

NOTE THE NOTABLES OF 2003
Linda Jewett, Coordinator of Library Services
Sacramento City Unified School District

A-ticket, A-tasket. Ella Fitzgerald and Van Alexander. Illus. by Ora Eitan. Penguin Putnam/Philomel. \$16.00. In 1938, jazz artist Ella Fitzgerald sang the song that tells of a small child in the city who drops his green and yellow basket and later sees a little girl carrying it around. The illustrations are done with bright mixed media and colors that literally sing along with the words. Playing a recording of the original Ella Fitzgerald song is a must when reading this book aloud!

ABC: A Child's First Alphabet Book. Alison Jay. Dutton. \$16.00. Each stylized painting represents a letter of the alphabet. Children must look closely to see what letter will come next and what might have happened to a letter already viewed. The book looks deceptively simple but in reality is complex, intriguing and engaging.

The Afterlife. Gary Soto. Harcourt. \$16.00. Chuy looks back at his life after he is tragically murdered – as a ghost he can see what is happening with his family and friends and has the opportunity to find happiness in the afterlife. Set in Fresno, this is a poignant, sad, sweet and sometimes funny story. California author. YOUNG ADULT.

Ah, Music! Alike. Illus. by the author. HarperCollins. This delightful compendium includes information about all types of music, composers, instruments, and music history. The format, with appealing illustrations and cartoon-like figures, will appeal to all ages. The book begins with "What is music? Wild! Cool, Dramatic, patriotic, passionate, spiritual, fresh! Profound, nostalgic, sublime." This book covers it all! **Open Court: Beyond the Notes.**

Air Force One: The Aircraft That Shaped the Modern Presidency. Von Hardesty. Illus. with photos, maps and prints. NorthWord. \$30.00. President Gerald Ford said, "When they fly you on Air Force One, you know you're the president." This fascinating book is the story of the presidents, the planes, and their many trips around the world and across America. The first president to fly was Theodore Roosevelt who took an airborne spin in 1910. Using aircraft for presidential travel began with Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1943. Reading this book and studying the photos is truly looking at a history of the modern American presidency.

Airborne: A Photobiography of Wilbur and Orville Wright. Mary Collins. Illus. with archival photos. National Geographic. \$19.00. This photobiography of Wilbur and Orville Wright examines not only their lives but also discusses their experiments and triumphs in the field of flight. Includes Afterword, Chronology, Resources.

Almost to Freedom. Vaunda Micheaux Nelson. Illus. by Colin Bootman. Carolrhoda. \$16.00. Writer Margaret Atwood once said, "A doll is a witness who cannot die, with a doll you are never along." This story about escape through the Underground Railroad is told by the voice of the rag doll that was part of two journeys. The large picture book format with glowing illustrations evokes the dangers, the hope, and the courage of the thousands who traveled to freedom on the Underground Railroad. 2004 Coretta Scott King Honor Book. **Open Court: Courage.**

Amber Waiting. Nan Gregory. Illus. by Kady MacDonald Denton. Red Deer Press. \$18.00. Amber loves everything about kindergarten – looking at books, painting, tying her shoes. What she doesn't like is her father always being late to come get her! While waiting one day Amber

dreams up a world in which she makes her father wait for her – on the moon – while she has all sorts of adventures. **Open Court: School.**

American Boy: The Adventures of Mark Twain. Don Brown. Illus. by the author. Houghton. \$16.00. This whimsical picture book biography of Samuel Clemens will most certainly encourage young readers to seek out and read Tom Sawyer. Brown's writing is superb in describing the boyhood of America's most beloved author. He uses quotes directly from Clemens and his writing often reflects the same dry wit as that of his subject. The illustrations are soft watercolors and evoke the seemingly carefree childhood of Sam Clemens. I loved the line: "Bye and bye, he remembered his boyhood, the glad morning of his life." A lovely read-aloud.

An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793. Jim Murphy. Clarion. \$17.00. Illustrated with prints and facsimile documents. 2004 Robert F. Sibert Award and 2004 Newbery Honor Award. Thousands of Philadelphians fled their city during the summer of 1793 because of an epidemic of Yellow Fever. This is the story of those who stayed to combat the nearly always fatal disease. Original source materials are reproduced at each chapter's beginning that add a sense of that time in American history. The controversies about the credibility of the doctors and the courage of the African American nurses who treated the sick are especially interesting. Surprisingly, the true cause of Yellow Fever and effective treatment was not discovered until the beginning of the 20th century. The last chapter discusses the implications today for a sickness that has no cure. **Open Court: From Mystery to Medicine.**

The Amulet of Samarkand: Book One of the Bartimaeus Trilogy. Jonathan Stroud. Miramax/Hyperion. \$18.00. Five-year-old Nathaniel was sold by his parents to the government to become a magician's apprentice. Seven years later, he summons Bartimaeus the djinn to steal the precious Amulet of Samarkand – and this leads to great danger and even death. The narration volleys between Nathaniel (third person) and Bartimaeus (first person).

Animal Sense. Diane Ackerman. Illus. by Peter Sís. Knopf. \$15.00. This small volume of clever poems for the intermediate student tells about a variety of animals and their senses – "Flies taste food with their feet, If it's good to dance in, it's good to eat. When one lands on a pile of cookies or plums, he spits out a portion to dissolve the crumbs." Includes poems about the leopard, the cow, the alligator and the penguin, among others.

