

CCBC

Choices

1995



# CCBC

## Choices 1995

Kathleen T. Horning  
Ginny Moore Kruse  
Megan Schliesman

Cooperative Children's Book Center  
School of Education  
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Copyright ©1996, Friends of the CCBC, Inc. (ISBN 0-931641-05-5)

*CCBC Choices* was produced by University Publications, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Cover design: Lois Ehlert

For information about other CCBC publications, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Cooperative Children's Book Center, 4290 Helen C. White Hall, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706. Inquiries may also be made via fax (608/262-4933) or e-mail ([ccbcinfo@mail.soemadison.wisc.edu](mailto:ccbcinfo@mail.soemadison.wisc.edu)). See the World Wide Web (<http://www.soemadison.wisc.edu/ccbc/>) for information about CCBC publications and the Cooperative Children's Book Center.

# Contents

---

Introduction . . . . .	6
Observations About Publishing in 1995. . . . .	8
The Natural World . . . . .	21
Seasons and Celebrations . . . . .	23
Folklore, Mythology and Traditional Literature . . . . .	27
Historical People, Places and Events. . . . .	30
Biography / Autobiography . . . . .	35
Contemporary People, Places and Events . . . . .	36
Issues in Today's World . . . . .	38
Understanding Oneself and Others . . . . .	39
Activities . . . . .	39
The Arts. . . . .	40
Poetry . . . . .	44
Books for Toddlers . . . . .	46
Picture Books. . . . .	47
Easy Fiction . . . . .	53
Fiction for Children . . . . .	54
Fiction for Teenagers . . . . .	60
New Editions of Classic Literature . . . . .	64
The Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC). . . . .	67
The Compilers of <i>CCBC Choices 1995</i> . . . . .	71
Index . . . . .	72
The Friends of the CCBC, Inc. . . . .	82



# Acknowledgements

---

Thank you to Friends' members Tana Elias for creating the Index and Lois Ehlert for designing the cover.

We value the responses and insights of participants in monthly CCBC Book Discussions throughout 1995, especially Anne Altshuler, Philip Heckman, Eve Larkin, Nina Lindsay, Joan Thron and Beth Wright, who participated frequently.

Cheers to all participants in the annual CCBC Awards Discussions of books published during 1995: the Caldecott, Newbery and Coretta Scott King Awards Discussions during November and December, 1995; the Batchelder Award Discussion in January, 1996; and the first CCBC Américas Award Discussion in February, 1996. Special thanks to Eliza T. Dresang who coordinated Madison Metropolitan School District staff participation in the Coretta Scott King and Américas Discussions.

Hats off to Beth Wright for thoughtful reading and helpful comments. We appreciate Merri Lindgren's suggestions and her two annotations. Great appreciation to the content specialists who evaluated one or more books at our request or volunteered their comments, especially Anne Altshuler, Richard Askey, Peggy Choy, Sandi L. Cornelius, Patricia Enciso, Ruth Gudinas, Margaret Jensen, Julie Kline and John Kruse.

Many thanks to the CCBC student staff and volunteers for patiently working around the making of *CCBC Choices*. Thank you to our School of Education administrators and our Education colleagues Kathy Boebel, Anne Coulling and Becky Tidemann, whose promotion and distribution of *CCBC Choices* keeps them busy and us energized.

The Friends of the CCBC, Inc., underwrote the professional design, typesetting, layout, printing and binding of *CCBC Choices 1995*. Members of the 1995–1996 Friends of the CCBC, Inc., Board of Directors are: President-Doris Grajkowski; Vice-President-Kathy Tessmer; Recording Secretary-Clare Seguin; Treasurer-Deb Kabler; Directors-at-Large: Donald Crary, Tana Elias and Kate Odahowski. Committee chairs include Nancy Beck, Donald Crary, Jan Gessler, Barbara Huntington and *Newsletter* editor Ann Jarvella Wilson.

We appreciate the Friends' ongoing commitment to providing university students and faculty, teachers, school library media specialists, public librarians and others with an attractive, easy-to-use edition of this publication. All of our reading, selection and writing for *CCBC Choices* occurs during evenings and weekends throughout the year. In this respect, the three of us created *CCBC Choices 1995* 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. A contract with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Division for Libraries and Community Learning during 1995-96 makes CCBC resources and services available to libraries and schools throughout Wisconsin. Additional information about the CCBC can be found near the end of this publication.

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 1995, we examined newly published books. We subsequently read many of them. We discussed hundreds formally or informally with other librarians and educators in Wisconsin and elsewhere in the nation.

We created *CCBC Choices* within the environment of the Cooperative Children's Book Center. The CCBC receives daily requests for information about contemporary and historical books for children and young adults. We know firsthand from teachers and librarians, from university faculty, and 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 or, even, themselves. These colleagues are looking for books which are commended for these reasons.

Our criteria are simple: an excellent book is both interesting and accurate. The way in which these criteria are realized is as varied as the books themselves.

Throughout 1995 the student staff of the Cooperative Children's Book Center joined us in the daily responsibilities of assisting colleagues on campus, in schools and in libraries who are working in many ways to meet the interests of all young readers.

In *CCBC Choices*, we bring a wide range of books to our colleagues' attention. We hope everyone who uses this publication is aware that every book recommended here is not for every child or every classroom or every family. We are confident, however, that everyone using *CCBC Choices* will find a significant number of books which will delight, inform or stimulate the innate curiosity of many of the children and young teenagers for whom they have some level of professional, academic or career responsibility.

## How to Obtain Books Listed in *CCBC Choices*

The Cooperative Children's Book Center is not a bookstore. Please do not write or phone with the expectation of ordering the books in *CCBC Choices* from the CCBC itself.

Ask for these books at your public library, school library media center or bookstore. Be specific concerning the edition, noting the publisher, illustrator (if applicable) and ISBN (international standard book number) of the book you want to secure.

The CCBC can be of assistance by verifying up-to-date publisher and vendor addresses and phone numbers if you do not have access to the most recent annual *Children's Books in Print* (R.R. Bowker) or to regular information about the larger U.S. publishers from the Children's Book Council in New York City. Please contact the CCBC for address verification if you experience difficulty in locating any of the books recommended in *CCBC Choices*. We are aware that publishers of all sizes and in all regional locations, including New York City, change addresses and phone numbers frequently. The CCBC's public service hours, address and public service phone number are listed in a section at the end of this publication.

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

Addresses are provided for small publishers only. We recognize the challenge, the staff time and the cumulative financial obligation of small enterprises involved in responding to a wide variety of correspondence. We recommend that any queries sent to small publishers include a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope along with prepayment by check of the total amount of the order plus 15% for shipping and handling. CCBC experience with small/alternative publishers for more than 16 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 1995*

If you live in Wisconsin, send \$3.00 or the equivalent in U.S. postage stamps to the Cooperative Children's Book Center, 4290 Helen C. White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706.

For those residing outside Wisconsin, please write to the Friends of the CCBC, Inc. 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 inquire for this information.

Regardless of where they live, current members of the Friends of the CCBC, Inc., receive a copy of this *CCBC Choices* as one benefit of annual Friends of the CCBC, Inc., membership. Address requests for membership information or out-of-state requests for *CCBC Choices* to: Friends of the CCBC, Inc., Box 5288, Madison, WI 53705-0288 USA.

## How to Obtain Other CCBC Publications

All CCBC publications *except* the three listed below are available free for postage and handling to Wisconsin residents.

Wisconsin residents are invited to send a self-addressed, stamped business envelope to receive a current list of CCBC Materials. Address this request to: Cooperative Children's Book Center, 4290 Helen C. White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706.

The following 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 1996. Contact 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 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 1995

---

### How Many Books Were Available For Sale During 1995?

*Children's Books in Print* (R. R. Bowker, 1996) cites 100,875 books "published in the U.S. for children and currently available for purchase." That number represents a remarkable increase of more than 6,545 titles reported as available for purchase a year ago. During the past five years, the number of children's books in print in the U.S.A. has increased by 44,607. (*CCBC Choices 1990* cited a total of 66,268 books in print.) That increase is amazing and startling.

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. U.S. book buyers, personal and professional alike, have a wealth of titles from which to choose.

### How Many Books Were Published During 1995?

As we look back at the calendar year of 1995, 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. Annual statistics compiled by other sources are released early each year. CCBC estimates are typically conservative, in that the CCBC estimate does not include reprintings, paperback editions of titles published earlier, large print books, book club editions, novelty books and other categories often reflected in the numbers provided within the book industry. The other books counted in the above increase in total number of books published in print last year were types of books not collected by the CCBC.

### How Many Books Are In *CCBC Choices 1995*?

There are 197 books listed in *CCBC Choices 1995*. Of these, 31 represent the first published works of their authors or illustrators, three of which were joint efforts; 39 were originally published outside the United States, ten of which are translations; and five were published by three small, independently owned and operated publishers. To our knowledge, 125 of the books we recommend in *CCBC Choices 1995* did not appear on any of the other nationally distributed lists of the year's best books as of February 2, 1996.

Most of the books in *CCBC Choices 1995* 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 1995 *Choices* recommendations are suggested for readers ages fifteen, sixteen or older. These books fall into a different ALA category defined as "young adults," or youth ages 12–18.

In the discussion of the 1995 publishing year that follows, books that are not 1995 *Choices* selections are listed with their publisher and publication date. Books that have been chosen as 1995 *Choices* are listed with their publisher only.

## New Editions of Classic Works

Naming a book as a classic is dependent as much on one's background as what someone may have read to you when you were young. During 1995 we noticed the publication of a significant number of memorable editions of literature familiar to one or more national or cultural groups.

Titles such as *Fairy Tales of Hans Christian Andersen* (U.S. edition: Viking), *Othello* (Scholastic), *The Jungle Book* (Books of Wonder/Morrow) and *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing* (Scholastic) already resonate in the memories of many of today's adults. These and other fine new editions of classics offer an opportunity for all young readers to discover excellent literature that has stood the test of time among one or more parts of the reading public.

## Searching for Multicultural Literature

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

Multicultural literature continued to be highly visible in 1995. For the fifth 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 ALSC/REFORMA Award for outstanding Latino literature will be given for the first time during 1996.

Still, we 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. 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 increased in 1995 compared to the number published during 1994. (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 *Red-Tail Angels* as well as *The Old Dog*; the first book concerns important African-American history, while the latter one involves a brown-skinned child coping with the death of his pet and contains no specific cultural substance beyond the illustrations.

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

The 100 titles represent the published work of 57 individual authors and 48 individual illustrators or a total of 101 individual Black authors and illustrators during 1995. (Note: the above numbers may seem to be added incorrectly. They are correct. The total number of books and the number of authors and artists will not correspond, because some of the authors are also artists.)

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

Few of the above number of African-American authors and illustrators were new to the field of children's books in 1995. Notable among the new book creators are the author Christopher Paul Curtis and the artists Nina Crews and Marcia Jameson.

Several African-American authors and illustrators created more than two books each during 1995. We documented eight books written by Angela Shelf Medearis, six books illustrated by Floyd Cooper and five illustrated by Michael Bryant. Artist James Ransome's name was on four books, and so was Cheryl Willis Hudson's, while Jan Spivey Gilchrist illustrated three books published during 1995.

Of the books by African-American book creators published in this nation during 1995, eight books were published by two small, independently owned Black publishing companies: Just Us Books and Praxis Press.

During forthcoming months, the CCBC will no doubt discover several additional titles in each of the above categories, but overall the numbers will not change much from the above documentation.

*The Middle Passage: White Ships/Black Cargo* by Tom Feelings (Dial) was one of the outstanding single volumes in any category during 1995. This handsome volume pictures the pain and suffering endured throughout enslavement and represents more than a decade of work on the part of the artist. An important book for all adolescents and for adults as well, *The Middle Passage* was marketed to adults in the arts sections of bookstores across the nation, in addition to being selected as one of the superior books of the year by youth-oriented book evaluation committees of the American Library Association.

Jan Spivey Gilchrist's illustration of James Weldon Johnson's *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing* (Scholastic) is a deeply moving interpretation of a classic work with a valuable history.

Substantial novels by African-American writers are published each year. *The Well* by Mildred Taylor (Dial) takes place in rural Mississippi during the decade when Cassie Logan's father, David Logan, was a boy. This perfectly crafted, powerful work of short fiction signals once again the importance of the Logan Family Saga in African-American literature for the young. From now on young readers will be able to begin the saga a generation earlier by reading *The Well*.

*The Watsons Go To Birmingham—1963* (Delacorte) by Christopher Paul Curtis combines genuine humor in a searing drama realistically set during a year when much change occurred. *Like Sisters on the Homefront* (Lodestar) demonstrates the power of Rita Williams-Garcia's writing for young adolescents in which youth with widely diverse value systems come to mutual terms.

Patricia C. and Fredrick McKissack's skillfully written *Red-Tail Angels* (Walker) continues their fine reputation for bringing important history that is less visible, and sometimes hidden, to light for young readers. Their earlier award-winning books of history are *Long Hard Journey: The Story of the Pullman Porters* (Walker, 1989) and *Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters* (Scholastic, 1994).

A new series of illustrated books published by Silver Press feature Black people of the "Old West" and tell the stories of Nat Love, Stagecoach Mary Fields, and Emanuel Stance. Another picture book volume published by Silver Books and written by Robert Coles related the true story of Ruby Bridges.

Cheryl Willis Hudson's new anthology *Hold Christmas In Your Heart* (Cartwheel/Scholastic) suggests Afro-centric poems, stories and songs especially for young families at Christmas time. Hudson's colorful anthology joins a growing body of Afro-centric books about Christmas themes and topics. Ashley Bryan's elegant recent edition of *Christmas Gif*' (Greenwillow, 1993) written 30 years earlier by Charlemae Rollins brought this classic anthology for older children and adults back into print. *Christmas Gif*' combines many genres of material almost impossible to find in print before its first publication. Virginia Hamilton's *The Bells of Christmas* (Harcourt, 1989) takes place just over a century ago, and was one of the first modern works of Christmas fiction concerning a middle class African-American family during those years. Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard's "chapter" picture story, *Chita's Christmas Tree* (Bradbury, 1989), featured an upper class African-American family in Baltimore at the end of the 19th century.

Several Kwanzaa books have also been published each year recently. Two of the best of 1995 are Mildred Pitts Walter's how-to-and-why book *Kwanzaa* (Lothrop) and *It's Kwanzaa Time!* by Lynda and Clay Goss (Putnam), an anthology illustrated by several leading Black artists.

Award-winning author Walter Dean Myers writes fiction in many genres: humor, realism, historical, sports, and western stories. During 1995, his fantasy novel *Shadow of the Red Moon* (Scholastic, 1995) was published with illustrations by his son, Christopher Myers. Walter Dean Myers wrote the unparalleled history *Now Is Your Time!* (HarperCollins, 1991) and the important biography *Malcolm X* (Scholastic, 1992). Most recently, Myers has developed antique poetry/photo albums featuring images of children. In 1995, the publication of Myers' *Glorious Angels* (HarperCollins) for young children, as well as a photo collection for young adults and adults, *One More River To Cross* (Harcourt, 1995), were examples of this form of Myers' creative expression.

Virginia Hamilton's *Her Stories* (Blue Sky/Scholastic) is one of the most beautiful books published during 1995, and certainly one of the most important books, too. *Her Stories* bears Hamilton's trademark excellence in documenting and retelling the tales passed along through the generations by the people. *Her Stories* is also wonderfully illustrated in full color with art by Leo and Diane Dillon. Included in *Her Stories* are folk and fairy tales as well as the stories of three real women whose lives are the stuff of legend. During 1995, Virginia Hamilton received two awards for lifetime excellence: the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal from the Association for Library Service to Children of the American Library Association and a MacArthur Foundation grant honoring her creativity as a writer. Hamilton is the first children's book writer to be honored by a MacArthur "genius" grant.

## ***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 others expect. Even though we continue to be contacted by representatives of the press from all parts of the nation, journalists in search of information about multicultural literature, typically we have 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 has enabled us, beginning in 1994, to make a concerted effort to document the number of such titles. In 1995, we counted at least 70 new titles by Latinos and about Latino themes in topics. This was a decrease from the 90 we documented in 1994.

We hope this decrease is only temporary and that the 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 hope that book buyers recognize the importance of such books for Latino and non-Latino children alike.

Perhaps the Américas Award (formerly known as the CLASP Award), administered through the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Center for Latin America, will encourage the publishing of more Latino literature with its mission to provide visibility for excellence in this type of publishing for the young.

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 ALSC/REFORMA award, which will formally acknowledge outstanding writing for youth by a Latino writer. It will be given for the first time during 1996.

The 70 books that we did identify in 1995 represented the work of both veteran authors of books for children and young adults, and first-time writers for the young. Nicholasa Mohr has long been respected as a splendid Latina poet, dramatist and writer for adults. She is also a fine novelist for children and young adults. During 1995, two of her works were published for children. *The Magic Shell* (Scholastic, 1995) is a short, easy-to-read novel involving a boy moving with his family to New York City from the Dominican Republic. Mohr's three original tales appearing in *The Song of El Coqui* (Viking) are imaginatively illustrated by Antonio Martorell and display distinctive aspects of Puerto Rican history and tradition.

Until recently the Chicano writer Gary Soto was known primarily by adults as a poet and writer of short fiction. His audience has expanded because of the publication for young readers of some of his short fiction, several novels for children and young adults, and collections of poetry on themes of special interest to youth. Of Soto's four books published during 1995, two are included in *CCBC Choices*: the humorous cat-and-mouse story *Chato's Kitchen* (Putnam) and a collection of original poetry, *Canto Familiar* (Harcourt). Superb illustrations for *Chato's Kitchen* created by Susan Guevara, as well as those for *Canto Familiar* by Annika Nelson, perfectly extend and expand Soto's new works.

Judith Ortiz Cofer's anthology of original short fiction, *An Island Like You* (Melanie Kroupa/Orchard), brings the teenagers of a *barrio* neighborhood in New York City to life in ways that teen readers can recognize, regardless of their cultural heritage. Because of the excellence of these stories, we hope to see more of Cofer's writing for young readers.

*Tonight, By Sea* by Frances Temple (Richard Jackson/Orchard) dramatically suggests the human beings behind the headlines, reporting about the small communities of starving Haitian people who leave the land they love in order to live in safety. Temple's tragic and unexpected death during 1995 cut short the career of a writer and advocate for justice who powerfully and movingly articulated the human rights struggles of other nations for young readers in the United States. In addition to being outstanding writing and terrific reading, *Tonight, By Sea* attests to Temple's lifelong commitment to people struggling to survive

political oppression and poverty, people also honored in two of her previous novels, *Taste of Salt* (Orchard, 1992) and *Grab Hands and Run* (Orchard, 1993).

Naomi Shihab Nye's anthology of poetry by Mexican poets and paintings by Mexican painters, *The Tree Is Older Than You Are* (Simon & Schuster), is one of the most exciting volumes of Latino literature published for young people during the 1990s. It's also possibly the most elegant book published for children and young adults in 1995. This handsome bilingual English-Spanish collection has no parallel as it honors the rich cultures, traditions, writers and painters of Mexico and—at the same time—brings them to readers of all ages in this nation. *The Tree Is Older Than You Are* deserves to become a classic for all readers, and it will if book buyers notice it and find ways to share it with young people.

### ***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. They are a welcome, necessary counterpart to the big screen images from *Pocahontas* and *The Indian in the Cupboard* that dominated the entertainment, toy and even the book industries during 1995.

We continue to look for the excellent books showing contemporary Indian individuals living biculturally in their nation and in the USA at the same time. We especially admire photoessay books such as *Drumbeat...Heartbeat* by Susan Braine (We Are Still Here/Lerner), a book by a media professional that probably interprets and explains powwows better than any published so far for young readers. We also appreciate Kathleen Krull's photodocumentary book about two Milwaukee Indian middle school youth illustrated with photos by David Hautzig, *One Nation, Many Tribes* (A World of My Own/Lodestar).

There are other ways to glimpse the bicultural lives of American Indian peoples. *Navajo* by Shonto Begay (Scholastic) is a unique collection of extraordinary paintings accompanying his original poetry and offering Begay's memorable observations of Native life today in what is typically called the U.S. Southwest. *Giving Thanks* (Lee & Low) written by Chief Jake Swamp and illustrated by Erwin Printup, Jr., provides an authentic Native statement of gratitude from the Iroquois tradition.

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 32 specific Indian nations represented midst the 83 books about American Indian themes and topics located at the CCBC during 1995. Thirty-one specific Indian nations were noted in the 70 books documented in 1994.

We appreciate the carefully written picture book nonfiction series "The First Americans" written by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve and published by Holiday House in which she chronicles the histories of specific nations and tribes.

Joseph Bruchac's informed retellings of folktales, such as *The Boy Who Lived With The Bears And Other Iroquois Stories* (HarperCollins), and the excellent adaptation by Gayle Ross of the Cherokee legend *How Turtle's Back Was Cracked* (Dial), both superbly illustrated by Murv Jacob, set the standard for excellence in published Native tales for children.

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***

There was a notable and welcome increase in the number and kinds of books by Asian-American book creators during 1995. We located 91 books in this category, compared to 65 in 1994. More, undoubtedly, were published. Compared to earlier years, fewer of the books are folktale adaptations, fewer are set during a war and more are contemporary.

Keiko Kasza's sense of humor continues to tickle the proverbial funny bones of all preschoolers, even though her picture book texts and illustrations seem to have few Asian references. *Grandpa Toad's Secrets* (Putnam) is certain to be a favorite.

Yumi Heo continues to contribute substantially to the small, growing body of literature about Korean and Korean-American themes and topics. Her picture book *Father's Rubber Shoes* (Orchard) explores two universal themes: intergenerational conflict and parental wishes for children to have an easier, better childhood than they themselves recall. Heo's art for *The Rabbit's Escape* (Henry Holt), the exquisitely produced Korean folktale retold by Suzanne Crowder Han, once again demonstrate Heo's development of a cutting-edge, contemporary approach to illustration. She incorporates elements of cultural humor while also utilizing a fresh palette.

Laurence Yep has long been a leading Asian-American writer for young people due to his versatility in creating culturally developed fantasies, historical fiction, contemporary stories and adaptations of Chinese folktales. At last count, at least five books bore Yep's name in 1995. His novel *Later, Gator* (Hyperion) gave a new twist to the standard story of a Chinese-American child wanting a pet. *Thief of Hearts* (HarperCollins, 1995), a sequel to the award-winning *Child of the Owl* (Harper, 1977), takes place near and in San Francisco a generation later. *Tree of Dreams: Ten Tales from the Garden of Night* (BridgeWater, 1995) featured folklore about dreams from several world traditions.

In *The Journey: Japanese Americans, Racism and Renewal* (Orchard, 1990), Sheila Hamanaka's dramatic first book for young people, she interpreted the U.S. internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II through her mural re-organized in book form with a brief narrative. Both before and since, Hamanaka has written and/or illustrated numerous books, one of them being this year's autobiographical picture book, *Bebop-A-Do-Walk!* (Simon & Schuster, 1995), a joyous tribute to her grandfather combined with a subtle statement about overcoming racial prejudice. *On the Wings of Peace* (Clarion) is a unique anthology Hamanaka envisioned and coordinated to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This important compendium of visual images, poetry, short fiction, facts and memoirs gives voice to some of the known and many newly-introduced writers and artists of books for the young.

*Shizuko's Daughter* (Henry Holt, 1993) and this year's *One Bird* (Henry Holt), the young adult novels written by poet Kyoko Mori, are the only fiction we've discovered in this country in English that explore contemporary Japanese life for young adult readers through the eyes of an adolescent female. That they accomplish this so effectively is due to the author's skill in translating not only experience but also cultural substance within fiction that has the power to catch and hold the attention of today's teen readers in this nation. Although Mori was born and grew up in Japan, she now teaches and writes in DePere, Wisconsin.

