncated retelling. Fleischman contends that previous listeners and readers of *The Iliad* have found "real human nature" in it. He reminds readers of *Dateline: Troy* that "Envy-maddened Ajax, lovestruck Paris, crafty Odysseus, and all the others...live among us today. Though their tale comes from the distant Bronze Age, it's as current as this morning's headlines. The Trojan War is still being fought. Simply open a newspaper." Simply open this book. (Ages 10-16)

Fleming, Denise. *Where Once There Was a Wood*. Henry Holt, 1996. 28 pages. (0-8050-3761-6) \$15.95

When a wood, meadow, and creek vanish due to modern development of the land, the flora and fauna are also directly affected. Children will notice more animals, birds, reptiles and plants than the few named in the brief, lyrical text of a provocative picture book. The final four pages contain detailed directions for creating a family backyard wildlife habitat. Fleming's trademark illustrations were created with cotton rag fiber. The bold shapes and distinctive full-color images can be easily seen in a large group setting. (Ages 5-10)

Gregory, Valiska. *When Stories Fell like Shooting Stars*. Illustrated by Stefano Vitale. Simon & Schuster, 1996. 40 pages. (0-689-80012-6) \$16.00

Two original fables demonstrate opposite ways a community might resolve conflict. Fox responds selfishly after he sees Sun "tumble from its cradle of clouds." The result: "It no longer mattered to the animals who was right and who was wrong..." After Moon "slips through a buttonhole of sky" Bear encourages the animals to solve the dilemma together. "Moon is ours to tend but not to own." Vitale's exquisite illustrations were rendered in oil paints on wooden boards for a book that can stimulate active discussion. (Ages 6-10)

Jacobs, Francine. *Follow That Trash! All About Recycling*. Illustrated by Mavis Smith. (All Aboard Reading) Grosset & Dunlap, 1996. 48 pages. (0-448-41601-8) \$13.99 (pbk: 0-448-41314-0, \$3.95)

Many children may already be familiar with recycling in a general way if they sort cans, bottles and paper at home or in school. This beginning reader describes why recycling is important and what happens after the recyclables are hauled away. Glass, paper and plastic are followed to plants where they are processed. The text and simple color illustrations book also highlight some of the products into which they are later transformed. (Ages 5-7)

Kuklin, Susan. *Irrepressible Spirit: Conversations with Human Rights Activists*. Putnam, 1996. 230 pages. (0-399-22762-8) \$18.95

Kuklin begins by summarizing the processes she used to conduct interviews and gather information about human rights activism, claiming no intention to single out or condemn any one nation or ideology. *Irrepressible Spirit* is organized according to types of human rights: Freedom of Expression, Freedom from Communal Violence, The Right to One's Life, Freedom from Bondage, The Rights of the Child, The Right to Vote, and The Road toward Democracy. Kuklin excluded abuses resulting because of cultural or religious practices and showed only a sample of the "many abuses inflicted on women and children all over the world." Activists telling their own or others' stories are Li Lu (China); David Moya (Cuba); Ivana Nizich (Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia); Monique Mujawamariya (Rwanda); Ben Penglase (Brazil); Joe Ingle (U.S.A.); Jeannine Guthrie (Burma, Thailand, Nepal, India); Chanrithy Ouk (Cambodia); Michelle India Baird (Jamaica); Fatemeh Ziai (Tajikstan); and Peter Volmink (South Africa). Each first person account is concluded with an activist's pithy advice to young readers. Usually the advice involves writing - to legislators, to national leaders, to dictators, to known violators of human rights. Often the advice is general: "Don't buy into stereotypes. Don't assume someone is evil because they are members of a certain religion, race, or ethnic group...Don't take for granted what everybody tells you, even your leaders..." (Ivana Nizich). Faces and stories are linked to the places about which Kuklin provides information, documentation and action possibilities to her readers. Relevant articles are listed at the end along with information about human rights organizations. The opening quotation is attributed to Eleanor Roosevelt: "Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world." Such places and actions can be glimpsed in this dynamic volume. (Age 12 and older)

See Also: *Bruises; Don't Think Twice; Grandmother's Pigeon; The Inner City Mother Goose; Life around the Lake; The Music of the Dolphins; Quilted Landscape; So Loud a Silence; A Young Patriot; You're Aboard Spaceship Earth*

Understanding Oneself and Others

Carter, Alden R. and Siri M. Carter. *I'm Tougher than Asthma!* Photographs by Dan Young. Albert Whitman, 1996. 32 pages. (0-8075-3474-9) \$14.95

According to the authors asthma is the "leading cause of school absenteeism and hospitalization for children." The brief first-person narrative in young Siri's voice first tells what she likes (toads, sitting in Mrs. Trudeau's class, and playing with friends) and then announces that she has asthma. This indomitable girl's comments about living an active life regardless of asthma are illustrated with color photos of her at home, school and in her Wisconsin community. Four pages of information in a question/answer format are included along with a page of useful resources. (Ages 3-9)

Jukes, Mavis. *It's a Girl Thing: How To Stay Healthy, Safe and in Charge*. Illustrated by Debbie Tilley. Alfred A. Knopf, 1996. 135 pages. (0-679-94325-0) \$16.99 (pbk: 0-679-87392-9, \$12.00)

An outstanding writer of children's fiction turns her considerable talents to nonfiction in this accessible guide to puberty written especially for girls approaching adolescence. Jukes uses a light conversational style to give basic information on bras, menstruation, health, boys, sex, birth control and "girl things" such as makeup, shaving, high heels and hair products. Each section is introduced with candid (and often amusing) anecdotes from the author's own teen years. Throughout, Jukes stresses individual tastes and differences and gives clear, straightforward facts so that readers can make informed and responsible choices. (Ages 9-16)

Newman, Lesl'a. *Remember That*. Illustrated by Karen Ritz. Clarion, 1996. 32 pages. (0-395-66156-0) \$14.95

When this picture story begins, Bubbe lives in an apartment across the street from her family. "Everyone who wants to eat has to help out a little. Remember that," Bubbe says to her granddaughter while preparing their Sabbath dinner each Friday. "Always rest when you're tired. Remember that," Bubbe advises the girl when she herself doesn't feel well. As her health needs change, Bubbe moves in with the family and then to a nursing home. Regardless of where she lives, Bubbe can be depended upon to celebrate *Shabbos*, offer pithy wisdom based upon her life experience, and--best of all--tell her granddaughter she loves her. Most of all--remember that.

This cheerful, gentle picture story about an aging elder contains illustrations executed with watercolors. (Ages 4-8)

Parks, Rosa with Gregory J. Reed. *Dear Mrs. Parks: A Dialogue with Today's Youth*. Lee & Low (95 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016), 1996. 111 pages. (1-880000-45-8) \$16.95

Without intending to become a moral leader during the 20th century, Mrs. Rosa Parks is that and much more to millions of people of all ages because of her civil disobedience in 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama, and the demeanor with which she has conducted her public and personal life since then. *Dear Mrs. Parks* is a uniquely designed, compact volume containing excerpts of correspondence from young people wanting to know Mrs. Parks' age (born in 1913), favorite types of movies (comedies), and favorite book (the *Bible*). They inquire whether she has bad days, and they wonder what to do when friends try to get them to do something wrong. Sixty-eight representative questions are organized within five themes: Courage and Hope, The Power of Knowledge and Education, Living with God, Pathways to Freedom, and Making a Difference. Mrs. Parks's warm, respectful replies are framed in clear prose. Her responses vary in length from a few words to more than a page. Brief information about Rosa Parks and the Civil Rights Movement opens the book, and the enterprises she supports are described at the end. Readers may send letters to Mrs. Parks at the address listed in her remarkable self-portrait. (Ages 7-16)

Rogers, Fred. *Let's Talk About Divorce*. Photographs by Jim Judkis. Putnam, 1996. 32 pages. (0-399-22449-1) \$15.95 (pbk: 0-399-22800-4, \$7.95)

Preschoolers whose parents are divorcing will find reassurance in this photoessay that they will still have a family to help them feel safe, give them food, take care of them and love them. Rogers's low-key statements articulate children's typical concerns with characteristic insight and suggest healthy ways to express the feelings most children experience. Color photographs show three families of differing racial heritages. (Ages 2-5)

Testa, Maria. *Nine Candles*. Illustrated by Amanda Schaffer. Carolrhoda, 1996. 32 pages. (0-87614-940-9) \$14.21

While Raymond and his dad prepare for their weekly Sunday car trip to prison to visit his mother, the boy worries that she will forget that this is his seventh birthday--but she doesn't. Realistic emotions and circumstances surrounding visits to family members in correctional institutions are interspersed with the birthday story. Testa's note at the end distinguishes between the typical and the unusual in this story. From her background as an attorney with clinical experience in prison legal services, Testa suggests the importance of being a friend to someone with a parent in prison. Full-color paintings effectively illustrate this picture story. (Ages 4-7)

See also: *Crosby; Happy Adoption Day!; Now I'm Big; Something Very Sorry; Totally Private and Personal; The Two Mrs. Gibsons*

Concept Books

Geisert, Arthur. *Roman Numerals from I to MM*. Houghton Mifflin, 1996. 32 pages. (0-395-74519-5) \$15.95

A highly original and entertaining math concept book invites children to puzzle out Roman numerals by counting pigs in detailed barnyard and playground scenes. The concise text explains the mechanics of how just seven letters can be used in various combinations to stand for any number from 1 to 1000 or more, as the pigs demonstrate every step of the way. After the brief explanation, readers can test their understanding of, say, XIX by counting the 19 trees in an outdoor scene in which pigs predominate. Geisert is a meticulous draftsman whose etchings provide the perfect medium for his message. Although there is a lot to look at and count on every page, the drawings never seem busy or redundant, even in the case of a double-page-spread illustration that shows MM pigs. Throughout, Geisert's wry humor sets the tone as his 2000 pigs explore the landscape of their rural American home. (Ages 4-9)

Grover, Max. *Circles and Squares Everywhere!* Browndeer/Harcourt Brace, 1996. 32 pages. (0-15-200091-7) \$16.00

A nearly wordless oversize (11¹/₄ x 12¹/₄") book emphasizes two geometrical shapes in colorful paintings of an urban scene. After introducing each shape, children can turn the pages to see new scenes that get more and more detailed as circles (tires and smokestacks) and squares (windows and buildings) are added to the picture. (Ages 2-5)

Grunwald, Lisa. *Now Soon Later*. Illustrated by Jane Johnson. Greenwillow, 1996. 24 pages. (0-688-13946-9) \$15.00

The concept of time is especially difficult for young children to grasp but this book succeeds at getting across the concept of relative time by using patterned language to recount events in a typical childhood day ("Now it's time to take a nap. / Soon you'll be up again... / Later you'll go out and see your friends.") Each double-page spread uses the same "Now... Soon... Later..." sequence, alongside illustrative panels that illustrate the daily events in the life of a tousle-haired toddler with a working dad and a stay-at-home mom. (Ages 2-4)

Martin, Mary Jane. *From Anne to Zach*. Illustrated by Michael Grejniec. Boyds Mills, 1996. 40 pages. (1-56397-573-4) \$14.95

"A my name is Anne / B my name is Barry / C my name's Carlota / And my dog is hairy. Very!..." So begins a rhyming romp through the alphabet with active, mostly brown-skinned children telling us their names. Every third child adds a little something extra for good measure. Zach's claim to fame is that he can write the entire alphabet so that the book concludes with a satisfying reprise of the famous 26. (Ages 3-6)

McMillan, Bruce. *Jelly Beans for Sale*. Scholastic, 1996. 32 pages. (0-590-86584-6) \$15.95

A jelly bean stand staffed by two children provides the basis for an introduction to the monetary values of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. With jelly beans that cost 1¢ apiece, McMillan is able to show the values of various coins by showing different coin combinations next to their exact value in jelly beans. Appealing full-color photographs on facing pages show the young customers enjoying their purchases. Added notes at the back include information on the history of jelly beans and a description of the seven-day manufacturing process used to make jelly beans today. (Ages 4-8)

Miller, Margaret. *Now I'm Big*. Greenwillow, 1996. 32 pages. (0-688-14078-5) \$14.93

Clear, attractive color photographs show six ethnically diverse kindergartners as they are today and as they each were as babies to contrast the things they have each learned to do by themselves: riding bikes, getting dressed, drinking from a glass, cleaning up after themselves, etc. (Ages 4-6)

Murphy, Stuart J. *A Pair of Socks*. Illustrated by Lois Ehlert. (Math Start) HarperCollins, 1996. 33 pages. (0-06-025879-9) \$14.95 (0-06-446703-1, \$4.95)

A bright red-and-blue striped sock has lost its mate on laundry day. Shown side-by-side with four socks that are similar but not quite the same, a short rhyming text makes simple comparisons and contrasts. Finally a puppy solves the mystery when she drags the sock to her basket where the matching sock resides. Ehlert's flat, boldly colored illustrations enhance the concept throughout by making the differences and similarities easy for young readers to see right away. (Ages 4-6)

Pomeroy, Diana. *One Potato: A Counting Book of Potato Prints*. Harcourt Brace, 1996. 24 pages. (0-15-200300-2) \$15.00

Striking prints made with potatoes and acrylic paints illustrate an unusual counting book that uses fruits and vegetables as its subject. The numbers from one to ten and then 20, 30, 40, 50 and 100 (sunflower seeds) are presented in art that is at once sophisticated and child-friendly. Instructions for making potato prints are included in a note at the back. (Ages 3-6)

Serfozo, Mary. *What's What? A Guessing Game*. Illustrated by Keiko Narahashi. Margaret K. McElderry, 1996. 32 pages. (0-689-80653-1) \$15.00

Two African-American children ask--and answer--a series of questions about opposites: What's hard/soft, cold/warm,

wet/dry, long/short, light/dark before posing the real puzzler: What is all these things at once? The surprising answer provides this delightfully original concept book with a satisfying, child-like conclusion. (Ages 2-5)

Shannon, George. *Tomorrow's Alphabet*. Illustrated by Donald Crews. Greenwillow, 1996. 56 pages (0-688-13505-6) \$16.00

Just when you think you've read every possible idea for an alphabet book, a new one comes along. In *Tomorrow's Alphabet* the letters stand for the promise of what things will be in the future, e.g. "B is for eggs, tomorrow's birds" and "T is for bread, tomorrow's toast." Part puzzle, part poetry and all concept, George Shannon's original approach will provide creative inspiration to countless young visionaries who probably think they're too old for alphabet books. (Ages 4-9)

See also: *B Is for Baby*

The Arts

Arnold, Caroline. *Stories in Stone: Rock Art Pictures by Early Americans*. Photographs by Richard Hewett. Clarion, 1996. 48 pages. (0-395-72092-3) \$15.95

Line drawings on rock walls and boulders across the Americas provide evidence of human habitation between several hundred to 6,000 (or more) years ago. Ancient artists engraved or painted human figures, abstract designs and animals often identifiable today. Arnold's thorough explanations and Hewitt's distinctive color photographs of the astonishing petroglyphs within the Coso Range of contemporary California provide an excellent general overview of petroglyphs in the western hemisphere. Readers will find a helpful glossary, index and listing of 13 of the North American locations where these old, permanent art forms can be seen. (Ages 9-12)

Bial, Raymond. *With Needle and Thread: A Book about Quilts*. Houghton Mifflin, 1996. 48 pages. (0-395-73568-8) \$14.95

For centuries people from many cultures have made quilts for comfort. In recent years a resurgence of quilting and a growing interest in art quilts and quilt exhibitions occurred in this nation. Bial writes about heirloom quilts, commemorative quilts, art quilts, the AIDS quilt, quilts made for charitable causes, a Hmong quilt, and Amish quilts and others. Color photographs show some of the remarkable designs and details. They show quilters at work, too, even a young girl stitching her first block. The author's intent is to write about the many connections people have with quilts, and the anecdotes included attest to this. A list of further reading concludes the book. (Ages 9-16)

Cha, Dia. *Dia's Story Cloth: The Hmong People's Journey to Freedom*. Story cloth stitched by Chue and Nhia Thao Cha. Denver Museum of Natural History/Lee & Low (95 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10016), 1996. 24 pages. (1-880000-34-2) \$14.95

From a refugee camp in Thailand, Dia Cha's aunt and uncle, Chue and Nhia Thao Cha, sent her the story cloth that is the inspiration and the centerpiece for this important 11¹/₄ x 8¹/₂" book about the Hmong. The cloth they stitched depicts the history of the Hmong, whose culture reaches back thousands of years to China, and stretches from Asia to North America, where over 100,000 Hmong have settled in the years since the Vietnam War (including many in Wisconsin). Hmong means "free people," Dia writes in her introduction. "This story cloth will tell you about our life." In the text, Dia simply and skillfully threads her own story into that of the Hmong people as she tells about life farming with her family as a child in Laos, and then the violent upheaval of the Vietnam War that saw the death or displacement of thousands of Hmong in Southeast Asia. *Dia's Story Cloth* includes a discussion of Hmong history, culture and artistic traditions by the Curator of Ethnology at the Denver Museum of Natural History. (Ages 8-11)