Annie Rose Is My Little Sister. Shirley Hughes. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. \$16.00. Annie Rose's big brother narrates this story about all the things the brother and sister do together. He describes the good and not-so-good, but knows that he'll always be her big brother "...even until we're grown up."

Ansel Adams: America's Photographer. Beverly Gherman. Little, Brown. \$20.00. This magnificent biography written for children tells the life story of photographer and environmentalist, Ansel Adams. Many, many examples of his stunning photography are reproduced and will show the reader the majesty of the wilderness that Adams loved so deeply. Includes Important Dates, Notes, Sources, and Index. California author.

At Grandma's. Rhonda Gowler Greene. Illus. by Karla Firehammer. Holt. \$16.00. Short, rhyming text describe the joys of sleeping overnight at Grandma's. "...Big bed...Yellow sun...Breakfast bread with cinnamon." The soft cozy illustrations enhance the theme of family love.

Babies on the Go. Linda Ashman. Illus. by Jane Dyer. Harcourt. \$16.00. Soft watercolors and rhyming text explains how mothers – both human and animal -carry their babies when they are on the move! **Open Court: Animals.**

Baby Radar. Naomi Shihab Nye. Illus. by Nancy Carpenter. Greenwillow. \$17.00. A toddler and mother go out for a walk – mom pushing the baby in the stroller. The story is told by Baby and we see life from the seat of a stroller. The text is succinct and the illustrations are sweet. For the youngest set.

Bad Boys. Margie Palatini. Illus. by Henry Cole. HarperCollins. After escaping the wrath of the pigs, Wally and Willy Wolf are determined to make a meal of the flock of sheep in the meadow. Puns abound and plays on words will delight the astute student. Of course, good wins out over bad and the bad boys learn a lesson – maybe. Great read-aloud!

Ballad of Sir Dinadan. Gerald Morris. Houghton Mifflin. Set in the time of King Arthur. Eightenn-year-old Dinadan wants only to be a minstrel but his father demands that he become a knight. His adventures take him to King Arthur’s court and eventually he finds that honor is more than something to be sung about in a song.

Bartlett and the Ice Voyage. Odo Hirsch. Illus. by Andrew McLean. Bloomsbury. \$15.00. The young queen is busy ruling seven kingdoms and has little time to leave her palace and so her subjects send exotic gifts from far away. What the queen really wants is the fruit of the meidrop, but so far no one has been able to bring it to her. She sends two explorers, Bartlett and Jacques le Grand to bring the fruit and their greatest adventure begins.

Battle of Jericho. Sharon Draper. Atheneum. \$17.00. When Jericho is invited to pledge for the Warriors of Distinction, he thinks his life can't get any better. As the most exclusive club in school, the Warriors give the best parties, go out with the hottest girls, and sail through their classes. And when Arielle, one of the finest girls in his class, starts coming on to him once the pledge announcements are made, Jericho is determined to do anything to become a member.... 2004 Coretta Scott King Honor Book. YOUNG ADULT.

Beatrix: Various Episodes from the Life of Beatrix Potter. Jeanette Winter. Illus. by the author. Frances Foster/Farrar, Straus and Giroux. \$15.00. This small book, which matches the format of her Peter Rabbit books, is written using Beatrix Potter’s own letters and journals. Her childhood was a lonely one and she compensated by making friends with small animals, drawing them and writing about them.

Beautiful Blackbird. Ashley Bryan. Illus. by the author. Atheneum. \$17.00. Long ago, Blackbird was voted the most beautiful bird in the forest. The other birds, who were colored red, yellow, blue, and green, were so envious that they begged Blackbird to paint their feathers with a touch of black so they could be beautiful too. Although Black-bird warns them that true beauty comes from within, the other birds persist and soon each is given a ring of black around its neck or a dot of black on its wings -- markings that detail birds to this very day. 2004 Coretta Scott King Award.

Before We Were Free. Julia Alvarez. Knopf. \$16.00. Anita de la Torre never questioned her freedom living in the Dominican Republic. But by her 12th birthday in 1960, most of her relatives have emigrated to the United States, her Tío Toni has disappeared without a trace, and the government’s secret police terrorize her remaining family because of their suspected opposition

of el Trujillo's dictatorship. Anita must overcome her fears and escape – leaving all that is familiar behind. 2004 Pura Belpre Award. YOUNG ADULT.

Begging for Change. Sharon Flake. Hyperion. \$16.00. Raspberry Hill, who once was homeless, vowed never to end up on the streets again. To her, money equals security. But when a troubled neighborhood teenager attacks her mother, Raspberry is desperate for things in her life to change and ends up stealing from her best friend. But nothing good comes from bad money. Sequel to *Money Hungry*. YOUNG ADULT.

Ben Franklin's Almanac: Being a True Account of the Good Gentleman's Life. Candace Fleming. Simon & Schuster. \$20.00. This biography consists of all of the parts that made the man, Benjamin Franklin. It is a family album, a writer's journal, a scientist's scrapbook, a revolutionary's memories, a traveler's accounts and final remembrances. It is indeed a treasure trove of information about Franklin and the events of his time. **Open Court: Making a New Nation.**

Berry-Picking Man. Jane Buchanan. Pictures by Leslie Bowman. Farrar. \$15.00. Learning to accept people as they are is the message of this first novel. Nine-year-old Meggie cannot abide Old Sam – he smells bad, his manners are terrible and he demands that Meggie's mother take him places. It is through her mother's continuous kindness to the old man that Meggie learns to accept him and to reach out in friendship and kindness when he is in real need.