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

We are always gratified to discover a newly translated book first published in a language other than English. This type of publishing represents both a financial risk and a commitment to a world view on the part of a publisher. We commend the publishers that accept the economic risk of providing glimpses of what children in other nations are reading. Perhaps one of the new translated books will be the next *Heidi*, *Pinocchio*, *Bambi* or *Diary of 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 1995, we received 54 books first published in seven 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 preceding two years, we discovered comparatively more translated books of substantial length. We noticed eight such new books during 1995, very few in number, but more than we had located during recent years. There were more, we are certain. Because of co-publishing arrangements, often a book's publication history is unclear to one looking at the book in hand.

We were pleased to discover *The Song of Mu Lan* (U.S. edition: Front Street), a folk poem translated from the Chinese and published by a new publisher that has fast established a reliable track record in other ways, as well. A handsome picture book edition of a short story by the Russian author Chekhov, *Kashanka* (U.S. edition: Gulliver/Harcourt Brace), came to the U.S.A. by way of Germany.

Creative Editions is now an imprint of Harcourt Brace, an arrangement which we assume will give this publisher's excitingly conceived and marvelously designed volumes greater visibility and distribution. *Fun with Numbers* (U.S. edition: Creative Editions/Harcourt Brace) is a romp through the history of numbers which originated in France. The Creative Editions adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Wicked Prince* is one of the most exciting books published in 1995.

Books by Japanese artist/author Mitsumasa Anno are always welcome in the United States. In *Anno's Magic Seeds* (U.S. edition: Philomel), Anno continues to excel in the visual expression of mathematical concepts.

Translated children's and young adult books of substantial length often explore themes of war, particularly World War II. Frequently these are based on actual personal experiences. Many of them portray the pain of the Holocaust for individual young people at that time and make it clear that the suffering during those years continued in later years, too. *Damned Strong Love* (U.S. edition: Henry Holt) is perhaps the most startling translated book of the season. Set during World War II, this novel concerns a gay German soldier and a Polish teenager who has just become aware of his own attraction to men. *Dancing on the Bridge of Avignon* (U.S. edition: Houghton) is the third autobiographical novel by Holocaust survivor Ida Voss to be published in the U.S.A. *Flying Lessons* by Nava Semel (U.S. edition: Simon & Schuster) was written in Hebrew and first published in Israel. Also written in Hebrew and originating in Israel, *Under the Domim Tree* by Gila Almagor (U.S. edition: Simon & Schuster, 1995) has already been adapted into a film. In an unusual illustrated book from France, *Star of Fear, Star of Hope* (U.S. edition: Walker), Jo Hoestlandt examines a non-Jewish child's fright after her playmate disappears.

The stark science fiction novel *Fall-Out* by Gudrun Pausewang (U.S. edition: Viking) originated in Germany. It explores the horrific aftermath of a nuclear disaster.

A light-hearted talking animal fantasy, *Tales of the Wicked Witch* by Hanna Kraan (U.S. edition: Front Street, 1995) is aimed at younger readers. It was written in Dutch and first published in Holland.

Kane-Miller continues to be a leading publisher of translated picture books. However, most of the translated picture books were published by North-South Books, which has a direct connection with the book industry in Switzerland. North-South Books published almost three dozen translated picture books in the U.S. during 1995, one of which is *The Christmas Visitor*, published in Switzerland, written by German author Anneliese Lussert and illustrated by Loek Koopmans, who was born in Holland.

Carolrhoda, Hyperion, McElderry, Philomel and Albert Whitman are among some of the other publishers we noted during 1995 that sought out and published English translations of books first written in another language.

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

Those children's and young adults books published in English in other nations always add depth and diversity to the scope of book publishing in this country each year.

### Canada

We were delighted to discover a variety of books that originated in Canada. We found *Out of the Blue* (U.S. edition: McElderry), a new contemporary novel by Sarah Ellis, Perry Nodelman's fantasy *The Same Place but Different* (U.S. edition: Simon & Schuster) and *The Golden Aquarians* (U.S. edition: Simon & Schuster), a new work of science fiction by Monica Hughes. The picture book *Winter Rescue* (U.S. edition: McElderry) by W.D. Valgardson and Ange Zhang is the story of a boy who becomes involved in an adventure during his first ice fishing expedition with his grandfather. We've followed the creation of Ludmilla Zeman's *Gilgamesh* trilogy with great interest; like that for her earlier two volumes, her art for *The Last Quest of Gilgamesh* (U.S. edition: Tundra) is visually powerful and fitting for the tale known at this time to be the oldest one in the world. The original voices in Tim Wynne-Jones' short stories in *Some of the Kinder Planets* (U.S. edition: Orchard) will be enjoyed by many young readers.

### Australia

We anticipate that the Australian award-winner *Angel's Gate* by Gary Crew (U.S. edition: Simon & Schuster) will become widely read in the U.S. as soon as the word spreads about this dynamic novel. Two science fiction novels from Australia, Gillian Rubenstein's *Galax-Arena* (U.S. edition: Simon & Schuster) and John Marsden's *Tomorrow, When the War Began* (U.S. edition: Houghton), offer chilling reading.

### South Africa

*92 Queens Road* by Dianne Case (U.S. edition: Farrar) was first published in South Africa and presents a unique perspective on family life under the former *apartheid* laws.

### Great Britain

England has long been the source of outstanding books for children and young adults. Shirley Hughes' books for toddlers and young children are staples in U.S. libraries and homes. Hughes' *Rhymes for Annie Rose* (U.S. edition: Lothrop) adds to the continuing book saga of this toddler and her family.

Long ago Penelope Lively established her reputation as an author of fine children's books. In recent years, she has become known for her novels written for adults. We were delighted to find Lively's charming, brief bedtime text *Good Night, Sleep Tight* illustrated by Adriano Gon (U.S. edition: Candlewick).

Lucy Cousins recently burst onto the scene with her "Maisy" books as well as a fresh retelling of nursery rhymes. The large-sized toddler book *Za-Za's Baby Brother* (U.S. edition: Candlewick) suggests Cousins' versatility as well as providing a new picture story about the birth of a new child.

Jane Ray's elegant images and designs grace a new edition of Oscar Wilde's *The Happy Prince* (U.S. edition: Dutton) and expand Mary Hoffman's intriguing history of human life and lore, *Earth, Fire, Water, Air* (U.S. edition: Viking). The distinctive *Stories from the Classical Ballet* by Belinda Hollyer (U.S. edition: Viking) contains performance notes by former ballerina Irina Baronova and illustrations by Sophy Williams.

Photographs made mostly in Ifeoma Onyefulu's home nation of Nigeria comprise an exciting counting book, *Emeka's Gift* (U.S. edition: Cobblehill/Durton). Onyefulu now lives in London.

The fantasy novel *The Forestwife* by Theresa Tomlinson (U.S. edition: Orchard) will be popular among many readers, as will Gillian Cross's thriller *New World* (U.S. edition: Holiday House).

American citizen Sharon Creech lives in England where *Absolutely Normal Chaos* (U.S. edition: HarperCollins) was first published. Set in the U.S.A., *Absolutely Normal Chaos* demonstrates this versatile author's deep understanding of a girl's first crush and young teenage life in general.

## Books by New Authors and Illustrators

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

Thirty-one of the books in *CCBC Choices 1995* are first children's books by their authors and/or illustrators. Seventeen of these new writers were authors, two of whom are also illustrators.

Two new author/artists are Lynne Rae Perkins, who created both text and pictures for the smashing *Home Lovely* (Greenwillow), and Susan Braine, who both wrote and photographed the illustrations for *Drumbeat...Heartbeat (We Are Still Here/Lerner)*. Two other photographers new to children's books are Randall S. Wells, who took the pictures for *Dolphin Man* (Atheneum) and Ron Winch, the photographer for *Raptor Rescue!* (Dutton).

Three books were developed by both a new author and a new artist, one of the more risky ventures from a promotional perspective. *Winter Rescue*, written by W.D. Valgardson and illustrated by Ange Zhang, was imported from Canada by Viking. The other two books were published by Lee & Low: *Giving Thanks* written by Chief Jake Swamp and illustrated by Erwin Printup, Jr., and *Aani and the Tree Huggers* written by Jeannine Atkins and illustrated by Venantius J. Pinto. Lee & Low also published *Sam and the Lucky Money*, a first book by Karen Chinn, a promising new Chinese-American writer. This book was illustrated by the gifted husband and wife team of Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu who are both relatively new to the field of children's literature.

Other first books of note include *One Hot Summer Day* (Greenwillow) by Nina Crews, who combines photography and collage for a striking effect. Among the first novels are *Buzzard Breath* (Atheneum), a boy-meets-dog story written in a distinctive voice by Marty Crisp; *Diving for the Moon* (Macmillan), a contemporary story by Lee F. Bantle that deals realistically with the challenges of AIDS; and *The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963* (Delacorte), by Christopher Paul Curtis, an engaging novel about an African-American boy growing up in Flint, Michigan, in the early 1960s.

## Humorous Books

Humor continues to be a scarce commodity in books for all ages of children and teenagers. Outsiders to the world of the children's book industry assume there is much more humor and wit in children's books today than there actually is. Once one moves beyond the downright silly books, true humor is difficult to find. We find most but not all of the humor in children's books in the picture books, although a growing number of these involve serious, mature themes and situations. Several funny picture books stood out in 1995, including *That Kookoory!* (Browndeer/Harcourt) by Margaret Walden Froelich in which a rooster unknowingly outwits a fox, and *Hog-Eye* (Houghton) by Susan Meddaugh in which a pig

quite intentionally outwits a wolf. Humor is derived from a two-layered story told in both text and illustrations in *Officer Buckle and Gloria* (Putnam) by Peggy Rathmann and *Chato's Kitchen* (Putnam) by Gary Soto and Susan Guevara. The ultimate in humor derived from interplay between text and illustrations was David Macaulay's *Shortcut* (Houghton), which requires children to "read" the illustrations just as carefully as the words in order to fully grasp the meaning of this cause-and-effect story.

Amusing characters provide much of the humor in Helen Griffith's easy chapter book *Granddaddy's Stars* (Greenwillow), while absurd fantasy inspires laughter in *The Puppy Sister* (Delacorte), a very funny, easy chapter book by S.E. Hinton, who shows that she is just as capable at writing humor for newly independent readers as she is at writing teen angst for their older siblings. Perhaps the puppy sister and her human brother would enjoy settling down with Sara Swan Miller's *Three Stories You Can Read to Your Dog* (Houghton), a delightful easy reader that draws its humor from its perspective as well as its action.

Humor is even scarcer in novels for older children and teens. Sharon Creech shows true genius in her ability to write a genuinely funny story about some of the serious concerns of young teenagers in her novel *Absolutely Normal Chaos* (HarperCollins), as does Chris Lynch in his brilliant satire of high school life, *Slot Machine* (HarperCollins). Christopher Paul Curtis recounts some hilarious episodes in the life of a ten-year-old African-American boy in *The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963* (Delacorte).

## The Search for Substantial Fiction

All of the novels listed in the previous paragraph have serious elements in addition to being funny and are richly layered in their structures and themes. We commend the efforts of writers and publishers who demonstrate through their fiction that they respect the intelligence of young readers by presenting some of life's complexities in their work. In *Protecting Marie* (Greenwillow), Kevin Henkes subtly incorporates concrete symbolism into his provocative story of a difficult relationship between a young girl and her moody artist father. Understatement is also the hallmark of Mildred Taylor's latest entry in the Logan family saga, *The Well* (Dial), which recounts a compelling incident in the childhood of Cassie Logan's father, David. The depths of human character are buried just beneath the surface of the deceptively simple novel *The Midwife's Apprentice* (Clarion) by Karen Cushman, in which a plucky young heroine living in medieval England sets out on a search for identity and her place in the world. The very real world of current-day Haiti comes to life in Frances Temple's electrifying novel *Tonight, By Sea* (Orchard) in which Paulie and her family risk everything for freedom from oppression and poverty.

## Important Books of Information

Young readers are taken seriously by many writers of informational books for children and young adults. The best nonfiction books are well organized for young readers without being "homework books." Authors of excellent nonfiction books respect the natural curiosity of their young readers by crediting primary or other significant sources, as well as suggesting additional sources of information.

Most nonfiction books published during the 1990s are highly visual. The best of them provide a context for the information and insights they convey; they avoid becoming flashy page-turning experiences equivalent to television channel-surfing with a remote control.

Memorable books of information published in 1995 are too numerous to cite individually and too wide-ranging in subject matter to summarize, but we would like to call your attention to a few of them. They include the photoessays *One Nation, Many Tribes: How Kids Live in Milwaukee's Indian Community* (Lodestar/Dutton) by Kathleen Krull and David Hautzig; *Kodomo: Children of Japan* (Putnam) by Susan Kuklin; *Emeka's Gift: An African Counting Story* (Cobblehill/Dutton) by Ifeoma Onyefulu; and *Cutters, Carvers & the Cathedral* (Lothrop) by George Ancona.

James Cross Giblin's outstanding *When Plague Strikes: The Black Death, Small Pox, AIDS* (HarperCollins) places the current AIDS crisis into a historical context, while Tom Feelings' *The Middle Passage: White Ships/Black Cargo* (Dial) brings history to life in a wordless book of pictures for teenagers and adults.

The incomparable *My Fellow Americans* by Alice Provensen (Browndeer/Harcourt) is in a class by itself as a browsing compendium about some of the men and women whose contributions—for good or otherwise—comprise part of the mosaic of this nation. Her visual development of this unique listing is highly personal, just as the responses of everyone looking at Provensen's inventive organization of U.S. history and culture will be.

Following on the success of their outstanding earlier books of information, Pat Cummings created a second volume of *Talking with Artists* (Simon & Schuster) and Kathleen Krull added a third volume to her innovative series of collective biographies of creative people with *Lives of the Artists: Masterpieces, Messes (and What the Neighbors Thought)* (Harcourt).

## Book Publishing and Book Buying: Decisions, Decisions

Much evidence indicates that the bookstore sales of children's books support much of the children's and young adult book publishing industry, as well as book publishing for adults within several publishing houses in the United States at this time. This serves as a reminder that publishing is, after all, a business, albeit one in which many involved strive to create excellent books for children and adults.

Publishers make choices as to which manuscript to publish, which illustrator to contract with, which book to advertise heavily, which author to send on tour. Book industry representatives make decisions about paperback editions and reprints with specific consumers in mind. In making these decisions, no doubt there is a market profile of the ever-increasing number of consumers who use personal resources for books and have one or more bookstores within a reasonable distance by car or public transportation.

The consumers will include parents, other relatives and adults friends of children. Certain books sell in significant quantities because many older children and young teenagers buy popular culture and series books for themselves.

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

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

schools and agencies responsible for early childhood care add to the book-buying challenges for public librarians.

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

No matter who is buying the books for whom with what money for what purpose, the book industry expects that potential consumers will buy more than the best-sellers or more than the most heavily promoted books or most highly visible books or most familiar authors or series.

We can tell this simply by looking at the numbers of titles published as quoted in the first paragraph of "Publishing in 1995." Someone is expected to buy most of these books. Although new children's books are available in print longer than most books published with adult readers in mind, a new title will not be in print indefinitely if the book doesn't sell well during its first printing.

Individuals buying books have the luxury—and difficulty—of making decisions because of the large number of books from which they can choose. Whether these decisions are spontaneous and unplanned or based upon complex judgments, total amount of money available for book buying, comparisons, special interests and unique needs, the fact that choices do exist cannot be overvalued among those who are committed to seeking out high quality books for the young.

The increase in the number of books published during the 1990s represents decisions made by U.S. publishers to invest in children's books. Such an investment was made with the expectation that in all parts of the nation people are eager and ready to buy books for the young.

Some of books in *CCBC Choices 1995* raise the questions stimulated by the new books of every year. What is a children's book, anyway? When and how do adults responsibly create opportunities for children to explore the somewhat frightening experiences of people-real or imaginary-they will probably never meet? When can—and should—adults provide children with opportunities to find out about mean-spirited behaviors, racism and other injustices and/or criminal acts found in some circumstances and times in our nation? If some books can offer an environment for thoughtful exploration on serious themes and topics, do they also require sweet, coincidental endings?

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

Annotations - Choices 1995

## **THE NATURAL WORLD**

Arnosky, Jim. **ALL ABOUT OWLS**. Scholastic, 1995. 24 pages. (0-590-46790-5) \$14.95

In this outstanding preschool science book, the author introduces the topic of owls with several simple questions to stir the natural curiosity of young children, such as "What do owls eat?" and "Why are owls' eyes so big?" He then provides answers to these and other questions with a clearly written text and realistic watercolor paintings. (Ages 3-6)

Arnosky, Jim. **I SEE ANIMALS HIDING**. Scholastic, 1995. 32 pages. (0-590-48143-6) \$12.95

Wild animals are naturally shy, the author tells us, because there are many dangers in the wild. But if you look closely, you may see a speckled trout swimming among speckled stones or a garter snake slithering through the grass. With simple words and warm watercolor paintings, Arnosky encourages young readers to observe how animals have adapted to their surroundings so that they can hide by staying still and blending in. (Ages 3-6)

Cole, Joanna. **THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS INSIDE A HURRICANE**. Illustrated by Bruce Degen. Scholastic, 1995. 48 pages. (0-590-44686-X) \$14.95

In the latest volume of the popular series that gives new meaning to the term "teachable moment," Ms. Frizzle and her class are off once again on one of their unusual field trips. When the Magic School Bus suddenly turns into a hot air balloon, the class knows their weather studies have not been in vain. All of their research on air comes in handy once they find themselves in the eye of a hurricane. (Ages 4-8)

Cutchins, Judy and Ginny Johnston. **ARE THOSE ANIMALS REAL? HOW MUSEUMS PREPARE WILDLIFE EXHIBITS**. Revised and updated edition: Morrow, 1995. 40 pages. (0-688-12855-6) \$14.93

A revised edition of a book first published in 1984 uses color photographs to provide a behind-the-scenes look at how museums construct wildlife exhibits using a combination of taxidermy and sculpture. A concise text describes step-by-step procedures, in addition to a discussion

of how museum employees decide what sort of exhibits to mount and how best to do it. (Ages 7-11)

Dodson, Peter. AN ALPHABET OF DINOSAURS. Illustrated by Wayne D. Barlowe. Scholastic, 1995. 60 pages. (0-590-46486-8) \$14.95

Twenty-six dramatic full-page paintings show dinosaurs from Ankylosaurus to Zephyrosaurus in action in their natural settings. Each painting is accompanied by a few facts about the particular species and a line drawing of the dinosaur's skeletal remains. An index provides further details about each one, including pronunciation and meaning of its name, length, what it ate, when it lived and where fossil remains have been found. (Ages 4-8)

George, Jean Craighead. EVERGLADES. Illustrated by Wendell Minor. HarperCollins, 1995. 32 pages. (0-06-021228-4) \$14.95

Five children in a dugout canoe listen to the words of the storyteller as he poles the canoe through the waters of the vanishing Everglades. He tells them the history of this "living kaleidoscope of color and beauty," from the earliest days in the Age of Seashells up to our present time, which threatens to destroy it. Jean George's poetic words combine with Wendell Minor's lush watercolor paintings to inspire reverence for this fragile ecosystem. (Ages 7-10)

George, Lindsay Barrett. IN THE WOODS: WHO'S BEEN HERE? Greenwillow, 1995. 40 pages. (0-688-12319-8) \$14.93 and IN THE SNOW: WHO'S BEEN HERE? Greenwillow, 1995. 40 pages. (0-688-12321-X) \$15.00

While walking through the woods on an early autumn afternoon, Cammy and her older brother see many signs of animals who have preceded them, including a red squirrel, a blue jay and a family of foxes. Double-page spreads show the clues and ask the question "Who's been here?" while alternating pages give a visual and verbal reply. The same device is used with Cammy and William's winter walk in *In the Snow: Who's Been Here?* also published this year. (Ages 3-6)

Johnson, Sylvia A. RAPTOR RESCUE! AN EAGLE FLIES FREE. Photographs by Ron Winch. Dutton, 1995. 32 pages. (0-525-45301-6) \$15.99

When a bald eagle wounded by shotgun pellets was found in a roadside ditch by a conservation officer, he was taken to the Gabbert Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota. This compelling photoessay follows the steps taken by the Raptor Center staff to heal patient S-137's wounds and eventually return him to the wild. (Ages 7-11)

Markle, Sandra. OUTSIDE AND INSIDE SNAKES. Macmillan, 1995. 40 pages. (0-02-762315-7) \$16.00

Stunning color photographs illustrate a fascinating introduction to general snake anatomy. Markle focuses in particular on how both internal and external anatomy relate to special adaptations which have assured the snake's survival through time. (Ages 6-11)

Pringle, Laurence. DINOSAURS! STRANGE AND WONDERFUL. Illustrated by Carol Heyer. Boyds Millst, 1995. 32 pages. (1-878093-16-9) \$14.95

Laurence Pringle's introduction to a high-interest topic for preschoolers is exemplary for its simple text which manages to convey basic information about dinosaurs and paleontology without

talking down to his audience. Carol Heyer's realistic full-color acrylic paintings illustrate the text perfectly as she depicts scientists at work, several species of dinosaurs and, in one case, three possibilities scientists have suggested as to how plates fit onto the body of a Stegosaurus. (Ages 3-6)

Pringle, Laurence. **DOLPHIN MAN: EXPLORING THE WORLD OF DOLPHINS.** Photographs by Randall S. Wells. Atheneum, 1995. 41 pages. (0-689-80299-4) \$17.00

The fifth volume in Pringle's series about contemporary biologists at work focuses on the life and work of Randy Wells, manager of the Marine Mammal Research Program based in Sarasota, Florida. Accompanied by color photographs, a concise text describes the scientists' day-to-day work, in addition to what their research has taught them about the free-ranging dolphin community. (Ages 7-11)

Pringle, Laurence. **FIRE IN THE FOREST: A CYCLE OF GROWTH AND RENEWAL.** Illustrated by Bob Marstall. Atheneum, 1995. 32 pages. (0-689-80394-X) \$16.00

"Fires bring change, diversity and new life," Laurence Pringle tells us in his opening paragraphs. Using the Yellowstone fires of 1988 as an example, the author writes about how forest fires fit into the natural cycle of forest ecology. His compelling text alternates with wordless double-page illustrations that show the same expanse of forest before, during and after a fire. (Ages 7-11)

**See Also:** *Into the Forest With Henry David Thoreau*

## **SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS**

Chinn, Karen. **SAM AND THE LUCKY MONEY.** Illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright & Ying-Hwa Hu. Lee & Low (228 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017), 1995. 32 pages. (1-880000-13-X) \$14.95

When Sam goes to Chinatown with his mother to shop for New Year's Day, he carries the four dollar bills his grandparents gave him in bright red *leisees*, just in case he should find something to buy with his newly acquired wealth. Four dollars seems like a lot of money to him until he sees the prices on things he wants in the toy shop. But the money turns out to be lucky for Sam after all when he finds just the right way to spend it. Karen Chinn's charming story of a young boy's first understanding of value is accompanied by expressive watercolors which capture the bustling excitement of Chinatown on New Year's Day, as well as Sam's many moods. (Ages 4-7)

Crews, Nina. **ONE HOT SUMMER DAY.** Greenwillow, 1995. 24 pages. (0-688-13394-0) \$15.00

Instead of playing games indoors near the fan (it's on high), a bead-braided dark-skinned child spends the day outside. Crews' impressionistic photo-collages offer sensory interpretations of the heat and relieving rain. Rather than telling a story, the images reflect one child's hot-day play in an urban neighborhood, encouraging children to remember times when the temperature takes charge. (Ages 3-6)

Ehlert, Lois. SNOWBALLS. Harcourt Brace, 1995. 32 pages. (0-15-200074-7) \$15.00

Members of a snow family created by an unseen young narrator of few words are decorated with items one might find around the house or in a winter yard: a strawberry (nose for snow dad), coffee beans (snow mom's eyes), a *kente* cloth strip (muffler for snow boy), pine cone (snow girl's mouth), red plastic forks (arms for snow baby), maple leaves (ears for snow cat), and buttons (snow dog's spots). After discovering the ingenious double-page spread identifying the "good stuff" at the end of this oversized book, children can enjoy finding it on one snow figure or another and thinking up their own "good stuff," as well. Ehlert's marvelous assemblages are derived from a variety of textures and cultures. *Snowballs* brings a blaze of warm color within a smart page layout and design along with a wealth of ideas for adorning snow figures. (Ages 3-9)