Cole, Joanna with Wendy Saul. *On the Bus with Joanna Cole: A Creative Autobiography*. (Creative Sparks) Heinemann, 1996. 56 pages. (0-435-08131-4) \$16.95

Readers meet the author of the Magic School Bus science books as she tracks down facts and decides where and how the fictional Ms. Frizzle and her class will travel next. Readers will see reproductions of some of the Magic School Bus manuscripts and read about Cole's creative process. The author of dozens of other books of information and of joke books, she also writes about this dimension of her career. In a breezy, breathless narrative Cole discusses collaboration with artist Bruce Degen and authors such as Stephanie Calmenson. This highly visual glimpse inside Cole's writing career in its several stages also shows a bit of her personal life. (Ages 7-11)

Curry, Barbara K. and James Michael Brodie. *Sweet Words So Brave: The Story of African American Literature.*

Illustrated by Jerry Butler. Zino Press (P.O. Box 52, Madison, WI 53701), 1996. 64 pages. (1-55933-179-8) \$24.95

A fictional grandfather relates the history of African-Americans in North America to his granddaughter by telling her about early storytellers and writers as well as some of recent literary activists. He points out that centuries ago a black person who picked up a book and learned to read was both defiant and brave. The narrative pays homage to enslaved and oppressed people who kept their heritage alive through deed and word and to those who continue in this tradition. Thirty published writers are featured in the visually exciting, multi-dimensional presentation linking texts, photographs, varied uses of type sizes, page designs, and paintings in bold colors. The writers include Maya Angelou, James Baldwin, Amiri Baraka, Gwendolyn Brooks, Countee Cullen, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Du Bois, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Ralph Ellison, Olaudah Equiano, Nikki Giovanni, Lorraine Hansberry, Langston Hughes (from whose poem the title originated), Zora Neale Hurston, James Weldon Johnson, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Paule Marshall, Toni Morrison, Sonia Sanchez, Alice Walker, and Richard Wright. A glossary and list of selected readings accompany a volume tall in more than one way. (Ages 9-16)

Duggleby, John. *Artist in Overalls: The Life of Grant Wood.* Chronicle, 1996. 56 pages. ((0-8118-1242-1) \$15.95

Although Grant Wood's "American Gothic" is known throughout the world, little or nothing about the artist who painted it has been written for children prior to now. This biography is worthy of their attention. It includes more than a dozen reproductions of his works in full color and several black-and-white photographs of other works and of Wood himself. The conversational tone of the narrative will engage readers' in finding out about the Iowa artist who elevated the places and people around him in his paintings during a time when the style of art called Regionalism had not reached a respected status. Source documentation and an index should have been included in this wonderfully designed book which is, otherwise, exemplary. (Ages 9-14)

Ehlert, Lois. *Under My Nose.* Photographs by Carlo Ontal. (Meet the Author) Richard C. Owen, 1996. 32 pages. (1-57274-027-2) \$13.95

Children acquainted with artist Lois Ehlert's books realize she loves color, flowers, color, birds, color, being out of doors, color, the changing seasons, color....This slim little book allows a peek at some of Ehlert's childhood family pictures. Color photos show Ehlert at work in her studio and outside in Milwaukee, where she lives near the Lake Michigan shore, and much more. The steps involved in creating a book are shown and summarized. They learn about Ehlert's interest in Latin American folk art, her advice to young artists and writers, and her love of children and books for children. Organized like other books in the same series, *Under My Nose* contains an inviting format, easy reading and an inside view of a popular artist and author. (Ages 7-12)

Ehrlich, Amy, editor. *When I Was Your Age: Original Stories about Growing Up.* Candlewick, 1996. 156 pages. (1-56402-306-0) \$15.99

Ten authors of children's and young adult books were invited to submit stories on the theme of growing up. Some responded with personal stories, while others wrote a story on the theme. The authors are Avi, Francesca Lia Block, Susan Cooper, James Howe, Reeve Lindbergh, Nicholasa Mohr, Walter Dean Myers, Mary Pope Osborne, Katherine Paterson and Laurence Yep. A charming photo reproduced in black-and-white from the writer's childhood opens each writer's contribution. Brief author biographies can be found in the back. (Ages 9-16)

Field, Dorothy. *In the Street of the Temple Cloth Printers.* Pacific Educational Press (University of British Columbia,

Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z4), 1996. 36 pages. (Paperback with perfect binding: 1-895766-07-9) \$9.95

The families who create temple cloths live and work in one section of old Ahmedabad, India. Temple cloths are associated with the worship of the Hindu Mother Goddess whose image is in the center of each hand colored assemblage of block prints. Stories unfold on cloth as readers follow the exacting work of Vaghi, Otamben, Dilip, Jagadish, Babu, Kacharaji and others whose families before them also created drawings and block prints for the temple cloths. Folkloristic and other cultural dimensions of textile printing are explained and then shown in a variety of photographs of people at work and reproductions of their designs. This modestly produced 8³/₈ x 10⁷/₈" book printed in two colors contains a wealth of accessible information about an art. (Ages 9-14)

Garza, Carmen Lomas with Harriet Rohmer. *In My Family = En mi familia*. Edited by David Schecter. Translated by Francisco X. Alarcón. Children's Book Press (246 First St., Suite 101, San Francisco, CA 94105), 1996. 32 pages. (0-89239-138-3) \$15.95

Brilliantly colored oil, acrylic and gouache paintings illustrate scenes from this Chicana artist's childhood in Kingsville, Texas, near the border with Mexico. She comments on growing up in her Mexican-American family in single-page narratives accompanying each work of art reproduced in the book and in the details of her paintings, as well. Children who cannot read yet can see empanadas being made, a birthday celebration complete with a barbecue and a piñata, Easter egg decoration, a healer's visit to the family, grandmother telling the story of *La Llorona*, a cousin's wedding blessing, and much more. The artist answers questions typically asked about her work in two pages at the end. The narrative passages are printed in Spanish and in English. A welcome continuation of her first book, *Family Pictures = Cuadros de familia*, published in 1990. (Age 5 and older)

Gruen, John. *Flowers & Fables*. Paintings by Rafal Olbinski. Designed by Rita Marshall. Creative Editions/Harcourt Brace, 1996. 28 pages. (0-15-201311-3) \$18.00

Fourteen full-color paintings created by surrealist Rafal Olbinski present visual wonder and explorations in imagination for all who pick up this book. Each of the paintings is accompanied by an original fable featuring a flower such as a mimosa, violet, carnation, sweet pea and tulip. The art of bookmaking is well served in the exemplary typography and page designs of this exquisitely produced book. (Paintings: ages 6-16; text: ages 12-16)

Lyons, Mary E. *Painting Dreams: Minnie Evans, Visionary Artist*. Houghton Mifflin, 1996. 48 pages. (0-395-72032-X) \$14.95

Minnie Evans always saw a world invisible to everyone else. As a child, her night dreams were filled with visions, and her days with sights and voices only she experienced. Her formal education ended after fifth grade. When she was 43 years old, Minnie Evans began recreating her dreams on scraps of paper, sometimes even on a window shade. After many years, the paintings of this long-time gate house attendant at Airlie Gardens in Wilmington, North Carolina, came to the attention of folk art experts. Today Mrs. Evans' works can be seen in the folk art collections of leading art museums. Nineteen full-color reproductions of paintings with details about which readers can marvel are included in an engrossing brief account of the unschooled but never uninformed genius of Minnie Evans, who died at age 90 in 1982. (Age 9-adult)

McPhail, David. *In Flight with David McPhail: A Creative Autobiography*. (Creative Sparks) Heinemann, 1996. 41 pages. (0-435-08132-2) \$15.95

Picture book artist David McPhail writes about his childhood interest in drawing as well as how he creates picture books today, where the idea for his Pig Pig books came from, what he does when he's stuck on a project and how he feels when he's full of ideas. Photos of manuscripts and artwork in progress, self portraits of McPhail in various phases of his work, and reproductions of his illustrations and dust jackets fill the pages of this highly visual book about the creative process as one working children's book artist can explain this phenomenon. (Ages 7-12)

Paul, Ann Whitford. *The Seasons Sewn: A Year in Patchwork*. Illustrated by Michael McCurdy. Browndeer/Harcourt Brace, 1996. 40 pages. (0-15-276918-8) \$16.00

In three opening pages, the author invites readers to imagine the life and work of a rural family in the northern U.S. throughout one year more than a hundred years ago. She then suggests that patchwork patterns and their names give clues about life in earlier centuries. The central portion of *The Seasons Sewn* is organized according to the four seasons. Each seasonal section is introduced by colored scratchboard artwork on a double page spread. Paul discusses six quilt patterns for each season. In her one paragraph accompaniment for each pattern she speculates about its possible historical origin. That historic activity or event is pictured in McCurdy's scratchboard art on the top half of each page. This nicely designed 10¹/₄" square book includes a selective bibliography. (Ages 9-12)

Presilla, Maricel E. and Gloria Soto. *Life around the Lake: Embroideries by the Women of Lake P`tzcuaro*. Henry Holt, 1996. 32 pages. (0-8050-3800-0) \$16.95

Some of the Tarascan women of central Mexico create traditional needlework for sale at the market as one way to support themselves while the local fishing economy dwindles. A guild organized more than 14 years ago equips local women to become master embroiderers. Most of their embroideries reflect a happier time. The women honor their heritage by stitching images of life before Lake P`tzcuaro became polluted, before soil run-offs from mountains bare of trees filled the lake, before the fish began to die, before the wild ducks disappeared. Their dazzling stitchery shows an abundance of fish in Lake P`tzcuaro. It recreates Tarascan mythology and seasonal observances often still enjoyed. Full-color photographs of the women's intricately designed embroideries grace each page of this beautiful 10¹/₄" square book about culture, economy, environment and the art of resilient, hard working Tarascan women. (Ages 9-12)

Ringgold, Faith, Linda Freeman and Nancy Roucher. *Talking to Faith Ringgold*. Crown, 1996. 48 pages. (0-517-88546-8) \$9.99

Faith Ringgold burst onto the children's book scene when one of her story quilts was adapted into the award winning picture book *Tar Beach* (Crown, 1991). Here the renowned painter, sculptor and quilt artist takes readers on a brief gallery tour of some of her story quilts. Even more important, she engages them to think about themselves. An inspiring interactive narrative uses a variety of type sizes, color photos, pictures from family albums and other material in new combinations and page layouts. (Ages 6-14)

Wilber, Jessica. *Totally Private and Personal: Journaling Ideas for Girls and Young Women*. Edited by Elizabeth Verdick. Free Spirit (400 First Ave. North, Suite 616, Minneapolis, MN 55401), 1996. 157 pages. (Paperback with perfect binding: 1-57542-005-8) \$8.95

The 14-year-old author, who lives in Racine, Wisconsin, is an avid journal writer who enthusiastically shares her ideas for journaling at the same time she presents an affirming, positive perspective on being female. Many of the suggested journal activities focus on self-esteem issues for girls and young women and the narrative includes reliable information about issues related to puberty and adolescence. Other writing-related activities have a broader focus, such as starting a journal or story group, or ideas for seasonal writing. Check It Out pointers identify other books for suggested reading that are related to the journal ideas discussed. A book that can be read straight through for enjoyment and inspiration, but which readers and writers can re-enter at many places and in many ways. (Ages 10-14)

Wood, Michelle with Toyomi Igus. *Going Back Home: An Artist Returns to the South*. Children's Book Press (246 First St., Suite 101, San Francisco, CA 94105), 1996. 32 pages. (0-89239-137-5) \$15.95

Michele Wood's paintings are based on her family's early 20th century sharecropping experiences in the southern U.S.A. Containing patterns reminiscent of African textiles, Ms. Wood's works are distinctive and intriguing. Toyomi Igus's interpretations of Wood's reflections on her journey home accompany 18 works reproduced in full color. Igus's comments serve as invitations to look closely at Wood's paintings. Both have appeal for and are accessible to children. *Honor Book, 1996 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Illustrator* (Ages 9-12)

Yamane, Linda. *Weaving a California Tradition: A Native American Basketmaker*. Photographs by Dugan Aguilar. (We

Are Still Here Lerner, 1996. 48 pages. (0-8225-2660-3) \$14.96 (pbk: 0-8225-2660-3, \$6.95)

Eleven-year-old Carly Tex, a member of the Western Mono tribe in California, is continuing the tradition of basketweaving that has been part of her family and her culture for generations. Carly enjoys learning from her aunt and mother about gathering and preparing grasses, branches and other materials required for weaving, and about the various methods for creating baskets. With her entire family, which includes her father, a younger sister, and an older sister home from college, Carly also attends a California Indian Basketweavers Gathering, where she displays her work and continues to learn. Dugan Aguilar's color photographs accompany Linda Yamane's sensitive, informative text that also discusses the beliefs that go hand-in-hand with the Western Mono weaving tradition. (Ages 7-11)

See also: *The Abracadabra Kid; Art Dog; The Better Brown Stories; The Children's Book of Kwanzaa; Happy Adoption Day!; One Potato; The Palm of My Heart; Toussaint L'Ouverture; A Way out of No Way; Weaving a California Tradition; section on Poetry*

Poetry

Adedjouma, Davida, editor. *The Palm of My Heart: Poetry by African American Children*. Illustrated by Gregory Christie. Introduction by Lucille Clifton. Lee & Low (95 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016), 1996. 32 pages. (1-880000-41-5) \$15.95

African-American children celebrate black creativity, culture, beauty and so much more in profound and moving original poems created during a writing workshop led by Davida Adedjouma. A brilliant and beautiful book design is distinguished in part by typeface which displays each child's poem so that it can be read in two ways: in its entirety, or by focusing on key words that are emphasized in a contrasting boldface font: the poem within the poem. Gregorie Christie's acrylic paintings which illustrate the poems are singular, emotionally stirring works of art that resonate deeply. An introduction by Lucille Clifton and brief profiles of each child poet that emphasize interests with which young readers will relate round out this important, unparalleled volume. *Honor Book, 1996 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Illustrator* (Ages 7-12)

Bruchac, Joseph. *The Circle of Thanks: Native American Poems and Songs of Thanksgiving*. Illustrated by Murv Jacob. BridgeWater, 1996. 32 pages. (0-8167-4012-7) \$14.95

American Indian peoples from across the country recite poems and songs of thanks to acknowledge their gratitude for creation and the bounty of the natural world. Abenaki storyteller and writer Joseph Bruchac retells some of these thanksgiving poems in a collection illustrated with Cherokee painter Murv Jacob's singular full-color art which reflects the heritage of the people from which each poem or song has come. Reader-friendly notes at the end of the text provide additional information on the importance of each poem's subject. (Ages 7-11)

Esbensen, Barbara Juster. *Echoes for the Eye: Poems to Celebrate Patterns in Nature*. Illustrated by Helen K. Davie. HarperCollins, 1996. 32 pages. (0-06-024398-8) \$14.95

A hurricane's spiral. The branches of veins in a hand. The circle of a curled up fawn, a sleeping bear, and the orbit of the earth which marks passing time. Twenty-five poems arranged in sections titled Spirals, Branches, Polygons, Meanders and Circles look at nature through Barbara Juster Esbensen's keen and patient eye, exposing its secrets as well as the strength and wonder of words to young readers. Helen K. Davie's full-page illustrations help mark the transition from one untitled poem to the next at the same time they provide a significant yet subtle backdrop for the text. (Ages 7-10)

Giovanni, Nikki. *The Genie in the Jar*. Illustrated by Chris Raschka. Henry Holt, 1996. 32 pages. (0-8050-4118-4) \$15.95

"...take a note / and spin it around / on the Black loom / on the Black loom / careful baby / don't prick your finger...." There is comfort and warning in this strong and softly woven poem. Nikki Giovanni's imagery sends a powerful and moving message of strength and identity drawn from Black creativity. Chris Raschka's visual interpretation, rendered in oil sticks and watercolor on brown paper, shows a child enveloped in the loving, protective circle of

Black community. Children can enter the music of the poem and be soothed by its cadence and sounds; but some, especially older readers, will also want to think about what the poet meant, and, more importantly, what the poem means to them. (Ages 5-10)

Giovanni, Nikki. *Shimmy Shimmy Shimmy Like My Sister Kate: Looking at the Harlem Renaissance through Poems*. Henry Holt, 1996. 186 pages. (0-8050-3494-3) \$16.95

The Harlem Renaissance, a period and a place of concentrated creative expression among African-Americans that was centered in the area of New York City known as Harlem between 1917 and 1935, was not wholly contained by either time or space. That is the first thing Nikki Giovanni wants young readers of *Shimmy Shimmy Shimmy Like My Sister Kate* to know. In a unique exploration of African-American poetry of the late 19th century through today, Giovanni shares her excitement and passion for the vision and the voice of 23 poets who wrote before, during and after the Harlem Renaissance about their people's lives and dreams. The result is a collection that is as much about culture as poetry, as much about survival as celebration. Giovanni's energizing narrative is her reader-response to the poems and poets she presents; a gift of insight and ideas that will invite young readers to explore these and other poems further, to find their own truth that resonates in the words. *Winner, 1996 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Author* (Age 12 and older)

Giovanni, Nikki. *The Sun Is So Quiet*. Illustrated by Ashley Bryan. Henry Holt, 1996. 31 pages. (0-8050-4119-2) \$14.95