Big Day on the River. Sarah Wilson. Illus. by Randy Cecil. Holt. \$17.00. Willie is ready to set out on a raft trip on the Wallawatchee. Family members rush down with goodbye gifts that almost put a kabash on the journey - all that Willie wants are their hugs and kisses and good wishes. California author.

Big Momma Makes the World. Phyllis Root. Illus. by Helen Oxenbury. Candlewick. \$17.00. The large format of this wonderful creation story evokes the tall tale it presents. Big Momma creates the world and everything in it – and then tells the people “down there” that they must take care of her creation. The pictures simply glow off the pages. A delightful read aloud and a discussion might follow comparing creation stories across cultures and time.

Birdland. Tracy Mack. Scholastic. \$17.00. Thirteen-year-old Jed lives in the East Village of New York City and spends his Christmas break filming a school project documentary about his neighborhood. As he films he must constantly deal with the death of his poet brother, Zeke, who died 6 months earlier. YOUNG ADULT.

The Blizzard. Betty Ren Wright. Illus. by Ronald Himler. Holiday House. \$17.00. It's Billy's birthday but what a disappointment - because of a storm his cousins can't come to celebrate with him! Billy's house is closest to the schoolhouse and when the storm turns into a full-fledged blizzard, the entire school comes to spend his birthday night with him.

Blues Journey. Walter Dean Myers. Illus. by Christopher Myers. Holiday House. \$19.00. What are the Blues? Walter Dean Myers explains through lyrical examples what this American genre of music is and how it came about. Based on the “call and response” patterns of traditional African music, the music can be both sad and joyful. Includes glossary.

Bow Wow Meow Meow: it's Rhyming Cats and Dogs. Douglas Florian. Illus. by the author. Harcourt. \$17.00. Twenty-one wild and domestic “fur-ocious” cats and dogs are featured in this delightful book of verse! Some poems are concrete, some offer a play on words – all are succinct and aptly describe each subject. “The whippet speeds with ease and grace. Few dogs

can *whippit* in a race. And it would make a wondrous pet, Although I haven't caught one yet."
Open Court: Animals.

Boy Meets Boy. David Levithan. Knopf. \$16.00. High school sophomore Paul says, "There isn't really a gay scene or a straight scene in our town. They got all mixed up a while back, which I think is for the best." And, as he observes at the end of the story, "It's a wonderful world." YOUNG ADULT.

The Boy on Fairfield Street: How Ted Geisel Grew Up to Become Dr. Seuss. Kathleen Krull. Paintings by Steve Johnson and Lou Francher. Decorative illus. by Dr. Seuss. Random. \$17.00. This picture book biography focuses on Ted Seuss Geisel's first 22 years of life in Springfield, Massachusetts. It lays the background knowledge for Dr. Seuss fans to understand how he came to be a writer and illustrator. This is a perfect book to share with students when celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday during Read Across America. Includes "On Beyond Fairfield Street," Bibliography, Illustrations Index. California author.

The Boy Who Saved Baseball. John H. Ritter. Philomel/Penguin Putnam. \$18.00. Old Doc Altenheimer is going to sell his apple ranch to developers – however, the kids who live in Dillontown want a new baseball field built on the land. Doc announces at the town meeting that his final decision will be made on the basis of a baseball game. If Tom's team wins, the baseball field will be build – if they lose, the commercial development of the land will happen. California author.

Breakout. Paul Fleischman. Cricket/Marcato. \$16.00. Del has lived in foster homes in Los Angeles for 17 years and decides to leave for good... until she is caught in an all-day traffic jam. Eight years later we see Del at opening night of the new show she has written and is starring in – called Breakout, about a Los Angeles traffic jam. California author. YOUNG ADULT.

Bruh Rabbit and the Tar Baby Girl. Virginia Hamilton. Illus. by James E. Ransome. Scholastic/Blue Sky Press. \$17.00. Hamilton's version of the classic Brer Rabbit story is a natural read-aloud. Bruh Rabbit was a favorite animal of Plantation Era storytellers and this story, told in the Gullah speech of the Sea Islands of South Carolina, brings some new vocabulary to the reader while showing that the underdog is often clever indeed. Ransome's watercolors are glowing and vibrant.

Brundibar. Tony Kushner. Illus. by Maurice Sendak. MDC Books/Hyperion. \$20.00. This book is based on a 1938 Czech opera of the same name. Aninku and Pepicek set off for the village to get milk for their sick mother. Their plan is to sing to earn the money to buy the milk but they are bullied by a hurdy gurdy grinder and awful singer, Bundibar. Thanks to the animals of the village, three-hundred school children come to the rescue but Bundibar vows to come back – as bullies always do.

Bubba and Beau Go Night-Night. Kathi Appelt. Illus by Arthur Howard. Harcourt. \$16.00. This picture book with chapters traces an exhausting day of running errands. Baby Bubba and his puppy Beau set off to town with Big Bubba and his pickup, Earl. Later at home, when it's time to go "night-night" Baby Bubba and Beau will have nothing do with that idea – and then, Big Bubba comes up with a solution that works like a charm. This is a wonderful, rollicking read aloud and the pictures will bring chuckles to all.