Flournoy, Valerie and Vanessa Flournoy. CELIE AND THE HARVEST FIDDLER. Illustrated by James E. Ransome. Tambourine, 1995. 32 pages. (0-688-11458-X) \$15.00

It's All Hallows' Eve, "the time, it was said, when ghosts and spirits roamed the earth, and witches chanted into the night. But Celie wasn't afraid..." This high-spirited girl wants to have the scariest costume for the annual costume parade. She almost succeeds, no thanks to her mischievous brother Joshua and his friend Zeke, who dress up as wolves. The rich autumn colors of Ransome's oil paintings establish a long-ago African-American community, a time of buggy wheels and storytelling contests, and a night of tension due to the mysterious Fiddler's presence. A complicated picture story with a unique perspective. (Ages 7-9)

Fuchs, Diane Marcial. A BEAR FOR ALL SEASONS. Illustrated by Kathryn Brown. Henry Holt, 1995. 32 pages. (0-8050-2139-6) \$14.95

Drowsy Bear is ready to snuggle beneath a thick quilt for the winter when Fox appears at the door, full of energy and ready to discuss the merits of the seasons. Agreeable Bear remembers why he enjoys each one in a fluid text with pleasant repetitions. "Are you sure?" Fox always asks, because he can only recall the problems a season presents: mud, mosquitoes, chilly winds. Bear decides that "The company of a good friend is what I love best - no matter what the season." Hilarious images of big Bear's hairy front sticking out of his vest and bathrobe are just one aspect of the comical pictures showing how Bear enjoys himself, and Fox doesn't. Brown used watercolors and color pencil to create the cheerful pictures of two congenial woodland gents at ease. (Ages 3-7)

Goss, Lynda and Clay. IT'S KWANZAA TIME! Illustrations by award-winning artists. Putnam, 1995. 71 pages. (0-399-22505-6) \$19.95

This introduction to Kwanzaa includes suggestions for home decorations and a ceremony, a variety of stories and tales to read aloud, a play to dramatize, a poem, directions for making Kwanzaa cards and celebrative clothing, a game to play, three songs to sing and eight recipes to cook. Seven full-color illustrations feature some of the leading African-American artists of children's books: Ashley Bryan, Carole Byard, Floyd Cooper, Leo and Diane Dillon, Jan Spivey Gilchrist, Jonathan Green and Jerry Pinkney. Many of the readings can be used all year, such as Eloise Greenfield's previously published biographical prose about Rosa Parks. A resource list completes an engaging, attractive do-it-yourself family book. A many-faceted exploration of the holiday celebrating the richness of traditional African heritage

offers something for everyone. (Ages 5-12)

Hudson, Cheryl Willis, compiler. **HOLD CHRISTMAS IN YOUR HEART: AFRICAN-AMERICAN SONGS, POEMS, AND STORIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS.** Cartwheel Books / Scholastic, 1995. 32 pages. (0-590-48024-3) \$10.95

"Carol of the Brown King" by Langston Hughes, "Christmas Is A-Comin'" by Huddie Ledbetter, "Brer Rabbit's Christmas Gift" adapted by Mia Watson, "Christmas Valentine" by Nikki Grimes, and "Tradition" by Gwendolyn Brooks are among the 13 pieces ready for recitation, reading aloud or both in this picture book anthology. The illustrators are Eric Battle, Higgins Bond, Ron Barnett, Cal Massey, James Ransome, Anna Rich and Sylvia Walker. The music and words for two spirituals and a song are included. This user-friendly medley of selections (mostly by African-American writers) illustrated by African-American artists will be especially welcome in families with young children and in daycare and primary grade classrooms. (Ages 4-9)

Johnson, Tony. **VERY SCARY.** Illustrated by Douglas Florian. Harcourt Brace, 1995. 32 pages. (0-15-293625-4) \$13.00

"One night the moon was shining, an orange, pumpkin moon. All the pumpkins by the fence shimmered in its light. / The biggest pumpkin soaked up the light till it felt full of moon." The youngest know this will be very but not too scary as soon as they read or hear the first words, see the brightness of the pumpkin field, and begin to echo the sounds of the field's nocturnal visitors. An owl flies in "woo-woo-woo," and a cat appears "tiptoe-tiptoe-tiptoe." The crickets arrive "creaky-creaky-creaky." Then - oh and then - a witch emerges "sneaky-sneaky-sneaky." Even a witch can become scared when she sees the very scary biggest jack-o-lantern carved by costumed children. Florian's watercolor paintings illuminate a short picture story just scary enough. (Ages 3-6)

Joose, Barbara M. **SNOW DAY!** Illustrated by Jennifer Plecas. Clarion, 1995. 32 pages. (0-395-66588-4) \$14.95

"The snow came at night, swirling and swishing. / It piled on the ground in big, whipped peaks. / In the morning, the plow could not get through. / Neither could the school bus..." No school? Robby makes his own breakfast and runs outside to slide with Zippy, the dog. Louise begins the day by watching TV but is soon outside making snow angels with Robby. Heather is too grown-up to be excited, so she sleeps late, becoming involved with the snow fort that emerges after their parents shovel. Everyone plays, and the family ends the day with cocoa and a warm fireplace. Joosse's cheerful prose recreates how a snow day becomes a time out of time. Executed in watercolor, gouache, colored pencil and pastel, Plecas' light-hearted illustrations mesh perfectly with the brief text of this 9 1/4 x 8 1/2" story. (Ages 3-6)

Levy, Janice. **THE SPIRIT OF TÍO FERNANDO: A DAY OF THE DEAD STORY = EL ESPÍRITU DE TÍO FERNANDO: UNA HISTORIA DEL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS.** Illustrated by Morella Fuenmayor. Translated from the Spanish by Teresa Mlawer. Albert Whitman, 1995. 32 pages. (0-8075-7585-2) \$14.95

When he goes to the market, a little Mexican boy is reminded of the ways he can honor his uncle's spirit during All Souls' Day or *El Día de los Muertos*. Venezuelan artist Morella Fuenmayor's watercolors illustrating this sweet bilingual picture story suggest important

multiple cultural details rarely seen in U.S. books. In real life a child Nando's age would not require as many explanations about the special activities in which he and his mother engage while they remember the people they love who have died. Outsiders to these observances will enjoy learning about them in this way. (Ages 6-9)

Lussert, Anneliese. *THE CHRISTMAS VISITOR*. Illustrated by Loek Koopmans. U.S. edition: North-South, 1995. 24 pages. (1-55858-449-8) \$15.95

On a snowy night everyone in the village waits for the king to arrive. Simon, the town's richest person, awaits the royal procession, hoping the king will stop at his house. His frail wife Sarah puts a candle in each window before preparing a meal fit for royalty. When a beggar appears at their door, Sarah cannot bear to turn him away. Simon witnesses the blessing Sarah receives, and then a second miracle occurs. After his selfish nature becomes transformed, Simon is led to a stable where he sees a newborn child resting in a manger. Koopmans' charming full-color illustrations successfully develop the feeling of a winter night for a picture-book Christmas story set in an unspecified time and place. (Ages 5-8)

Manushkin, Fran. *STARLIGHT AND CANDLES: THE JOYS OF THE SABBATH*. Illustrated by Jacqueline Chwast. Simon & Schuster, 1995. 32 pages. (0-689-80274-9) \$15.00

Everyone in household is busy preparing for the Sabbath. On Thursday evening, the children help Papa bake *challah*, and on Friday Mama polishes the candlesticks. Jake claims that dinosaurs were part of the creation even before God blessed it and rested on the seventh day. During the evening, the children hear how the Sabbath was observed when Grandma was a girl in Rumania. Jake and Rosy's cozy, peaceful feelings are magnified the next day as their family and others in their observant community gather "like one big Jewish family" at the synagogue. Chwast's effective cut paper and watercolor illustrations equal the warmth of Manushkin's picture story interpreting the timeless Sabbath rituals and activities signifying the covenant between God and the Jewish people. (Ages 3-6)

Paterson, Katherine. *A MIDNIGHT CLEAR: STORIES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON*. Lodestar, 1995. 212 pages. (0-525-67529-9) \$16.00

Twelve contemporary stories develop widely varied Christmas Eve themes such as a necessary pilgrimage, a desperate need for shelter, or the gift of unconditional love. A girl fulfilling a service requirement by visiting in a nursing home simultaneously experiences unyielding prejudices against both old and new. A family flees injustice by making a perilous border crossing just before their baby is born. After giving coins for a disaster elsewhere in the world, a young man who is house-sitting finds the courage to directly assist a homeless family at the door. As shown in her popular and award-winning novels for children and young adults, Paterson's gifts as a writer are apparent in vivid characterizations, credible dialogue and astute observations about everyday possibilities for transcendence. A welcome companion to her *Angels and Other Strangers* (HarperCollins, 1979), a similar collection of short fiction. (Ages 12-16)

Schnur, Steven. *THE TIE MAN'S MIRACLE*. Illustrated by Stephen T. Johnson. Morrow, 1995. (0-688-13464-5) \$16.00

A tie salesman comes to the door on the snowy eighth night of Chanukah. He's been colder, Mr. Hoffman responds to an inquiry. No, he has no family waiting for him. Dad invites him to

join them while they light the menorah. Baby Hannah reminds Mr. Hoffman of his own Hannalah and his family lost in the war. Seth, the narrator, has not yet heard about that time, a time when a someone could lose an entire family. Changing moods, Mr. Hoffman tells how as a child, he believed that if all nine Chanukah candles went out at once, his wishes would be carried straight to the ear of God. Although Seth and Hannah never see Mr. Hoffman again, every year they wish on the eight candles. Dramatic watercolor paintings illustrate a gentle story hinting of the history about which Seth and Hannah will some day learn. (Ages 5-8)

Sierra, Judy. *THE HOUSE THAT DRAC BUILT*. Illustrated by Will Hillenbrand. Gulliverf / Harcourt Brace, 1995. 32 pages. (0-15-200015-1) \$14.00

Many children will quickly recognize the pattern of this cumulative rhyming tale based on *The House that Jack Built*. They will be surprised and delighted, however, by the imaginative twists and turns of Judy Sierra's Halloween-inspired text in which the rhyme builds to funny and fiendish proportions thanks to a deliciously gruesome cast of characters involved in a chaotic chase. From the monster with bloodcurdling roar to the zombie famous in lore to the children who knocked at the door, Will Hillenbrand captures the characters and high-paced action with relish in imaginative, shadow-filled paintings that extend across each double-page spread. (Ages 5-8)

Swamp, Chief Jake. *GIVING THANKS: A NATIVE AMERICAN GOOD MORNING MESSAGE*. Illustrated by Erwin Printup, Jr. Lee & Low (228 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017), 1995. 24 pages. (1-880000-15-6) \$14.95

Based on what is known as the Iroquois Nation's Thanksgiving Address, the text of this picture book carries the "ancient message of peace and appreciation of Mother Earth and all her inhabitants" to her family. The words are still used at contemporary governmental and ceremonial gatherings of the Six Nations: Mohawk, Oneida, Cayuga, Onondaga, Seneca and Tuscarora. Children of these Native peoples are taught the concept of greeting the world each morning by saying thank you to all living things, which is what this picture book expresses. Chief Jake Swamp has delivered the Thanksgiving Address throughout at the United Nations and throughout the world. The illustrations rendered in acrylic on canvas show images of Native people with Earth's creatures. Mr. Printup is a Cayuga/Tuscarora painter. (Ages 5-10)

Thomas, Joyce Carol. *GINGERBREAD DAYS*. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. HarperCollins 1995. 32 pages. (0-06-023469-5) \$14.95

From a "gingered" January to a firelit December, a boy experiences who he is: a beloved son and grandson, a unique individual, a proud young man of African-American heritage. In January, Grandma tells the lad that the gingerbread man looks just like him. During August, "...Grandpa spreads a pallet / stitched with Buffalo Soldiers / for a bed / 'Oklahoma cowboys,' he says, / 'With a dark man at the head.'" And in December, Daddy's "...chapped hands are brave / With work / Rough with knowing / How to keep a family from freezing / How to keep a young mind growing..." Cooper's paintings and Thomas's poems form a picture-book companion to their earlier collection featuring a girl, *Brown Honey and Broomwheat Tea* (HarperCollins, 1993). (Ages 3-7)

Valgardson, W.D. WINTER RESCUE. Illustrated by Ange Zhang. U.S. edition: Margaret K. McElderry, 1995. 40 pages. (0-689-80094-0) \$15.00

This picture story adventure takes place on Lake Winnipeg on a during a frigid day when Grandfather decides Thor is old enough to help him set nets. The boy will miss his Saturday TV cartoons - a serious matter. Zhang's illustrations done with colored pencil detail how the two transport an icehouse fitted with skis so far out on the large frozen lake that they will need a compass to get back. Explosive sounds made by cracking ice and Grandfather's explanations of pressure ridges remind Thor to watch for cracks and not fall in. Readers see an experienced ice fisherman at work, and they witness fast-driving snowmobilers getting into trouble on thin ice. They discover that a child can muster more courage than a Saturday morning cartoon hero. (Ages 6-9)

Walter, Mildred Pitts. KWANZAA: A FAMILY AFFAIR. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1995. 95 pages. (0-688-11553-5) \$13.00

The author of *Have a Happy...* (Lothrop, 1989), a novel about a boy and his family celebrating Kwanzaa, has been celebrating Kwanzaa for 30 years. In this user friendly handbook she interprets the background, seven principles, and the symbols of Kwanzaa, a special African-American time between December 26 and January 1. Daily activities are described, and a helpful crafts section contains directions for making games, gifts and other items needed during Kwanzaa. Four recipes are included along with a glossary, pronunciation key and a list of related books. Most of these activities can be undertaken by a reliable older child or teenager, although Ms. Walter encourages readers to secure a parent's permission. Walter is the author of many children's books, including *Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World* (Lothrop, 1986), *Mariah Loves Rock* (Bradbury, 1988), *Mariah Keeps Cool* (Bradbury, 1990), and *Trouble's Child* (Lothrop, 1985) a novel for young teenagers. (Age 9-adult)

**See Also:** *Did You Hear Wind Sing Your Name?*, *How Sweet the Sound*, *In the Snow*, *Lives and Legends of the Saints*, *Protecting Marie*, *When the Wind Stops*

## FOLKLORE, MYTHOLOGY AND TRADITIONAL LITERATURE

Bruchac, Joseph, reteller. THE BOY WHO LIVED WITH THE BEARS AND OTHER IROQUOIS STORIES. Illustrated by Murv Jacob. HarperCollins, 1995. 63 pages. (0-06-021287-X) \$15.95

In his introduction, Bruchac writes about the People of the Longhouse and the five Iroquois nations: Mohawk, Seneca, Onondaga, Oneida, and Cayuga. He comments on some of what can be learned today from the People: efficient farming systems, their Great League of Peace, the balanced leadership roles of women and men, stories. The six winter stories Bruchac gained permission to share here are easy to read due to the large typeface, relatively short lines and plenty of white space. Bruchac's experience in telling them results in lively dialogue and action. Seven of Jacob's luminous full-color paintings grace the pages that unfold the tales: "Rabbit and Fox," "How the Birds Got Their Feathers," "Turtle Makes War on Man," "Chipmunk and Bear," "Rabbit's Snow Dance" and the title tale. *Ho? Hey.* (Ages 5-9)

Hamilton, Virginia, reteller and author. HER STORIES: AFRICAN AMERICAN FOLKTALES, FAIRY TALES, AND TRUE TALES. Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. Blue Sky / Scholastic, 1995. 109 pages. (0-590-47370-0) \$19.95

In a companion volume to *The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales* (Knopf, 1985), Hamilton retells 19 tales with female protagonists which have been passed down from generation to generation by African-American women. The tales are divided into five sections: animal stories; fairy tales; the supernatural; folkways and legends; and true tales. Each section is introduced by an author's note and includes three or four stories. Each tale is told in a distinctive voice and followed by commentary that places the story in a historical and cultural context. Leo and Diane Dillon's distinguished color paintings add to the overall elegance of this beautifully designed volume. (Ages 7-14)

Crespo, George, reteller and illustrator . HOW IWARIWA THE CAYMAN LEARNED TO SHARE: A YANOMAMI MYTH. Clarion, 1995. 32 pages. (0-395-67162-0) \$14.95

Iwariwa the Cayman has something called fire, with which he can cook sweet potatoes until they are crispy and warm. Unwilling to share it with the other animals, he keeps it hidden in a magic basket in his mouth. When the animals find out, they hatch a plot to make Iwariwa laugh and the fire come shooting out. In pursuit of the flame, Iwariwa gets stuck in a hole and must call upon the other animals for help. An intriguing tale written and illustrated with humor incorporates many plants and animals indigenous to the Yanomami homeland in the Amazon. An extensive note provides information on the Yanomami people and the tale's origins. (Ages 7-10)

Han, Suzanne Crowder, reteller. THE RABBIT'S ESCAPE. Illustrated by Yumi Heo. Henry Holt, 1995. 32 pages. (0-8050-2675-4) \$15.95

Fresh, distinctive artwork characterized by innovative perspectives and a unique and wonderful attention to detail enhance the telling of this delightful bilingual (Korean-English) tale. Rabbit is eager to travel to the underwater world of the East Sea. Luckily Rabbit is wily as well as curious, for he must use his wits to escape when the ailing underwater Dragon King demands Rabbit's liver, which, the King has been told, will cure him. An author's note provides information on the tale's origin, and the Korean language translation appears above the English on each page of text in a tale that follows Rabbit's debut last year in *The Rabbit's Judgment* (Henry Holt, 1994). Honor Book, 1995 CCBC Caldecott Discussion (Ages 5-8)

Jones, Carol, reteller and illustrator. TOWN MOUSE, COUNTRY MOUSE. Houghton Mifflin, 1995. 32 pages. (0-395-71129-0) \$14.95

The two cousins pictured in this cheerful edition of the fable expressing the adage "There's no place like home," are genteel, middle-aged mice. Town Mouse lives an ordered life in a furnished room showing evidence of his interests: soccer, tennis, reading, eating rich food - and staying away from mousetraps and the watchful house cat. Country Mouse inhabits a tidy, rustic abode decorated with found objects from nature; he eats berries and an occasional apple core for lunch. Jones heightens visual interest in their visits to each other's environs by punctuating alternate pages with peep-hole circles. The better to predict the next part of the story or to focus on a preceding image that still is involved in the action of this page spread. The clever, meticulously drafted and detailed illustrations invite multiple readings. (Ages 4-8)

Kurtz, Jane, reteller. PULLING THE LION'S TAIL. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Simon & Schuster, 1995. 32 pages. (0-689-80324-9) \$15.00

According to Kurtz, who grew up in a southwest Ethiopian village, "respect for elders is almost the most important thing every child needs to learn." Interpreting a traditional Ethiopian tale often called "The Lion's Whiskers," Kurtz writes about Almaz, a young girl grieving over her mother's death. Her attempts to welcome her father's new wife seem futile until grandfather advises Almaz to get hair from a lion's tale. To do this, she must be patient. Almaz learns to approach her shy, young, homesick stepmother slowly and is rewarded by the possibility of a new relationship. Kurtz' story involves important cultural and geographic references, such as the beeswax candles and woven baskets in Almaz' home, *wat* (peppery stew), and *injera* (thin bread eaten with *wat*). Cooper's illustrations are painted in oils, revealing the expressive faces of a family in transition. Honor Book, 1995 CCBC Coretta Scott King Discussion: Illustration (Ages 6-9)

Mayer, Marianna, adaptor. TURANDOT. Illustrated by Winslow Pels. Morrow, 1995. 40 pages. (0-688-09074-5) \$16.00

According to Mayer's notes, the tale of a proud princess who tests her suitors with riddles can be traced back to ancient Persia. The tale is found in *Thousand and One Nights* and was staged in 1762 by an Italian playwright prior to being adapted as an opera by several composers. The tale is famous today as *Turandot*, Puccini's opera, from which Mayer made her excellent adaptation. Oil and oil pencil soluble were used for the suitably dramatic illustrations for this handsome version of the ancient legend. (Ages 7-10)

Mohr, Nicholasa, reteller. THE SONG OF EL COQUI AND OTHER TALES OF PUERTO RICO. Illustrated by Antonio Martorell. Viking, 1995. 40 pages. (0-670-85837-4) \$15.99

Three folktales that acknowledge the rich, distinct cultures on the island of Puerto Rico comprise a collection distinguished by Nicholasa Mohr's skillful storytelling and Antonio Martorell's breathtaking full-color illustrations. "The Song of El Coqui" is a creation story from the Taino, the indigeneous people of the island. The story of "La Guinea, the Stowaway Hen" represents Africans who were brought to Puerto Rico as slaves and became a vibrant part of the culture. "La Mula, the Cimarron Mule" is woven from experience under the conquering Spaniards. An author's note provides the framework for these three stories that collectively embody the rich culture of contemporary Puerto Rican life and the spirit the Caribbean. (Ages 9-12)

Namioka, Lensey, reteller. THE LOYAL CAT. Illustrated by Aki Sogabe. Browndeer / Harcourt Brace, 1995. 40 pages. (0-15-200092-5) \$15.00

A Japanese fairy tale involves a a holy man named Tetsuzan and Huku, his amazing cat. Soft-spoken Tetsuzan cares little about importance and has few material needs. In fact, the modest priest has hardly noticed that few gifts are brought to his temple. Enter Huku, a cat with magical powers and a normal appetite. Seeing that even the mice have left because there were few morsels to steal, Huku attempts to upgrade his master's life. Huku proves to be loyal as well as smart in a beautifully designed humorous story about greed and humility. Sogabe created each picture in this elegant 11 3/8 x 8 3/4" book from one sheet of black paper, cut freehand and placed over rice papers that were colored using airbrush or

watercolor. An endnote indicates that today one can visit the Cat Temple in northern Japan. (Ages 5-9)

Petach, Heidi, adaptor and illustrator. **GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE HARES.** Putnam & Grosset, 1995. 32 pages. (0-399-22828-4) \$9.95

A frenetic take-off a familiar tale is launched by a "cast" picture on the opening page. Goldilocks gripes in balloon dialogue, "I can't hold this pose much longer" while the baby hare asks, "When will the title page be over?" "Keep smiling," says the papa hare, "they'll turn the page soon." The hares' oatmeal burns, the mama complains about not having a microwave, while the baby chatters about going out for a *burrito* and McCarrot. Meanwhile, beneath the floorboards a mouse family discusses eating out at the Mouse of Pancakes. Goldilocks wrecks a recliner and a water bed and then she naps, waking up later to ask if she's home from Oz. Readers will be laughing and turning pages, but not quickly or they'll miss the visual gags and written puns in a spoof packed with references from popular culture. Replete with marauding weasels named Goze (say a long "o") and haughty pair of Geese Police, this picture book romp requires more than preschool savvy. (Ages 7-10)

Ross, Gayle, reteller. **HOW TURTLE'S BACK WAS CRACKED: A TRADITIONAL CHEROKEE TALE.** Illustrated by Murv Jacob. Dial, 1995. 32 pages. (0-8037-1729-6) \$14.89

A Cherokee legend from "the days when the people and the animals still spoke the same language" begins when Possum and Turtle search for persimmons. When a wolf spoils their feast, Possum retaliates, but it's vain Turtle who claims the credit. Turtle not only makes a pair of wolf-ear spoons, but then he shows off this "tribute," prevailing upon friends and even on strangers to respond with hospitality. After Turtle gorges himself on corn soup, the insulted wolves serve him a come-uppance for such bad behavior. This *porquois* tale is beautifully illustrated with Jacobs' detailed, intricately patterned artwork done in acrylics that suggest a dark forest full of an active community of talking creatures. Ross is an accomplished storyteller and a descendent of the principal chief of the Cherokee Nation during the time of the Trail of Tears. Her endnotes briefly summarize the history of that Indian Removal (1838-39) and also point out accomplishments of the Cherokee Nation. (Ages 6-9)

Zeman, Ludmilla, adaptor and illustrator. **THE LAST QUEST OF GILGAMESH.** U.S. edition: Tundra, 1995. 24 pages. (0-88776-328-6) \$19.95