Thirteen poems by Nikki Giovanni cover a range of subjects but are unified by their celebratory feeling and the poet's delightful ability to contemplate subjects in new and unexpected ways. "Little Boys are like snowflakes" begins one poem. Stars "pirouette and boogie down" in another. The poems are illustrated by Ashley Bryan, whose bright, vivid art showing animals, flowers, and children of many racial and ethnic backgrounds, but especially those of African descent, is a joyous burst of color on every page. (Ages 5-9)

Ho, Minfong. *Hush! A Thai Lullaby*. Illustrated by Holly Meade. Orchard, 1996. 32 pages. (0-531-09500-2) \$15.95

A worried Thai mother tries to quiet all the animals and insects that might wake her napping baby in rhythmic verse graced with gentle humor. Observant readers and listeners will find delight in the supposedly sleeping baby's active endeavors while his mother appeals to each animal in turn to "Hush!", and all will enjoy the soothing pattern of the text. Cut-paper collage illustrations in warm earth tones fill each double-page spread with varied visual perspectives. (Ages 2-5)

Ho, Minfong, compiler. *Maples in the Mist: Children's Poems from the Tang Dynasty*. Translated from the Chinese by Minfong Ho. Illustrated by Jean & Mou-sien Tseng. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1996. 28 pages. (0-688-12044-X) \$15.00

Lovely moments of quiet observation, wonder and longing characterize this unique collection of poems from China's Tang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.). Minfong Ho has translated selected poems into English to introduce new generations of children outside of China to these simple and beautiful verses that have endured over a thousand years and remain a vital part of Chinese culture today for children and adults alike. Her introduction and brief biographical sketches on all the poets further inform readers about this important literary legacy. Jean and Mou-sien Tseng provide misty watercolor backdrops for each poem in this soothing volume. (Ages 6-10)

Johnston, Tony. *My Mexico = M'xico M'o*. Illustrated by F. John Sierra. Putnam, 1996. 36 pages. (0-399-22275-8) \$15.95

Tony Johnston creates moments of exciting activity and quiet contemplation in 18 poems that evoke some of the sights and sounds of Mexico. F. John Sierra's illustrations, which span each double-page spread, are washed with color and inflected with light; soft, warm depictions of each poetic scene. The poems appear in English and Spanish, and a glossary is included for some of the Spanish words. (Ages 5-8)

Livingston, Myra Cohn. *B Is for Baby: An Alphabet of Verse*. Photographs by Steel Stillman. Margaret K. McElderry, 1996. 32 pages. (0-689-80950-6) \$15.00

"Awesome Baby / came one day / in a newborn-baby way....Bathtub Baby / in the tub / likes his feet / to have a rub,..." Myra Cohn Livingston's playful verse is an alphabet of fun for very young children. Color photographs of

babies of many racial backgrounds illustrate the rhythmic, rhyming entries for each letter. (Ages 6 months--2 years)

Mora, Pat. *Confetti: Poems for Children*. Illustrated by Enrique O. Sanchez. Lee & Low (95 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016), 1996. 28 pages. (1-880000-25-3) \$14.95

"Red shouts a loud, balloon-round sound..." (From "Colors Crackle, Colors Roar"). Children will delight in the imagery and rhythm of these 13 lively, evocative poems from writer Pat Mora. Spanish words are used throughout and are listed in a glossary at the end of the book. Enrique O. Sanchez illustrates each verse with colorful acrylic art that is filled with energy and joy. (Ages 5-8)

Nye, Naomi Shihab and Paul B. Janeczko, editors. *I Feel a Little Jumpy Around You: A Book of Her & His Poems*. Simon & Schuster, 1996. 256 pages. (0-689-80518-7) \$17.00

Naomi Shihab Nye and Paul B. Janeczko have paired poems from female and male writers to present readers with language-rich, eye-opening juxtapositions that explore a wide range of experiences and perceptions from the perspective of gender. Sometimes disparate, sometimes in apparent harmony, the selected pairs of poems, from poets across the United States and from other countries, are about aspects of daily life, relationships, and other acts small and large that are the seed and the soil of poem-making. Separate introductions by Nye and Janeczko, as well as a delightful running commentary between them on the opening and end pages of the text, lend readers insight into things the editors were considering while selecting the poems for this excellent collection which celebrates the union of language, ideas and understanding. (Age 13 and older)

Rosenberg, Liz, editor and commentator. *The Invisible Ladder: An Anthology of Contemporary American Poems for Young Readers*. Henry Holt, 1996. 210 pages. (0-8050-3836-1) \$16.95

Forty contemporary poets write about the connections between their lives and their love of words in brief commentaries that precede a selected poem or poems by each one. Liz Rosenberg's anthology is notable for the outstanding and diverse selection of poets and poetry it introduces as well as for the thoughtful and inspiring statements by each of the artists on their work. Two black-and-white photographs accompanying each poet's commentary, one showing her or him as a child or young adult and one as he or she looks today, add another unusual element, as does Rosenberg's brief closing chapter, *Ways to Use This Book*, in which she launches ideas for creative expression from comments that many of the poets have made about writing. (Age 12 and older)

Ryder, Joanne. *Night Gliders*. Illustrated by Melissa Bay Mathis. BridgeWater, 1996. 24 pages. (0-8167-3820-3) \$13.95

"Four squirrels / fresh from sleep / climb up, / look far / and leap / and leap." Joanne Ryder conveys a sense of bounding, sometimes soaring motion in a lilting poem that describes four flying squirrels on a typical night of foraging and play. Melissa Bay Mathis's full-color illustrations allow the squirrels to leap across the snowy expanse of each two-page spread. Information about flying squirrels (which actually glide, rather than fly, from tree to tree) is provided in an author's note at the end of the poem, which also marks the end of a very busy night for four tired squirrels. (Ages 4-7)

Shannon, George. *Spring: A Haiku Story*. Illustrated by Malcah Zeldis. Greenwillow, 1996. 32 pages. (0-688-13888-8) \$16.00

"Each haiku poem evokes a moment of 'Ah!'--a sensation of seeing something for the first time." George Shannon's helpful introduction gives readers a meaningful entry into the world of haiku poetry and the 14 specific poems that comprise this book. Arranged by Shannon to suggest an early spring walk, the poems, appearing in translation, represent the work of some of the most outstanding Japanese haiku writers stretching back for several centuries. Malcah Zeldis's vibrant gouache paintings are visual celebrations of revealing moments and quiet observations captured by the poems as the season unfolds. (Ages 8-11)

Taberski, Sharon. *Morning, Noon, and Night: Poems to Fill Your Day*. Illustrated by Nancy Doniger. Mondo, 1996. 32 pages. (1-57255-128-3) \$14.95

An energizing anthology of poems for young readers takes them through a day filled with cat kisses, shadows, missing socks, crayons, a fight with a friend, a bedtime story and many other things. Lively, colorful collage illustrations are a celebration of each poetic moment that might be part of any school child's day. (Ages 5-8)

See also: *The Inner City Mother Goose*

Books for Babies and Toddlers

Coplans, Peta. *Cat and Dog*. U.S. edition: Viking, 1996. 24 pages. (0-670-86766-7) \$13.99

When Dog meets Cat setting up a beach picnic for one, he engages her in a counting game so that he can steal her her food bit by bit. The amusing patterned text sets up a double counting story: while Cat is busy counting three objects on the beach that Dog has pointed out, for example, Dog is eating three items from Cat's picnic. By the time they get to ten, Cat's entire picnic has been eaten by Dog but Cat seems to have enjoyed her day at the beach more than Dog. Young children will enjoy the humor in the text and illustrations, in addition to the opportunity to count on each double-page spread. (Ages 2-4)

Hutchins, Pat. *Titch and Daisy*. Greenwillow, 1996. 32 pages. (0-688-13960-4) \$15.00

Titch is reluctant about attending a friend's birthday party on his own until his mother assures him that his best friend Daisy will be there. When he gets to the party, however, he can't join in any of the fun because Daisy's not there, after all. Ah, but she is! Young readers will be quick to pick her out, hiding on every page because, like Titch, she's a bit shy herself. (Ages 2-4)

Lee, Hector Viveros. *I Had a Hippopotamus*. Lee & Low (95 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016), 1996. 32 pages. (1-880000-28-8) \$14.95

A box of *galletas* (animal crackers) inspires numerous acts of creative generosity of the part of one small boy who imagines all the animals as living creatures that he gives as gifts to friends and family. Hector Viveros Lee's stylized paintings provide exactly the right blend of fantasy and reality. Although the story is universal in its patterned playfulness, small details throughout mark the characters and setting as distinctively Latino. (Ages 2-5)

Raschka, Chris. *The Blushful Hippopotamus*. Orchard, 1996. 32 pages. (0-531-09532-0) \$14.95

When Roosevelt, a baby hippopotamus, gets things wrong (as he often does) his older sister is always standing by to point out his mistakes. "Are you blushing again, baby brother?" she asks him, looming large, and he usually is. He turns pink with embarrassment whenever she teases him. Lombard, Roosevelt's avian friend, restores his ego by assuring him he's not blushful, he's "hopeful, mindful, thoughtful, skillful and wonderful." With every positive adjective, Roosevelt's sister gets a little smaller and the background color gets a little less pink. Raschka excels at reinforcing meaning with subtle changes in shape and color. In fact, when it comes to picture book composition, masterful is what he is. (Ages 2-5)

Reid, Rob. *Wave Goodbye*. Illustrated by Lorraine Williams. Lee & Low (95 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10016), 1996. 24 pages. (1-880000-30-X) \$14.95

The librarian and storyteller from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, traditionally ends his storytimes with a humorous rhyme that encourages children to wave goodbye from the tips of their toes to the ends of the hairs on their head. Over the years, he has gotten many requests for a written version of his famous farewell--now we are lucky to have it in a picture-book version, illustrated with brightly colored paintings showing a diverse group of children waving good-bye at a birthday party. Young listeners will enjoy demonstrating their own methods for waving their elbows, eyes, ears, knees, and hair when you read this one aloud. (Ages 2-5)

Shea, Pegi Deitz. *New Moon*. Illustrated by Cathryn Falwell. Boyds Mills, 1996. 32 pages. (1-56397-410-X) \$14.95

A down-to-earth picture book shows a home in which a toddler delights in learning a new word, considers a fresh idea, and experiences a dependable wonder of the universe when her sibling shows her the full moon in the sky, and then helps stem her disappointment when the moon can't be seen again for a period of time. The fictional narrator can be either a brother or sister, unless readers pay attention to the book's flap copy suggesting the older child is a brother. Perhaps the

family is Latino. Rereadings prove the warm sibling relationship within this low-key story to be as, or even more, important than a child's gender or the family's culture. The illustrations were created in cut paper collage. An outstanding book for both emergent and newly independent readers. (Ages 4-7)

Vulliamy, Clara. *Ellen and the Penguin and the New Baby*. U.S. edition: Candlewick, 1996. 24 pages. (1-56402-697-3) \$14.99

Ellen and her stuffed penguin aren't sure they like the new baby brother much--in fact, he's quite a little nuisance. He cries a lot and demands most of mom's attention and, worst of all, everywhere Ellen and her mother go, the baby's there, too. Engaging watercolor paintings aptly capture Ellen's (and the penguin's) expressions of displeasure as she has difficulty adjusting to the big change in her life. (Ages 18 months-4 years)

Vulliamy, Clara. *Good Night, Baby*. U.S. edition: Candlewick, 1996. 14 pages. (1-56402-817-8) \$4.99

Vulliamy, Clara. *Wide Awake!* U.S. edition: Candlewick, 1996. 14 pages. (1-56402-816-X) \$4.99

Brief rhyming texts and engaging watercolor paintings describe the routines at the beginning and at the end of the day for the same blond, blue-eyed baby who appears to be about 18 months old. Upbeat, realistic and playful, both books celebrate the ordinary drama in a baby's life. (Ages 12-24 months)

Walsh, Melanie. *Do Pigs Have Stripes?* U.S. edition: Houghton Mifflin, 1996. 32 pages. (0-395-73976-4) \$12.95

"Does a mouse have a green spiky tail?" the book asks, showing a portion of some animal's body that fits that description. When we turn the page, we can see and read the answer: "No, but a crocodile does." The answers to these yes-or-no questions are pretty obvious and young children will not only enjoy getting all the answers right, they'll also enjoy the humor that comes through incongruity with questions such as "Are these the feet of a pussycat?" next to a picture of an elephant's feet. Melanie Walsh's use of bold colors, amorphous shapes and painted black letters is reminiscent of the work of Lucy Cousins. (Ages 18 months-3 years)

Wormell, Christopher. *What I Eat*. U.S. edition: Dial, 1996. 32 pages. (0-8037-2058-0) \$9.99

The left-hand side of each page shows a block print illustration of an animal, labeled with its name, while the right-hand side of the page shows a labeled picture of the type of food it eats. There are 14 animals in all, including a donkey, squirrel, panda, elephant, and seal. (Ages 2-4)

See also: *B Is for Baby; Goose; Imagine You Are a Tiger; Just Look; Mrs. Brown Went to Town; Snap; This and That; What's That Sound, Woolly Bear? Zoo-Looking; section on Concept Books*

Picture Books

Ada, Alma Flor. *Jordi's Star*. Illustrated by Susan Gaber. Putnam, 1996. 32 pages. (0-399-22832-2) \$15.95

Jordi lives a solitary existence in barren, rocky hills with only his goats for constant company. In the aftermath of a nighttime rainstorm, the gentle man sees a star shining in a pool of water. Not realizing it is a reflection, and welcoming the company, Jordi begins working to make the little pool a beautiful place for the star to reside. Though the star sleeps during the daytime, on clear nights she shines her appreciation for Jordi's efforts, efforts which make him look at his mountainside in a new and inspired way. Alma Flor Ada's charming, original story is enriched by Susan Gaber's lovely, deep-hued illustrations, which are both both bold and tender. (Ages 5-8)

Bang, Molly. *Goose*. Blue Sky/Scholastic, 1996. 32 pages. (0-590-89005-0) \$10.95

In these years when big flashy picture books have become the norm, it is almost a relief to find a small-sized (7¹/₄ x 5¹/₂") book with a substantial story. Three nearly wordless double-page spreads dramatically set the scene as a goose egg falls out of its nest during a violent rainstorm and rolls down a hole, into a den of woodchucks. It hatches soon thereafter and the woodchucks immediately accept their newest family member. Never cognizant of the fact that she is not a woodchuck, the gosling grows to adulthood learning to do all the things woodchucks do: digging holes, sunning by a stream and, of course, chucking wood. But she never feels completely at home in her family and she eventually realizes that she must set off on her own to see if she can find what she is missing. The

misplaced egg story has been told many times before but rarely with such gentle understatement as we see here. And never has an egg found a more unlikely foster family! Bang's restrained use of anthropomorphism adds a great deal of visual humor to the story, as she playfully depicts the absurdity of a goose living a woodchuck's life. She puts a bit of a twist on the story's conclusion as well. The goose's great moment of self-discovery is not that she is a goose, but that she can fly. "She flew and flew and flew all the way home," we are told, and we see the goose reunited with a family of very happy woodchucks. *Winner, 1996 CCBC Caldecott Award Discussion (Ages 2-5)*

Carr, Jan. *The Nature of the Beast*. Illustrated by G. Brian Karas. Tambourine, 1996. 32 pages. (0-688-13597-8) \$16.00
When Isabelle finds a beast on sale at the pet store for just one dollar, she buys him and brings him home. Her mother finds him to be something of a nuisance but her father, a scientist, gives Isabelle a notebook labeled "The Nature of the Beast" and asks her to write down all her observations about her new pet's behavior. A funny story emerges through the contrast between Isabelle's understated observations ("Likes ketchup. Moos for more.") and G. Brian Karas's wild and woolly illustrations, as well as the contrast between Isabelle's parent's reactions to their newest family member. (Ages 3-6)

Coy, John. *Night Driving*. Illustrated by Peter McCarty. Henry Holt, 1996. 32 pages. (0-8050-2931-1) \$14.95
A first-time author and a first-time illustrator make a promising debut in a gentle, realistic portrayal of a father-son relationship. The baseball-capped narrator describes a car trip with his dad in which the two drive all night to get to the mountains for a camping trip. Listening to a baseball game on the radio eats up the miles for a while but once they get out of the station's range, the two must work together to keep each other awake by telling stories, singing cowboy songs and playing alphabet games. It's clear that they would enjoy each other's company at any time but the night driving awakens a sense of adventure and heightens the closeness between them. Peter McCarty's dramatic black-and-white pencil illustrations aptly depict scenes lit only by headlights and moonlight, echoing the intimate mood of the text. (Ages 4-8)

Crews, Nina. *I'll Catch the Moon*. Greenwillow, 1996. 32 pages. (0-688-14135-8) \$14.93
Collages made from a combination of black-and-white and color photographs illustrate a dreamlike story about a little girl who builds a ladder to the moon so she can play in outer space. Crews' mixed-media approach allows for an unusual juxtaposition of reality and fantasy in this exuberant, child-like romp. (Ages 3-5)