The Canning Season. Polly Horvath. Farrar. \$16.00. Ratchet's mother sends her to spend the summer in Maine with two elderly great-aunts, PenPen and Tilly. Life is very different and

she not only grows to love her old aunts but she meets quite a few quirky local characters – and ends up staying for the rest of her life.

Carl Sandburg: Adventures of a Poet. Written by Penelope Niven with poems and prose by Carl Sandburg. Illus. by Marc Nadel. Harcourt. \$17.00. Every other page of this picture book biography discusses a phase of Carl Sandburg’s life, with the facing page holding an illustration by Nadel and a Sandburg writing piece describing that particular phase. Included are: Soldier, Journalist, Minstrel, Family Man, Storyteller, Historian, Pen Pal, Dreamer and Poet. Includes Time Line and Illustration Notes.

Casey at the Bat: A Ballad of the Republic Sung in the Year 1888. Ernest L. Thayer. Illus. by C.F. Payne. Simon and Schuster. \$17.00. Ernest L. Thayer was a writer for the San Francisco Daily Examiner in June of 1888 when he wrote his now famous poem, *Casey at the Bat*. Readers of the Examiner interpreted the “Mudville nine” as the California League club that was at the bottom of the League standings. The illustrations seem larger than life and express perfectly the sorrow that came to Mudville when mighty Casey struck out.

The Cat Who Got Carried Away. Allan Ahlberg. Illus. by Katharine McEwen. Candlewick. \$16.00. This is a delightful beginning chapter book that involves all of the Gaskitt family – Mr. and Mrs. Gaskitt, Gus and Gloria Gaskitt, and Horace, the Gaskitt’s cat. Adventures include a barking baby carriage, a substitute teacher at school, and a mystery involving missing pets.

The Cat Who Liked Potato Soup. Terry Farish. Illus. by Barry Root. Candlewick. \$16.00. This is a sweet love story of two old curmudgeons – an old farmer and an old cat. They like to eat potato soup and go fishing together in the boat but one day the cat seems too tired to go fishing and when the old man leaves without him, his troubles are just beginning. A super read-aloud!

Clorinda. Robert Kinerk. Illus. by Steven Kellogg. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Clorinda the cow dreams of being a professional ballet dancer. Len the farmer builds her a stage but they both know that she must seek her destiny in Manhattan. She sets out for the city and finally, finally lands her big part in the ballet *Giselle* – unfortunately, size does matter and Clorinda decides that dancing on the farm is best for her, after all. **Open Court: Keep Trying.**

Cold Tom. Sally Prue. Scholastic Press. \$16.00. Tom is both elfin and human – he has been cast out from the elfin Tribe and now hides among the hated humans. As his human side emerges he is confused by what is happening and fears becoming entangled by new bonds with humans Joe and Anna – but he needs their help to avoid being killed by the Tribe.

Colibrí. Ann Cameron. Farrar. \$17.00. At age 4 Colibri was kidnapped from her parents on a bus in Guatemala City by an unscrupulous man who has forced her to lie and beg to get money for him. When this story opens, Colibri, now called Rosa, is 12 years old and begins to dream and plan for the escape from “Uncle” who has forced her to lie and beg for money over the years. Even if she escapes, how will she find the parents she barely remembers?

The Conch Bearer. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. Roaring Brook Press/Millbrook. \$17.00. The reader’s journey begins on the streets of Kolkata, India and continues across arid plains and rushing rivers to a secret valley high in the Himalayas. The journey centers on 12-year-old Anand who travels with a healer to return a magical conch to its safe and rightful home.

A Cool Moonlight. Angela Johnson. Dial. \$15.00. Eight-year-old Lila was born with a rare and dangerous allergy to sunlight and must stay in the dark at all times. She leaves her house only at night and wears wrap around sunglasses indoors. Two little girls from next door who play with her in the nighttime garden secretly plan with Lila to help her feel the warmth of the sunlight on her ninth birthday.

Corn Chowder. Poems by James Stevenson. HarperCollins/Greenwillow. \$16.00. The dust jacket gives a perfect description of this newest in Stevenson's Corn poetry series "This book is sweet, salty, rich, tasty, sustaining, nourishing, comforting ...Ingredients: 25 poems that are perfect for a sunny day, perfect for a chilly day, and will make you smile... Delicious!" Others in the series are: *Candy Corn*, *Just Around the Corner*, *Cornflakes*, *Popcorn*, *Corn-Fed*, and *Sweet Corn*.

Cowboys and Longhorns: A Portrait of the Long Drive. Jerry Stanley. Illus. with archival photos and prints. Crown. \$19.00. The years from 1866 to 1885 were the golden age of the true American cowboy. It was not the glamorous life that Hollywood portrayed – but hard and dirty, and most cowboys usually quit from boredom after a few months. In this 20 year span cowboys captured longhorn cattle out on the range and drove them on the Chisholm Trail from Texas to Kansas where they were sold to supply the American appetite for meat. "I woke up one morning on the Old Chishom Trail, Rope in my hand and a cow by the tail. Feet in the stirrups and seat in the saddle, I hung and rattled with them Longhorn cattle." This is a comprehensive coverage of an important niche of American history. Includes Biography, Index. California author.