There are many versions of the Gilgamesh legend, believed to be the first written story. The first people who told it were Sumerians. They lived in what is now Iraq and Syria more than 5,000 years ago, and Gilgamesh was their king. The ancient tale depicts a king who was half-man, half-god and all-tyrant. Battles and monsters abound as Gilgamesh seeks the secret of immortality in the final section of a dramatic, elegantly developed trilogy with few words. The 10 1/2 x 11 1/2" book was created by a Czechoslovakian-born filmmaker now living in Montreal. The two earlier volumes are *Gilgamesh, the King* (U.S. edition: Tundra, 1992) and *The Revenge of Ishtar* (U.S. edition: Tundra, 1993). (Ages 6-9)

**See Also:** *The Song of Mu Lan*

## **HISTORICAL PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS**

Ayer, Eleanor. **PARALLEL JOURNEYS**. With Helen Waterford and Alfons Heck. Atheneum, 1995. 244 pages. (0-689-31830-8) \$15.00

Helen Waterford and Alfons Heck made an unlikely and disturbing team to many who heard them speak together about their experiences during World War II. A German Jew, Helen Waterford was a survivor of Auschwitz and Kratzau concentration camps. Also German, Alfons Heck had spent most of his childhood as a follower of Adolf Hitler, a member of the fanatical Hitler Youth. In this taut, riveting narrative that echoes the format of the many public speaking engagements Helen and Alfons made together in the 1980s, alternating chapters move back and forth between Alfons' and Helens' lives in the years between 1933 and 1946, weaving material from their own autobiographies with author Eleanor Ayer's research on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. The juxtaposition is disturbing and the result is powerful, as is Helen's and Alfons' testimony to the importance of speaking the truth. (Ages 12-15)

Boas, Jacob. **WE ARE WITNESSES: FIVE DIARIES OF TEENAGERS WHO DIED IN THE HOLOCAUST**. The Edge / Henry Holt, 1995. 196 pages. (0-8050-3702-0) \$15.95

"The anguish of an entire generation" is expressed by five Jewish teenagers whose diaries are excerpted and carefully documented here by Boas, who is a Holocaust survivor. David Rubinowicz (Poland), Yitzak Rudashevski (Lithuania), Moshe Flinker (Holland) Éva Heyman (Hungary) and Anne Frank (Holland) never met each other, nor did they meet Boas. Each teenager found a means of intellectual stimulation, and all remained ethically alive during a time when, for each, hate and bigotry seemed to prevail. They did not know their powerful written testimonies would inform and inspire survivors and later generations. McKissack's moving introduction suggests the chilling consequences of ignoring the types of "race superiority" alive today. (Age 12-adult)

Conrad, Pam. **OUR HOUSE: THE STORIES OF LEVITTOWN**. Illustrations by Brian Selznick. Scholastic, 1995. 65 pages. (0-590-46523-6) \$14.95

Levittown, Pennsylvania was once a potato field, but in the aftermath of World War II, in the shining hope of new possibility, houses grew, and a community was born. The houses looked almost identical on the outside, but inside were families as singular as the stories they have to tell. Pam Conrad explores our history and our sense of belonging with six funny, moving stories told in the voices of children living in Levittown in the six decades from 1940 to the present. Each one masterfully captures a sense of the times in which the children live, marking the changes from decade to decade in the social climate of our nation. But they are unified by a palpable sense of place which leaves a visible imprint on each child's life. (Ages 9-12)

Denslow, Sharon Phillips. **RADIO BOY**. Illustrated by Alec Gillman. Simon & Schuster, 1995. 32 pages. (0-689-80295-1) \$15.00

Nathan B. Stubblefield, inventor of the radio, sensed the future even as a boy. Growing up in the small town of Murray, Kentucky, in the 1870s, Nathan was forever tinkering and experimenting with coils, wires and other "electricals." A fictionalized account of Nathan's boyhood passion for invention is enhanced by illustrations rendered in pen-and-ink and watercolor that provide a warm sense of this singular figure in his small town's life. (Ages 7-

10)

Feder, Paula Kurzband. *THE FEATHER-BED JOURNEY*. Illustrated by Stacey Schuett. Albert Whitman, 1995. (0-8075-2330-5) \$15.95

Grandma tells Rachel and Lewis how the feather pillow she treasures was once a huge feather bed made by their great-grandmother in Poland. Grandma slept on the bed as a little girl, and shared it with five other children after the sad times came and the Germans forced Jewish people into the ghetto. "They didn't want Jews in Poland. They didn't want Jews anywhere." An introduction to the Holocaust is skillfully presented for younger readers in a picture book that also tells of the kindness of a Polish farmer who helped save Grandma's life, and later sent the remnants of the feather bed to her in America. Full-page illustrations balance images of fearful times with those of a warm, secure, loving family. (Ages 5-8)

Feelings, Tom. *THE MIDDLE PASSAGE: WHITE SHIPS / BLACK CARGO*. Dial, 1995. 80 pages. (0-8037-1804-7) \$45.00

Tom Feelings worked ten years to complete the agonizing work that would become *The Middle Passage*, an achingly powerful 10 1/2 x 13 1/2 " wordless book for older readers and adults that chronicles the forced journey of Africans into slavery. Feelings created sixty-four images that detail the experience of Africans captured at gunpoint, and shackled and herded onto ships of death, disease and cruelty, where they endured, and often didn't survive, the crossing to North America, South America or the Caribbean. Seeringly painful images of inhuman conditions in which living people were stacked like so much cargo, cruelly worked, brutally raped and tortured, haunt the pages. A hard journey for the reader, *The Middle Passage* was a difficult journey for Tom Feelings to make as an artist as well, and he writes in the preface about his experience researching and creating the images. An introduction by John Henrik Clarke discusses the slave trade and places the artist's images in their deeply disturbing historical context. (Ages 14-adult)

Geisert, Bonnie and Arthur Geisert. *HAYSTACK*. Houghton Mifflin, 1995. 32 pages. (0-395-69722-0) \$15.95

Bonnie Geisert's carefully crafted words paired with Arthur Geisert's finely detailed color etchings paint a delicate and satisfying portrait of life on a midwest farm "in a time not so long ago" when "haystacks stood high, long, and wide on the prairie." Following the cycle of the seasons, *Haystack* begins in the spring, when everyone on the farm pitches in to harvest and stack the hay. Through summer's heat and the cold bite of fall and winter, the haystack provides food and shelter for the animals. In the greening of a new spring, the last remnants of hay are eaten, and rich manure from the field where the haystack once stood is spread so that new hay will grow. An unusual and engaging entry into the past is presented in this haystack-shaped 7 1/2 x 12" volume. (Ages 4-9)

Giblin, James Cross. *WHEN PLAGUE STRIKES: THE BLACK DEATH, SMALLPOX, AIDS*. Woodcuts by David Frampton. HarperCollins, 1995. 212 pages. (0-06-025854-3) \$14.95

Sickness and death. Fear and compassion. Superstition and science. James Cross Giblin examines the history of bubonic plague, smallpox and the AIDS epidemic of today, shedding light on science, nature and human nature as he looks at the impact that each has had on human society. A thoughtful, engrossing narrative that acknowledges the partnership of science and

compassion in measuring the mark of human achievement. (Ages 12-17)

Hoestlandt, Jo. *STAR OF FEAR, STAR OF HOPE*. Illustrated by Johanna Kang. Translated from the French by Mark Polizzotti. U.S. edition: Walker, 1995. 32 pages. (0-8027-8373-2) \$15.95

Helen looks back with regret and sadness on events in her childhood during the Nazi occupation of France. As a small girl, she was unable to comprehend the fear and injustice experienced by her best friend, Lydia, who was Jewish. To Helen, the yellow star was "pretty," and Lydia's decision to go home after a frightening event rather than spend the night for Helen's birthday was hurtful. The day after her birthday, Helen has forgiven Lydia for leaving, but it's too late. The Germans have come, and Lydia and her family are gone. Stark, full-page illustrations accompany a painful, somber story about the Holocaust. (Ages 7-10)

Hoffman, Mary. *EARTH, FIRE, WATER, AIR*. Illustrated by Jane Ray. U.S. edition: Viking, 1995. 68 pages. (0-525-45420-9) \$19.99

Hoffman looks at how earth, fire, water and air have been a force on earth and fuel for human imagination throughout time. Exploring history, folklore and customs of cultures around the world, as well as scientific and environmental perspectives, she looks at each of the elements in turn, acknowledging their innate power and celebrating the ideas they have inspired. Her narrative is set against Ray's exquisite illustrations: burnished, beautifully detailed expressions of nature's power and the creativity of the human mind. (Ages 8-14)

Levine, Ellen. *A FENCE AWAY FROM FREEDOM: JAPANESE AMERICANS AND WORLD WAR II*. Putnam, 1995. 260 pages. (0-399-22638-9) \$18.95

In an important and powerful documentary, Japanese Americans who were children and young adults just prior to and during World War II tell what happened in their lives after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, when they were labelled "enemy" and made domestic prisoners of war. Comprised primarily of interviews Levine conducted with dozens of Japanese Americans, the text is arranged chronologically, with specific chapters that address the experiences of those in the camps, homeless children, Japanese-American soldiers and draft resisters, and Japanese Peruvians who were deported to the United States for internment. Each chapter opens with an informative discussion that provides a historical framework for the stirring comments that follow. (Ages 12 and older)

Lyons, Mary E. *KEEPING SECRETS: THE GIRLHOOD DIARIES OF SEVEN WOMEN WRITERS*. Henry Holt, 1995. 180 pages. (0-8050-3065-4) \$15.95

Lyons explores how seven well-known 19th century women found refuge, voice and identity through the diaries they kept as girls and young women in this compelling exploration of how writing can help define one's life. In their diary writing, Louisa May Alcott, Charlotte Forten, Sarah Jane Foster, Kate Chopin, Alice Dunbar-Nelson, Ida B. Wells and Charlotte Perkins-Gilman found the space to explore who they were and what they might become, Lyons argues. It was a place where their dreams and ideas could grow unfettered by the limitations placed by society or their families. Lyons' uses brief, sporadic excerpts of the diary material throughout her discussion of each woman, but it is her own exploration of the relationship between the young writer and the woman she became that defines the text. (Ages 12-15)

McKissack, Patricia and Fredrick. RED-TAIL ANGELS: THE STORY OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN OF WORLD WAR II. Walker, 1995. 136 pages. (0-8027-8292-2) \$19.95

The McKissack's write a testament to dreams and ability in a history of the Tuskegee Airmen, the only African-American pilots to fly in World War II. Opening chapters on the history of human flight and of African-Americans in the U.S. military set the stage for the hopes and struggles embraced and endured by the Red-Tail Angels and their supporters as they fought racist attitudes for the right to learn to fly in the U.S. military and, later, for the chance to use their skills in the war that was raging overseas, where they earned an outstanding reputation for their abilities. The text is illustrated with black-and-white photographs from archives and personal collections: the faces of pioneers. (Ages 11-14)

Maurer, Richard. ROCKET! HOW A TOY LAUNCHED THE SPACE AGE. Crown, 1995. 64 pages. (0-517-59628-8) \$17.00

A concise, generously illustrated history of rockets begins with their invention 1000 years ago in China when they were initially constructed as toys for children before being adapted for warfare. Since they were never very accurate, they were not considered a very useful weapon, however, and it was not until the early 20th century that true rocket science was born as a means to shoot astronauts into space. Much of this history focuses on the life work of Robert Goddard who, as a boy, was inspired to dream by the 19th century science fiction of Jules Verne and H.G. Wells. (Ages 8-12)

Massin. FUN WITH NUMBERS. Illustrated by Les Chats Pelés: Lionel Le Néouanic, Benoît Morel and Christian Olivier. Translated from the French. U.S. edition: Creative Editions / Harcourt Brace, 1995. 32 pages. (0-15-200962-0) \$17.00

Phil the dog and Pippo, his human companion, travel through time to discover intriguing facts about systems of counting and numerical representation developed by many cultures. An informative and imaginative 13 1/4 x 9 1/4" towering text is accompanied by delightfully zany illustrations in which personified numbers dance, roll and fly across pages. Other full-page art shows Phil and Pippo among Aztecs, Ancient Egyptians, Sumerians and others whose numerical achievements continue to be counted today. (Ages 7-11)

Murphy, Jim. THE GREAT FIRE. Scholastic, 1995. 141 pages. (0-590-47267-4) \$16.95

With spellbinding detail, Murphy follows the spread of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. His exacting research is woven with historical illustrations, maps, photographs and eye-witness accounts of survivors as he reports on the progress of the relentless flames burning through the wooden streets, buildings and walkways of the rain-deprived city with a power both dangerous and seductive to those in their path. In the fire's aftermath, Murphy chronicles the devastation: 300 people dead and 100,000 homeless - wandering streets or setting up shelters in parks and cemeteries. But out of the ashes, Murphy notes, a new city was built - one that pushed the poor from the city's center even as it presented a new and shining face to the world. (Ages 11-14)

Neuberger, Anne E. THE GIRL-SON. Carolrhoda, 1995. 131 pages. (0-87614-846-1) \$14.96

Induk Pak was born in Korea in 1896, at a time when education was a priority for boys only. Thankfully, Induk's remarkable mother, Onyu, had little use for aspects of tradition that would prevent her and her daughter from leading independent lives. Wisconsin-born author

Anne Neuberger brings Induk's fascinating story to life in a compelling biographical novel based largely on Induk's own writings, previously published as books for adults. Neuberger skillfully translates Induk's story into engaging fiction for children. (Ages 10-14)

Provinsen Alice. *MY FELLOW AMERICANS: A FAMILY ALBUM*. Browndeer / Harcourt Brace, 1995. 61 pages. (0-15-276642-1) \$19.95

Provinsen writes, "Like all families, my American family has its rich uncles and poor relations, its atheists and believers, its scoundrels and bigots, its gifted and compassionate...these relatives are individuals, idiosyncratic and exceptional... somehow larger than life and have come to represent our myths and legends, our fantasies and foibles." A detailed table of contents, endpages with portraiture and a final written narrative further embellish the hundreds of images Provinsen created using India ink and oil paint in this 11 3/4 x 11 3/4" text. The scope of her monumental approach to interpreting the American Experience can be seen in Provinsen's provocative organization of her material. The first four titles of her twenty-three album themes demonstrate this: Free Spirits Rebel Voices; Pilgrims and Puritans Quakers and Shakers; Maverick Ministers Guiding Lights; and Impassioned Fights for Freedom and Equal Rights. Sequoyah, "Native American Scholar," appears along with Anne Sullivan as guiding lights. Little Big Man is listed among the warriors and patriots. Margaret Sanger emerges with other radical reformers and humanitarians, while J. Edgar Hoover is pictured with villains and rogues, unnamed female moonshiners, and celebrity hoodlums. Lassie shares a page with Mae West and Jack Benny. Satchel Paige can be discovered, and so can Gertrude Stein, Jim Henson and George Washington. Like all albums, this treasury is worth countless browsing hours by children of varying ages. Although they and their adults will have varying opinions on the comparative importance, inclusion and/or exclusion of these "fellow Americans," all will be stimulated to think, find out more, and maybe even create their own categories and lists. (Ages 5-14)

Rochman, Hazel and Darlene Z. McCampbell, selectors. *BEARING WITNESS: STORIES OF THE HOLOCAUST*. Orchard, 1995. 135 pages. (0-531-09488-X) \$15.95

The chilling, deeply disturbing cover photograph shows hundreds of shoes: they once belonged to victims of the Nazi death camps. "And because we are only made of fabric and leather / And not of blood and flesh, each one of / us avoided the hellfire." (from "I Saw a Mountain" by Yiddish poet Moshe Szulsztain). In *Bearing Witness*, poems, short stories, speeches, memoirs, excerpts from novels and film scripts, and other writings on the Holocaust have been compiled to provide readers with a collection that reflects with hard and moving honesty the scope of a brutality which is difficult to comprehend yet impossible to deny. The writings speak from places of intense pain and suffering that are both physical and spiritual, and acknowledge that the tragedy of the Holocaust is a tragedy of humanity, a failing that must be born by history and attended to today. (Ages 12-16)

Shemie, Bonnie. *HOUSES OF ADOBE: THE SOUTHWEST*. (Native Dwellings) Tundra, 1995. 24 pages. (0-88776-353-7) \$6.95

The "great houses" of Chaco Canyon, the cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde and Hopi pueblos are examples of the enduring architectural structures built over hundreds of years by the indigineous peoples of what is now the southwest United States. These buildings, and what is known about the peoples who constructed them, are the subject of an appreciative text

emphasizing the unique function and form of the ingenious designs. Like those in her other excellent books in this valuable series, Shemie's black-and-white drawings illustrate art and architectural elements, and two-page color spreads show how people lived in the buildings. (Ages 9-11)

**See Also:** *American Eye, The Block, The Boy Who Lived With the Bears, How Sweet the Sound, How Turtle's Back Was Cracked, Lives and Legends of the Saints, On the Winds of Peace, Papa Tells Chita a Story, Patrick DesJarlait, Stories From the Classical Ballet, Treemonisha*

## **BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

Bober, Natalie S. ABIGAIL ADAMS: WITNESS TO A REVOLUTION. Atheneum, 1995. 248 pages. (0-689-31760-3) \$17.00

Natalie Bober's deft, compelling biography paints a revealing portrait of Abigail Adams and the times in which she lived. In Abigail's own words, gleaned from her voluminous correspondence, the small details of daily life and the human costs of strife provide the underpinnings for a narrative in which the battlefields of the Revolutionary War and the political discourse of the day also figure prominently. Abigail lamented the lack of educational opportunities for women even as she accepted the limits of her role to the private sphere of home and hearth. But she carried out her duties as wife and mother with intelligence, sensitivity and courage, working alone, as did so many women in her time, to manage farm, business and household and oversee the education and upbringing of her children. At the same time, she strongly cherished and supported the partnership of marriage that she shared with her husband, John. A scholarly and fascinating work. (Ages 14 - 17)

Stevenson, James. I HAD A LOT OF WISHES. Greenwillow, 1995. 32 pages. (0-688-13706-7) \$15.00

Stevenson's gentle, perceptive recollections of childhood are brimming with the anticipation, disappointments and satisfaction that all children know come with wishing for everything from the smallest of treasures to the biggest of hopes. Delicate watercolor illustrations enhance the intimacy of this autobiographical picture book that was preceded by earlier memoirs, also published by Greenwillow, including *When I Was Nine* (1986), *Higher on the Door* (1987), *July* (1990), *Don't You Know There's a War On?* (1992) and *Fun - No Fun* (1994).

**See Also:** *American Eye, The Block, Into the Forest With Henry David Thoreau, Keeping Secrets, Lives and Legends of the Saints, Lives of the Artists, My Fellow Americans, Patrick DesJarlait, Radio Boy, Stories From the Classical Ballet, Talking With Artists, We Are Witnesses, A Writer's Story*

## **CONTEMPORARY PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS**

Braine, Susan. DRUMBEAT...HEARTBEAT: A CELEBRATION OF THE POWWOW. (We Are

Still Here) Lerner, 1995. 48 pages. (0-8225-2656-5) \$19.95

Author Susan Braine shares her own anticipation and excitement for the powwow with readers in an inviting, informative photoessay. Braine, a member of the Asiniboine Tribe in Montana, talks about the importance of the powwow to American Indian culture, and its significance in uniting Native and non-Native peoples. Her enthusiasm is infectious as she takes readers through a typical day at a powwow, which might include a parade, a rodeo and many related activities in addition to the steps and spins of the dancers and the rhythm of the drum. Engaging color photographs capture both the high energy and the reflective, quiet times of a powwow gathering. (Ages 7-11)

Hewett, Joan. TUNNELS, TRACKS, AND TRAINS: BUILDING A SUBWAY. Photographs by Richard Hewett. Lodestar, 1995. 48 pages. (0-525-67466-7) \$15.99

There is abundant activity both above and below the ground as work on the Los Angeles subway continues: crews dig trenches for equipment, miners bore a tunnel in the ground, archeologists excavate ruins at a station site, artists plan artwork for station and tunnel walls. In a fascinating documentary, Joan Hewett describes the many aspects of work involved in building the L.A. subway system as she introduces readers to some of the people who are doing the many and varied jobs required. Color photographs capture the work-in-progress, from deep within the newly-dug tunnels to a supervisor's office high above the ground. (Ages 7-10)

Karnes, Frances A. and Suzanne M. Bean. GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN INVENTING: TWENTY TRUE STORIES ABOUT INVENTORS, PLUS HOW YOU CAN BE ONE YOURSELF. Edited by Rosemary Wallner. Free Spirit (400 First Avenue North, Suite 616, Minneapolis, MN 55401), 1995. 168 pages. (0-915793-89-X) \$12.95

An engaging, inspiring profile of twenty girls and young women who are pioneers in the field of ideas demystifies the concept of "inventing" and affirms the ability of children to create. The young people in *Girls and Young Women Inventing* have designed and developed products that range from broom handles to paperweights to computer programs. Many of them have won prizes in Invent America! contests across the nation, and some of them even have patents. But their ideas most often come from their everyday lives. Each young inventor talks about how she got the idea for her invention and how she designed and developed a prototype. They also offer advice to other girls about inventing and following their dreams. A section on "How to be an Inventor" takes readers through the invention process from ways to come up with an idea to designing and, if desired, seeking a patent. (Ages 10-14)

Krull, Kathleen. ONE NATION, MANY TRIBES: HOW KIDS LIVE IN MILWAUKEE'S INDIAN COMMUNITY. Photographs by David Hautzig. (A World of My Own) Lodestar, 1995. 48 pages. (0-525-67440-3) \$15.99

Eleven-year-old Thirza and twelve-year-old Shawnee are students at the Milwaukee Community Indian School, which is distinctive for a number of reasons discussed in the text: its urban location, its funding through Potawatomi bingo hall profits, and its inclusion of five Wisconsin tribes in the student body. Within this context, both children are presented as unique individuals: Shawnee dreams of becoming an architect and returning to the reservation, while Thirza, an aspiring actress, is headed for Broadway or Hollywood. An upbeat text and appealing color photographs show the two children in their day-to-day

activities in and out of school. (Ages 8-12)

Kuklin, Susan. **KODOMO: CHILDREN OF JAPAN**. Putnam, 1995. 48 pages. (0-399-22613-3) \$15.95

An engaging photoessay provides a colorful portrait of children in modern Japan. Divided into two parts, the first, entitled "A Way of Life," introduces U.S. children to three of their counterparts living in Hiroshima: eight-year-old Eri and nine-year-old Nozomi both describe their day-to-day lives at school and at home, while 14-year-old Ai tells readers about the tradition of dressing in a special kimono on New Year's Day. Part Two presents readers with "Traditional Activities" as they are observed by four children in Kyoto. These traditions include martial arts, calligraphy, and the tea ceremony. (Ages 5-11)

Onyefulu, Ifeoma. **EMEKA'S GIFT: AN AFRICAN COUNTING STORY**. U.S. edition: Cobblehill / Dutton, 1995. 20 pages. (0-525-65205-1) \$14.99

Photographic images of village life among the Igala people in Nigeria shine from the pages of this unique counting book that follows the short journey of ONE small boy to his grandmother's house. Along the way, Emeka passes people and objects numbered from two to ten (FOUR brooms, SIX beaded necklaces, SEVEN musical instruments, etc.). Brief sidebars provide information on the items and activities shown in the lively color photographs in this wonderful companion to the author's earlier work, *A is for Africa* (Cobblehill / Dutton, 1993). (Ages 4-7)

Roessel, Monty. **SONGS FROM THE LOOM: A NAVAJO GIRL LEARNS TO WEAVE**. (We Are Still Here) Lerner, 1995. 48 pages. (0-8225-2657-3) \$19.95

Jaclyn Roessel's is learning how to weave in the traditional Navajo way. Her grandmother, Ruth, is teaching her how to shear the sheep, dye the wool and work the loom. At the same time, she is teaching her the stories and songs of weaving that are part of her Navajo culture. Without them, her grandmother makes clear, Jaclyn's education as a Navajo weaver will be incomplete. Monty Roessel, Jaclyn's father, documents Jaclyn's education in photographs taken when she was between the ages of ten and twelve. In accompanying text, he shares Jaclyn's experience, as well as the stories and songs that she learns. (Ages 7-11)