Derby, Sally. *My Steps*. Illustrated by Adjoa J. Burrowes. Lee & Low (95 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016), 1996. 32 pages. (1-880000-40-7) \$14.95
An African-American girl describes all the fun she has year round (but especially in summer) playing on the front steps of her house in a busy urban neighborhood with her friends Essie and Nicholas. Two elements work particularly well to bring the book to life: the realistic voice of the child narrator and the bright cut-paper collages used to illustrate the story. The collages give both texture and dimension to the illustrations, making every scene look like a real front stoop. (Ages 3-6)

Erdrich, Louise. *Grandmother's Pigeon*. Illustrated by Jim LaMarche. Hyperion, 1996. 32 pages. (0-7868-2137-X) \$15.89
"As it turned out, Grandmother was a far more mysterious woman than any of us knew," muses the granddaughter whose first-person narrative introduces a mysterious story. This understatement introduces an ingeniously developed character whom readers never meet directly. Because Grandmother has a reputation for singular adventures, her son and his family with whom she makes her home assume she is safe even though she's been away for a year. Now noises can be heard coming from her room. They decide to enter Grandmother's hitherto undisturbed room and immediately sense her personality everywhere. They see everything as grandmother had left it, including her stuffed pigeon on a plaster roost. Grandmother had collected birds' nests, one of which contains three eggs, three hatching eggs. "*Ectopistes migratorius*," declares the ornithologist summoned to view the anomaly. Baby passenger pigeons! LaMarche's full-color paintings burst with the essence of a full, distinctive life. Erdrich's beautifully measured text meshes perfectly with LaMarche's quiet palette. They unfold an exquisite, gentle, open-ended modern tale with such a compelling narrative voice and visual images so real that astonished readers also feel involved in the family's ethical dilemma. Can an individual be known through the objects with which she surrounds herself? Should every inexplicable event automatically become the property of scientists, of the press? Do wonder and the suspension of disbelief have intrinsic value in and of themselves? Although the story is ended, the questions can begin. *Honor Book, 1996 CCBC Newbery Award Discussion; Honor Book, 1996 CCBC Caldecott Award Discussion (Ages 6-11)*

Fox, Mem. *Zoo-Looking*. Illustrated by Candace Whitman. U.S. edition: Mondo, 1996. 28 pages. (1-57255-010-4) \$14.95
When Flora and her dad go to the zoo, half the animals she looks at look back at her. The other half gobble snacks, slither through cracks, have coats of black, ride on backs, etc. Mem Fox's skillful use of rhyme and repetition sets up a strong pattern which makes the story a perfect choice for emergent readers and for reading aloud to younger children. Candace Whitman's pleasing torn-paper collages offer strong picture clues to young readers and listeners so they can anticipate what will happen next. (Ages 2-5)

Haseley, Dennis. *Crosby*. Illustrated by Jonathan Green. Harcourt Brace, 1996. 32 pages. (0-15-200829-2) \$15.00
Crosby prefers to sit in back of the classroom, never answering or asking questions. At home he keeps old things he finds, rather than use new ones his mama gives him. "What he keeps, mostly, is to himself." Crosby gives every impression he doesn't care about anything. He is a singular child, but not a disturbed one. One day Crosby makes a red kite from scraps and finds it possible to share the wonder of flying it with a younger child who is also playing alone. The boys experience the kind of freedom caused by looking around and opening up--to the wind, to life. "All that afternoon, in all that blue, the red kite hangs like the sky's necktie." An unusual picture story about loneliness, material value, and imagination is filled with vivid colors and strong emotions due in large part to the powerful impact of Green's oil paintings. (Ages 7-11)

Heckman, Philip. *Waking Upside Down*. Illustrated by Dwight Been. Atheneum, 1996. 32 pages. (0-689-31930-4) \$16.00
Morton goes to bed one night steaming mad because his parents have made him exchange his large bedroom for his twin sisters' smaller one. When he wakes up in his new room in the middle of the night, something is different:: Morton is sleeping on the ceiling! Everything looks different as he moves from room to room in the house, looking down on familiar furnishings. Philip Heckman's clever fantasy is a creative idea delightfully written and offers a fresh perspective on a child's adjustment to change. (Ages 4-7)

Henkes, Kevin. *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*. Greenwillow, 1996. 32 pages. (0-688-12897-1) \$15.00
Lilly loves school, her "pointy pencils," the "squeaky chalk," the "clickety-clickety-clack" sounds her red cowgirl boots make in the halls, and "the privacy of her very own desk." Lilly especially loves her teacher Mr. Slinger, who "is sharp as a tack," wears "a different colored tie each day of the week," and provides cheesy snacks. The normally loquacious Lilly is almost speechless when she tries to say why Mr. Slinger is such a good teacher. "Wow. That was just about all she could say. Wow." One day Lilly brings a new purple plastic purse, movie star sunglasses and three shiny quarters to school. Her new possessions become such distractions to her that Mr. Slinger sets them on his desk during the day. Lilly's mean-spirited retaliation to such injustice soon makes her miserable. Her parents and Mr. Slinger help their basically warm-hearted, strong-willed child to move beyond the anxious episode. It's relatively easy for young children to forget that Lilly and the other characters are rodents, because author/artist Henkes has them behaving as most humans might under similar circumstances. It could be easy for adults to overlook Henkes' mastery of picture book narrative, splendid watercolor illustrations and superb page designs because--like Mr. Slinger and Lilly's parents--he makes what he does so superbly look effortless. Wow. (Ages 4-8)

Hoban, Tana. *Just Look*. Greenwillow, 1996. 40 pages (0-688-14041-6) \$16.00
Die-cut circles on alternating pages frame a small portion of a larger picture (the delicate veins in the pink underside of a rabbit's ear, for example), the whole of which is revealed when one turns the page. The following page shows the same thing from an even wider angle, so that we get a sense of the object in context. Once again, Tana Hoban creatively uses photography to encourage young children to explore the wonder that exists in everyday things all around them. (Ages 3-6)

Howard, Elizabeth Fitzgerald. *What's in Aunt Mary's Room?* Illustrated by Cedric Lucas. Clarion, 1996. 32 pages. (0-395-69845-6) \$14.95

The characters who first appeared in *Aunt Flossie's Hats (and Crab Cakes Later!)* (Clarion, 1991) are back in an equally charming story about the relationship between two African-American sisters and their great-great aunt. Here Susan and Sarah help Aunt Flossie open up a long-locked (and somewhat mysterious) room that had once belonged to their Aunt Mary to look for an old family Bible so the girls can add their own names to the family tree. Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard builds suspense through the girls' natural curiosity about what's in the room. Cedric Lucas's soft pastel illustrations complement the author's tone by getting across a sense of family intimacy in this original picture story dealing with African-

American heritage. (Ages 4-7)

Hru, Dakari. *The Magic Moonberry Jump Ropes*. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Dial, 1996. 32 pages. (0-8037-1755-5) \$14.89
Sisters Erica and April want to jump Double Dutch but they can't get any of their friends to join them and their little sister Carmen is too small to twirl the ropes. When Uncle Zambezi returns from Tanzania, he brings them some magic moonberry ropes, claiming they will grant them a wish. Of course, the girls wish for a third jumper and, of course, their wish comes true when a new family moves in next door. But are the ropes really magic? Dakari Hru's gentle, humorous tale of the endless days of summer and the seriousness of child's play is aptly illustrated with E.B. Lewis's sun-dappled watercolor paintings. Jump in! (Ages 4-7)

Hurd, Thacher. *Art Dog*. HarperCollins, 1996. 32 pages. (0-06-024424-0) \$14.95

Fine art meets the contemporary super hero in Thacher Hurd's waggish picture story set in a oddly parallel universe where dogs rule. By day Arthur Dog is a guard at the Dogopolis Museum of Art where he watches over masterpieces by well-known artists such as Vincent Van Dog, Pablo Poodle, Leonardo Dog Vinci and Henri Muttisse. But at night Arthur dons a mask and beret to become the mysterious Art Dog, who secretly paints his own masterpieces on the sides of drab city walls under the cover of darkness. After thieves break into the Dogopolis Museum of Art and steal the famed Mona Woofa, the police nab Art Dog as the first suspicious-looking dog they see. Our hero paints himself out of one bad situation after another and catches the real thieves, of course, according to the super-hero formula. As one would expect, he quietly resumes his double life: low-key museum guard by day, unknown avant-garde artist by night. What makes this story extraordinary is Hurd's clever visual and verbal puns that transform Western art into canine cartoon-style superheroes. Children older than the usual picture-book age will get a kick out of Hurd's surrealistic humor, while younger children will enjoy the story as a fast-moving, brightly colored, humorous fantasy. (Ages 4-9)

Igus, Toyomi. *The Two Mrs. Gibsons*. Illustrated by Daryl Wells. Children's Book Press (246 First St., Suite 101, San Francisco, CA 94105), 1996. 32 pages. (0-89239-135-9) \$14.95

The two Mrs. Gibsons don't seem to have much in common--one is tall, has dark skin and was born in Tennessee and the other is short, light-skinned and was born in Japan. The narrator of this story describes the two by pointing out all their differences but, in the end, they have one important thing in common: "...they both loved my daddy and they both loved me." This lyrical and unusually direct story of an interracial family focuses on the child's joyful acceptance of differences. (Ages 3-7)

Johnson, Paul Brett and Celeste Lewis. *Lost*. Illustrated by Paul Brett Johnson. Orchard, 1996. 32 pages. (0-531-09501-0) \$15.95

While camping in the desert, a little girl and her dad lose their beagle, Flag, and for weeks they do everything they can to try to find him. Finally, after a month, they are reunited. Written in the first-person voice of the girl, line drawings of the right-hand side of the page show their search efforts while full-color paintings on the left-hand side of the page show what Flag is actually doing in the desert to survive while they are searching for him. (Ages 4-7)

Lyon, George Ella. *A Day at Damp Camp*. Illustrated by Peter Catalanotto. Orchard, 1996. 28 pages. (0-531-09504-5) \$14.95

Three pairs of rhyming one-syllable words on each double-page spread highlight the ups and downs of life at summer camp (eg. "Damp camp / Green screen / Hot cot"). Catalanotto illustrates each pair with separate paintings, layered one on top of another like a stack of postcards or like windows on a web site. This technique gives viewers a sense of zeroing in on the small details suggested by the rhymes. Together the text and pictures create an effective picture of a typical fast-paced, regimented day in a young camper's life. (Ages 6-9)

McBratney, Sam. *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*. Illustrated by Ivan Bates. Candlewick, 1996. 24 pages. Candlewick, 1996. (1-56402-640-X) \$15.99

When the old mouse asks his three little mice what they'd like to do one day, they all agree that they'd like to climb the basement stairs to catch a glimpse of the scary monster they've always heard about who lives there. Suspense builds--for the mice and for the reader--as they make the long trek up the stairs, gradually losing confidence with every step but holding out to the very end. In the end, they never actually *see* the monster because the awful mewing sound the monster

makes is enough to send them scurrying back down the steps to safety. Young children will enjoy the humorous reversal in the idea that it's what lives *upstairs* that's scary. The crayon-pencil illustrations playfully underscore the reversal by making the "safe" basement world look gloomy and creepy, just as a child would see it. (Age 3-6)

Maizlish, Lisa. *The Ring*. Greenwillow, 1996. 32 pages. (0-688-14217-6) \$15.00

The drabness of a gray late autumn or end-of-winter day bursts into color and light when a young boy finds a small, magical plastic ring in the park. In moments, his mood and his world are transformed, winter clothes are shed, and the child flies high over the New York City skyline. Lisa Maizlish's debut picture book is told through beautifully composed photographs that shift from black-and-white to color as the dizzying wordless fantasy unfolds. Her skillful use of both photographic mediums, as well as digital enhancement techniques, shifts the story's tone with subtle yet dazzling results in a book that will capture young children's emotions and send their imaginations soaring. (Ages 3-5)

Meddaugh, Susan. *Martha Blah Blah*. Houghton Mifflin, 1996. 32 pages. (0-395-79755-1) \$14.95

Martha, the dog who learned to talk thanks to alphabet soup, has suddenly developed a communication problem. It seems the president of Granny's Soup Company decided to increase profits by reducing the number of letters in her alphabet soup from 26 to 13 and this has severely limited Martha's ability to pronounce words. Can Martha talk her way out of this one? Like its predecessors, *Martha Speaks* (Houghton, 1992) and *Martha Calling* (Houghton, 1994), this draws its humor from clever plotting, droll illustrations, and the overall absurdity of the situation. (Ages 4-7)

Pilkey, Dav. *The Paperboy*. Orchard, 1996. 32 pages. (0-531-09506-1) \$14.95

On the opening wordless double-page spreads we see a truck leaving the loading dock of the *Morning Star Gazette* and traveling through residential streets to the house where the paperboy is just getting out of bed. The moon and stars shine brightly in the pitch black sky as the paperboy and his dog go through their early morning rituals of preparing for their route: moving quietly through the house, eating breakfast, and folding newspapers in the garage. The understated, poetic text brilliantly captures the rhythm of routine as Pilkey highlights small but evocative details, such as the snap of green rubber bands and the awkwardness of riding a bicycle while carrying a red cloth bag filled with newspapers. As the paperboy and his dog make their rounds through the dark, familiar streets, the early morning sky gradually lightens. It is streaked with bright orange and pink hues by the time all the newspapers are delivered, and the paperboy must pull down his window shade to shut out the light when he returns to his own warm bed. Pilkey's expressive acrylic paintings playfully use light and dark contrasts to provide a delicious sense of being awake and active in a sleeping world. His paintings carry this mood right through to the story's satisfying conclusion in which we find the paperboy asleep and dreaming in the wide-awake world. (Ages 3-7)

Rael, Elsa Okon. *What Zeesie Saw on Delancey Street*. Illustrated by Marjorie Priceman. Simon & Schuster, 1996. 32 pages. (0-689-80549-7) \$16.00

On her ninth birthday, Zeesie attends a package party with her parents, relatives, and neighbors. In the midst of all the excitement, she notices men taking turns going into a mysterious room. Her father tells her it's a money room where the heads of households can either leave or take money, according to their family's needs. Imagining that it must be filled with sparkling jewels and treasure, Zeesie sneaks in to take a peek, and what she sees inspires an act of great generosity on her part. Set in a thriving Jewish neighborhood in the 1930s, both the story and the lively illustrations are filled with ethnic and historical details. (Ages 5-8)

Rowe, John. *Can You Spot the Spotted Dog?* U.S. edition: Doubleday, 1996. 24 pages. (0-385-32207-0) \$15.95

Children will love looking for the spotted dog, the little white owl, the jet black cat and all the other creatures hidden in the illustrations of this charming book. Each turn of the page adds another animal to the cumulative list of who to look for. The wonderful full-color art skillfully camouflages each new addition, but not so skillfully that children will miss out on the thrill of the hunt and the satisfaction of discovery in this book-bound game of hide-and-seek. (Ages 5-8)

Schaefer, Carole Lexa. *The Squiggle*. Illustrated by Pierr Morgan. Crown, 1996. 32 pages. (0-517-70047-6) \$17.00

On an outing with her daycare group, a Chinese-American girl finds a piece of red string on the ground and launches into a series of imaginative scenarios. The "squiggle" becomes a dragon, a wall, a tightrope, fireworks, a thundercloud, and a pool. Her exuberance soon spreads to the entire group of children who easily join in the fun in this elegant yet playful tribute to the imagination. (Ages 3-6)

Schotter, Roni. *Dreamland*. Illustrated by Kevin Hawkes. Orchard, 1996. 32 pages. (0-531-09508-8) \$15.95

Theo and his Uncle Gurney are two peas in a pod--and neither one fit in very well as workers in Papa's tailor shop. Both are dreamers who spend long hours creating fantastical machines on paper and making unusual objects from scraps of cloth. When business declines in the tailor shop, Uncle Gurney moves to California and figures out a way to turn their dreams into reality. Detailed acrylic paintings show Theo and his extended family living in a large city in the early 20th century. (Ages 4-7)

Sturges, Philemon. *What's That Sound, Woolly Bear?* Illustrated by Joan Paley. U.S. edition: Little, Brown, 1996. 32 pages. (0-316-82021-0) \$14.95

As the woolly bear caterpillar huffe-shuffles along, she hears the buzzing, whining and chirping sounds of all the other insects flying around her. Brightly colored mixed media collages enliven the story further by giving us a caterpillar's eye view of the gigantic insects flying past her. A concluding note gives basic information about each of the insect species featured in the book. (Ages 3-5)

Thomassie, Tynia. *Mimi's Tutu*. Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Scholastic, 1996. 32 pages. (0-590-44020-9) \$14.95

As the first daughter born into her extended African-American family in many years, little Mimi is lavished with attention from all her female elders. More than anything, Mimi likes to observe her family's tradition of African dance by attending classes with her mother and by wearing the beautiful *lapa* (African tutu) made by Gramma M'bewe. Boldly colored pastel and watercolor paintings deftly capture a young child's enthusiasm for dance, movement and participating in the social and cultural world of grown-ups. (Ages 3-5)

Sykes, Julie. *This and That*. Illustrated by Tanya Linch. U.S. edition: Farrar Straus Giroux, 1996. 26 pages. (0-374-37492-9) \$14.00