Creation. Gerald McDermott. Illus. by the author. Dutton. \$17.00. McDermott uses Genesis 1:1 through 2:3 of the Hebrew Bible as well as other cultural resources to put a "new spin" on the creation of the universe. The text is eloquent, the paintings on handmade mulberry-bark paper are brilliant. California author.

Cuba 15. Nancy Osa. Delacorte. \$16.00. Violet has grown up in suburban Chicago – the daughter of a Cuban father and a Polish mother and she feels she is 100% American. She reluctantly agrees to take part in her Quinceanero and begins to learn about her Hispanic heritage. 2004 Pura Belpre Honor Book for Author.

Dangerous Planet. Bryn Barnard. Illus. by the author. Crown. \$18.00. Meteor impacts, typhoons, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes are just a few of the disasters described in this book. Each is described by its severity and the impact it had on the civilization at the time. Fascinating history and legends! Includes Bibliography and Glossary.

Daring Nellie Bly: America's Star Reporter. Bonnie Christensen. Illus. by author. Knopf. \$17.00. Includes Chronology, Bibliography, Videography. This picture book biography of Nellie Bly relates her refusal to accept society's restraints imposed on women in the late 19th century. Not only did she champion women's rights but as a "stunt" reporter for the New York World, she traveled around the world faster than any human had previously. An interesting note: Jules Verne, author of *Around the World in 80 Days*, helped Nellie plan her route. **Open Court: Journeys and Quests.**

The Dark Horse. Marcus Sedgwick. Wendy Lamb Books/Random. \$16.00. Sixteen-year-old Sigurd is the chief of the people called the Storn. He leads them in their resistance of the invaders called the Dark Horse and he learns of his foster sister's mysterious past and the meaning it has in this battle for survival.

A Day in the Life of Murphy. Alice Provensen. Illus. by the author. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. Murphy is a dog and he hears his name as “Murphy-Stop-That!” The reader follows Murphy through his day on the farm, in his quest for food tidbits and his love of barking. Murphy shows his distinct personality throughout this humorous read-aloud or read-alone book.

The Day the Babies Crawled Away. Peggy Rathmann. Illus. by the author. Putnam. Oh, no! Where did the babies go? A little boy takes the reader along as he follows the babies when they crawl away from their parents at a picnic. The illustrations are bright with the characters shown in black silhouette against vibrant backgrounds. Terrific read-aloud for preschool – 1st grade.

Days of Jubilee: the End of Slavery in the United States. Patricia and Fredrick McKissack. Illus. with archival photos and prints. Scholastic. \$19.00. In this comprehensive book, slave narratives, letters, diaries, military orders, and other documents chronicle the stages leading up to the emancipation of slaves during the Civil War. Many of the narratives used were collected by staff at the Library of Congress in the 1930s. Includes Time Line, Bibliography, Index. 2004 Coretta Scott King Honor Book.

Dear World. Takayo Noda. Illus. by the author. Dial. \$17.00. This charming book consists of poetic letters to different aspects of a child’s world – the sun, the dawn, fishes, trees, and even valentines. The illustrations are bright and colorful collages rendered with watercolors on handmade paper.

Destination Unexpected. Edited by Donald R. Gallo. Candlewick. \$17.00. Each of the ten short stories in this anthology center around the theme of “journeys to discovery” – to Europe, summer camp, the local diner, etc. Notable YA authors such as Ron Koertge, Margaret Peterson Haddix, and Richard Peck contributed to this collection. YOUNG ADULT.

Diary of a Worm. Doreen Cronin. Pictures by Harry Bliss. HarperCollins. \$17.00. The author of *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type* is back – this time addressing the worm world. A young worm, like any young child, discovers that there are both good things and not-so-good things in life. Children will chortle at the sight of worms doing the hokey pokey at the school dance, and sympathize when the worm has a bad dream. This little story is certain to have readers looking into the soil to find a few worms to study – and perhaps learning how worms help take care of the earth.

Dinosaur Mummies: Beyond Bare-Bones Fossils. Kelly Milner Halls. Illus. by Rick Spears. Includes color photos. Darby Creek Publishing. \$18.00. In the summer of 2000, scientists in Montana discovered the most complete dinosaur mummy ever found. This book describes the rare finds over the years of fossilized dinosaur mummies – where nature has saved small pieces of a dinosaur’s soft tissue along with bone. Bibliographies of Books, Videos/DVDs, Web Sites, Dig Site Destinations, Personal Interviews and Correspondence. Glossary. Index. Don’t pass up this book! **Open Court: Fossils.**

Do You Still Love Me? Charlotte Middleton. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. \$16.00. Dudley is a dog and he and his mistress Anna are very fond of one another. They even like to sit and read together every afternoon. But then, horrors! Anna brings home a new pet – a baby chameleon called Pequito. Things change for Dudley and he feels sad because he is not the favorite pet any more. But when he saves Pequito from serious danger, Dudley and Pequito learn to share Anna and she loves them both – as she always did. Illustrations are multi-media collages.

Dolores on Her Toes. Barbara Samuels. Illus. by the author. Melanie Kroupa Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux. \$17.00. Dolores involves a somewhat unwilling Duncan the cat in preparations for Tutu Day. When it gets too much for Duncan, he disappears and Dolores has a mystery to solve that is even more important than Tutu Day – where is Duncan?!