Schmidt, Jeremy and Ted Wood. **TWO LANDS, ONE HEART: AN AMERICAN BOY'S JOURNEY TO HIS MOTHER'S VIETNAM**. Photographs by Ted Wood. Walker, 1995. 44 pages. (0-8027-8357-0) \$15.95

Seven-year-old T.J. Sharp is accompanying his mother on a journey to Vietnam - the homeland she fled as a child in the midst of the war. T.J. is eager to meet his Vietnamese grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins and see the country about which he has been hearing for so long. Color photographs and text document T.J.'s experience as he travels to a far-away land where the language and customs differ from his own, but which holds the familiar embrace of family. (Ages 7-10)

Steltzer, Ulli. **BUILDING AN IGLOO**. Henry Holt, 1995. 32 pages. (0-8050-3753-5) \$14.95

In the frozen arctic landscape on Ellsmere Island in northern Canada, Inuit Tookillkee Kiguktak builds an igloo with his son, Jopee, for shelter during a winter hunting expedition. It is a skill he learned as a child, and one he has taught his own children. Full-page black-and-

white photographs as sharp as the winter's cold show Tookillkee and Jopee at work. A brief text describes their progress as the igloo takes shape. (Ages 7-11)

Van Meter, Vicki with Dan Gutman. **TAKING FLIGHT: MY STORY.** Viking, 1995. 134 pages. (0-670-86260-6) \$14.99

In 1993, at the age of 12, Vicki Van Meter became the youngest girl at that time to pilot an airplane across the United States. One year later, she flew across the Atlantic Ocean. In a fresh, natural, engaging voice, Vicki describes her determination to become a pilot and chronicles each of her landmark flights. The text incorporates details that readers will love, from how Vicki felt as the only kid in flight school to technical details of planning a flight to her media appearances and dreams of becoming an astronaut. (Ages 10-12)

**See Also:** *C Is for City, Cutters, Carvers & the Cathedral, Dolphin Man*

## **ISSUES IN TODAY'S WORLD**

Atkins, Jeannine. **AANI AND THE TREE HUGGERS.** Illustrated by Venantius J. Pinto. Lee & Low (228 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017), 1995. 32 pages. (1-880000-24-5) \$14.95

A fictionalized picture story, told from the point of view of young Aani, recounts the origins of the Chipko Andolan (Hug the Tree) Movement in northern India in the 1970s. When men from the city came into rural areas to cut down the trees, women villagers successfully stopped them by embracing individual trees. Indian artist Venantius J. Pinto explains in a note at the end how and why his pictures for this book were influenced by five different styles of traditional miniature painting that were used in northern India in the 17th century. (Ages 4-9)

Hamanaka, Sheila, coordinator. **ON THE WINGS OF PEACE: WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS SPEAK OUT FOR PEACE IN MEMORY OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI.** Clarion, 1995. 144 pages. (0-395-72619-0) \$21.95

Writing and art from 60 authors and artists forms a stunning anthology concerning the 1945 bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and visions of peace. Handsome full-color art created in a variety of media accompanies history, poetry, short stories and memoirs. This important assemblage can be read a bit at a time, in any order, in any year. As a whole, the volume energizes, rather than assessing blame or creating melancholy. A reliable resource list for children and adults suggests further reading. Brief biographical information placed next to tiny black and white photos marks the credentials of contributors. They include Marjorie Agosín, Joseph Bruchac, Ashley Bryan, Peter Catalanotto, Omar S. Castañeda, Peter E. Clarke, Edwidge Danticat, Jean Durandisse, Tom Feelings, Shinya Fukatsu, Nikki Grimes, Hushang Moradi Kermani, Marie G. Lee, George Littlechild, Ana Maria Machado, Kam Mak, Milton Meltzer, Wendell Minor, Kyoko Mori, Junko Morimoto, Walter Dean Myers, Keiko Narahashi, Katherine Paterson, Jerry Pinkney, James E. Ransome, Enrique O. Sanchez, Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Martin Waddell, Yoko Kawashima Watkins, and Ed Young. Royalties from the sales of *On Wings of Peace* are designated for three organizations devoted to these issues. (Age 8 - adult)

Shea, Pegi Deitz. *THE WHISPERING CLOTH*. Illustrated by Anita Riggio. Stitched by You Yang. Boyds Mills, 1995. 32 pages. (1-56397-134-8) \$14.95

Mai, a young Hmong girl living in a refugee camp in Thailand, waits for the day she might join her cousins in the United States. To pass time, Mai listens to the women tell stories of their Laotian homeland, and she watches the stories take shape inside the beautiful borders of the *pa'ndau*, the story cloth they sew. Wanting to stitch her own *pa'ndau*, Mai finds herself remembering the death of her parents and her flight from Laos to the refugee camp with her grandmother. An important narrative about the experience of Hmong refugee people is illustrated with full-color paintings and an actual *pa'ndau* stitched for the text to tell Mai's story. An author's note provides information on Ban Vinai, the refugee camp where the story is set. (Ages 7-11)

**See Also:** *Glorious Angels; Into the Forest With Henry David Thoreau; A Midnight Clear; My Fellow Americans; Patrick DesJarlait; Tonight, By Sea; We Are Witnesses*

## UNDERSTANDING ONESELF AND OTHERS

Cole, Joanna. *HOW I WAS ADOPTED*. Illustrated by Maxie Chambliss. Morrow, 1995. 48 pages. (0-688-11930-1) \$15.00

In what is undoubtedly one of the most upbeat and positive books for young children about adoption, an outgoing little girl named Samantha tells the straightforward story of how she was adopted. Joanna Cole's simple first-person text moves back and forth between general and specific, sometimes pausing to direct a question at the reader ("Do you know how old you were when you were adopted?"). Engaging watercolor illustrations suggest a biracial protagonist, as well as an interracial extended family. In a five-page "Note to Families" at the book's opening, the author gives general information about answering children's questions in addition to suggestions for extending the text to encourage family discussion about adoption. (Ages 3-7)

Vigna, Judith. *MY TWO UNCLES*. Albert Whitman, 1995. 32 pages. (0-8075-5507-X) \$14.95

Elly loves her two uncles -- her father's brother Ned and his partner Phil. Together the three of them work on a special handmade gift for her grandparents' 50th wedding anniversary but then Elly is saddened to learn that Uncle Phil has not been invited to the anniversary party and Uncle Ned refuses to go without him. An unusually realistic account of a young child's struggle to understand the complexities of homophobia within her extended family ends not with happiness but with hope. (Ages 4-8)

Zolotow, Charlotte. *THE OLD DOG*. Illustrated by James Ransome. HarperCollins, 1995; revised and newly illustrated. 32 pages. (0-06-024409-7) \$14.95

When Ben awakens one morning and finds that his dog doesn't respond with the usual tail wagging when he pets her, he calls his father from the breakfast table. "She's dead," his father tells him. All day long Ben thinks of his dog and the things they used to do together. Charlotte Zolotow's outstanding text explains and comforts simultaneously while James Ransome's detailed oil paintings aptly show the sadness of a young African-American boy grieving the death of a beloved pet. (Ages 3-8)

**See Also:** *Giving Thanks, On the Wings of Peace, The Spirit of Tío Fernando, Starlight and Candles, The Tie Man's Miracle, When the Wind Stops, The Whispering Cloth*

## ACTIVITIES

Anno, Mitsumasa. ANNO'S MAGIC SEEDS. Translated from the Japanese. U.S. edition: Philomel, 1995. 32 pages. (0-399-22538-2) \$15.95

Anno Mitsumasa challenges readers with enticing mathematics in the context of a charming story about a young man and the magic seeds that provide him with the means and inspiration to become an industrious - and generous - farmer. Each math question is expressed as part of the text. Readers must use addition and subtraction to arrive at the correct answer, which is pictured as part of the graceful, amusing watercolor illustrations. (Ages 7-10)

Wheeler, Cindy. SIMPLE SIGNS. Viking, 1995. 32 pages. (0-670-86282-7) \$12.99

An astonishingly effective presentation of the American Sign Language signs for twenty-eight simple words. The sign or action for each word is illustrated with a black-and-white line drawing showing a child completing the sign. A written hint for making the sign accompanies the drawing (e.g., for "ball": like holding a ball.) Each word is illustrated in full color next to the drawing. (Ages 5-8)

**See Also:** *Bread Is For Eating, C Is For City, Girls and Young Women Inventing, Hold Christmas In Your Heart, How Sweet the Sound, It's Kwanzaa Time!, Kwanzaa, Snowballs, What a Wonderful World*

## THE ARTS

Ancona, George. CUTTERS, CARVERS & THE CATHEDRAL. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1995. 32 pages. (0-688-12056-3) \$15.00

Daily visitors to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City see a working cathedral where worship, festivals, concerts, art exhibits, and lectures are held - in which homeless and otherwise helpless people are befriended. This unfinished cathedral has a hidden story, one about people. Ancona traveled to a fossil-rich Indiana limestone quarry mill to photograph 11-1/2 ton blocks of stone being cut to be transported across five states to the Cathedral. He found the chief masonry draftsman using a computer to produce templates. He talked to carvers in the stone-yard and on scaffolds. Ancona's images and interviews reveal the diverse cultural and national backgrounds of the individuals who take pride in making a cathedral during this century and the next. Color photos show the high tech work, hard labor and artistry involved in creating a classic structure in contemporary times. A marvelous companion to materials about the Middle Ages. (Ages 8-12)

Armstrong, Carole. LIVES AND LEGENDS OF THE SAINTS. With paintings from the great art museums of the world. U.S. edition: Simon & Schuster, 1995. 45 pages. (0-689-80277-3) \$17.00  
A full-page, full-color reproduction of a painting by a European artist portrays each of 20 Christian

saints and is paired with Armstrong's carefully developed single-page essay. In her introduction to this beautiful volume, Armstrong writes that some of these seven women and thirteen men "are remembered for their courageous lives and others for the legends woven around them...." The spectacular back endpages provide a twelve-month calendar of the feast days of these and other saints. Museum locations for each painting are noted. (Ages 6-11)

Bauer, Marion Dane. *A WRITER'S STORY: FROM LIFE TO FICTION*. Clarion, 1995. 133 pages. (0-395-72094-X) \$14.95

The mechanics of writing can be taught. Bauer has already outlined techniques in her book for young writers *What's Your Story: A Young Person's Guide to Writing Fiction* (Clarion, 1993). In this companion volume, she examines what cannot be taught: inspiration. What can inspire a writer? Where does experience mesh with technique? Bauer examines her published fiction to find answers for herself and offers advice useful to others. One need not be familiar with *On My Honor* (Clarion, 1986), *Foster Child* (Seabury, 1977) or any of Bauer's other novels to be compelled by her sensible essays. There is an index of stories and books discussed. (Age 11-adult)

Bearden, Romare. *THE BLOCK*. Poems by Langston Hughes. Selected by Lowery S. Sims and Daisy Murray Voigt. Introduction by Bill Cosby. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1995. 32 pages. (0-670-86501-X) \$15.99

Full-color reproductions from Romare Bearden's 1971 mural "The Block" are accompanied by twelve poems by Langston Hughes. In his introduction to the elegant, almost cinematic volume measuring 12 1/4 x 9 1/4", Bill Cosby relates how the mural reflects the people and events of a busy, exciting Harlem neighborhood. He comments that "it is also a universal place, a recognizable and familiar environment for many people from around the world," pointing out that while "Bearden shows us the sights, Hughes gives us the sounds." A full-page biography of each man with his photograph completes this singular book. (Age 11-adult)

Bryan, Ashley, illustrator. *WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD*. Lyrics by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele. Atheneum, 1995. 24 pages. (0-689-80087-8) \$16.00

Six children paint scenery: flowers, trees, sun, moon, stars and a rainbow. They draw, cut and mount animal, bird and reptile shapes. Hand puppets are costumed. Lettered signs proclaim "Puppet Show Today" and "Satchmo the Great!" The performance begins. "I see trees of green, red roses too, I see them bloom / for me and you, and I think to myself, 'What a wonderful world!'" Backstage, children hold up set pieces picturing flora, fauna and puppet people indigenous to each hemisphere. "The bright, blessed day, the dark, sacred night..." The hands lifting the sun and moon onto the stage vary in skin color. A trumpeter appears first as a puppet and then as a character. Bryan's inspired vision for a hopeful future is also a tribute to Louis Armstrong, whose performances of this song composed three decades ago are legendary. By addressing the young in love, "...They'll know much more / than I'll ever know..." Armstrong sang a personal testimony to goodness. That Bryan understands this song on a deep level is evident in his tempera and gouache paintings incorporating bright borders and stylized patterned shapes while expanding the meanings of the lyrics and music in this 12 1/4 x 10 1/4" book. (Ages 2-8)

Christelow, Eileen. WHAT DO AUTHORS DO? Clarion, 1995. 32 pages. (0-395-71124-X) \$14.95

Christelow's appealing approach to answering the question "Where do books come from?" involves a picture story about two authors, a man and a woman. Both begin new books based on a neighborhood incident they witness simultaneously. The genial authors work separately. They use a library, conduct interviews, make happenstance observations, write drafts (and throw them away) and discuss their progress at a writing group. After completing entirely different manuscripts, they contact publishers. Once each manuscript is accepted, readers see the editing and publishing processes along with the subsequent school and bookstore appearances each author makes before beginning a new book. Full-color ink and watercolor illustrations, dialogue in balloons and a brief, no-nonsense text unfold a friendly interpretation of individual creativity and children's book publishing. (Ages 6-11)

Cummings, Pat, editor. TALKING WITH ARTISTS, Volume Two. Simon & Schuster, 1995. 96 pages. (0-689-80310-9) \$19.95

Pat Cummings has illustrated many books for children, including *C.L.O.U.D.S.* (Lothrop, 1986), *Storm in the Night* (Harper, 1988) and *C Is For City* (HarperCollins, 1995). She also realizes that although she shares things in common with other illustrators, her studio work on any picture book is unique to who she is as an individual. In her popular *Talking With Artists* (Harper, 1992) she provided a vehicle for 14 picture book creators to respond to frequently asked questions. This second volume featuring 13 artists includes each one's explanation of personal technique and a photo of his/her studio. The artists are Thomas B. Allen, Mary Jane Begin, Floyd Cooper, Julie Downing, Denise Fleming, Sheila Hamanaka, Kevin Henkes, William Joyce, Maira Kalman, Deborah Nourse Lattimore, Brian Pinkney, Vera B. Williams and David Wisniewski. Their published books are listed, readers can see a childhood and an adult photo of each, a reproduction of one piece of childhood art and a published illustration. Terrific organization and compelling subject matter mark these glimpses into artists' careers that offer realistic encouragement within excellent reading. (Ages 6-14)

Gershator, David and Phillis. BREAD IS FOR EATING. Illustrated by Emma Shaw Smith. Henry Holt, 1995. 28 pages. (0-8050-3173-1) \$14.95

When her little boy leaves bread on his plate, Mamita says, "Bread is for eating." Gently she reminds him of the elements ripening the seeds and the people harvesting grain. She sings of these things, of millers and bakers, of family members working to earn money to buy bread, and "...of people around the world, dreaming of bread." Readers are invited to think in new ways because of the warm, rich colors of the ink drawings on every page and the endpages, too. Spanish and English words are provided along with a musical notation for the short title song, the Spanish language refrain of which is part of the English language text. The book's restrained energy combined with the unusual perspectives and detailed borders of the art makes it one to re-read, sing, remember. (Ages 4-8)

Greenberg, Jan and Sandra Jordan. THE AMERICAN EYE: ELEVEN ARTISTS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. Delacorte, 1995. 120 pages. (0-385-32173-2) \$22.50

The authors profile pioneering contemporary artists, giving examples of their art reproduced in full

color, analyzing what makes each great and suggesting why each artist is distinctively American. The back matter includes a 66-term glossary offering a virtual course in art appreciation, data about each artwork pictured, a list of where to see works by the artists, a general bibliography as well as one for each artist, and a standard index. The artists are Arthur Dove, Georgia O'Keeffe, Edward Hopper, Thomas Hart Benton, Stuart Davis, Romare Bearden, Isamu Noguchi, David Smith, Jackson Pollock, Andy Warhol and Eva Hesse. A fine companion to the authors' earlier, substantial works, *The Painter's Eye: Learning to Look at Contemporary American Art* (Delacorte, 1991) and *The Sculptor's Eye: Looking at Contemporary American Art* (Delacorte, 1993). (Ages 10-18)

Hollyer, Belinda. **STORIES FROM THE CLASSICAL BALLET.** With performance notes by Irinia Baronova. Illustrated by Sophy Williams. U.S. edition: Viking, 1995. 127 pages. (0-670-86605-9) \$15.99

Each of Hollyer's eight fictionalized versions of classical ballets is accompanied by three other distinctive elements: a brief history of the ballet, three pastel paintings reproduced in full color, and Baronova's one-page reminiscence of her experience as a ballerina in that particular ballet. An autobiographical chapter by Baronova, whose childhood training led her to the Russian Ballet, precedes the unique material. Absorbing reading for beginning or advanced dancers and for others, as well, features "La Bayadère," "Coppélia," "The Firebird," "Giselle," "The Nutcracker," "Petroushka," "The Sleeping Beauty," and "Swan Lake." (Ages 6-11)

Hudson, Wade & Cheryl, selectors. **HOW SWEET THE SOUND: AFRICAN-AMERICAN SONGS FOR CHILDREN.** Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Scholastic, 1995. 48 pages. (0-590-48030-8) \$15.95

The lyrics for 23 songs from African-American traditions or perspectives are printed to be read or sung with pictures of present and past African-American life for inspiration. This inviting picture book meshes the words of spirituals and modern music with other songs. Coopers's full-color illustrations were rendered in oil wash. Easy musical notations at the end take into account the African-American component of improvisation. Huddie Ledbetter, Billy Strayhorn, James Brown, Stevie Wonder, James Weldon Johnson, J. Rosamund Johnson and Thomas A. Dorsey are among the musicians and poets represented. A brief history is provided for each song along with an eight-item list of related resources and an index. (Ages 5-12)

Krull, Kathleen. **LIVES OF THE ARTISTS: MASTERPIECES, MESSES (AND WHAT THE NEIGHBORS THOUGHT).** Illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt. Harcourt Brace, 1995. 96 pages. (0-15-200103-4) \$19.00

Twenty artists are featured in these brief, breezy biographical sketches accompanied by an iconographic painting containing visual clues to that person's works and quirks. Krull and Hewitt begin where encyclopedias typically stop, just as they did in *Lives of the Musicians* (Harcourt, 1993) and *Lives of the Writers* (Harcourt, 1994). They create somewhat unconventional portraits of each artist, leaving readers with a sense of him/her as an actual person and a zest to know more. The artists are da Vinci, Michelangelo, Bruegel, Anguissola, Rembrandt, Hokusai, Cassatt, van Gogh, Kollwitz, Matisse, Picasso, Chagall, Duchamp, O'Keeffe, W. H. Johnson, Dali, Noguchi, Rivera, Kahlo and Warhol. (Ages 7-14)

Le Tord, Bijou. *A BLUE BUTTERFLY: A STORY ABOUT CLAUDE MONET*. Doubleday, 1995. 32 pages. (0-385-31102-8) \$15.95

The beauty and heart of Monet's artistry is the subject of this graceful picture book that touches upon the passion of the painter and his exquisite work. In a text that is fewer than 200 words, Le Tord describes Monet's painting in language that is as carefully chosen and placed as brushstrokes on a canvas. Words placed in a deliberate vertical arrangement on the page encourage readers - and listeners - to savor the images they create. Le Tord's illustrations are inspired from Monet's work. A loving, carefully crafted introduction to an artist who amazed and inspired, and to the wonder of nature that amazed and inspired him. (Ages 5-8)

Medearis, Angela Shelf. *TREEMONISHA*. From the opera by Scott Joplin. Illustrated by Michael Bryant. Henry Holt, 1995. 37 pages. (0-8050-1748-8) \$15.95

Scott Joplin created a musical autobiography in his ragtime opera *Treemonisha*, first performed in Harlem in 1915. Although the opera received a Pulitzer Prize in 1976, *Treemonisha* was first produced without costumes or scenery. Joplin choreographed that production and played the orchestral score on the piano himself. Even though he realized his work was ahead of its time, Joplin viewed this effort as a failure. He died two years later. The theme of *Treemonisha* honors African-American heritage, while the story involves the daughter of freed slaves who works on behalf of her people in the post-Civil War South. Medearis' fictionalized version of the plot includes excerpts from the libretto. Rendered in watercolor and colored pencil, Bryant's many illustrations costume lively characters and stage vivid scenes in an important book to read as if it were a short novel. (Ages 9-12)

Murphy, Jim. *INTO THE DEEP FOREST WITH HENRY DAVID THOREAU*. Illustrated by Kate Kiesler. Clarion, 1995. 37 pages. (0-395-60522-9) \$14.95

Carefully excerpted entries from Thoreau's journals concerning his third and earlier trips into the wilderness of Maine provide valuable insights from this reverent observer of nature. Murphy's note about the text indicates that he tried to use a light hand when creating transitions and other necessary alterations within Thoreau's original writing. The brief passages written in third person are effectively illustrated with Kiesler's oil paintings and pencil drawings. (Ages 10-16)

Williams, Neva. *PATRICK DESJARLAIT: CONVERSATIONS WITH A NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIST*. Revised edition: Runestone, 1995. 56 pages. ((0-8225-3151-8) \$16.13

Patrick DesJarlait was an artist who belonged to the Red Lake Chippewa Band (Anishinabe) of northern Minnesota. More than 20 years ago, Williams tape-recorded the interviews forming the basis for this book featuring DesJarlait's life and art, along with his comments about reservation life in the 1920s, boarding school, and his development as an artist. During World War II, he worked as a film animator for the U.S. Navy and had a short stint as the art director at a relocation camp where Japanese-Americans were held. His paintings employ bright, rich tones to portray the many traditions of his people. Although DesJarlait did not receive wide recognition or acclaim while alive, his career has inspired younger American Indian artists, and his paintings were pivotal in the development of contemporary American Indian art. (Ages 8-14)

**See Also:** *Glorious Angels, Hold Christmas in Your Heart, Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing, My Fellow Americans, On the Wings of Peace, One Hot Summer Day, Othello, Protecting Marie, The Tree is Older Than You Are, Turandot*

## POETRY

Adoff, Arnold. SLOW DANCE HEART BREAK BLUES. Illustrated by William Cotton. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1995. 80 pages. (0-688-10569-6) \$14.00

From the giddy high of first kiss-first love to the darkness of drugs to the pain of infatuation and self-doubt, Arnold Adoff expresses the emotional landscape of teenage life in poems that glisten with truth and cut to the heart. Occasional black-and-white photographic images by William Cotton are artful reflections of funny, touching and powerful poetic moments. (Age 13 and older)

Adoff, Arnold. STREET MUSIC: CITY POEMS. Illustrated by Karen Barbour. HarperCollins, 1995. 32 pages. (0-06-021522-4) 16.00

Feel the cold shiver of water from a hydrant spray relief on a steaming summer day. Listen as the clang and bang of a garbage truck sounds the alarm for morning. See the woman and her young daughters sharing fruit in the doorway of the cash machine, where they spend each day in search of survival. A child voices images and observations of life in the big city in this collection of fifteen original poems that vibrate with edginess and excitement. Karen Barbour's illustrations echo the energy of the poems and pulse with the intensity and abandon of city life. (Ages 7-11)

Begay, Shonto. NAVAJO: VISIONS AND VOICES ACROSS THE MESA. Scholastic, 1995. 48 pages. (0-590-46153-2) \$15.95

Pairing paintings and poems, Navajo artist and writer Shonto Begay takes readers on a journey through past and present from the viewpoint of a 20th century Navajo, for whom the struggle for balance - "New World" with ancient world - is constant. In his powerful introduction which provides an important context for the poems and paintings that follow, Begay writes, "These are my personal visions and memories of voices shared." His images on page and canvas, reflect spiritual beliefs, his relationship with nature, and aspects of history and contemporary life in Navajo culture. (Age 13 and older)