A friendly orange cat wanders through the barnyard, asking the horse, pig, goat, sheep, hen, cow, and donkey for things she wants to borrow from them, "...for this and that..." she explains. The animals comply but, curiosity aroused, they all follow her to the barn to see what she's up to and there they find two newborn kittens--This and That! Collages created from torn pieces of painted paper illustrate a charming story with plenty of pleasing repetition and a surprising conclusion. (Ages 3-5)

Vaughan, Marcia. *Snap!* Illustrated by Sascha Hutchinson. U.S. edition: Scholastic, 1996. 32 pages. (0-590-60377-9) \$14.95

A little kangaroo jumps out of his mother's pouch on a hot day and asks a bush mouse, a snake, a platypus, an echidna and, lastly, a crafty crocodile to share their favorite games with him. A marvelously playful use of rhyme and repetition enliven a story starring a cast of Australian animals, illustrated with brightly colored torn-paper collages. (Ages 3-6)

Yee, Wong Herbert. *Mrs. Brown Went to Town*. Houghton Mifflin, 1996. 32 pages. (0-395-75282-5) \$15.95

Do not underestimate the storytelling powers of Wong Herbert Yee, a relative newcomer who seems to know exactly what young children like in their storybooks. Here a slightly ridiculous, rollicking, rhyming text recounts a strange series of events that occurs when the barnyard animals explore the farmhouse after Mrs. Brown goes away for the day ("They rang the doorbell to hear the chimes, flushed the toilet one-hundred times...") and then returns earlier than expected. His whimsical watercolor illustrations provide the perfect match for the nonsensical text and often add humorous details--the cow wearing a plunger on her head as she flushes the toilet, for instance. (Ages 3-6)

Ziefert, Harriet. *What Rhymes with Eel?* Illustrated by Rick Brown. (A Word-and-Picture Flap Book) Viking, 1996. 16 pages. (0-670-86670-9) \$12.99

Lift the flap to see a picture of something that rhymes with eel (wheel) and 11 other words (boat/goat, carrot/parrot, bat/rat, cricket/ticket, etc.) In addition to viewing the pictures, children can also read the word, then lift the flap over the word-initial consonant to read the corresponding rhyming word. (Ages 4-6)

See also: *The Angel and the Donkey; The Ballot Box Battle; Be Patient, Abdul; Beach Feet; Big Meeting; Bill Pickett; La Boda; The Day Gogo Went to Vote; Eleanor; The Fiddler of the Northern Lights; Forest Tracks; The Genie in the Jar; Going Home; Grandmother Bryant's Pocket; The Green Frogs; Hanna's Sabbath Dress; Happy Adoption Day!; Happy Birth Day!; Hooray, A Pi_ata; Hush!; Imagine You Are a Tiger; Into the Sea; Jaguar in the Rain Forest; Just Stay Put; Kofi*

and His Magic; The Legend of the Windigo; The Lonely Lioness and the Ostrich Chicks; Minty; Night Gliders; One Potato; Raccoon at Clear Creek Road; Remember That; The Return of the Buffalo; The Snow Whale; The Ugly Menorah; Waiting for Christmas; When It Is Night, When It Is Day; When Stories Fell Like Shooting Stars; Where Once There Was a Wood; Wilma Unlimited; Wombat Divine; section on Concept Books; section on Books for Babies and Toddlers

Easy Fiction

Bauer, Marion Dane. *Alison's Wings*. Illustrated by Roger Roth. (Hyperion Chapters: Second Grade) Hyperion, 1996. 47 pages. (0-7868-0105-0) \$13.95 (0-7868-1121-8, \$3.95)

Although Alison dreams she has wings, she can't see them in the morning. Her brother reminds her that girls don't have wings; airplanes do, but never girls. Her mom chimes in to tell her about birds having wings. Her dad even claims that angels have wings. Alison decides she'll be the first girl with wings. Girl wings. And she is. Bauer's very easy chapter book is illustrated with Roth's black-and-white pencil drawings and has lots of white space between its short sentences and large size typeface. New readers will fly through this optimistic story. (Ages 4-7)

King-Smith, Dick. *Sophie's Lucky*. Illustrated by David Parkins. U.S. edition: Candlewick, 1996. 110 pages. (1-56402-869-0) \$14.99

Sophie, the determined young protagonist whose adventures while she strives to become a lady farmer have endeared her to many readers of easy fiction and children who have heard these books read aloud, returns. The earlier titles are *Sophie's Tom*, *Sophie Hits Six*, *Sophie in the Saddle* and *Sophie Is Seven*. Now Sophie is now eight years old. She and her family visit her Great-great-aunt Al in Scotland where she rides a horse named Lucky. They have a grand time, but sad news awaits them not long after they return home. Yikes, this is the final book in the warm, satisfying series of Sophie stories set in contemporary England and Scotland. (Ages 6-8)

Littlefield, Holly. *Fire at the Triangle Factory*. Illustrated by Mary O'Keefe Young. (On My Own) Carolrhoda, 1996. 48 pages. (0-87614-868-2) \$11.96

The circumstances of the Triangle Shirtwaist Company Fire of 1911 are related through the fictional experiences of Minnie Levine, a 14-year-old Jewish girl whose father was born in Poland, and Tessa Monnetti, her Catholic co-worker from an Italian family. The girls' working conditions and experiences at the time of the fire are based on reports of survivors. Brief pages with historical background that are more challenging to read precede and follow the story. This extremely easy-to-read story introduces some of the prejudices of that time and situation. Full-color watercolor illustrations on every page spread further enliven a special format for finding out about a tragic event in U.S. history. (Ages 8-11)

Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. *Grandmother Bryant's Pocket*. Illustrated by Petra Mathers. Houghton Mifflin, 1996. 48 pages. (0-395-68984-8) \$14.95

Sarah Bryant has nightmares after her little dog Patches is killed in a barn fire. Grandmother Bryant knows roots and herbs which might make bad dreams go away. But just as important to Sarah's healing are the stories, songs and patience that make a little girl feel safe and loved. A one-eyed cat, a gaggle of geese, a selfish old neighbor and the small, special things in Grandmother Bryant's pocket also play a role in Sarah's recovery from sorrow. Set in 1787, this comforting story with its down-to-earth characters is charmingly told without being sweet. Petra Mathers's watercolor illustrations are detailed and lively; perfect for this intimate 6 x 7¹/₄" book. (Ages 5-7)

Wetterer, Margaret K. and Charles M. Wetterer. *The Snow Walker*. Illustrated by Mary O'Keefe Young. (On My Own) Carolrhoda, 1996. 48 pages. (0-87614-891-7) \$15.95

During the record breaking blizzard of 1988 in the Northeast, a 12-year-old named Milton Daub and his father made snow shoes because Milton wanted to go out and get milk needed at home. He ended up doing errands for snowbound neighbors in Bronx at great risk of becoming a blizzard victim. This easy-to-read story about a real boy in Old New York who found a way to earn money despite severe weather is illustrated in full color on every page spread. (Ages 7-10)

See also: *Bill Pickett; The Ballot Box Battle; The Bobbin Girl; Chibi; Eleanor Roosevelt; Georgia O'Keeffe; Minty; Nine Candles; Peacebound Trains; Wilma Mankiller; Wilma Unlimited; section on Picture Books; section on Fiction for Children*

Fiction for Children

Ahlberg, Allan. *The Better Brown Stories*. Illustrated by Fritz Wagner. U.S. edition: Viking, 1996. 96 pages. (0-670-85894-3) \$12.99

In the opening paragraphs of this inventive book, readers meet the Brown family--Mr. Brown, Mrs. Brown, Brian, Betsy and Baby Brown--who live bland, quiet lives in the tiny village of Snuggleton-on-Sea. Too bland and quiet, perhaps, for before the bottom of page three, the Browns register a protest: "Who writes this rubbish?" Realizing the author must be responsible, the Browns pay him a visit. Thus begins a series of lighthearted chapter stories in which the lines between fantasy and reality--and creator and creation--are blurred. Each member of the Brown family has a decided opinion to share with the author of the book on how their lives-- and their story--might be improved. Readers will identify with family's members wishes for more glamour and adventure, and enjoy the delightful, unanticipated results. (Ages 8-11)

Anzaldúa, Gloria. *Prietita and the Ghost Woman=Prietita y la Llorona*. Illustrated by Christina Gonzalez. Children's Book Press (246 First St., Suite 101, San Francisco, CA 94105), 1996. 32 pages. (0-89239-136-7) \$14.95

La curandera (traditional healer) needs a rue plant to make a remedy so that she can cure Prietita's sick mother and Prietita wants to do everything she can to help, even if it means trespassing on the land owned by King Ranch where rue is said to grow freely. When she sneaks under the barbed wire fence, not only does she risk being shot at by guards, she also risks running into *la Llorona*, the legendary ghost woman who is said to steal children. This short bilingual story features a courageous Latina girl as its heroine. She uses her wits and knowledge of her Mexican cultural heritage to find what she needs to help her *mami*. (Ages 7-10)

Bauer, Joan. *Sticks*. Delacorte, 1996. 182 pages. (0-385-32165-1) \$15.95

Ten-year-old Mickey doesn't remember his dad: he died when Mickey was a baby. But Mickey wants to follow in his father's footsteps and be a championship pool player. His best friend, Arlen Pepper, is a math whiz who helps Mickey calculate angles for his shots, but it's going to take more than geometry to win the upcoming Youth Championship Tournament. Then Joseph Alvarez, an old friend of Mickey's dad's, comes into town. He offers to coach Mickey, but Mickey's mom says no; she doesn't want her son being disappointed if Joe fails him the same way he once failed her. Warm, funny, singular characters, realistic family interactions, and enthusiastic discussions of vectors and angles characterize a novel that will make young readers smile. (Ages 9-11)

Bohlmeijer, Arno. *Something Very Sorry*. Translated from the Dutch by the author. U.S. edition: Houghton Mifflin, 1996. 175 pages. (0-395-74679-5) \$13.95

Returning from a pre-Christmas visit with relatives, nine-year-old Rosemyn, her parents and six-year-old sister Phoebe are in a terrible car accident. This moving novel chronicles the weeks she spends in the hospital recuperating, along with her badly injured father and sister. It also deals honestly with the family's gradual acceptance of their mother's death. *Honor Book, 1996 CCBC Batchelder Award Discussion* (Ages 9-13)

Brenner, Barbara and Julia Takaya. *Chibi: A True Story from Japan*. Illustrated by June Otani. Clarion, 1996. 63 pages. (0-395-69623-2) \$14.95

An inviting design and engaging story distinguish this chapter book in which a mother duck hatches and raises her ducklings in the midst of a Tokyo business park. Based on a true story, the author was one of the thousands of Tokyo residents who waited and watched each day for the moment the mother duck would lead her ducklings across a busy, congested roadway to the pond on the other side. Mr. Sato, a news photographer sent to cover the story, names the smallest duckling Chibi, which means tiny in Japanese. The ducks make a safe journey, but when a typhoon strikes Mr.

Sato and others go for days not knowing the fate of Chibi or his family. Full-color illustrations in water color and ink on each double-page spread are a charming accompaniment to a warm, dramatic, satisfying story for young readers. (Ages 7-10)

Bruchac, Joseph. *Children of the Longhouse*. Dial, 1996. 150 pages. (0-8037-1794-6) \$14.89

A finely detailed novel from storyteller Joseph Bruchac tells of a 14th century Mohawk village and a brother and sister who live there. Twins Ohkwa'ri and Otsi:stia are 11 winters old; still children but gaining a deeper understanding of the ways of their people each day. When he was younger, Ohkwa'ri admired the older boy known as Grabber for his skill and strength, but now his eyes are wiser. When Ohkwa'ri overhears Grabber and some other young men planning a raid on the Anen:taks, with whom the Mohawk peacefully trade, he tells Otsi:stia, whose good judgment he can always rely on. As a result Grabber and his friends are punished, and Ohkwa'ri has made an enemy. A fast and furious game of Tekwaarathon (now known as lacrosse) through woods and across a meadow lends added tension and excitement to the climax of this story that pays homage to the Great League of Peace of the Iroquois Nations. An author's afterword discusses the Mohawk Nation and the Iroquois League of Peace. (Ages 9-12)

Creech, Sharon. *Pleasing the Ghost*. Illustrated by Stacey Schuett. HarperCollins, 1996. 89 pages. (0-06-026985-5) \$13.95

Ever since his father died, nine-year-old Dennis has been visited by ghosts who waft through his bedroom window at night on a regular basis, unannounced and uninvited. Some are strangers and some are acquaintances but none is the ghost he especially wants to see -- his father. The ghost of his Uncle Arvie comes close but his visits bring their own set of challenges. A stroke prior to his death had garbled Uncle Arvie's speech, turning even a simple statement into a puzzle that Dennis (or "Dinosaur" as Uncle Arvie calls him) must figure out. His urgent demands for help with a *wig pasta*, *needlelinks* and a *trampolink* make no sense at all initially. But Dennis is able to use context clues to decipher the requests so that he can grant Uncle Arvie his *pleases*, or favors. Readers will no doubt be just as perplexed as Dennis is with his uncle's speech; however, Creech introduces the unique vocabulary gradually, clarifying and defining through Dennis along the way, and then builds on it so that by the time we reach the end of the book, everything Uncle Arvie says makes perfect sense. In the meantime, we can enjoy the nonsense words he uses for their funny, rollicking sounds, a feature that will make the book a good read-aloud selection for early elementary grades. As she has demonstrated in her previous books, *Walk Two Moons* (HarperCollins, 1994) and *Absolutely Normal Chaos* (HarperCollins, 1995), Creech is adept at adding depth to a story through her skillful use of a serio-comic tone. Here she manages to accomplish this in a book for a younger audience by coating a serious underlying theme (the desire to communicate with a loved one who has died) with pure nonsense. While sophisticated readers may catch on to the book's deeper meaning, younger readers and listeners will be no less satisfied as they skim the surface to get the funny side of the story and enjoy the wordplay. (Ages 7-10)

DeFelice, Cynthia. *The Apprenticeship of Lucas Whitaker*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 1996. 151 pages. (0-374-34669-0) \$15.00

Nineteenth century medicine was often a combination of superstition and science, and sometimes a battle between the two, as 12-year-old Lucas Whitaker discovers. Lucas likes working as apprentice to Doc Beecher, who is also dentist, barber and undertaker in Southwick, Connecticut. But when consumption threatens the lives of several townspeople, Lucas is frustrated by Doc's unwillingness to give credence to a rumored cure that involves digging up the bodies of those who've already died. Lucas, who lost his entire family to consumption, understands Doc's sorrow and frustration at not being able to do more for the victims, but isn't that all the more reason to try something new, something that gives hope to the families of the dying? A fascinating narrative inspired by recent research which unearthed facts about folk-practices to cure tuberculosis in the mid-1800s. (Ages 10-12)

Dickinson, Peter. *Chuck and Danielle*. Illustrated by Kees de Kieffe. Delacorte, 1996. 115 pages. (0-385-32188-0) \$14.95

Tremble tremble tremble. Chuck is a small dog with big fears. She's afraid of paper bags and pigeons and supermarket carts and motorcycles. She's terrified of cats and loud noises and not-so-loud noises. In fact, just about everything and everyone worries Chuck, with the exception of Danielle, her owner. Danielle loves Chuck. In fact, Danielle thinks that someday Chuck will save the universe (an expectation that Chuck only vaguely understands, but that makes her nervous regardless). Danielle even has a bet on it with her mom in the hopes of winning a Big Mac. British author Peter Dickinson offers seven stories about the adventures of Chuck and Danielle in this charming chapter book peopled with engaging,

realistic characters and warm and lively relationships. (Ages 8-10)

Freeman, Suzanne. *The Cuckoo's Child*. Greenwillow, 1996. 249 pages. (0-688-14290-7) \$15.00

As this deeply layered novel set in 1962 opens, Mia's parents have disappeared while on a sailing trip in the Ionian Sea. Now Mia and her half-sisters have been shuttled from Beirut, Lebanon, to Tennessee to live with their Aunt Kit. Unable to believe the worst about her parents, Mia half hopes they have defected to an Eastern Bloc country, as some of the government agents who question her seem to imply; but the same thought is also her greatest fear: if her parents aren't dead, they have knowingly abandoned her. It is under the strain of these two possibilities regarding her parents' fate that Mia is trying to adjust to life back in the United States, but she is overwhelmed and disconcerted at being back home in her country and not feeling at home at all, at finding that she doesn't fit in with the other kids, and at finding that it is another misfit, Sinclair, with whom she best connects. Suzanne Freeman's debut novel offers no easy answers for Mia or for readers. In a book featuring memorable characterizations and striking imagery and that takes readers through complex emotional terrain, Mia finds that life is about people struggling to do their best, and sometimes it is the trying that matters most. *Honor Book, 1996 CCBC Newbery Award Discussion* (Ages 10-14)

Gauthier, Gail. *My Life Among the Aliens*. Putnam, 1996. 104 pages. (0-399-22945-0) \$14.95