Don't Hold Me Back: My Life and Art. Winfred Rembert, with a poem by Nikki Giovanni. Illus. By the author. Cricket/Marcato. \$20.00. Black artist Winfred Rembert tells about growing up on a cotton plantation in Georgia, serving time in prison for his actions during a civil rights demonstration, and finding new purpose and direction in his life. Includes A Note on the Art, Historical Note, Further Reading.

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus. Words and pictures by Mo Willems. Hyperion. \$13.00. The bus driver tells the reader that he has to leave for a little while, please watch things for him – and, don't let the pigeon drive the bus! Well, next scene the pigeon strolls onto the page and gives all the reasons why, WHY he should be allowed to drive the bus. Children who wheedle and whine just may recognize themselves in the clever pigeon. 2004 Caldecott Honor Book.

Donuthead. Sue Stauffacher. Knopf. \$16.00. Franklin Delano Donuthead is a 5th grader obsessed with safety and cleanliness and has issues with his mother who tries constantly to slip him something non-organic to eat – like Oreos. When the new girl in his class becomes his friend, it is an unlikely friendship – she lives in a dirty trailer, has a lethal fist, and bonds with Franklin's mother. Both have much to learn from one another and this funny story of friendship and risks has much to share with the reader!

The Dot. Peter Reynolds. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. \$14.00. Vashti refuses to participate in art class until her art teacher challenges her to “Just make a mark and see where it takes you.” Vashti makes an angry dot but after seeing it framed over her teacher's desk, vows she can do better. This little book encourages all of us to release that creative spirit that resides in all of us.

Duel of the Ironclads: The Monitor vs. the Virginia. Patrick O'Brien. Walker. \$18.00. Large watercolor illustrations enhance the text of this book that is a description of the construction, battles, and historical impact of the Civil War battleships, the Monitor and the Virginia (known to Union forces as the Monitor and the Merrimack).

The Earth, My Butt and Other Big Round Things. Carolyn Mackler. Candlewick. \$16.00. Virginia feels she doesn't fit in with her family – they are attractive, smart, thin and successful. Ginny goes to a private high school and obeys the “Fat Girl Code of Conduct” – her overbearing psychologist mother's campaign in life is to get Ginny thin. The family dynamics begins to unravel when Ginny's older brother is suspended from the university for date rape and Ginny finally starts taking control of her life. Michael L. Printz Honor Book. YOUNG ADULT.

Earthshake: Poems from the Ground Up. Lisa Westberg Peters. Pictures by Cathie Felstead. Greenwillow/HarperCollins. \$18.00. What a super integration of poetry and science! In this book, the poet presents 28 poems about geology. A fun activity would be to identify on a map where the geologic events have occurred – a Sahara-like desert in Michigan? A Wyoming layer cake? The illustrations are collages created from a mixed media. End Notes give information about the earth's surface and interior.

East. Edith Pattou. Harcourt. \$18.00. This story is a retelling of the classic *East of the Sun and West of the Moon*. Rose is the youngest of seven children and has always felt restless and

alienated from her family. When a large white bear takes her on his back to a distant castle she meets a mysterious stranger and loses her heart.

Ella Sarah Gets Dressed. Margaret Chodos-Irvine. Illus. by the author. Harcourt. \$16.00. Ella Sarah knows *exactly* what she wants to wear in the morning but everyone in the family has other ideas. What they fail to understand is that Ella Sarah and her little friends are having a dress-up party and her outfit is perfect! The author/artist used a variety of printmaking techniques to illustrate her story. 2004 Caldecott Honor Book.

Emma's Strange Pet. Jean Little. Pictures by Jennifer Plecas. HarperCollins. \$17.00. *An I Can Read Book.* Emma's little brother desperately wants a pet, but Emma is allergic to animals with fur. The new pet is nothing like Max thought it would be but Stranger is so great that Max wants one, too.

Eragon. Christopher Paolini. Knopf. \$19.00. When Eragon finds the blue stone, he doesn't realize his entire life will change with the emergence of the blue dragon inside. As in Tolkien, the violence and creatures of the dark are not for the faint of heart. Banding together with the local storyteller, Brom, they set off on an action-packed journey while Brom teaches Eragon what he must know to read, defend himself, and be a dragonrider. The author was 15 years old when he wrote this first book in the Inheritance trilogy.

The Essential Worldwide Monster Guide. Linda Ashman. Illus. by David Small. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. Travel the world to visit 13 international monsters – from Abatwa in Africa to Sasquatch in North America. The monsters are each described in a short poem with a sidebar of explanation. The illustrations are both whimsical and bold and filled with snatches of humor.

Evie and Margie. Bernard Waber. Walter Lorraine Books/Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. Evie and Margie are best friends and dream together of becoming famous actors. Auditions for a local production of Cinderella are held and their friendship is truly tested when the parts are announced – however, all's well that ends well! **Open Court: Friendship.**

Eyes and Ears. Seymour Simon. Illus. with photos. HarperCollins. \$17.00. The functions and anatomy of the eyes and ears are explained as well as how the brain is involved in our seeing and hearing. Larger than life detailed photos enhance the text.

Facing the Lion: Growing up Maasai on the African Savanna. Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton, with Herman J. Viola. Includes photos. National Geographic. Joseph Lemasolai, a member of the Maasai people tells of his life as he grew up in a northern Kenya village and traveled to America to attend college. YOUNG ADULT.