Gordon, Ruth, selector. PIERCED BY A RAY OF SUN: POEMS ABOUT THE TIMES WE FEEL ALONE. HarperCollins, 1995. 105 pages. (0-06-023613-2) \$16.00

"I may be silent , but / I'm thinking. / "I may not talk, but / Don't mistake me for a wall." ("Silent, But..." by Shigeji Tsuboi. Translated from the Japanese by Geoffrey Bownas and Anthony Thwaite.) A collection of poems from across cultures and across centuries explores how loneliness, isolation and alienation are feelings universal to human experience. At the same time, the poems themselves represent the tenacity of the human spirit in its will to connect and survive. Gordon's earlier poetry anthologies include *Under All Silences: Shades of Love* (Harper, 1987), *Time is the Longest Distance* (HarperCollins, 1992) and *Peeling the Onion* (HarperCollins, 1993). (Age 14 and older)

Hughes, Shirley. RHYMES FOR ANNIE ROSE. U.S. edition: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1995. 48 pages. (0-688-14220-6) \$16.00

Alfie's baby sister takes center stage in a picture-book collection of 27 original poems about life from a toddler's perspective. Family, friends, cows, the washing machine, a special backyard tree, a walk in the rain -- all are ordinary pleasures of everyday life, viewed through Annie Rose's eyes. As with her previous books about Alfie, Shirley Hughes excels at realistically depicting the active lives of young children without condensation or cleverness. (Ages 2-5)

Myers, Walter Dean. GLORIOUS ANGELS: A CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN. HarperCollins, 1995. 40 pages. (0-06-024822-X) \$15.95

Myers, a distinguished author of novels and biographies for teen readers and stories for young children, is also a poet and collector of antique photographic portraits. In the sepia-toned portraits in *Glorious Angels*, most children will be able to find at least one old photo close to their own heritage. Children need nurturing adults to love them; two sections focus upon mothers and fathers the world around. Children require a community to nurture them, and there is a section titled "Villages." Myers' first photo-poetry album, *Brown Angels* (HarperCollins, 1993), celebrated African-American children who lived almost a century ago. The elegant bookmaking of each volume underscores Myers' respect for all children of yesterday, along with his hopes for all children of tomorrow. His photos and poems are reminders that angels are in front of us today. (Age 3 and older)

Nye, Naomi Shihab, editor. THE TREE IS OLDER THAN YOU ARE: A BILINGUAL GATHERING OF POEMS & STORIES FROM MEXICO WITH PAINTINGS BY MEXICAN ARTISTS. Simon & Schuster, 1995. 110 pages. (0-689-80297-8) \$19.95

Leticia Tarragó's intriguing cover art shows scarlet fish with wheels on two fins, a propeller on the third, and a child riding on its back in a terrain inhabited by a cat, a pair of giraffes and two moons. The inviting jacket leads readers or browsers into a handsome volume introducing more than 100 poems and other writings, including five folktales and 24 full-color art reproductions. Separate indexes of English language and Spanish language titles help readers locate poems, while a third index cites the writers and artists. Biographical information is provided for them and for the translators. The title of this lovely, unique anthology originates in the poem "The Lemon Tree" (*Árbol de limón*) by Jennifer Clement from Mexico City. "...Remember / the tree is older than you are / and you might find stories / in its branches." (Age 8 - adult)

Orie, Sandra De Coteau. DID YOU HEAR WIND SING YOUR NAME: AN ONEIDA SONG OF SPRING. Illustrations by Christopher Canyon. Walker, 1995. 32 pages. (0-8027-8350-3) \$14.95

An lyrical poem from Oneida writer Sandra De Coteau Orie celebrates the coming of spring with keen, gentle questions that invite children to observe and appreciate nature's gifts. "Did you see / the White Birch standing tall among the Darkwoods / and the greening of the Aspen saplings?" Orie, who grew up and still resides in Wisconsin, uses elements of nature significant to her Oneida culture to mark spring's arrival, explaining their meaning in an author's note. Christopher Canyon's rich, detailed paintings are filled with the small wonders of nature, as well as its expansive beauty. (Ages 4-9)

Soto, Gary. CANTO FAMILIAR. Illustrated by Annika Nelson. Harcourt Brace, 1995. 79 pages.

(0-15-200067-4) \$17.00

Gary Soto offers 25 original poems in a collection that is rich with the sounds and images of Mexican American culture, and brims with experiences of childhood. Little brothers, sarapes, lost eyeglasses, tortillas, dish washing, math tests and other familiar events and objects are depicted in poems that weave Spanish words, like touchstones, into their fabric. Colorful full-page prints by Annika Nelson accompany some poems. (Ages 9-12)

Wilbur, Richard. *RUNAWAY OPPOSITES*. Illustrated by Henrik Drescher. Harcourt Brace, 1995. 32 pages. (0-15-258722-5) \$15.00

"What is the opposite of baby? / The answer is a grown-up, maybe." Richard Wilbur turns ideas upside-down and sideways in a sharp collection of riddles and rhymes that is illustrated with frenetic glee by Henrick Drescher's multi-media collage images. (Ages 8-11)

**See Also:** *The Block, Gingerbread Days, Hold Christmas In Your Heart, The Song of Mu Lan*

## **BOOKS FOR TODDLERS**

Cousins, Lucy. *ZA-ZA'S BABY BROTHER*. U.S. edition: Candlewick, 1995. 24 pages. (1-56402-582-9) \$16.95

Like most picture books about new babies, this one deals with the inevitable changes in family life, told from the perspective of the displaced older sibling, who is herself little more than a toddler. But Lucy Cousins breathes new life into a common theme with her droll, boldly colored illustrations. Za-Za and her family, for example, are zebras who behave as people. Midst the chaos of upset routines and endless waiting for parental attention, there are times when Za-Za's own stripes seem to offer the only measure of controlled predictability in her world. (Ages 2-4)

Henkes, Kevin. *THE BIGGEST BOY*. Illustrated by Nancy Tafuri. Greenwillow, 1995. 32 pages. (0-688-12830-0) \$14.93

Billy is getting bigger and bigger every day, his parents tell him, and when he demands to know just how big he will get, the family launches into an amusing fantasy scenario in which Billy is so big he can move the clouds by blowing on them and wear a rainbow around his neck. Nancy Tafuri's uncluttered watercolor illustrations make a believable transition from reality to fantasy by first showing Billy as a giant among his toy boat, truck and houses, and then as a Gulliver of a child stepping over real trees and lakes in his imagination. (Ages 2-4)

Kasza, Keiko. *GRANDPA'S TOAD'S SECRETS*. Putnam, 1995. 32 pages. (0-399-22610-9) \$15.95

"You know, Little Toad," says Grandpa one day, "the world is full of hungry enemies." When Little Toad asks him how they can protect themselves, Grandpa demonstrates three methods when faced with a hungry snake, a hungry snapping turtle and finally, a hungry monster: be brave, be smart, and be sure to have a friend you can count on. Keiko Kasza excels once again at blending humor and drama to create a picture book with a great deal of child appeal and a perfectly satisfying resolution. (Ages 2-4)

Lillie, Patricia. FLOPPY TEDDY BEAR. Illustrated by Karen Lee Baker. Greenwillow, 1995. 32 pages. (0-688-12570-0) \$15.00

A rhyming text rocks with playful repetition to express the exasperation of a young girl whose toddler sister can't seem to keep her hands off her big sister's favorite toy. At the hands of baby sister, teddy faces one minor disaster after another until the older sister and her mother come up with a plan to distract the baby with a floppy teddy bear of her own. (Ages 2-4)

Lively, Penelope. GOOD NIGHT, SLEEP TIGHT. Illustrated by Adriano Gon. U.S. edition: Candlewick, 1995. 24 pages. (1-56402-417-2) \$13.95

Not every child is sleepy at bedtime, least of all this energetic caretaker of a doll named Mary Ann and a stuffed frog, lion, and cat. Each of these toys leads its owner on a flight of fantasy (or is it the other way around?) until all of them are finally worn out and ready to fall asleep. Both text and pictures in this playful story capture the combination of levity and seriousness with which children approach imaginary play. (Ages 2-4)

London, Jonathan. LIKE BUTTER ON PANCAKES. Illustrated by G. Brian Karas. Viking, 1995. 32 pages. (0-670-85130-2) \$13.99

A simple, poetic text marks the passing of a day from pre-dawn to nighttime and a small boy's activities throughout the waking hours. A language-rich text evokes wonderful images of light and sound that are perfectly accompanied by the full-page, full-color, lighthearted illustrations in which shadow and light dance across pages, and the small pleasures in life are celebrated with joy. (Ages 2-4)

McBratney, Sam. GUESS HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU. Illustrated by Anita Jeram. U.S. edition: Candlewick, 1995. 32 pages. (1-56402-473-3) \$13.95

At bedtime Little Nutbrown Hare poses a hard question to Big Nutbrown Hare: "Guess how much I love you?" and then answers his own question by stretching out his forearms to show him: "This much." When Big Nutbrown Hare responds in kind, since his arms are longer, it appears that his love is even greater, so Little comes up with another demonstration that will top Big. And so the game goes until Little is completely worn out and falls sound asleep. A charming tribute to the guessing game played by many children and their parents is superbly illustrated in pen and ink with watercolor washes in which soft greens, blues and (of course) nutbrowns predominate. The cozy sweetness of the story is ingeniously balanced with a slight edge in Anita Jeram's illustrations which keep it from sinking into overwhelming preciousness. (Ages 18 months-4 years)

Raschka, Chris. CAN'T SLEEP. Orchard, 1995. 32 pages. (0-531-09479-0) \$14.95

A masterful use of design and color gives structure to the story of a sleepless little dog who stays awake long after his big brother, mother and father are tucked in their own beds, sound asleep. As a bright yellow moon moves across the flat plane of a midnight blue page, gentle words reassure the dog that he is not alone in the universe for the moon is there, watching over him each night, even after he finally succumbs to sleep. (Ages 18 months-3 years)

**See Also:** *A Bear for All Seasons, One Hot Summer Day, Snow Day!, What a Wonderful World*

## PICTURE BOOKS

Bauer, Marion Dane. *WHEN I GO CAMPING WITH GRANDMA*. Illustrated by Allen Garns. Bridgewater, 1995. 32 pages. (0-8167-3448-8) \$14.95

A young girl lyrically describes the quiet moments she and her grandmother share when they camp together: sleeping in a tent, fishing from a canoe, roasting hot dogs and marshmallows over an open campfire. Throughout the busy day, there is still plenty of time and space for them to observe the wonders of nature. Allen Garns' soft, hazy illustrations provide just the right mood for this evocative story. (Ages 3-6)

Chocolate, Debbi. *ON THE DAY I WAS BORN*. Illustrated by Melodye Rosales. Scholastic, 1995. 32 pages. (0-590-47609-2) \$12.95

A contemporary African-American family welcomes its newest member with a combination of ancient African traditions, such as holding the baby up to the heavens and presenting him with a kofia and kente cloth, and modern American practices. Boldly colored realistic gouache paintings illustrate the celebratory moods of a loving extended family. Winner, 1995 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Illustration (Ages 3-5)

Froehlich, Margaret Walden. *THAT KOOKOORY!* Illustrated by Marla Frazee. Browndeer / Harcourt Brace, 1995. 40 pages. (0-15-277650-8) \$15.00

Distinctive etchings on browntone paper give an Old World feel to this refreshingly original story. The rooster Kookoory is so anxious to experience the marvels of the Edgerton Fair that he mistakes the rising moon for the rising sun and wakes all his friends up early. With all of the changes he makes in his usual predicatable routine, he unknowingly outwits a weasel who has been quietly stalking him ever since Kookoory first called attention to himself with all his crowing about the next day's fair. (Ages 4-7)

Gray, Libba Moore. *MY MAMA HAD A DANCING HEART*. Illustrated by Raúl Colón. Orchard, 1995. 32 pages. (0-531-09470-7) \$15.95

"My mama had a dancing heart and she shared that heart with me." A young woman looks back upon her mother's joyous embrace of life in a memory-rich picture book that recalls the many times in her childhood they danced together to celebrate the seasons. Libba Moore Gray's tender celebration of a warm and cherished mother-daughter relationship is movingly illustrated by Raul Colón's graceful, deep-toned paintings that are burnished with plum and golden hues. (Ages 7-10)

Grimes, Nikki. *C IS FOR CITY*. Illustrated by Pat Cummings. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1995. 40 pages. (0-688-11809-7) \$16.00

Rhyming verses for each letter of the alphabet celebrate the sights and sounds of a lively Manhattan neighborhood. Pat Cummings' shimmering color illustrations extend the text even further by adding several objects for children to identify in each picture. At the end of the book, she has provided an alphabetical key which lists the illustrated objects corresponding to each letter, right down to the names of typefaces she has used (**A**irkraft, **B**enguiat, **C**ooper Black, etc) which also go in corresponding alphabetical order. (Ages 3-6)

Henkes, Kevin. GOOD-BYE, CURTIS. Illustrated by Marisabina Russo. Greenwillow, 1995. 24 pages. (0-688-12828-9) \$15.00

Retiring after 42 years as a mail carrier, Curtis's last day making his rounds is filled with memories, good wishes and small gifts from an appreciative community. "We'll miss you, Curtis," they all tell him and it is obvious that Curtis will miss his customers, too. Kevin Henkes's simple, patterned text will hook young listeners who are already tuned in to the comforting predictability of neighborhood routines. Marisabina Russo's brightly colored gouache paintings bring the neighborhood filled with shops and houses, children and grownups, and cats and dogs to life. (Ages 3-6)

Heo, Yumi. FATHER'S RUBBER SHOES. Orchard, 1995. 32 pages. (0-531-06873-0) \$14.95

Yungsu has difficulty adjusting to life in the United States after his family moves from Korea. Since they were all happy in Korea, he can't understand why they left. When his father tells him a story from his own childhood, it helps him to understand a parent's desire to provide a better life for the next generation. Yumi Heo combines oil paintings, pencil drawings and collage to create her distinctive art style. Her innovative use of color and perspective reflect Yungsu's moods throughout the book. (Ages 4-8)

Herrera, Juan Felipe. CALLING THE DOVES = EL CANTO DE LAS PALOMAS. Illustrated by Elly Simmons. Children's Book Press (6400 Hollis Street, Suite 4, Emeryville, CA 94608), 1995. 32 pages. (0-89239-132-4) \$14.95

In lyrical bilingual prose (Spanish/English) Chicano poet Juan Felipe Herrera recalls his childhood growing up in a family of migrant farmworkers. "The road changed with the seasons," he observes but some things stayed the same: his mother's love of poetry and music and his father's ability to whistle a tune that would attract doves. Color pencil and acrylic paintings express the warmth and security felt by a child growing up in a loving household. (Ages 4-8)

Howard, Elizabeth Fitzgerald. PAPA TELLS CHITA A STORY. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Simon & Schuster, 1995. 32 pages. (0-02-744623-9) \$15.00

A character first introduced in *Chita's Christmas Tree* (Bradbury, 1989) is back and this time it's her father who's the center of attention as he tells Chita stories of his life as a soldier in the Spanish American War. It seems the more often Papa tells the tale, the taller it gets. The audience soon realizes, along with Chita, that Papa is engaging in impossible acts as he battles a snake, an alligator and spends the night in an eagle's nest. Floyd Cooper's soft-edged gold-tone paintings create just the right mood for this story about an early 20th century middle class African-American family. (Ages 4-7)

Johnson, Stephen T. ALPHABET CITY. Viking, 1995. 32 pages. (0-670-85631-2) \$14.99

Paintings that echo with the realism of photographs offer an enticing array of hidden (and not-so-hidden) treasures in a book that finds letters of the alphabet in cityscapes and city objects. Stephen T. Johnson's vision invites readers to look - and then look again - at the world around them. (Ages 3-6)

McDonald, Megan. INSECTS ARE MY LIFE. Illustrated by Paul Brett Johnson. Orchard, 1995. 32 pages. (0-531-06874-9) \$14.95

Amanda Frankenstein is a sturdy little girl with glasses and a singular passion: "Insects are my life," she tells everyone she meets, and indeed they are. When she's not observing live bugs or collecting dead ones, she dreams of insects, and her obsession sometimes makes life difficult. With gentle humor stemming from skillful use of exaggeration, Megan McDonald celebrates the spirit of a young child bent on one particular interest while Paul Brett Johnson's sunny illustrations perfectly capture Amanda in her many moods. (Ages 4-7)

Macaulay, David. *SHORTCUT*. Houghton Mifflin, 1995. 64 pages. (0-395-52436-9) \$15.95  
On his way to the market when Albert opts for the short cut, instead of the "long, long way," his simple acts of hanging his jacket on a post, hitching his horse June to a railroad switch, and cutting a rope that blocks his path, set off a chain reaction of events that spell disaster for others. A delightful cause-and-effect story is told in just 52 short sentences spread out over nine chapters and an epilogue. Most of the plot, however, unfolds in the pictures which require a careful reading in order to make sense of how and why things happen as they do. Honor Book, 1995 CCBC Caldecott Award Discussion (Ages 4-10)

Mathers, Petra. *KISSES FROM ROSA*. Apple Soup / Knopf, 1995. 40 pages. (0-679-82686-6) \$16.00

When Rosa's mother gets sick, Rosa is sent to live with relatives she barely knows: her Aunt Mookie and Cousin Birgit who live on a farm in the Black Forest. Even though she misses her mother terribly, Rosa soon begins to feel at home on the farm as she gets to know the people and animals around her, and she has her weekly letters from Mami to look forward to. Petra Mathers has based the story on her own childhood experiences, as she was often sent away while her mother struggled with tuberculosis. Her stylized gouache paintings skillfully express a combination of nostalgia, homesickness and a childlike excitement at first-time encounters. (Ages 4-8)

Meddaugh, Susan. *HOG-EYE*. Houghton Mifflin, 1995. 32 pages. (0-395-74276-5) \$14.95  
A story within a story is relayed in words and pictures when a little pig gives an account for her family of all the things that happened to her when she boarded the wrong bus for school: she took a shortcut through the forest ("How many times have we told you: never go into the forest alone!") and was snapped up by a hungry wolf who planned to cook her in a soup till the little pig outwitted him with a recipe for disaster. Wry details abound in both the pig's clever story and her family's responses to it throughout. (Ages 3-7)

Myers, Walter Dean. *THE STORY OF THE THREE KINGDOMS*. Illustrated by Ashley Bryan. HarperCollins, 1995. 32 pages. (0-06-024286-8) 14.95

An original story with many mythic themes tells of a time when The People came to earth and tried to assert themselves over Elephant, Shark and Hawk, who ruled the Kingdoms of the Earth, Water and Sky respectively. Although The People were able to outwit the rulers of each of the Three Kingdoms, they realized they did so through the power of story, the same power that made it possible for them to be the caretakers of the Kingdoms. This 12 1/4 x 7 1/4" volume is handsomely illustrated by Ashley Bryan's luminous abstract paintings which complement the story's mythic qualities. (Ages 4-8)

Nye, Naomi Shihab. *BENITO'S DREAM BOTTLE*. Illustrated by Yu Cha Pak. Simon &

Schuster, 1995. 32 pages. (0-02-768467-9) \$15.00

Naomi Shihab Nye brings her vision and voice as a poet to the creation and telling of this story in which nothing is too small or too ordinary for dream-making. When Benito finds out his grandmother doesn't dream, he lovingly guides her through memories and observations of the world around her so that she can fill her Dream Bottle. "It's inside every body, between the stomach and the chest," he tells his mother. "At night, when we lie down, it pours the dreams into our heads." Yu Cha Pak's watercolor art echoes the grace of Nye's words: dream images, realized with clarity, are whimsical but never silly in this eloquent book about the wonder of imagination and the power of a small boy's love. (Ages 4-8)

Perkins, Lynne Rae. HOME LOVELY. Greenwillow, 1995. 32 pages. (0-688-13688-5) \$15.00

Tiffany must stay home alone in the trailer during afternoons while her mother is at work. With no neighbors, it's a lonely time. Then she finds and plants some seedlings next to the driveway in the hopes of brightening up their new home, and they draw the attention of the mailman, Bob, on his daily rounds. With the help of Bob and her mother, Janelle, Tiffany nurtures a bountiful garden of vegetables, flowers, and friendship. A warm, realistic picture book shows a financially struggling, single-parent family filled with creativity and love. Full-color illustrations of pen and ink and watercolor shine with caring moments and tender details. (Ages 4-7)

Rathmann, Peggy. OFFICER BUCKLE AND GLORIA. Putnam, 1995. 32 pages. (0-399-22616-8) \$15.95

Whenever Officer Buckle visits elementary schools to give his lecture on personal safety, his audiences drift off to sleep. But once his trusty police dog Gloria begins to accompany him, suddenly his show is a hit! Little does Officer Buckle know, however, that his new-found popularity is actually due to Gloria's upstaging him behind his back -- literally -- as she enacts a dramatic interpretation of each of Officer Buckle's tips. Lively pen-and-ink drawings with watercolor washes add humor to this modern cautionary tale. (Ages 3-7)

Reiser, Lynn. NIGHT THUNDER AND THE QUEEN OF THE WILD HORSES. Greenwillow, 1995. 32 pages. (0-688-11792-9) \$15.00

A small girl has trouble sleeping on a stormy night because of all the noise coming from the sky. She travels in her dreams with the Queen of Wild Horses to seek out the source of the night thunder. Just beyond the clouds they find dinosaurs (CRASH!) being kept awake by elephants (BA WHUMP!) being kept awake by elk (BANG!) being kept awake by bears (BOOM!) being kept awake by beavers (WHAM!), all being kept awake by a tiny little rabbit (thump!). This cumulative bedtime story is perfectly paced for young listeners who will enjoy the dreamlike humorous fantasy of both text and illustrations. (Ages 3-6)

Schertle, Alice. DOWN THE ROAD. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Browndeer / Harcourt Brace, 1995. 40 pages. (0-15-276622-7) \$16.00

Hetty's first solo errand is to walk down the country road from home to the store to buy a dozen eggs and carry them safely back home. Solemn with responsibility, Hetty walks very carefully both ways and almost makes it home without breaking a single egg until she happens on an apple tree bearing ripe delicious fruit. An enchanting story of a contemporary African-American rural family is well matched with E. B. Lewis's sun-dappled watercolor

illustrations which brilliantly capture the determination of a young girl out to prove herself. Honor Book, 1995 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Illustration (Ages 4-7)

Shelby, Anne. HOMEPLACE. Illustrated by Wendy Anderson Halperin. Orchard, 1995. 32 pages. (0-531-06882-X) \$15.95

"Your great-great-great-great grandpa built this house," a grandmother tells her granddaughter one day. Together the two imagine all the changes that have occurred in the house through six generations. Wendy Anderson Halperin's cozy pencil and watercolor illustrations are filled with details of everyday life in the past, cast against a backdrop of constancy (the house) and continuity (the family). (Ages 4-8)

Soto, Gary. CHATO'S KITCHEN. Illustrated by Susan Guevara. Putnam, 1995. 32 pages. (0-399-22658-3) \$15.95

Chato and his best friend Novio Boy are streetwise cool cats from "East Los" who are thrilled when a family of mice move in next door. When Chato invites his new neighbors over for dinner, they innocently accept, not realizing that their host plans to serve them as the main course. Gary Soto skillfully integrates Spanish into the text of this wry cat-and-mouse tale. While surprising plot twists and amusing turns of phrase will delight monolingual English-speaking readers, there will be double the fun for those who understand Spanish as well, as Soto plays with both languages simultaneously. Equally playful is artist Susan Guevara who fills her illustrations with cultural references: a calendar page open to May 5 (Cinco de Mayo); and elegant birds' wedding taking place in mailbox; and tiny letters on a banana label reading *sangre de Honduras*. Small visual details such as these add an extra layer of meaning for observant readers without detracting from the overall fun of the story. Guevara's style suits the broad humor perfectly, as she is especially gifted at expressing subtleties of character through controlled exaggeration. ¡Delicioso! Winner, 1995 CCBC Caldecott Award Discussion (Ages 4-8)