Nine-year-old Will is distressed by the number of aliens from outer space that are drawn to the street where he lives. His parents think these invaders from another planet are just new kids in the neighborhood, but Will knows they've come from a lot farther away than Orlando to land on his doorstep and eat his mother's bran muffins. Gail Gauthier's first book is a stand-out for its quirky humor and delightfully witty perceptions of the world from a child's point of view. (The unmown patch of lawn between Will's house and the next door neighbor's is No Mom's Land. "When we're playing in No Mom's Land, no Mom watches us. If we leave our stuff there, no Mom picks it up.") As Will encounters aliens in the guise of everything from the neighbor's dog to Santa Claus, he reveals that the truth about life on earth--for kids and space aliens alike--is that moms rule everything. (Ages 8-11)

Hahn, Mary Downing. *Following My Own Footsteps*. Clarion, 1996. 186 pages. (0-395-76477-7) \$13.95

Gordy's abusive father has been arrested, so as a last resort their mother moves her large family to her mother's home. Gordy is angry at his dad and at the world. He is smart but won't show it in his new school, compassionate but won't help others, and mature beyond his years because he had to leave childhood before he was finished with it. As a matter of fact, Gordy is beginning to show signs of repeating the cycle of abuse he despises in his dad. After several unfortunate incidents he and William, an overprotected polio victim living next door, form an unlikely alliance. One day Gordy's older brother returns from military service refusing to act heroic, and their dad shows up ready to move the family, ready or not. Strong main characters, a good sense of place, and a powerful anti-war theme mark this successful sequel to *Stepping on the Cracks* published in 1991. Hahn incorporates solid details to establish the year and describe the impact of national events, such as President Roosevelt's death and V-E Day. (Ages 10-13)

Hearne, Betsy. *Eliza's Dog*. Illustrations by Erica Thurston. Margaret K. McElderry, 1996. 151 pages. (0-689-80704-X) \$16.00

Ten-year-old Eliza's persistence and patience in her quest for a dog pay off when she becomes the joyful owner of a black-and-white puppy named Panda. Pet-ownership means new choices and challenges for Eliza, not to mention new opportunities, like providing her with just the excuse she's been waiting for to quit after-school sports. It brings new challenges to Eliza's parents as well as they adjust to their imaginative, determined daughter's growing independence. Lively characters mark this warm, spirited story that recognizes the distinct personalities among individuals within a family, both children and adults alike. (Ages 8-10)

Hesse, Karen. *The Music of Dolphins*. Scholastic, 1996. 181 pages. (0-590-89797-7) \$14.95

A highly original first-person narrative uses prose style and type design to reflect a girl's growing understanding and mastery of human language as she describes her experiences among the scientific researchers charged with studying and helping her after she is rescued from the sea, where she has been nurtured and raised by dolphins from the age of four. Mila finds delight and deep joy in music and soul-bruising sadness in the confines of walls which keep her from the

freedom and love she knew among the dolphins. At the same time she discovers that human relationships are complex, confusing, and sometimes painful, even as they hint at the possibility of something deep and satisfying as well. Mila's memories of life among the dolphins are strands of thought that reach to the core of her being, calling her back to the sea at the same time they challenge those who have come to know and care for her to question their own beliefs. (Age 10-13)

Jennings, Patrick. *Faith and the Electric Dogs*. Scholastic, 1996. 146 pages. (0-590-69768-4) \$15.95

A fantasy about Faith, who hates living in Mexico and wants to go home to San Francisco; and faith, or believing that good things can happen even when life looks bleak; a homemade rocket ship called Peahen and a small Pacific Island; and, most importantly Eddie, an electric dog (the term refers to cheap or no good stray in Spanish, not literally plugged in) who happens to be the narrator of our story. Eddie's sparkling narrative describes Faith's rough adjustment to life in Mexico, his own appreciation for the culture of his native land, and her failed attempt to rocket herself back home. It also offers readers the opportunity to ponder the ways we make ourselves at home in--or at odds with--the world around us. A singular story weaves liberal Spanish and occasional Tzuitzal words and phrases into the text. All are defined in the margins of the inviting page design, and again in a glossary at the back of this unusual book. (Ages 8-11)

Konigsburg, E.L. *The View from Saturday*. A Jean Karl Book/Atheneum, 1996. 163 pages. (0-689-80993-X) \$16.00

It's no accident when Mrs. Olinski selects Noah, Nadia, Ethan and Julian to represent her sixth grade class in the Academic Bowl competition: all are chosen by design. But just who's design is it? Mrs. Olinski, who is back teaching for the first time since a car accident left her paralyzed, can't say for certain why she picked each child, and it's almost magical the way the four click when they come together. They complement one another's talents to make an unbeatable team. Unknown to their teacher, the children's lives interconnect outside of school, too, in a seemingly fated way, so when Julian suggests they call their team The Souls, it just seems right. E.L. Konigsburg's funny, inventive and entertaining story weaves in and out of the lives of its memorable characters to explore both the truths and the mysteries of life, and to celebrate the wonderful things that can happen when people speak and act from their hearts. (Ages 9-12)

McGraw, Eloise. *The Moorchild*. Margaret K. McElderry, 1996. 241 pages. (0-689-80654-X) \$16.00

Saaksi doesn't know that she is a changeling child. She has no recollection of her life among the Folk, when her name was Moqi and she was banished for being half-human. But from her cradle days onward, she is aware of her own discomfort in the world, and the discomfort of others around her. Saaksi's human parents, unaware their birth daughter was stolen as a baby, are somewhat uncertain as to why their child is so unusual, so difficult to understand, but they love her, though sometimes, Saaksi realizes, with heavy hearts. Only Old Bess, Saaksi's grandmother, has always suspected the truth, but as Saaksi grows Bess exchanges her suspicion and fear for love of this sensitive, resilient child. Saaksi is often a target for the taunts of village children, and, later, when sickness comes to the village, for the fears of their parents as well. It is then that Saaksi makes a choice that will change her life forever in a pointed, bittersweet but satisfying story about tolerance and finding one's place in the world, and in the hearts of others. (Ages 9-12)

McKelvey, Douglas Kaine. *The Angel Knew Papa and the Dog*. Philomel, 1996. 89 pages. (0-399-23042-4) \$14.95

A seven-year-old girl who is convinced an angel of the Lord really did save her life during the flood has good reason to think this is possible. After all, angels turn up fairly often in the stories her father has read to her all her life. There's one about Balaam, his donkey and an angel; another about Jacob wrestling with an angel; and one by someone named William whose poem talks about "the feet of angels bright." A stray dog joins this family of two now and then, and because he's such an explorer they name the raggedy mutt Lewis and Clark. The girl and her father live quietly and somewhat idyllicly (not counting the fact of her mother's death long before she can remember). Until the flood. Until her father is injured. Until the second Mary. Until. There is no special time other than yesteryear, or place other than west of Baltimore. A lyrical, lean, and wondrous story marks the debut of a new author. (Ages 8-10)

Mosher, Richard. *The Taxi Navigator*. Philomel, 1996. 167 pages. (0-399-23104-8) \$15.95

Nine-year-old Kid Kyle is the ace navigator for his Uncle Hank, a taxi driver in New York City. Kyle loves spending time with his uncle, with whom he meets the most extraordinary people, people like Marcella and Ruby. The elderly woman and the small child are a spirited, daunting pair, but nothing to be afraid of, Kyle realizes. They live with Lydia, Ruby's mother,

in a large old house that is filled with wonder and love and it draws Kyle and Hank like a magnet. For Kyle, whose parents' arguments are growing more and more scary all the time, it becomes a haven, and then a home in almost every sense of the word, a place where he feels safe and wanted. For both Kyle and Ruby, Marcella's wise and challenging outlook on life and death and change is something mysterious yet solid to contemplate as she tries to prepare them for the sorrow that life inevitably holds, and the joy that is always waiting to be reclaimed. A whimsical yet emotionally substantial debut from author Richard Mosher. (Ages 8-11)

Paterson, Katherine. *Jip: His Story*. Lodestar, 1996. 181 pages. (0-525-67543-4) \$15.99

Young Jip knows nothing of his origins except that he fell off the back of a wagon that was passing through town when he was a toddler and, due to his coloring, folks reckon it must have been a gypsy wagon. His earliest memory is of the poor farm where he has spent his childhood, growing up with a group of people who don't quite fit in anywhere in this mid-19th century Vermont town. The day-to-day drudgery that defines Jip's existence is occasionally interrupted by the arrival of new residents: a destitute woman and her three children, for instance, and an insane man who is kept in a cage. Because he accepts people on their own terms, Jip is able to get along pretty well with everyone. But lately, he has noticed a stranger on the premises, a man who seems to have a special interest in Jip himself. Who is the stranger and what does he want? This question adds dramatic tension to Jip's life and to Katherine Paterson's latest novel. And the answer, once it is revealed midway through the story, sets the wheels in motion for a edge-of-your-chair escape that perfectly counter-balances the story's quiet, humble beginnings. Paterson skillfully creates a sense of a distinctive time and place, peopled with unusual, but no less real, characters. Within this context, she is able to explore complex issues, leaving plenty of room for young readers to approach them, like Jip, on their own terms. *Winner, 1996 CCBC Newbery Award Discussion* (Ages 9-14)

Spinelli, Jerry. *Crash*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1996. 162 pages. (0-679-87957-9) \$16.00

Seventh-grader Crash Coogan has been fearless and invincible for as long as he can remember, and he barrels his way through emotional relationships with the same bullying force that he exhibits physically. Crash's least favorite person--and therefore his favorite victim for teasing and torture--is Penn Webb. From the time he first met Penn, when they both were six, Crash has been driven nuts by the peaceloving vegetarian. The fact that Penn considers Crash a friend makes it worse. But on some level that he vaguely realizes, Crash is jealous of Penn, who has a close, involved relationship with his mom and dad, while Crash feels on the periphery of his own overworked parent's lives. Crash's voice is funny and fresh, and all the characters are so very human in this insightful, unexpected narrative that look at the life of a bully from the inside out. (Ages 10-13)

Vail, Rachel. *Daring To Be Abigail*. Orchard, 1996. 128 pages. (0-531-09517-7) \$15.98

The upbeat letters 11-year-old Abigail sends home from summer camp tell only part of her story. In this unflinchingly realistic novel about girls on the brink of adolescence, Rachel Vail explores the intricacies of peer pressure and individual identity through dialogue, actions and reactions, in addition to the perspective offered by Abigail's often less-than-honest epistolary account of her day-to-day activities. From her first day at camp, Abigail secures a place in the "in-crowd" by bragging that she has never turned down a dare. Actually her thoughts and letters reveal that she is terrified of many things, especially jumping off the high dive, disappointing her father, and, worst of all, being excluded from the top clique. Desperate to be included, she lives up to her newly acquired persona at all costs, until her daring becomes synonymous with cowardice. Building on the typical preteen chatter about cute boys, leg shaving and who's-done-what, Vail offers a level of depth rarely seen in novels written for this audience. Amazingly, she accomplishes it by contrasting surface appearances, leaving readers to make their own connections and draw their own conclusions. (Ages 8-12)

Yumoto, Kazumi. *The Friends*. Translated from the Japanese by Cathy Hirano. U.S. edition: Farrar Straus Giroux, 1996. 170 pages. (0-374-32460-3) \$16.00

In search of answers to questions about death, three Japanese boys learn about life and living in a beautifully unfolding novel from Japanese author Kazumi Yumoto. Kiyama, Kawabe and Yamashita are sixth grade friends who want to know what happens when someone dies, in that very moment of life's passing. They begin spying on a reclusive old man near their school: the most likely candidate for death that they know. But the old man, whose life is spare and lonely, who is, indeed, physically alive but barely engaged in the act of living, catches them. As if to defy the very thing the boys hope for, the old man begins to embrace life in a new and vigorous way, challenging the boys to come out from behind the wall where they spy and close the distance between them as he does so. What began as a death watch slowly transforms into a deeply felt friendship between the boys and the old man, a friendship that encourages them all--children and adult alike--

to live life more deliberately. A novel set in contemporary Japan and providing a realistic portrayal of the busy, active schedules which many Japanese children maintain to meet the expectations of family and society acknowledges the ways lives are enriched when people risk coming out from behind their walls to meet the hearts and minds of others. *Co-Winner, 1996 CCBC Batchelder Discussion* (Ages 10-13)

See also: *Bill Pickett; The Christmas Mystery; Eleanor; Flowers & Fables; Grandmother's Pigeon; Magid Feasts for Ramadan; Minty; Nine Candles; The Nutcracker; Robin of Sherwood; section on Fiction for Teenagers*
Fiction for Teenagers

Doherty, Berlie. *The Snake-Stone*. U.S. edition: Orchard, 1996. 166 pages. (0-531-09512-6) \$15.95

Following the one scrap of information he has, 15-year-old James heads for a rural part of England in hopes of tracking down his birth mother. As James describes his search, readers alone are privy to the stark, compelling second voice of the narrative, that of a girl who found comfort, laughter and respite from a hard and lonely existence in a lively boy's affection, and then makes a desperate, driven effort to affirm her newborn child's life. James's own remarkable, fate-filled journey does not provide him with this knowledge, or all the answers he seeks, but he will learn what he needs to know: he has always been loved. (Ages 12-14)

Farmer, Nancy. *A Girl Named Disaster*. A Richard Jackson Book/Orchard, 1996. 309 pages. (0-531-09539-8) \$19.95

A young girl's spell-binding, treacherous journey from her village in Mozambique to the country of Zimbabwe is the subject of this riveting narrative from Nancy Farmer. Nhamo, a Shona girl of almost 12, flees her village to escape a forced marriage. Her mother died when she was three, but her father and his family are in Zimbabwe and it is there, her maternal grandmother tells Nhamo, that she must go. Her travels are perilous yet transforming. Swept off course into the waters of the great Lake Cabora Bassa, weak and hungry, Nhamo gains strength and skills for survival from the spirits of her Shona ancestors. Later, help comes from a group of people who open Nhamo's eyes to the possibilities that life can hold for her, while members of her father's family answer the questions in her heart. The author, who has lived in both Zimbabwe and Mozambique, has provided readers with a glossary, brief essays on the history of the peoples of Zimbabwe and Mozambique and the belief system of the Shona, and an extensive bibliography to help ground the experience of this tale set in 1981 that shows the juxtaposition and blending of traditional ways and modern life. (Age 11-14)

Jenkins, Lyll Becerra de. *So Loud a Silence*. Lodestar, 1996. 154 pages. (0-525-67538-8) \$16.99

Layers of a family story are revealed in the midst of tense and tenuous times in Lyll Becerra de Jenkins's eye-opening, radical novel set in Colombia today. Seventeen-year-old Juan Guillermo lives in Bogot`, the oldest child of a poverty-stricken family. When he visits a woman professed to be his aunt, Do_a Petrona, a landowner in a rural village in the mountains, he finds, for the first time in his life, a sense of peace and affinity for a place. But life in the mountains is not uncomplicated; indeed, beneath the pastoral beauty is the real danger: the people are caught in the war between guerrillas and the army. Even without gunfire in the streets, their lives are threatened if they speak the wrong words or express the wrong sympathies. While the elders of the village, Do_a Petrona included, preach measured restraint, Juan finds himself drawn to the passionate beliefs of the young people who call for action. At the same time he finds himself in conflict with this strong yet compassionate woman he is longing for her respect, and for the insights she can give him into his family and his life in a novel that provides an uncommon political perspective for young readers in the United States. (Age 14 and older)

Kim, Helen. *The Long Season of Rain*. Henry Holt, 1996. 275 pages. (0-8050-4758-1) \$15.95

The start of the rainy season in June means a break in the stifling heat and humidity, but it brings a new, deeper awareness to 11-year-old Junehee of the tension that binds her family in this riveting narrative set in Korea in the 1960s. Junehee's father is a military officer who has become more and more disconnected and emotionally distant from his wife and children over the years. Her paternal grandmother, who lives with the family, has asserted more and more control over Junehee's mother and the children as a result. Junehee's mother has endured both conditions with the silence that tradition seems to dictate. But tradition clashes with desire when Junehee's mother longs to keep a boy whom the family takes in temporarily after he is orphaned as the result of a mud slide brought on by the heavy rains. Junehee, a middle

child, becomes a keen-eyed observer of her mother's unrelenting sadness, a sadness that Junehee realizes has gone on far longer than the rains. Helen Kim's emotionally acute novel about a child's growing awareness of her mother's powerlessness and pain is beautifully written, and not without hope. (Age 12 and older)

Martinez, Victor. *Parrot in the Oven: mi vida*. Joanna Cotler/HarperCollins, 1996. 216 pages. (0-06-026704-6) \$14.95

Manny is smart; sometimes he thinks he might be smart enough to make it out of his struggling neighborhood to a life beyond poverty, beyond the threat of apathy and violence. In his emotionally torn family, the tension of racism and economic oppression plays itself out: his father drinks to combat frustration, his brother can't keep a job, his sisters are experiencing too much too soon, and his mother strives to hold them all together even as she sometimes seems close to unraveling herself. But despite the strain in his family, Manny finds home is a place of refuge compared to the uncertainty of the outside world. The Mexican-American teenager's observations of a life filled with tension and fragile possibility are not without humor or hope, but it is his honesty in describing the experiences that unfold that gives powerful shape to his narrative voice. (Age 16-adult)