Fame and Glory in Freedom, Georgia. Barbara O'Connor. Farrar. \$16.00. Sixth-grader "Bird" Weaver is pretty much ostracized by her classmates and when Harlem Tate comes as a new student to school it's clear that this glaring, silent, smelly boy will be ostracized too. That's when Bird decides to make him her friend and she soon discovers a wealth of things to like in him. Bird and Harlem, with the help of Miss Delphine Reese find fame and glory, friendship and worth in Freedom, Georgia. The voice in this novel makes it a fine read-aloud.

The Farther You Run. Davida Wills Hurwin. Viking. \$17.00. Sequel to *A Time for Dancing.* Samantha's best friend, Juliana, has died of cancer and even after Samantha finds a new boyfriend and meets a new best friend at summer school it's difficult to pull away from the loyalty and love she still feels for Juliana. California author. YOUNG ADULT.

Fat Kid Rules the World. K.L. Going. Putnam's Sons. \$18.00. Troy Billings, a 296-pound loner and Curt MacCrae, a punk-guitarist (both troubled teens) become friends through a mutual love of music. 2004 Michael L. Printz Honor Book. YOUNG ADULT.

Fight On!: Mary Church Terrell's Battle for Integration. Dennis Brindell Fradin & Judith Bloom Fradin. Illus. with archival photos and prints. Clarion. \$17.00. This is a fine biography of Mary Church Terrell, who was the first African American Washington, D.C., Board of Education member. She helped form the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), fought against lynching, worked for women's rights to vote and, at the age of 86, campaigned to end segregation in the nation's capitol. Includes Source Notes, Bibliography, Index. **Open Court: Taking a Stand.**

Fireflies at Midnight. Marilyn Singer. Pictures by Ken Robbins. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. The reader touches all the times of day and night through poetry that examines the lives of birds and insects. Beginning with dawn we see a robin greeting the new day, a horse eats grass during mid-day, a rabbit hides in the grass at dusk, a firefly flashes at midnight, a spider spins a web at nighttime, and a mole goes to sleep at dawn. The illustrations are rendered as photographic treatments.

First Day in Grapes. L. King Perez. Illus. by Robert Casilla. Lee & Low. \$17.00. All year long, Chico's family moves up and down California to pick fruits and vegetables. Every September, Chico begins the school year in a new school and often, the other kids pick on him — maybe because he's always new, or maybe because he speaks Spanish sometimes. But third grade promises to be different. He likes his teacher, and she recognizes his excellent abilities in math — he may even get to go to the math fair! When some fourth-grade bullies tease him, he surprises them with strengths of his own. 2004 Pura Belpre Honor Book for Illustration.

First Part Last. Angela Johnson. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Sixteen-year-old Bobby is raising his baby girl by himself and although he lives with his parents they do not coddle either the baby or Bobby — he must care for Feather, go to high school, and visit his girlfriend Nia in the convalescent home. The chapters switch between "then" and "now" and it is not until near the end of the story that it is revealed why Bobby is raising Feather alone. **2004 Coretta Scott King Award. 2004 Michael L. Printz Award.** YOUNG ADULT.

First to Fly: How Wilbur & Orville Wright Invented the Airplane. Peter Busby. Paintings by David Craig. Diagrams by Jack McMaster. Historical Consultation by Fred E.C. Culick. Archival photos and prints. Madison Press Book produced for Crown. \$20.00. Not only is this beautiful book a biography of the Wright brothers, it also presents a detailed explanation of how they accomplished their remarkable flight. Sidebars of text and photos enhance the telling. This is one of the finest books celebrating the centennial of the flight at Kitty Hawk.

Flora's Surprise! Debi Gliori. Illus. by the author. Orchard/Scholastic. \$16.00. Flora's family is planting a garden and Flora plants a brick. She insists that she has planted a house and waits patiently through the seasons for the results. Come spring a "house" and a wonderful surprise has replaced the buried brick.

For Freedom: The Story of a French Spy. Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. Delacorte. \$16.00. The Nazis occupy Cherbourg, France, the town where 13-year-old Suzanne lives during World War II. She is a gifted singer and after the Nazis force the family from their home, Suzanne still attends school, sings in the church choir and then sings in the local opera company. When Suzanne is asked to become a spy for the Resistance and pass coded messages to other spies, she agrees despite the danger. Based on a true story.

Freedom Roads: Searching for the Underground Railroad. Joyce Hansen & Gary McGowan. Illus. by James Ransome. Includes archival photos and prints. Cricket/Marcato. \$19.00. The authors explore with the reader the ways historians use all kinds of evidence in learning about the Underground Railroad. The difficulties stems from the fact that much of the workings of the Underground Railroad were cloaked in secrecy. Hansen and McGowan show how letters, journals, receipts can be seen as evidence – as well as artifacts found from archaeological digs. This is a fine example of primary source research in action. Includes Notes on Sources, Index.

Friction. E.R. Frank. Atheneum. \$17.00. Everyone likes Simon, the young Asian Indian teacher at Forest Alternative School. When Stacy, the new girl in school suggests that some things happened at the overnight campout between Simon and a female student, Alex, people are quick to believe her – even Alex and her best friend Tim are confused about what Simon is all about. YOUNG ADULT.