Straight, Susan. BEAR E. BEAR. Illustrated by Marisabina Russo. Hyperion, 1995. 32 pages. (1-56282-527-5) 14.89

Gaila's little sister accidentally dropped her favorite stuffed bear in a mud puddle and now Gaila is waiting patiently while Bear E. Bear goes through a wash and rinse cycle in the washing machine and then bounces around in the dryer. While she waits, Gaila remembers several past experiences with Bear E. Bear -- the time Grandma sewed his nose back on, the time another child made fun of him, and the time he got jelly in his hair. A young child's devotion to a special toy are realistically depicted in this warm picture story which features an interracial (African American/white) family. (Ages 3-5)

Vaughan, Marcia. TINGO TANGO MANGO TREE. Illustrated by Yvonne Buchanan. Silver Burdett, 1995. 32 pages. (0-382-24077-4) \$10.95

After an iguana named Sombala Bombala Rombala Roh plants a mango seed and waits for the tree to grow and bear fruit, she finds she is not strong enough to pick the mango by herself. She seeks out the help of her friends the flamingo, the parrot and the turtle but even the four of them pulling together cannot pick the mango. Finally a small bat, Bitteo Biteo finds herself equal to the task. A playful use of language adds to the appeal of this cumulative tale illustrated in warm tropical colors. (Ages 3-5)

Walter, Mildred Pitts. DARKNESS. Illustrated by Marcia Jameson. Simon & Schuster, 1995. 24 pages. (0-689-80305-2) \$15.00

Many small children who are afraid of the dark will find reassurance in this evocative story that reminds us of all the good things darkness brings us: our shadows and cool shade, soothing rain from dark clouds, dreamtime and the bright stars that can only be seen at night. The comforting, poetic text is nicely interpreted by Marcia Jameson's abstract acrylic paintings which contrast deep shades of blue and purple with occasional touches of orange and gold to express the beauty of darkness. (Ages 3-7)

Wolff, Patricia Rae. THE TOLL-BRIDGE TROLL. Illustrated by Kimberly Bulcken Root. Browndeer / Harcourt Brace, 1995. 24 pages. (0-15-277665-6) \$13.00

Every day on his way to school a thoroughly modern little boy named Trigg is stopped by a baby troll who expects Trigg to pay him to cross his bridge. Trigg manages to outwit the troll each time until the mother troll comes up with a solution that suits everybody -- she'll send her baby to school, too, to smarten him up. Detailed pen-and-ink and watercolor paintings add charm to an amusing original tale. (Ages 3-7)

**See Also:** *All About Owls, A Bear for All Seasons, Bread Is For Eating, Celie and the Harvest Fiddler, The Christmas Visitor, Giving Thanks, Goldilocks and the Three Hares, The Happy Prince, How Turtle's Back Was Cracked, I See Animals Hiding, In the Snow, In the Woods, The Last Quest of Gilgamesh, The Loyal Cat, Pulling the Lion's Tail, Sam and the Lucky Money, The Spirit of Tío Fernando, Starlight and Candles, The Tie Man's Miracle, Town Mouse Country Mouse, Turandot, Very Scary, What a Wonderful World, The Wicked Prince, When the Wind Stops, Winter Rescue*

## **EASY FICTION**

Griffith, Helen V. GRANDDADDY'S STARS. Illustrated by James Stevenson. Greenwillow, 1995. 32 pages. (0-688-13655-9) \$15.00

In the fourth volume in this series of easy chapter books, Granddaddy is traveling from Georgia to Baltimore to visit Janetta for a change. Janetta, true to form, worries constantly about the visit: what if Granddaddy misses the train? What if he sleeps through his stop? What if he finds everything Janetta plans to show him boring? And Granddaddy, true to form, arrives rearing to go, with his repertoire of funny stories and wry observations which soon set Janetta's mind at ease. Helen Griffith excels at creating distinctive, fully rounded characters through dialogue, while James Stevenson's understated line drawings with watercolor washes provide the perfect complement. (Ages 6-8)

Hinton, S.E. THE PUPPY SISTER. Illustrated by Jacqueline Rogers. Delacorte, 1995. 120 pages. (0-385-32060-4) \$14.95

Nick wanted a sister, not a dog, and his wish unexpectedly comes true when the puppy his family adopts gradually begins to turn into a human child. Written from the point of view of the puppy Aleasha, this hilarious easy chapter book gives us a dog's perspective on life in a human family by focusing on smells and a constant, overwhelming urge to run and to bite. (Ages 7-9)

King-Smith, Dick. *THE SCHOOL MOUSE*. Illustrated by Cynthia Fisher. U.S. edition: Hyperion, 1995. 124 pages. (0-7868-2029-2) \$13.95

Though Flora comes from a long line of school mice, she is the first in her family who has ever actually been interested in learning how to read. Her family thinks she is putting on airs, but Flora persists and works her way through kindergarten and first grade listening to the teacher by day and studying the books in the classroom by night. None of the other mice can possibly imagine how any good can come of it, but when Flora reads a label on a tasty-looking box of pellets and discovers it is actually poison, she begins a one-mouse crusade for literacy. Delightful characterizations propel a humorous tale illustrated with occasional black-and-white drawings. (Ages 7-9)

Miller, Sara Swan. *THREE STORIES YOU CAN READ TO YOUR DOG*. Illustrated by True Kelley. Houghton Mifflin, 1995. 48 pages. (0-395-69938-X) \$13.95

The first yarn, "The Burglar," begins rapidly: "One day you were taking a nap. There was nothing else to do. All at once, you heard THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! 'Wow!' you said to yourself. 'A burglar! A burglar is knocking on the door!' You ran to the door..." No one is there. Apparently the "big, scary, brave" dog in this book scared the burglar away. Time for another dog-nap. The humor in the narrative is derived from the second person point of view, allowing readers to supply what is left out. True Kelley's full-color illustrations fully support the text. In "The Burglar" readers see a large brown mutt waking up from a nap on the rug, startled and immediately alert. They know at once he's ready to protect the household. All three stories are superbly written, humorous and eight pages each in length. "The Bone" (burying it and then searching for it) and "The Wild Dog" (running away) also contain repetition, a text with a strong context, and a controlled vocabulary. An unusual, exciting book. (Ages 5-8)

Reiser, Lynn. *TWO MICE IN THREE FABLES*. Greenwillow, 1995. 32 pages. (0-688-13389-4) \$15.00

Three delightful fables begin with the tale of outdoor mouse and an indoor mouse on a shared night of adventure in which they narrowly escape the predatory clutches of an owl and a raccoon, not to mention the slithering intentions of a hungry snake. In the two remaining fables, readers see the mice again as the story of the evening unfolds from the viewpoints of the owl, the raccoon and the snake. Superbly designed and charmingly told, *Two Mice* balances a simple, carefully rendered text with playfully inviting color illustrations that are as much a part of the storytelling as the words themselves. A skillful use of short sentences, repeated phrases, alliteration and rhyme makes for a child-friendly text with a comforting sense of familiarity. (Ages 3-6)

Rylant, Cynthia. *MR. PUTTER AND TABBY PICK THE PEARS*. Illustrated by Arthur Howard. Harcourt Brace, 1995. 44 pages. (0-15-200245-6) \$11.00

Mr. Putter has a problem. The pears he loves to make into jelly are high in the tree, and his legs are too cranky to climb the ladder. Tabby, his faithful cat companion, understands cranky: it's the way her tail feels some days, too stiff to swish. With Tabby by his side, Mr. Putter makes a slingshot to knock down the unreachable pears and though his solution seems at first like a long-shot, his efforts are ultimately, if surprisingly, rewarded. Children will delight in

the outcome of this beginning reader that offers a charming story, engaging language, and lively full-color illustrations. Earlier Mr. Putter and Tabby books include *Mr. Putter and Tabby Pour the Tea* (Harcourt Brace, 1994), *Mr. Putter and Tabby Walk the Dog* (Harcourt Brace, 1994), and *Mr. Putter and Tabby Bake the Cake* (Harcourt Brace, 1994). (Ages 5-7)

**See Also:** *Bread Is for Eating, One Hot Summer Day, The Song of Mu Lan*

## FICTION FOR CHILDREN

Alexander, Lloyd. *THE ARKADIANS*. Dutton, 1995. 272 pages. (0-525-45415-2) \$15.99

Lucian is a bored counting clerk in the ruling house of Arkadia. When he unwittingly gets caught up in political intrigue he must flee for his life. On the road, he meets Fonto, a poet who has been turned into a donkey, and Joy-in-the-Dance, a young woman who is also the Pythoness, an oracle from the line of Arkadia's pre-patriarchal era. In a blend of Greek myth with contemporary storytelling spiced by feminist politics, the three set out on a journey in which Lucian seeks his true calling, Fonto seeks a return to human form, and Joy-in-the-Dance seeks a peaceful future for the people of Arkadia. Memorable characters, witty dialogue and droll humor propel the action in this epic-like adventure novel. (Ages 12-14)

Bantle, Lee F. *DIVING FOR THE MOON*. Macmillan, 1995. 163 pages. (0-689-80004-5) \$14.00

In a realistic story about living with AIDS, Bird finds out her best friend, Josh, is HIV-positive. Though Josh seems to be as active and fun-loving as always, an unexpected bout of pneumonia leads Bird to realize his vulnerability - and his fright. Wanting to protect her friend, Bird must eventually accept that the stable ground on which Josh and she have always stood will remain only if she is true to herself and accepting of his fear. A supportive group of adults create a calm, stable, informative environment in which Bird expresses her uncertainty and arrives at a better understanding of herself and friendship. (Ages 9-12)

Case, Dianne. *92 QUEENS ROAD*. U.S. edition: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1995. 164 pages. (0-374-35518-5) \$16.00

Cape Town, South Africa. One day at the beach, Kathy crosses a border she never knew existed when she approaches white children to play. She is made to feel like something dirty because of the color of her skin. Sheltered in her working class neighborhood, among family and friends whose quarrels are as intense as their joy, Kathy was innocent of the pain of racism until that moment. Now, when her light-skinned cousins ignore her on the street, she understands why. When her Uncle Reg says, "This is not our country" she wonders "Where do we belong?" Set in the 1960s, Case's autobiographical novel is a child-centered exposé on the injustices of Apartheid and its impact on the identity of one young girl. (Ages 9-11)

Coman, Carolyn. *WHAT JAMIE SAW*. Front Street, 1995. 126 pages. (1-886910-02-2) \$13.95

"When Jamie saw him throw the baby, saw Van throw the little baby, saw Van throw his little sister Nin, when Jamie saw Van throw his baby sister Nin, then they moved." Disturbing, provocative prose opens a novel in which a young boy, his mother and baby sister flee an abusive home. Setting up house in a remote trailer home, Jamie and his mother go through the motions of living. His mother struggles to pay the bills with her job at the grocery store while Jamie goes to school and helps care for Nin, but always the fear of his mother's boyfriend Van returning haunts them. Eventually, the fear overwhelms them, and for awhile it's easier to stay home all day than to venture out and risk being seen. But with the help of a close friend, and a caring teacher who won't let Jamie disappear, things slowly start to improve. Grounded in Jamie's perspective, Carolyn Coman writes a novel about the tension of living in fear, and the courage of breaking free. (Ages 11-13)

Conly, Jane Leslie. TROUT SUMMER. Henry Holt, 1995. 234 pages. (0-8050-3933-3) \$15.95  
Thirteen-year-old Shana and her twelve-year-old brother, Cody, are spending their summer days alone in a forest cabin. It is their first chance to be in the wild since Daddy left and Mama moved them to the city from their rural Virginia home. In the woods they meet Henry - an old man who resents their intrusion even as he draws them into his fiercely isolated existence. Shana, Cody and Henry forge a relationship at once both uneasy and natural, built on their common need to face the future - and accept the past - with courage. In Shana's thoughtful voice, a compelling narrative of human relationships and action unfolds against a backdrop rich with nature's grace. (Ages 11-14)

Creech, Sharon. ABSOLUTELY NORMAL CHAOS. U.S. edition: HarperCollins, 1995. 230 pages. (0-06-026989-8) \$14.95

First published in Great Britain in 1990, this witty novel is composed entirely of a 13-year-old girl's journal entries. The protagonist is Mary Lou Finney, who appeared as a secondary character in the author's Newbery Medal-winning *Walk Two Moons* (HarperCollins, 1994). As the second oldest in a family of five children, Mary Lou views her everyday homelife as maddeningly dull one moment and completely chaotic the next. When her 17-year-old cousin Carl Ray comes to spend the summer, he seems to register on the maddeningly dull side. So too does Mary Lou's reading of *The Odyssey* as part of another school assignment. Against a backdrop of typical teenage concerns (peer relationships, sibling rivalry, first love) Mary Lou's life as she records it gradually begins to seem more and more like a Greek epic, with Carl Ray as a modern day Telemachus in search of his father. The parallels between the two are never overtly stated: between Mary Lou's hilarious capsule summaries of *The Odyssey* and her exaggerated account of the events in her life, Sharon Creech has left plenty of space for readers to figure out the elements the two stories have in common, as she plays with plots and conventions that have been part of human experience for thousands of years. (Ages 9-14)

Crews, Gary. ANGEL'S GATE. U.S. edition: Simon & Schuster, 1995. 252 pages. (0-689-80166-1) \$16.00

Beginning with the sentence "The night the first wild child was captured, I was woken from my sleep by the sound of car doors slamming," the pace of this murder mystery and adventure novel accelerates until the final page. Kimmy and his family live in the country town of Jericho, Australia. Kimmy is prone to nightmares, but his teenaged sister Julia is a comfort to him, although her quite believable rebellious acts create on-going tension between her and their parents. Written in Kimmy's marvelous young voice, the first-person narrative immediately draws readers into the dangers affecting people in Jericho and the surrounding rural area. Well-deserving of its Australian accolades for literary excellence and enjoyable in subsequent readings, *Angel's Gate* advances a memorable plot with effective dialogue, characters about whom we care, questions about socialization and literacy, and expansive ideas about compassion and justice which lie just beneath its magnificent surface. (Ages 9-14)

Crisp, Marty. BUZZARD BREATH. Atheneum, 1995. 140 pages. (0-689-31964-9) \$15.00

A German shepherd with the unpromising nickname of Buzzard Breath is not the dog Will Winkler has been waiting for all his life. Even Will's little brother has no respect for the big dog with

a snore like a buzz saw who has become a neighborhood outcast. Though Will has been saving for a purebred puppy that will make him the envy of all the kids, he finds himself in a dramatic race against time to save Buzz from certain death after the dog is falsely accused of attacking a child. In tense moments of uncertainty surrounding the animal's fate, Will realizes that Buzz is exactly the dog he wants: playful, loving and loyal. (Ages 9-11)

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *THE WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM* - 1963. Delacorte, 1995. 210 pages. (0-385-32175-9) \$14.95

In an impressive literary debut, Christopher Paul Curtis recounts events in the life of a 10-year-old Kenny Watson, the middle child in a middle-class African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, in 1963. A smart, sensitive boy, Kenny refers to his family as the "Weird Watsons," because each member stands out as an individual when Kenny just wants to blend in with the crowd. Much of their family life revolves around 13-year-old Byron who is a self-confident, sarcastic, rebellious adolescent. When Dad and Momma decide that Byron needs to spend some time down home with relatives in Birmingham, the whole family goes along to deliver Byron into Grandma's hands. During their brief stay in Birmingham, tragedy strikes when a bomb explodes at Grandma Sands' church one Sunday morning, killing four little girls, an experience that deeply affects Kenny. On a symbolic level this funny, provocative novel mirrors events in the life of our nation in 1963, a year when the United States, like Kenny, lost its innocence as hope turned to cynicism. Honor Book, 1995 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Writing (Ages 10-14)

Cushman, Karen. *THE MIDWIFE'S APPRENTICE*. Clarion, 1995. 122 pages. (0-395-69229-6) \$10.95

Beetle is a small, straggly girl living in 14th century England who has been on her own for as long as she can remember. She has no memory of a home or family or even of her real name. She lives by her wits, surviving hand to mouth, until she is taken in by Jane Sharp, the local midwife, to work in exchange for two meals a day and a bed on her cottage floor. Once she is freed from the daily struggle to survive, the girl begins to notice small details in the world around her, from the flowers blooming in spring to the mysterious techniques used by the midwife as she assists in the birth of a child. Her search for identity soon becomes the central focus of the book as she begins to gain in confidence and self-esteem. Karen Cushman is especially gifted at creating the ambience of the Middle Ages and at showing what medieval life might have been like for ordinary people. Like her previous book *Catherine, Called Birdy* (Clarion, 1994), this novel is filled with colorful details: the taste of flat ale and moldy bread, the feel of mud and muck under bare feet, the sights, sounds and smells of a time when children were much less protected from the bawdier aspects of life. Honor Book, 1995 CCBC Newbery Award Discussion (Ages 9-14)

Ellis, Sarah. *OUT OF THE BLUE*. U.S. edition: Margaret K. McElderry, 1995. 120 pages. (0-689-80025-8) \$15.00

Twelve-year-old Megan is distressed to learn that when her mother was a teenager, she had a baby given up at the time for adoption. That daughter has now made contact with her birth mother. Megan's precocious younger sister is thrilled, and so are her parents. Not Megan. The new half-sister Natalie wants to become connected to the whole family, and, besides that, she's planning a wedding. Family humor and pleasant dialogue lighten a melodramatic

premise. The title refers to Natalie's sudden appearance and also to a blue fisherman's float Megan discovers when she's at the family cottage somewhere in British Columbia. Ellis is a Canadian writer whose use of devices such as this earmark her writing, as she skillfully employs them within the story's satisfying resolution, as well. (Ages 9-12)

Fletcher, Ralph. FIG PUDDING. Clarion, 1995. 136 pages. (0-395-71125-8) \$14.95

Looking back on an eventful year, Cliff Abernathy observes his family's quirky traits and sibling rivalries in a voice that alternates between an eleven-year-old's hilarious sarcasm and loving pride. At the same time, he chronicles the both joyous occasions and heart-rending sorrow that make the year most memorable. The narrative takes a turn in tone, but not substance, with the sudden, shocking death of Cliff's younger brother, Brad, in an accident. Cliff's description of his family members' grief and pain, and the start of their healing, is powerfully authentic, as well as hopeful: life, including the laughter, does, indeed, go on. (Ages 10-13)

Henkes, Kevin. PROTECTING MARIE. Greenwillow, 1995. 195 pages. (0-688-13958-2) \$15.00

"If you want everything to be perfect, you're just setting yourself up for disappointment," Fanny's father, Henry, tells his 12-year-old daughter. An only child, Fanny wants the December holidays to be the same every year: same cookies, same decorations, same reading of "The Snow Queen." Within their loving family, Fanny's sense of happiness differs from that of her artist father. Henry paints vessels he imagines as empty, while she imagines what is in each one. Fanny's mother, Ellen, is unfazed by these differing life views. "Scratch the surface of anyone," she says, "and you are bound to find complexities." *Protecting Marie* contains complex adult characters, but it is always Fanny's story. Readers will easily follow Fanny's desire for a dog, getting one, losing it through Henry's impatience, getting another dog and worrying about how it will get along. Long ago, Fanny learned to hide her hand-crafted paper figure named Marie whenever Henry helped her tidy her room according to his standards. Readers will understand the lack of power that goes along with being young. When they re-read *Protecting Marie*, and they will, they can relax from the mounting suspense of the first reading and begin to enjoy Fanny's developing friendship with Timothy. Some will be able to discover the Madison, Wisconsin, sites where the plot unfolds. Others might notice repeated references to the color red, images of winter and ice, and triangular shapes and begin wondering about their meanings. The book ends with the line, "The options were limitless." They are - for Fanny and Timothy, for Henry and Ellen, and for the readers of this splendid novel. Honor Book: 1995 CCBC Newbery Award Discussion (Ages 10-12)

Hughes, Monica. THE GOLDEN AQUARIANS. U.S. edition: Simon & Schuster, 1995. 182 pages. (0-671-50543-2) \$15.00

Walt's demanding, domineering father, Colonel Angus Eliot, is making the planet Aqua bend to his will. Under his command, crews are working around the clock to mine the planet's resources. Sensitive Walt is a newcomer to life off of Earth, and to life with his father, and now he must convince this intimidating, single-minded man that, despite research claims to the contrary, there is intelligent life on Aqua that is threatened by the work. A novel set in 2092 that blends fast-paced adventure with contemporary issues of ethics and environment. (Ages 9-11)

Rylant, Cynthia. *THE VAN GOGH CAFE*. Harcourt Brace, 1995. 53 pages. (0-15-200843-8) \$14.00

Truly amazing things happen at the Van Gogh Cafe in Flowers, Kansas. Clara, the owner's ten-year-old daughter, knows why: the Van Gogh Cafe is magical. It is a place to find hope even when one's heart is broken, or miracles in the wake of a lightning strike. Seven lyrical stories comprise this unusual novel in which the visit of an aging movie star, a romance between a cat and a seagull and other memorable, mysterious occurrences blur the lines of impossibility and define the shape of wonder. (Ages 10-13)

Sargent, Sarah. *BETWEEN TWO WORLDS*. Ticknor & Fields, 1995. 152 pages. (0-395-66425-X) \$14.95

Tense from her parent's arguments and learning that her father had an affair, and saddened about her dying grandmother, 13-year-old Janet McGiver escapes reality through a television soap opera, "Life Begins Again." In the world of Port Henry, she imagines herself a hero, working side-by-side with the handsome son of Dr. Tricia Lord to capture Tricia's would-be-killer. Comforted by the predictability of good versus evil in Port Henry, Jan is frustrated that relationships in her own life are not as easily categorized, nor are they satisfactorily summed up by Port Henry platitudes. Sarah Sargeant evokes the overwrought drama of a soap opera fantasy with humor and masterful skill, placing it in the context of a novel brimming with realistic details of everyday life as Jan arrives at an understanding of which is the richer of the two worlds. (Ages 11-14)

Stevenson, James. *THE BONES IN THE CLIFF*. Greenwillow, 1995. 119 pages. (0-688-13745-8) \$14.00

Ever since they moved to the island, eleven-year-old Pete used to enjoy watching the ferryboat when it docked. That was before his father told him to watch all the boat landing each day, to "...notice every single person getting off, and never to look away, even for a second." In Pete's hand "there was always a quarter, always, just in case..." If he saw the man with the cigar, he could dash to the pay phone and warn his father. Readers know Pete must be keeping an enormous secret. His fearless new friend Rootie advises the emotionally shut-down boy that "you can bury things, you can run away, you can hide... but it never works. Never." *The Bones in the Cliff* is a full portrait of two contemporary pre-adolescent youths whose parents cannot function as parents. Pete's father depends on alcohol to relieve the terror of violent retribution. The last time Pete visited his mother, she could not recognize him. Rootie's divorced parents compete for her affection, so she stays with her grandmother on the island. This powerful short novel is perfect for reading aloud, because it contains engaging dialogue, full moments and mounting suspense as each brief chapter ends. Stevenson's sensitive characterizations equip Pete and Rootie with the believable resilience necessary for their creative summer play and for the inevitable tests of their loyalty. (Ages 9-11)

Taylor, Mildred D. *THE WELL*. Dial, 1995. 92 pages. (0-8037-1803-9) \$14.99

In her latest work of short fiction in the Logan family saga, Mildred Taylor moves back a generation into the childhood of Cassie Logan's father in the early 1900s. Brothers David and Hammer Logan are seen on the brink of adolescence, trying to make sense out of a senseless social order based on race and class. During an extreme dry spell in Mississippi, nearly every

family's well has run dry, except for that of the Logan family, which draws from an underground lake. The Logans willingly share their water with rich and poor, black and white. They even share with the Simms family, a bitter pill for the Logan boys to swallow since 13-year-old Hammer and 14-year-old Charlie Simms are bitter rivals. When an argument between the two young teens comes to blows and Hammer knocks Charlie to the ground, the situation escalates into a social crisis in which Charlie's racist attitude threatens to poison the entire community. With her spare account of a single event, Mildred Taylor's extremely accomplished storytelling shows the horrific impact of segregation and racism. Like the well itself, the story is deceptively simple and one can dip below its surface to find that each character's actions are drawn from an underground reservoir of social history. Winner, 1995 CCBC Newbery Award Discussion; Winner, 1995 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Writing (Ages 9-14)