Myers, Walter Dean. *Slam!* Scholastic, 1996. 266 pages. (0-590-48667-5) \$15.95

Slam has dreams of playing in the NBA, and the 17-year-old thinks he might have a shot. But events at high school seem to be conspiring against him: the coach doesn't like him and his grades are going down despite the video project that has captured his interest in one of his classes. Between his dad's unemployment and his mom's worries about Grandma Ellie's illness, things at home don't seem any brighter. Add to all this Mtisha, the serious young woman who may or may not be his girlfriend depending on how Slam behaves, and Ice, Slam's best friend since forever who may be getting mixed up with dangerous business in the neighborhood, and Slam feels as if he's being asked too much by too many people and getting too little respect in return. Strong characterizations and lots of play-by-play basketball action distinguish Walter Dean Myers's sensitive, well-rounded novel in which a young African-American must look both inside himself and at the people around him in order to start regaining a sense of control in his life. *Honor Book, 1996 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Author* (Age 14 and older)

Nix, Garth. *Sabriel*. U.S. edition: HarperCollins, 1996. 292 pages. (0-06-027322-4) \$15.95

Sabriel's father is the Mage Abhorsen, a necromancer. But his charge is not to raise the dead, rather to lay them back to rest, to keep them from harming the living. When word comes from within the walls of the Old Kingdom where her father resides that he is missing, Sabriel realizes that she must be the one to find him. If he is not already dead, than he is trapped somewhere between the living and the dead, and the knowledge of Free Magic and the art of necromancy which he has passed on to her is the only thing which can help him. The young woman journeys into the Old Kingdom, traveling deeper and deeper the place where the darkness of death resides to meet a destiny she is not certain she is ready to embrace. Garth Nix has created an imaginative, intricately detailed world and finely drawn characters in a fantasy in which the forces of life and death are engaged in constant battle. (Ages 12-15)

Pennebaker, Ruth. *Don't Think Twice*. Henry Holt, 1996. 262 pages. (0-8050-4407-8) \$15.95

Anne Harper thinks hard edges will protect her from feeling and keep her from caring about herself, her unborn child, or the young women around her. From disparate backgrounds, each one has her own story to tell of how she ended up at this home for unwed pregnant teens. Resistant at first to becoming part of this community of circumstance, Anne gradually finds herself drawn into the lives of her fellow residents, who are as sad or funny or outrageous as anyone else she might meet, but who also, like Anne herself, must find the strength to give up their babies and return to lives they know will never be the same. A novel set in 1967 uses the historical time frame to explore emotions and circumstances that resonate today. (Age 14 and older)

Paulsen, Gary. *Brian's Winter*. Delacorte, 1996. 133 pages. (0-385-32198-8) \$15.95

Brian's Winter picks up where Paulsen's *Hatchet* (Bradbury, 1987) left off--almost--exploring what life for 13-year-old Brian Robeson would have been like had he not been rescued at the end of the earlier novel. Now faced with enduring a winter in the Alaskan wilderness where he has been stranded after a plane crash, Brian's story of survival takes on added urgency as tries to predict and prepare for his needs as the temperature grows increasingly cold. He has no warm clothes,

no stored food, no decent shelter. But as the snows begin to fall, Brian is determined to meet the challenge, using all that he knows and can learn from the natural world that both threatens and offers him salvation. (Age 10-13)

Rubinstein, Gillian. *Foxspell*. U.S. edition: Simon & Schuster, 1996. 219 pages. (0-689-80602-7) \$16.00

Since his father abandoned the family, 12-year-old Tod, his mother and teenage sisters have moved from Sydney to live with his grandmother in a town in Southern Australia. Tod is neither shy nor withdrawn, but living amidst strong personalities and unspoken feelings about his father's departure, he feels powerless and small. When he finds and buries a dead fox pup, he becomes fascinated with these wild animals that roam the edges of the city. Gradually Tod is drawn more and more deeply into a fox-like way of thinking, at first in his dreams, and then in his waking hours, until he is literally transformed. Tod knows deep, gnawing hunger in his fox-state, and sometimes danger and fear, but also the powerful certainty of instinct that entices and comforts him each time he retreats from the confusion of the human world. A fluid, beautifully written novel tells of a haunting and fragile existence for foxes and humans alike. (Ages 11-14)

Temple, Frances. *The Beduins' Gazelle*. A Richard Jackson Book/Orchard, 1996. 150 pages. (0-531-09519-3) \$15.95

Cousins Halima and Atiyah are close companions who share a deep love and affinity for the desert where they live with the Beni Khalid, their Beduin tribe. Under pressure from their uncle, a scholar, Atiyah leaves the "great sand sea" to study in the city of Fez. His loneliness among many in the crowded city is matched by Halima's isolation of a different kind when she is separated from the Beni Khalid during a violent sand storm and is taken in by an enemy tribe. Readers of Temple's book *The Ramsay Scallop* (Orchard, 1994) will recognize Etienne, a young man whom Atiyah eventually forms a friendship with in Fez. Frances Temple's swift-paced story is set in the year 680 of the Muslim calendar (1302 by the Christian calendar) and gives readers a powerful sense of another place and time, and a rich appreciation for people of another culture. It is a small, tightly woven tapestry of life almost 700 years ago in the desert of the north Africa. At its center is a story of love and loyalty to place that is timeless. *Honor Book, 1996 CCBC Newbery Award Discussion* (Ages 11-14)

Thomas, Rob. *Rats Saw God*. Simon & Schuster, 1996. 219 pages. (0-689-80207-2) \$17.00

A high school guidance counselor gives Steve York the chance to make up a failing English grade and graduate by writing a 100-page paper. "Write about what you know," the counselor tells him, and what Steve knows best are a tense relationship with his father, a famous astronaut, and the pain of betrayal in love. But as he writes about his life--never living up to his father's expectations, sweetness and excitement of falling in love (and of emotional and physical intimacy) and, ultimately, the devastation he experiences when that love goes away, Steve discovers that time and distance not only can help one heal, they can also open up new perspectives on the past. Hard, funny, and emotionally honest, with a tender portrayal of teenage love and sexuality, *Rats Saw God* is written with a deep respect for the intensity of feeling experienced by adolescents and young adults. (Age 15 and older)

Turner, Megan Whalen. *The Thief*. Greenwillow, 1996. 219 pages. (0-688-14627-9) \$15.00

Gen's skills as a thief are considerable, but so, too, is his penchant for bragging about his deeds. Undermined by his tongue, the young man finds himself in prison for stealing from the king. Then the king's scholar, the magus, orders Gen to accompany him on a secret journey, to work as a thief on behalf of the ruler, though he refuses to tell Gen what the king wants him to steal. Gen's nimble mind begins to suspect there is more than mere treasure at stake as he travels with the magus, the scholar's two young apprentices--one an eager boy, the other a prickly teenager--and a dedicated soldier. When the destination and purpose of their journey is revealed, he realizes that the fate of three nations may lie in his hands. Megan Whelan Turner incorporates original myths of gods and goddesses, treachery, and honor into this riveting fantasy adventure that takes more than a few unexpected turns before its wholly satisfying conclusion. (Ages 11-14)

Vries, Anke de. *Bruises*. Translated from the Dutch by Stacey Knecht. U.S. edition: Front Street, 1995. 168 pages. (1-886910-03-0) \$15.95

The trauma and horror of child abuse plays itself out in the pages of this gripping, painful novel. Judith has learned to watch and listen carefully, trying to predict her mother's moods and do all she can to please her. She cares for her younger brother and the house as if she were an adult herself, but there are times, many times, when it seems she can do

nothing right. That's when the beatings happen. Judith blames herself for not being good enough. The 11-year old has no way of realizing her mother lashes out for reasons that have nothing to do with her at all; she knows nothing about the cycle of family violence. Judith's sole respite and delight is in her growing friendship with Michael, an older classmate who does not know what is happening to Judith, but who responds to her gentle soul, perhaps because he was emotionally abused by his father in the past. There is respite from the intensity of Judith's experience in brief shifts of point-of-view, but these shifts also serve to illustrate the ways in which abuse is masked. Judith's teacher, friends and others sometimes notice her bruises, but she tells them she fell down, or was beaten up by a gang of boys. Neighbors who hear her screams close their ears. No one wants to consider such a difficult and disturbing reality. This enables Judith's lies to pass as truth over and over again as the tension builds and events seem to be heading toward an even more tragic conclusion in this courageous, disturbing novel. *Co-Winner, 1996 CCBC Batchelder Award Discussion (Age 12 and older)*

Wilson, Budge. *Mothers & Other Strangers*. Harcourt Brace, 1996. 194 pages. (0-15-200312-6) \$16.00

Nine short stories portray nine distinct female characters, each of whose life unfolds not in its entirety, but in moments of defining clarity that reveal truths about their character that will endure--or have endured--a lifetime. Wilson's protagonists range in age from 17 to over 70. Some look back on their lives, some look to the future, and some are solidly grounded in the present. They are an exciting, memorable cast of characters offering some unexpected surprises. (Age 14-adult)

Woodson, Jacqueline. *A Way Out of No Way: Writings About Growing Up Black in America*. Edge Books/Henry Holt, 1996. 172 pages. (0-8050-4570-8) \$15.95

A provocative anthology offers high quality writing and reading, including excerpts from *A Lesson before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines, *If Beale Street Could Talk* by James Baldwin, *The Friends* by Rosa Guy, *Annie John* by Jamaica Kincaid, *Betsey Brown* by Ntozake Shange, *Sula* by Toni Morrison, *A Visitation of Spirits* by Randall Kenan, and *Maud Martha* by Gwendolyn Brooks. Other authors represented by a poem, short fiction or other work are Toni Cade Bambara, Tim Seibles, Paul Beatty, Langston Hughes, Anna Deavere Smith, Claude McKay, Nikki Giovanni, and Bernice Johnson Reagon. The book title is from June Jordan's poem "Ought to Be a Woman" reprinted here. This splendid collection of literature for pleasure or study or both contains short biographical notes about the contributors. (Age 16-adult)

See also: *Dateline: Troy; Flowers & Fables; Tales of Mystery and Imagination; section on Fiction for Children*

New Editions of Classic Literature

Hoffmann, E.T.A. *The Nutcracker*. Translated from the German by Aliana Brodmann. Illustrated by Gennady Spirin. A Wild Honey Book/Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 1996. 99 pages. (1-55670-530-1) \$24.95

Russian born Gennady Spirin's 25 masterful watercolors command the spotlight in this elegant new edition. This adaptation of the lengthy newly translated text and a fascinating introduction by the translator contribute substantially to the interwoven tales. Spirin's paintings are complemented by exemplary bookmaking: an exquisite design, a typeface harmonious with the delicate page decorations, endpaper designs resembling marbled paper, a distinctive title page spread, and high quality paper. Children who enjoy listening to lengthy passages read aloud or like to read a challenging book independently can discover additional pleasure because the 12¹/₂ x 8¹/₂" volume is so handsome. (Ages 9-14)

Hopkins, Andrea. *Harald the Ruthless: The Saga of the Last Viking Warrior*. Illustrated by Leo Duranona. U.S. edition: Henry Holt, 1996. 61 pages. (0-8050-3176-6) \$16.95

The saga of the Viking hero, Harald the Ruthless, was first written down about 1230 by the prominent writer Snorri Sturluson of Iceland. In this version Hopkins maintains the "cool distance" of classic saga writers, thus allowing the outcome of events to be self-evident to readers. The graphic novel format is effectively employed to bring to life the saga of heroic deeds and bloody battles. Although the 7¹/₄ x 9¹/₄" volume lacks the flashy production of most books today, its highly visual format overcomes that barrier. Many illustrations printed in two colors and boxed background information assist readers to race right along with the action. (Ages 7-12)

Merriam, Eve. *The Inner City Mother Goose*. Illustrated by David Diaz. Introduction by Nikki Giovanni. Simon & Schuster, 1996. Introduction from the 1982 edition by Eve Merriam. Text: ©1969, 1982, 1996. 70 pages. (0-689-80677-9) \$16.00

Poet Nikki Giovanni writes that "Eve Merriam took the spirit of Mother Goose to the inner city to give voice to those who were being silenced...She had the moral indignation of a just cause." Many of Merriam's 71 poems will startle some readers, as they did when first published in 1969. Most of the poems might cause open-minded readers to become "more aware," as Merriam wrote for the 1982 edition reprinted in this volume. From Giovanni's comments, one gains a short history of the Mother Goose rhymes and their relevance today. From Merriam's introduction, readers learn something about her purpose in writing the rhymes and responses to the first edition. From Diaz's 11 full-color illustrations rendered in acrylic to accompany this slim 9½ x 5½" volume one can gain a strong sense of human need within urban immediacy. Giovanni implies that Merriam's poems will "carry some healing" during a time when truth is needed. (Age 14-adult)

Morpurgo, Michael. *Robin of Sherwood*. Illustrated by Michael Foreman. U.S. edition: Harcourt Brace, 1996. 113 pages. (0-15-201315-6) \$22.00

Morpurgo's text is successful in bringing Robin Hood's adventures to life, even though in the opening and closing chapters he utilizes a common literary device for transporting its modern narrator into an imaginary time and place. Foreman's marvelous paintings are reproduced in full color on every page of the 11¼ x 8½" volume. His images vary in size from thumbnail miniatures to double page spreads suggesting enough specifics to keep young readers or listeners' interest without curtailing the images they'll create for themselves while they read. (Ages 7-12)

Poe, Edgar Allan. *Tales of Mystery and Imagination*. Illustrated by Gary Kelley. Designed by Rita Marshall. Creative Editions/Harcourt Brace, 1996. 111 pages. (0-15-100234-7) \$28.00

In his brief introduction Kelley explains why he chose each story: "The Cask of Amontillado," "The Black Cat," and "The Fall of the House of Usher." His 20 original illustrations are dark and stark. Small images reminiscent of New England gravestone rubbings decorate pages throughout the 12¼ x 8¾" volume. Outstanding book production complements the ominous aura for which much of Poe's short fiction is known. (Age 12-adult)

Schweiger-Dmi'el, Itzhak. *Hanna's Sabbath Dress*. Illustrated by Ora Eitan. Translated from the Hebrew by Razi Dmi'el, Ora Eitan, and Philemon Sturges. U.S. edition: Simon & Schuster, c1996, 1937. 32 pages. (0-689-80517-9) \$15.00

Little Hanna can hardly wait to wear the white Sabbath dress her mother sewed for her. She manages to keep it clean all afternoon until she offers to help an old man carrying a load of charcoal. When her good deed is rewarded by a moonlight miracle, Hanna's distress subsides. This charming picture book story was originally written by a well-known children's writer in Israel. When they read this new translation, some adults familiar with an earlier edition will miss "Hanneleh," the child's name in an earlier edition. The fresh artwork rendered in gouache for this 10½ x 8½" edition conveys an appropriately nostalgic feeling. (Ages 3-5)

See also: *Dateline: Troy; Maples in the Mist; section on Folklore, Mythology and Traditional Literature*

The Cooperative Children's Book Center

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 important, 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 literature 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 School of Education and by a contract from 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.

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 access is provided for children's and young adult books and reference materials. 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 title in the collection.

All materials cataloged at the CCBC since January, 1995, are in OCLC and the University of Wisconsin-Madison's electronic library on-line catalog: MADCAT. The library is in the midst of a retrospective conversion project to place all of its holdings into MADCAT. A card catalog in the library currently provides access to materials cataloged prior to 1995. Most of the CCBC records before 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 and annual award 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. Interested persons are welcome to contact the CCBC for a schedule or to indicate if information about a particular discussion is needed.

CCBC-NET is an electronic forum of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison designed to encourage awareness and discussion of ideas and issues essential to literature for children and young adults. CCBC-NET is a community of individuals with an interest in children's and young adult literature extending across Wisconsin, the nation, North America and beyond. CCBC-NET provides opportunities for spontaneous as well as guided discussions of contemporary children's and young adult literature, including multicultural literature, translated books, outstanding and award-winning books, and equity themes and topics in literature. This listserv provides a forum for discussion of book arts; book publishing, including alternative press publishing for the young; intellectual freedom issues involving minors' access to books in classrooms, school library media centers and public libraries, and other topics. Specific books to be discussed are announced in advance. To subscribe to CCBC-NET, inquire at the CCBC or send e-mail to: cdowling@ccbc.soemadison.wisc.edu.

The CCBC's Home Page address is <http://www.soemadison.wisc.edu/ccbc/>

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. The CCBC often co-sponsors conferences and workshops provided by UW-Madison Extension Programs.

Anyone interested in specific information is invited to send a self-addressed, stamped envelope when writing to request a list of *CCBC Materials* or a copy of *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 University of Wisconsin - Madison School of Education is responsible for policies and funding of the Cooperative Children's Book Center. During 1996-97, supervisory responsibilities were handled by School of Education Dean Charles Read with Associate Dean Michael Streibel. Assistant Superintendent Larry Nix (Division for Libraries and Community Learning / Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction) administered the DPI contract that provides CCBC services for Wisconsin libraries and schools. The School of Education dean, the DPI/DLCL administrator and the CCBC director comprise the CCBC Executive Committee.

The CCBC Advisory Board represents CCBC users on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus and from libraries and schools throughout Wisconsin. The 1996-97 Advisory Board is chaired by Carole De Jardin, Children's Services Supervisor, Appleton Public Library.

Members of the 1996-97 Advisory Board are: Dolores Barabe, Library Support and Technical Services Coordinator, Northern Waters Library Service; JoAnn Belanger, Elementary Library/Media Coordinator (K-6), Unified School District of Antigo; Ann Chopp, Elementary IMC Librarian, Franklin Elementary School, Wausau; Sandi L. Cornelius, Director, Indian Community School, Milwaukee;

Lance Ellmann, Federal Programs Consultant, Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) #4, Gayle A. Falk, Children's Librarian, Burlington Public Library; JoAnn Gadick, Second Grade Teacher, Wilson Elementary School, Sheboygan; Mary Louise Gomez, Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, UW-Madison; Dianne M. Hopkins, Associate Professor, School of Library and Information Studies, UW-Madison;

Claire Jandt, LMC Director, Franklin Elementary School, La Crosse; Jacque Karbon, Consultant, Reading Education, Content and Learning Team, Instructional Services, Division for Learning Support, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; John Kean, Associate Dean, School of Education, UW-Madison & CCBC Faculty Contact with the University Library Committee;

Nancy Kiefer, School Library Media Specialist, The Chain O'Lakes Elementary School; Ellen Last, Director, Challenging Content Standards Project, Content and Learning Team, Instructional Services, Division for Learning Support, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; Caroline G. Majak, Professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, UW-Eau Claire; Judy Moburg, Library Media Specialist, Stormonth Elementary School, Fox Point, and children's literature instructor, Department of Curriculum & Instruction, UW-Milwaukee;

Heidi Rae Mumm, Language Arts/Reading Resource Teacher, Oconomowoc Schools; Ida Nemec, Director, Plum Lake Public Library, Sayner; Diana Nett, Director, Cedar Grove Public Library; Linda Pils, Grade 1-2 Teacher, Northside School, Middleton; Kathy Prestidge, Director of Children's Services, New London Public Library; Cathy Retzer, Media Specialist, Medford Area Elementary School;

Mary E. Saphner, LMC Director, Onalaska Schools; Marianne Scheele, Acquisitions Librarian, Reference and Loan Library, Bureau for Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; Beth Sillars, Youth Services Liaison, Wisconsin Valley Library Service; and Gyneth Slygh, Doctoral Student, School of Library and Information Studies, UW-Madison.

The Chair of the CCBC Long Range Planning Committee that continued its work in 1996 was Mary Keefer (UW-Oshkosh). Other members were Mary Ann Ehrhke (Douglas Elementary School, Watertown); Dianne Hopkins; Gyneth Slygh; and Joan Thron (UW-Green Bay), 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 who help carry out the daily responsibilities of assisting individuals on campus, in schools and in libraries who are working in many ways to meet the interests of all young readers.

The student staff during the creation of *CCBC Choices 1996* included graduate students Laurie Benda, Dana Bjerke (1996), Michelle Collins, Abigail Elder, Karen Finney, Bill Fischer (1996), Robin Gibson (1996), Stacey Kaner (1996), Alan Kinnaman (1996), Lesley Lundgren (1996), Cindy McQueen, Heidi Oliverson, Rebecca Van Dan, and Pete Zeimet; and undergraduate students Lisa Busby (1996), Michael Case (1996), Sara Cotton, Emily Davis (1996), Jenny Henrichs (1996), Margaret Heuring, Sunny Hur, Mike Kitts (1996), Jen Lausier, Karie Miller, Alison Relyea, Susan Pauley, and Claire Sandler (1996). Cataloger Larisa John joined the staff in 1997 as a limited term employee.

Volunteer staff members from the Friends of the CCBC, Inc., during 1996 were retired professional librarian Sally A. Davis, professional librarian Tana Elias, and graduate students Julie Fingerson, Robin Gibson (1996), Peg Koller (1996), Nina Lindsay (1996), Emily Mugnolo (1997), and Beth Wright (1996).

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 10:00 - 8:00, Friday 10:00 - 4:00 and Saturday 10:00 - 1:00. Professional reference assistance is available on call 30 hours weekly.

During Summer School, CCBC is open weekly: Monday-Friday 10:00 - 4:00 and Saturday 10:00 -4:00. During Intersession and University breaks, the CCBC is open: Monday-Friday 10:00 - 4:00. 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.

The Compilers of *CCBC Choices 1996*

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 is the author of *From Cover to Cover: Evaluating and Reviewing Children's Books* (HarperCollins, 1997). She edited *Alternative Press Publishers of Children's Books: A Directory* and, with Ginny Moore Kruse, she co-authored *Multicultural Literature for Children and Young Adults: Volume I 1980 - 1990*. She was also a contributor to *The Multicolored Mirror: Cultural Substance in Literature for Children and Young Adults*. Katy chaired ALA/ALSC's 1995 John Newbery Committee and served on ALA/ALSC's Notable Children's Books Committee and an earlier Newbery Award 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. She currently chairs the 1997 Mildred Batchelder Award Committee. 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 director of the Cooperative Children's Book Center in the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a teacher of undergraduate children's literature and adult continuing education courses on and off campus and by means of distance learning. She is a former public school teacher, school librarian and public librarian. Ginny founded the award-winning CCBC Intellectual Freedom Information Services. She has chaired or served on many 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 *Book Links* Editorial Advisory Board and served on the Freedom to Read Foundation Board, the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee and the USBBY Board. Ginny is co-author with Katy of *Multicultural Literature for Children and Young Adults: Volume I 1980-1990* and a contributor to *The Multicolored Mirror: Cultural Substance in Literature for Children and Young Adults*. Ginny is particularly interested in multicultural literature, translated books, poetry, and contemporary fiction for readers of all ages. During 1996 Ginny received four formal acknowledgments of her

professional leadership: Award of Excellence (Wisconsin Educational Media Association), Alumna of the Year Award (School of Library and Information Studies, UW-Madison), Distinguished Service Award (Association for Library Service to Children, ALA), and the Intellectual Freedom Award (Wisconsin Library Association/SIRS). Ginny 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 the bibliography *Poetry for All Seasons and Many Reasons: Selected Books for Children and Young Adults* (CCBC, 1996) and was co-compiler with Ginny of *Poetry for Children and Young Adults: Selected Resources* (CCBC, 1996). She currently coordinates the CCBC's annual compilation of books by Wisconsin authors and illustrators and books about Wisconsin, and edits the bi-annual *CCBC Resource List for Appearances by Wisconsin Book Creators*. 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. She also coordinates the library's cataloging efforts and supervises the student staff. 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 special interest in poetry, biography and fiction, and is also interested in books of any genre for children and young adults that offer positive, affirming portrayals of women and girls. 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.

INDEX

In keeping with the CCBC's emphasis on multicultural literature, this index intends to provide basic access to the ethnic background of the persons, fictional and real, portrayed in this year's CCBC CHOICES selections. Subject 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. The index also includes broad groupings based on human and community relationships and themes, such as "Siblings" or "Friendship." The enhanced index 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 grandmothers or a classroom unit on voting.

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. 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 is included in the 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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In Flight with David McPhail

Macy, Sue
THE MAGIC MOONBERRY JUMP ROPES
THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS INSIDE A BEEHIVE
MAGID FASTS FOR RAMADAN

Maizlish, Lisa

Mankiller, Wilma

As Long As the Rivers Flow

Wilma Mankiller

MAPLES IN THE MIST
Markle, Sandra
Marshall, Janet
Marshall, Rita
MARTHA BLAH BLAH
Martin, Jacqueline Briggs
Martin, Mary Jane
Martinez, Victor

Masai Origin

The Lonely Lioness and the Ostrich Chicks

Mathers, Petra
Mathis, Melissa Bay
Matthews, Mary
Meade, Holly

Meddaugh, Susan

Melnyczuk, Peter

Merriam, Eve

Mexicans and Mexican-Americans

La Boda

Faith and the Electric Dogs

Going Home

In My Family = En Mi Familia

Life Around the Lake

My Mexico

Parrot in the Oven

Prietita and the Ghost Woman

M⁹XICO MIO (MY MEXICO)

Miller, Margaret

MIMI'S TUTU

MINTY

Mohawk Indians

Children of the Longhouse

Mono Indians

Weaving a California Tradition

THE MOORCHILD

Mora, Pat

Morgan, Pierr

MORNING, NOON, AND NIGHT

Morpurgo, Michael

Morris, Jackie

Morrow, Glenn

Moser, Barry

Mosher, Richard

Moss, Marissa

MOTHERS & OTHER STRANGERS

MRS. BROWN WENT TO TOWN

Munro, Roxie Munro

Murphy, Jim

Murphy, Stuart J.

THE MUSIC OF DOLPHINS

Muslim Themes

Magid Fasts for Ramadan

Ramadan

MY LIFE AMONG THE ALIENS

MY MEXICO = M⁹XICO MIO

MY STEPS

Myers, Walter Dean

Narahashi, Keiko

Naranjo, Michael

As Long As the Rivers Flow

Native Americans see American Indians

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

NEARER NATURE

NECESSARY ROUGHNESS

NEW MOON

Newman, Lesl'a

Nicolaevna, Anastasia

Anastasia's Album

Nigerians

Ogbo

NIGHT DRIVING

NIGHT GLIDERS

Nighthorse Campbell, Ben

As Long As the Rivers Flow

NINE CANDLES

Nix, Garth

NOW I'M BIG

NOW SOON LATER

THE NUTCRACKER

Nye, Naomi Shihab

OGBO

O'Keeffe, Georgia

Georgia O'Keeffe

Olbinski, Rafal

ON BOARD THE TITANIC

ON THE BUS WITH JOANNA COLE

ONE POTATO

Onyefulu, Ifeoma

DE ORO Y ESMERALDAS

ORPHAN TRAIN RIDER

Osborne, Mary Pope

Osofsky, Audrey

Otani, June

Otto, Carolyn B.

PAINTING DREAMS

A PAIR OF SOCKS

Paley, Joan

THE PALM OF MY HEART

THE PAPERBOY

Parkins, David

Parks, Rosa

Parks, Rosa

Dear Mrs. Parks

PARROT IN THE OVEN

Paschkis, Julie

Paterson, Katherine

Paul, Ann Whitford

Paulsen, Gary

PEACEBOUND TRAINS

Pennebaker, Ruth

Peterson, Cris

Pickett, Bill

Bill Pickett

Pilkey, Dav

Pinkney, Andrea D.

Pinkney, Brian

Pinkney, Jerry

Pitcher, Caroline

Plains Indians

The Return of the Buffaloes

PLEASING THE GHOST

Poe, Edgar Allan

Pomeroy, Diana

Porter, Janice Lee

POWWOW SUMMER

Presilla, Maricel E.

Priceman, Marjorie

PRIETITA AND THE GHOST WOMAN = PRIETITA Y LA LLORONA

PRIETITA Y LA LLORONA (PRIETITA AND THE GHOST WOMAN)

QUILTED LANDSCAPE

RACCOON AT CLEAR CREEK ROAD

Rael, Elsa Okon

RAMADAN

Raschka, Chris

RATS SAW GOD

Rayyan, Omar

REBELS AGAINST SLAVERY

Reed, Gregory J.

Reid, Rob

Reiser, Lynn

REMEMBER THAT

Rendon, Marcie R.

THE RETURN OF THE BUFFALOES

THE RING

Ringgold, Faith

Ringgold, Faith

Talking to Faith Ringgold

Ritz, Karen

ROBIN OF SHERWOOD

Rogers, Fred

Rogers, Will

As Long As the Rivers Flow

Rohmer, Harriet

Rokkan, Elizabeth

ROMAN NUMERALS FROM I TO MM

Rosenberg, Liz

Ross, Gayle

Roth, Roger

Rothman, Michael

Rotner, Shelley

Roucher, Nancy

Rowe, John

Rubinstein, Gillian

Rudolph, Wilma

Wilma Unlimited

Ryder, Joanne

SABRIEL

Sanchez, Enrique O.

Sandoval, Dolores

Saul, Wendy

Schaefer, Carole Lexa

Schaffer, Amanda

Schechter, David
Schotter, Roni
Schroeder, Alan
Schuett, Stacey
Schur, Maxine Rose
Schweiger-Dm'el, Itzhak
THE SEASONS SEWN
Serfozo, Mary
Shannon, George
Shea, Pegi Deitz
SHIMMY SHIMMY SHIMMY LIKE MY SISTER KATE

Siblings

Be Patient, Abdul
Blushful Hippopotamus

Sierra, F. John

Sierra Leonians

Be Patient, Abdul

Sioux Indians

The Life and Death of Crazy Horse

S's, Peter

Sisulu, Elinor Batezat

SLAM!

Smith, Mavis

Smith, Patricia Clark

THE SNAKE-STONE

SNAP!

THE SNOW WALKER

THE SNOW WHALE

SO LOUD A SILENCE

Soentpiet, Chris K.

SOMETHING VERY SORRY

SOPHIE'S LUCKY

Soto, Gloria

South Africans

The Day Gogo Went to Vote

Spinelli, Jerry

Spirin, Gennady

SPRING

THE SQUIGGLE

Stanley, Jerry

Stanton, Elizabeth Cady

The Ballot Box Battle
STARRY MESSENGER
STICKS
Stillman, Steel
STORIES IN STONE
Strom, Yale
Sturges, Philemon
THE SUN IS SO QUIET
Survival see also **War**
The Apprenticeship of Lucas Whitaker
The Beduins' Gazelle
Brian's Winter
Bruises
Fire at the Triangle Factory
Foxspell
A Girl Named Disaster
Growing Up in Coal Country
Life Around the Lake
Minty
The Moorchild
Music of Dolphins
On Board the Titanic
Peacebound Trains
SWEET WORDS SO BRAVE
SWIFT AS THE WIND
Sykes, Julie

Taberski, Sharon
Takaya, Julia
TALES OF MYSTERY AND IMAGINATION
TALKING TO FAITH RINGGOLD
Tallchief, Maria
As Long As the Rivers Flow
Tanaka, Shelley
THE TAXI NAVIGATOR
Teen Pregnancy
Don't Think Twice
Temple, Frances
Testa, Maria
Thai and Thai-Americans
Hush!

THE THIEF

THIS AND THAT

Thomas, Rob

Thomassie, Tynia

Thorpe, Jim

As Long As the Rivers Flow

Thurston, Erica

Tilley, Debbie

TITCH AND DAISY

TOMORROW'S ALPHABET

TOTALLY PRIVATE AND PERSONAL

TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE

Trachok, Cathy

Tseng, Jean

Tseng, Mou-sien

Tubman, Harriet

Minty

Tunnell, Michael O.

Turner, Megan Whalen

TWO MRS. GIBSONS

Tyers, Jenny

THE UGLY MENORAH

Upitis, Alvis

Vail, Rachel

Van Laan, Nancy

Vaughan, Marcia

Verdick, Elizabeth

Vitale, Stefano

Voting

The Ballot Box Battle

The Day Gogo Went to Vote

Vries, Anke de

Vulliamy, Clara

Wagner, Fritz

WAITING FOR CHRISTMAS

WAKING UPSIDE DOWN

Wallace, Karen

Walsh, Melanie

War

Children of Topaz

Dia's Story Cloth

The Life and Death of Crazy Horse

So Loud a Silence

Toussaint L'ouverture

A Young Patriot

Warren, Andrea

WAVE GOODBYE

A WAY OUT OF NO WAY

WEAVING A CALIFORNIA TRADITION

Weetamo

As Long As the Rivers Flow

Wells, Daryl

Wells, Rosemary

West Africans

Kofi and His Magic

Wetterer, Charles M.

Wetterer, Margaret K.

WHAT I EAT

WHAT RHYMES WITH EEL?

WHAT ZEESIE SAW ON DELANCEY STREET

WHAT'S IN AUNT MARY'S ROOM?

WHAT'S THAT SOUND, WOOLLY BEAR?

WHAT'S WHAT?

WHEN BIRDS COULD TALK & BATS COULD SING

WHEN I LEFT MY VILLAGE

WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE

WHEN IT IS NIGHT, WHEN IT IS DAY

WHEN STORIES FELL LIKE SHOOTING STARS

WHERE ONCE THERE WAS A WOOD

WHILE THE CANDLES BURN

Whitman, Candace

WIDE AWAKE

Wilber, Jessica

Williams, Lorraine

WILMA MANKILLER

WILMA UNLIMITED

Wilson, Budge

Wilson, Sharon

WINNING WAYS

Winnebago Indians

Four Seasons of Corn

WITH NEEDLE AND THREAD

WOMBAT DIVINE

Wood, Grant

Artist in Overalls

Wood, Michelle

Woodson, Jacqueline

Woodtor, Dee Parmer

Wormell, Christopher

Wright, Frank Lloyd

Frank Lloyd Wright

Yamane, Linda

Yee, Wong Herbert

YOU'RE ABOARD SPACESHIP EARTH

Young, Dan

Young, Mary O'Keefe

A YOUNG PATRIOT

Yumoto, Kazumi

Zeldis, Malcah

Ziefert, Harriet

ZOO-LOOKING

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