Temple, Frances. *TONIGHT, BY SEA*. Orchard, 1995. 152 pages. (0-531-06899-4) 15.95

Darkness approaches as Paulie runs to borrow a live coal from a neighbor in Belle Fleuve on a Haitian beach. After the girl fans a flame from the ember placed on seaweed, her Grann Adeline will cook a small fish for supper. Paulie's uncle, the village coffin-maker, has begun to build a boat. Uncle will craft the vessel by cunning, construct it with used boards and nails, caulk it using pig hair with burlap, and grace it with a worship pole. Until now, Uncle, Grann, and their community have struggled to survive under the slavery of constant hunger, the shadow of a teacher's disappearance, the gradual erosion of their freedoms and governance through terror. Paulie's parents are already "across the water" in Miami. An American journalist wants their story to reach the outside world, but his video camera holds as much danger for them as a gun. By the time Paulie and those surviving the voyage reach another shore, readers will be familiar with a folktale about hope. Like Paulie, they will find out about the Amistad, another boat dedicated to life. They will realize that one can be killed or changed by "habits of truth." Temple's fine prose, deft dialogue and compassionate heart fill a terrific story that takes readers behind the faces in the evening news, straight to the people whose lives hang in the balance. Honor Book, 1995 CCBC Newbery Discussion (Ages 10-14)

Vos, Ida. *DANCING ON THE BRIDGE OF AVIGNON*. Translated from the Dutch by Terese Edelstein and Inez Smidt. U.S. edition: Houghton Mifflin, 1995. 183 pages. (0-395-72039-7) \$14.95

Each day ten-year-old Rosa de Jong recites the increasing regulations for Jewish citizens in Nazi-occupied Holland. If she can remember the rules and make certain her younger sister knows them, too, she is certain they will be safe. But no one is safe, and readers know this despite Rosa's denial of the larger reality. Mother remains calm and practical, Father drifts from one terrible uncertainty to another, but Uncle Sander brings optimism into the family circle. Powerfully developed main and secondary characters and scenes fill this frightening glimpse of the enormous toll exacted upon one child who experienced the Holocaust. A strong sense of immediacy juxtaposed with dream-like terror earmarks the third autobiographical novel by Vos to be translated into English for U.S. publication. The other novels are *Hide and Seek* (Houghton, 1991) and *Anna is Still Here* (Houghton, 1993). Winner, 1995 CCBC Mildred L. Batchelder Award Discussion (Ages 10-16)

Woodson, Jacqueline. FROM THE NOTEBOOKS OF MELANIN SUN. Blue Sky / Scholastic, 1995. 141 pages. (0-590-45880-9) \$14.95

Melanin Sun's mother named him for the pigment that makes his skin so beautiful and black, and for the sun she sees shining from his eyes. For as long as Melanin can remember, he and mama have been a family - loving close. At 13, Melanin, who keeps notebooks to record his thoughts about family, friends and life in his urban neighborhood, has a mature appreciation for his mother's strength and character. Then she tells him something that makes him feel as if his entire world has shattered: she is a lesbian, and she is in love with a white woman, Kristin. Melanin wants to deny the truth, but to do so would deny his mama. "I couldn't stand having her touch me but if she wasn't holding me then who would I be? Where would I be?" Angry and scared ("If she was a dyke, then what did that make me?"), Melanin lashes out, no longer easy with his mother and unwilling to find room in his life - or his heart - for Kristin. There is no easy solution in this courageous novel which addresses the fear that fuels homophobia, but there is honest emotion and real love, and these are what begin to open Melanin's mind. (Ages 11-15)

Wynne-Jones, Tim. SOME OF THE KINDER PLANETS. U.S. edition: Orchard, 1995. 130 pages. (0-531-09451-0) \$14.95

In nine enticing stories, Canadian author Tim Wynne-Jones introduces readers to young characters who are memorable not for their cuteness or precocity, but for their quiriness, their tenderness, their integrity and their humor. The imaginative stories cast a spell of enchantment, yet there is no mystery or magic involved. Instead, the powerful sense of wonder they evoke comes from the author's deep appreciation for the humor, creativity, energy and imagination of children, and his ability to turn the childhood feelings of difference and alienation into a source of strength and comfort, and a means of connection. (Ages 10-14)

Yep, Laurence. LATER, GATOR. Hyperion, 1995. 122 pages. (0-7868-2083-7) \$13.89

Teddy describes his younger brother as "a walking Hallmark card." Bobby's sweet disposition and naiveté in the face of insults drive Teddy crazy. When Teddy gives Bobby a live, eight-inch alligator for his birthday, he does so as a joke that is meant to frighten him. Instead, much to Teddy's chagrin, Bobby loves the reptile. The care and feeding of Oscar, whose residence is established in the family bathtub, becomes a fascinating draw for friends and family in their San Francisco Chinatown neighborhood. Teddy grows to appreciate his younger brother's knowledge, patience and good humor as they care for his unusual pet in a wry, funny narrative about sibling relationships set in a warm, extended Asian-American family. (Ages 9-11)

**See Also:** *The Jungle Book*, *Stories from the Classical Ballet*, *Treemonisha*, *The Wicked Prince*

## **FICTION FOR TEENAGERS**

Cofer, Judith Ortiz. AN ISLAND LIKE YOU. Orchard, 1995. 165 pages. (0-531-06897-8) \$15.95

The sounds and the sights of El Barrio and the relationships and the emotions of Puerto-Rican-American family and neighborhood life form the backdrop for each of the twelve stories that comprise *An Island Like You*. For the teenagers whose hearts and minds are unmasked in this powerful collection of short stories from Latina author Judith Ortiz Cofer, El Barrio is their home and their culture, steeped in the Puerto Rican traditions of their parents and grandparents, flavored with the promise and bitterness of urban American life. El Barrio is also the world they share. Yet each of the protagonists in *An Island Like You* moves through this world in his or her own way. The range of experience which Cofer brilliantly illuminates through the singular lives of her adolescent characters reveals truths that are sometimes comforting, sometimes startling, but always dancing on the edge of enlightenment. (Ages 12-16)

Cormier, Robert. *IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT*. Delacorte, 1995. 182 pages. (0-385-32158-9) \$15.95

The phone calls have come every October for as long as sixteen-year-old Denny can remember. No matter how often he and his parents move, the mysterious caller always finds them. Twenty-five years before, on Halloween, Denny's father was working at a theater when a tragic fire occurred, and someone doesn't ever want him to forget. But Denny is tired of his father's resignation and his mother's pain, and tired of his own isolation, so this year, against his parents' orders, Denny answers the phone. When he does, a seductive voice speaks to him from the other end of the line, a voice that draws him out of the house and into the life of someone for whom the past and the present have never been resolved. A chilling, suspenseful story of revenge and the price of guilt. (Ages 13-16)

Cross, Gillian. *NEW WORLD*. U.S. edition: Holiday House, 1995. 171 pages. (0-8234-1166-4) \$15.95

Supposedly Miriam and Stuart were selected at random to participate in a series of pre-market tests for a virtual reality game called New World. The experiment is being conducted by people with access to deeply personal information about their subjects, incrementally increasing their fears each time the game is played. Readers know that each teenager will be pushed to and maybe beyond the limit of her/his greatest nightmare. A thriller by an accomplished English author takes readers to suspenseful limits. (Ages 11-14)

Hahn, Mary Downing. *LOOK FOR ME BY MOONLIGHT*. Clarion, 1995. 198 pages. (0-395-69843-X) \$13.95

At first, all goes well when Cynda visits her father and stepmother at their bed-and-breakfast in a remote area on the Maine coast. Her five-year-old half-brother is becoming a friend, and a neighbor boy offers romance potential. But when reclusive author Vincent Morthanos shows up for an extended stay, everything fades in contrast to his compelling presence. Vincent knows just how to prey on Cynda's adolescent need for recognition and she thrives on his attention. A straightforward vampire tale at first glance, *Look for Me By Moonlight* goes beyond standard teenage horror fare with its dark undertones, and a subtle message of evil seduction that repels even while it entices. (Ages 13 - 15)

Lynch, Chris. *SLOT MACHINE*. HarperCollins, 1995. 240 pages. (0-06-023584-5) \$13.89  
Overweight and unathletic, 13-year-old Elvin Bishop dreads his three weeks at a summer camp

designed to initiate incoming freshmen into the Christian Brothers Academy. The experience turns out to be even worse than Elvin imagined when he realizes the camp's supreme purpose is to channel each of the boys into an athletics slot and Elvin fails miserably at one sport after another. Much of Elvin's problem is attitude: he is not a team player nor does he have any intention of ever becoming one. But he manages (just barely) to endure his ordeal, describing every trial in great detail from his cynical, sarcastic, and ultimately entirely sane, point of view. Hilarious from start to finish, this brilliant social satire completely exposes the myth of modern masculinity. (Ages 13-16)

Marsden, John. TOMORROW, WHEN THE WAR BEGAN. U.S. edition: Houghton Mifflin, 1995. 286 pages. (0-395-70673-4) \$13.95

A grim, tenacious story of survival pits a group of Australian teenagers against the nameless invaders of their country - an enemy born of contemporary political and social strife. A narrative told with gripping immediacy details how the youth's shock, fear, desperation and outrage evolves into a calculated plan of attack against the invaders, and the devastating realization that they only have one another on which to rely. (Ages 13 and older)

Mori, Kyoko. ONE BIRD. Henry Holt, 1995. 242 pages. (0-8050-2983-4) \$15.95

Fifteen-year-old Megumi is alone with her emotionally distant father and stern, silent grandmother. His unfaithfulness drove her mother away. Megumi is internally outraged at the circumstances that force her to endure an aching separation, but it is out of that pain that she begins to question who she is and what she believes in, and it is out of her loneliness that she seeks out new friendships which challenge her to define the future in her own terms. With the help of an independent woman who shows her that life is never without choices, Megumi asserts her right to defy tradition and embrace her mother in her life. A rich, multi-layered novel set in Japan in the early 1970s. (Age 13 and older)

Nodelman, Perry. THE SAME PLACE BUT DIFFERENT. Simon & Schuster, 1995. 181 pages. (0-671-89839-6) \$15.00

Johnny Nesbitt is too much a sarcastic teenager of the 1990s to believe that the Fairy Folk, those Strangers of British legend and lore, are in Winnepeg. One glimpse of the swaggering, beer-guzzling Changeling that has replaced his baby sister, Andrea, convinces him, however. Now he is in a battle of wits and courage to get his sister - his real sister - back from the Queen of the Fairies in a tale set in contemporary Canada that is grounded in ancient legend and edged with suspense and humor. (Ages 12-14)

Pausewang, Gudrun. FALL-OUT. Translated from the German by Patricia Crampton. U.S. edition: Viking, 1995. 172 pages. (0-670-86104-9) \$13.99

When the siren howled on a Friday morning in May, Janna's teacher and her classmates assumed it was just another fire drill. A PA announcement sending all students home by the quickest route throws everyone into a state of turmoil, and the panic level continues to rise when rumors of a radioactive leak at a neighboring nuclear power plant are confirmed. Although directed by the police to "move at once to a closed room and shut all the doors and windows," Janna's neighbors instead begin a mass exodus of the area. Home alone with her younger brother, Janna decides to leave as well, and the two set off on their bicycles. The horrors which follow are only too realistic, from "everyone for himself" survival tactics to

the inescapable tragedy of radiation sickness to the eventual political and social stigma of the accident's survivors. Originally published in Germany, this harsh story, finely told, raises moral and ethical questions about the use of potentially devastating technology. (Ages 14-16)

Rubinstein, Gillian. *GALAX-ARENA*. U.S. edition: Simon & Schuster, 1995. 172 pages. (0-689-80136-X) \$15.00

Three siblings stolen from Earth are transported by Land Rover and rocket to the Galex-Arena. In their new environment they must learn to perform difficult acrobatics for a mysterious audience. Peter immediately likes the Galex-Arena, because he's good at what he's expected to do. Little Liane gains an unhealthy amount of comfort from her beloved stuffed animal. Joella resists from the outset, realizing that they will fast become trained pets, dispensable entertainers. Ethical questions about contained, trained and domesticated animals rest just below the surface of this terrifying novel crafted by Rubinstein, an expert Australian writer interested in survival in desperate situations. (Ages 11-16)

Tate, Eleanora E. *A BLESSING IN DISGUISE*. Delacorte, 1995. 184 pages. (0-385-32103-1) \$14.95

Living a quiet life with her aunt and uncle in a small town in South Carolina, 12-year-old Zambia is sure she would be happier with her father Snake LaRange, who has just opened up a new nightclub on the beach, much to the community's dismay. Zambia's fantasies about her father's life, however, are no match for reality. Her strong personality comes through her distinctive narrative voice as she grows in self-awareness. Eleanora Tate skillfully moves the plot along through realistic dialogue of young teenagers who are struggling with peer relationships of their own, not to mention trying to figure out the complexities of the adult world. (Ages 11-14)

Tomlinson, Theresa. *THE FORESTWIFE*. U.S. edition: Orchard, 1995. 170 pages. (0-531-09450-2) \$15.95

Mary runs away from her uncle's estate rather than marry the elderly widower he has chosen for her. Accompanied by Agnes, her childhood nurse, she flees into the forest, where Agnes becomes the Forestwife, a healer and source of solace among the peasants. Mary works side by side with Agnes to help those who come to the Forestwife's cottage, people who've fallen victim to the brutal hardship of life under the Prince Regent, John, and the Sheriff of Nottingham. Joined by Agnes' son, Robert, an outlaw, and his followers, and a group of renegade nuns, they struggle to feed the people in the harsh winter months, and protect them from outrageous laws. The strength and wisdom of women is at the heart of a wonderful adventure, which is a satisfying retelling of the Robin Hood tale. (Ages 12-14)

Van Dijk, Lutz. *DAMNED STRONG LOVE: THE TRUE STORY OF WILLI G. AND STEFAN K.* Translated from the German by Elizabeth D. Crawford. U.S. edition: Henry Holt, 1995. 138 pages. (0-8050-3770-5) \$15.95

An unusual, provocative coming-of-age novel is based on the true story of two young men whose paths crossed in Poland during World War II. Stefan was 17 when he met and fell in love with Willi, a young Austrian soldier who was stationed in his hometown. In the midst of a raging war, the two lovers manage to meet secretly several times before they are separated when Willi's company leaves town. Lovestruck and heartsick, Stefan sends a love letter to Willi, a shockingly innocent act that leads to tragedy. Lutz van Dijk's fast-paced, compelling

narrative makes the events of 50 years ago seem like they happened today. Honor Book, 1995 CCBC Mildred L. Batchelder Award Discussion (Ages 14-18)

Williams-Garcia, Rita. *LIKE SISTERS ON THE HOMEFRONT*. Lodestar, 1995. 165 pages. (0-525-67465-9) \$15.99

Sent down south with her seven-month-old son to live with her aunt and uncle, 14-year-old Gayle is angry and resentful. It's bad enough being away from the girls in the neighborhood and her boyfriend, Troy, but her cousin, Cookie is too prissy and perfect for words, her uncle is a stern minister, and her aunt won't even watch the baby for her. Exasperated and sometimes at odds with these members of her family, Gayle finds the only bright spot is Great, her great grandmother, and even she takes some getting used to. Great is daunting, but also sharp and sassy, something Gayle understands. Great is also the keeper of the family story, and Gayle finds herself drawn to the old woman whose words offer her a sense of the past that is larger than herself even as it embraces her. A sometimes funny, always powerful story of an African-American family finding healing in unity: one with another, present with past. In Gayle, with her eager bravado on the subject of sex and immature understanding of love, Rita Williams-Garcia's creates a painfully realistic, stunningly accurate account of teenage sexuality and the need for belonging and love. Honor Book, 1995 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Writing (Ages 13-16)

**See Also:** *Angel's Gate; A Midnight Clear; Othello; Tonight, By Sea*

## **NEW EDITIONS OF CLASSIC LITERATURE**

Andersen, Hans Christian. *FAIRY TALES OF HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN*. Illustrated by Isabelle Brent. Translated from the Danish and collected by Neil Philip, who wrote the introduction. U.S. edition: Viking, 1995. 140 pages. (0-670-85930-3) \$19.99

Twelve tales of varying lengths appear on brightly bordered pages with 20 full-color illustrations. Philip's three-page introduction provides biographical details and commentary, suggesting that Andersen's "individual, quirky" tales are "impossible to imitate" and "profoundly influenced by the old stories he heard as a child." Brent's style, her uses of gold leaf and the overall book design result in a gift edition for older Andersen readers. (Ages 9-12)

Andersen, Hans Christian. *THE WICKED PRINCE*. Illustrated by Georges Lemoine. Creative Editions / Harcourt Brace, 1995. (0-15-200958-2) \$18.00

Readers immediately know they are seeing an unusual book by looking at the cover of this handsome, mega-sized volume that measures 12 1/4 x 8 3/4". They will discover substance in addition to size after opening this new edition of one of Andersen's earliest tales often known as "The Evil King." Lemoine's stunning artwork is complemented by Rita Marshall's extraordinary page designs and her selection of typeface. Marshall's placement of the text inventively echoes the mood or expresses an event and dynamically utilizes the white space offered by the book's commanding size. On the opening page only the Prince's shadow is cast while a watchful crow stands in the window. Opposite that illustration, the first eleven words are arranged on three widely spaced lines. One example of how Lemoine's 18 paintings extend and expand the classic tale without altering its mood or meaning are the crows he paints. They become a story in themselves as they witness the Prince's greedy

military conquests and his later downfall. (Ages 7-12)

Chekhov, Anton. KASHTANKA. Illustrated by Gennady Spirin. Translated from the Russian by Ronald Meyer. U.S. edition: Gulliver / Harcourt Brace, 1995. 30 pages. (0-15-200539-0) \$16.00

Although Chekhov's tragic story wasn't written for young readers, they will discover it now that Russian-born Gennady Spirin's luminous paintings envision its characters and locale. The story involves a lost chestnut-colored dog named Kashtanka, who begins to weary of learning the tricks a circus clown trains her to do once she observes the fate of a goose and a cat who also perform for him. Spirin's paintings are dark and ominous, making the charlatan who lures a dog home with him appear suitably ill-intentioned. If Kashtanka's captivity is frightening, her return to her master is dramatic, all due to Chekhov's text, Spirin's detailed images and the imaginative design of this 12 1/4 x 8 3/4" book, an edition published first in Germany and excellent for reading aloud. (Ages 5-9)

Johnson, James Weldon. LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING. Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Scholastic, 1995. 32 pages. (0-590-46982-7) \$14.95

Gilchrist's powerful Afro-centric images picture offer an emotional match for the classic words of Johnson's famous anthem. Her watercolor paintings suggest a painful history and the pride of heritage while celebrating African-American struggle and survival. The jacket art features children looking forward and up, while the title page offers a personified image of continental Africa, weeping into the ocean. Water becomes a life force in illustrations picturing elders from past centuries next to their descendants today. Hope is offered through images of a rooted tree and liberation by flying. Although the artistic concepts are sophisticated, all family members can appreciate this important 12 1/4 x 9 1/4" book in one or more ways. Honor Book, 1995 CCBC Coretta Scott King Award Discussion: Illustration (Age 3-adult)

Kipling, Rudyard. THE JUNGLE BOOK. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Afterword written by Peter Glassman. Books of Wonder / Morrow, 1995. 258 pages. (0-688-09979-3) \$20.00

Written in 1894 while Kipling lived in Brattleboro, Vermont, *The Jungle Book* remains one of the best known works by the author who received the Nobel Prize for Literature 13 years later. According to Peter Glassman, this edition follows Kipling's preferred arrangement of the Mowgli tales and includes his well-known mongoose story, "Rikki-tikki-tavi." Among his considerable talents, artist Jerry Pinkney is noted for art featuring domestic animals and wildlife. Pinkney's 18 watercolor paintings are a superb addition to this classic. (Ages 9-12, or younger, if read aloud)

Lear, Edward. THE NEW VESTMENTS. Illustrated by DeLoss McGraw. Simon & Schuster, 1995. 40 pages. (0-671-50089-9) \$16.00

DeLoss McGraw's boldly colored, slightly skewed gouache paintings are crawling with chaos, the perfect match for Edward Lear's outrageous rhyme about a man who invents an unusual edible outfit in a newly illustrated edition of a zany tale. "...all sorts of beasticles, birdlings and boys" descend on the man almost as soon as he steps out onto the street and make a quick job of consuming his wardrobe. From the top of his hat of brown bread to his waistcoat of pork chops to his coat of pancakes and jam, it all disappears in a wild feast of fun. (Ages 4-8)

Lee, Jeanne M. THE SONG OF MU LAN. Translated from the Chinese. Original calligraphy by

Chan Bo Wan. U.S. edition: Front Street, 1995. 32 pages. (1-886910-00-6) \$15.95

"Click, click. Click, click. / Mu Lan is at her loom. / We no longer hear her weave. / Now we only hear her sigh. / Why does Mu Lan sigh? / Why is Mu Lan sad?" Mu Lan claims she does not sigh and is not sad. Instead, she wishes to take her father's place in response to the Emperor's recent call to arms. She does, dressed as a man. Young readers can always spot the uniformed Mu Lan seated on her white horse in the thick of combat. During ten years of battles, she becomes famous, but she reveals her identity only after returning to her village and family. Lee's watercolor compositions suggest traditional forms and include a contemporary Chinese text. Notes indicate that The Song of Mu Lan is thought to be a folk poem originated during the Northern and Southern Dynasties, 420 - 589 C.E., and recorded in court anthologies as early as the Tang Dynasty. Versions in Chinese from the Sung and Ming Dynasties are reproduced on the endpages. Children in China still learn this story, which occasionally appears in Chinese operas. (Ages 5-9)

Lester, Julius. OTHELLO. Scholastic, 1995. 151 pages. (0-590-41967-6) \$12.95

A fictionalized version of Shakespeare's drama offers engrossing reading because of its lyrical language and new vision of the classic tragedy. In his reinterpretation of the racial identities of Iago and Emilia, Lester provides a provocative exploration of racism. Lines from the play are incorporated into the novel along with modern English in this eloquent rendering of the story of a black African general's downfall and the playing out of jealousy, deception and revenge. (Ages 12-17)

Wilde, Oscar. THE HAPPY PRINCE. Adapted and illustrated by Jane Ray. U.S. edition: Dutton, 1995. 32 pages. (0-525-45367-9) \$15.99

Jane Ray's vision and Wilde's tale about friendship and compassion mesh successfully in a 12 x 9" picture book version of his story first published in 1888. Her imaginatively developed characters, patterned images, and uses of gold leaf correspond well to his tale about the Swallow and the Prince. Although the text is abridged, Wilde's intentions are developed visually in this lovely edition. (Ages 6-9)

Zolotow, Charlotte. WHEN THE WIND STOPS. Illustrated by Stefano Vitale. Harper & Row, 1962; revised and newly illustrated edition: HarperCollins, 1995. 32 pages. (0-06-026971-5) \$14.89

A little boy asks at bedtime, "Why does the day have to end?" His mother responds, "So night can begin." "Nothing ends," he finally concludes, as a "thin new moon" shines high. Glowing artwork in warm colors created in oil paint on wooden panels brings a new dimension to one of Zolotow's hallmark lyrical picture book dialogues between a parent and child. The reassuring counterpoint of a loving adult's certainty about daily and seasonal cycles is comfortably juxtaposed with her open-ended, honest responses to abstract queries natural to all children. (Ages 3-7)

**See Also:** *The Block, The Old Dog, Treemonisha*

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 library for adults interested in contemporary or historical children's and young adult literature. Public service hours are M-Th 10-8, F 10-4 and Sat. 10-1 during the University's Fall and Spring semesters; M-F 10-4 and Sat. 10-1 during the University's Summer semester; and M-F 10-4 during Intersession and University breaks. Call (608) 263-3720 to confirm these hours.

**Cooperative Children's Book Center  
School of Education  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
4290 Helen C. White Hall  
600 N. Park St.  
Madison, WI 53706  
608/263-3720  
608/262-4933 (fax)**