Full Moon Barnyard Dance. Carole Lexa Schaefer. Illus. by Christine Davenier. Candlewick. \$16.00. It's nighttime in the barnyard and there's a full moon – the animals are restless and meet at the pond to dance and frolic. The goats together, the cows and bulls, the cats, the hens and roosters. Suddenly a cloud covers the moon and they are dancing in the dark and discover that the pig is dancing with the rooster, the bull with the cat – oh, dear! They find that it was fun and kind of friendly and nice to dance with different partners! **Open Court: Animals.**

George Washington's Teeth. Deborah Chandra & Madeleine Comora. Pictures by Brock Cole. Farrar Straus Giroux. \$16.00. "All of his life, George Washington had problems with his teeth and worked hard to save them. This story is based on what really happened to George and his teeth." Rhyming text and whimsical water colors relate how Washington lost his teeth and the 18th century solution that finally resolved his dilemma. Includes "Important events in George Washington's life – from his own letters, diaries, and accounts," Bibliography.

Getting Away with Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case. Chris Crowe. Phyllis Fogelman Books/Penguin Putnam. \$19.00. In 1955, 14-year-old Emmett Till, a black youth from Chicago was visiting family in Money, Mississippi when a seemingly innocent adolescent action caused an uproar that triggered the Civil Rights Movement. Till was visiting and didn't understand the racial attitudes at that time of white Mississippians – he approached a young white woman and according to her later testimony, asked her for a date. As a result, Till was kidnapped and brutally murdered by two white men – who were found not guilty by a local jury. YOUNG ADULT.

Ghost Girl: A Blue Ridge Mountain Story. Delia Ray. Clarion. \$15.00. April Sloane lives in a rural and isolated area of Virginia during the Great Depression. When President and Mrs. Hoover learn that there are no schools in the area they have a school built and hire a teacher, Miss Vest. April's mother, depressed over the death of April's little brother, does not see value in April's schooling – however, the tenacity of April, Miss Vest and April's grandmother wins out in the end, but not without strife, anger and heartbreak. Based on a true story.

Gilgamesh the Hero. Retold by Geraldine McCaughrean. Illus. by David Parkins. Eerdmans. \$18.00. This retelling, based on 7th century B.C. Assyrian clay tablets, tells of the adventures of the god king, Gilgamesh, who ruled in ancient Mesopotamia (now Iraq) in about 2700 B.C. The Epic of Gilgamesh is the oldest recorded story in the world. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations.**

Ginger Finds a Home. Charlotte Voake. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. \$16.00. A little skinny stray cat lives in a patch of weeds and eats out of garbage cans until a little girl befriends her. **Open Court: Finding Friends.**

Goldie and the Three Bears. Diane Stanley. Illus. by the author. HarperCollins. \$17.00. Goldie has a difficult time meeting a best friend until she walks into an empty house on her way home from school – there she eats, reads in a chair and takes a nap. And then the residents come home and find Goldie. Loosely based on Goldilocks and children will find it fun to compare and contrast the two stories. **Open Court: Finding Friends.**

Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Retold by Jim Aylesworth. Illus. by Barbara McClintock. Scholastic. \$16.00. The traditional Goldilocks story that will make a perfect read aloud. The illustrations are reminiscent of Randolph Caldecott and lend an old-fashioned flavor to the telling.

Good Night Sam. Marie-Louise Gay. Illus. by the author. Groundwood. \$15.00. Sam can't go to sleep until he finds Fred. Big sister Stella finally gets up to look for Fred, can't find him and it's back to bed – only to find Fred in bed. Sam can't go to sleep because Fred is snoring ...

The Goose Girl. Shannon Hale. Bloombury. \$18.00. This book is based on the Grimm's fairy tale about the princess who became a goose girl before she could become a queen. Anidori-Kiladra Talianna Isilee, Crown Princess of Kilenree (shortened to Ani) is on a journey to marry a prince she has never met, when she is betrayed by her own guards and lady-in-waiting and forced to become a goose girl. How she regains her crown, finds true love and lives happily ever after is revealed in this delightful novel/fairy tale.

Granny Torrelli Makes Soup. Sharon Creech. Drawings by Chris Raschka. Joanna Cotler Books/HarperCollins. \$17.00. Twelve-year-old Rosie and Bailey, the boy next door, have been best friends since babyhood. When their friendship is strained because of a new girl in their neighborhood, Granny Torrelli knows just how to sooth over the rough spots. Readers will learn much about Italian cooking, family love and friendship. A nice read aloud. **Open Court: Friendship.**

Green Angel. Alice Hoffman. Scholastic. \$17.00. After a terrible disaster that wipes out her family and thousands of others, Green is left along to survive as best she can. She forages for food and her very survival but gradually as people begin to enter her life she is able to begin to let go of her grief. This is a dark story without time or place that carries the universal message of strength and hope. YOUNG ADULT.

Green Dog: A Mostly True Story. Suzanne Fisher Staples. Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux. \$16.00. This dog-in-the-family story is based on the author's childhood in northeastern Pennsylvania and tells the story of Jeff, a black and white dog who comes into the a young girl's life as a stray. Love between them is instant but after awhile it is apparent that Jeff has a nose for trouble and tough decisions must be made.

Gregor the Overlander. Suzanne Collins. Scholastic. Eleven-year-old Gregor follows his two-year-old sister through a grate in the laundry room of their New York apartment building and they fall into the dark Underland beneath the city. Giant spiders, cockroaches and rats live there and all Gregor wants to do is return home safely with his sister – but can he, or is an ancient prophecy doomed to play out?

Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez. Kathleen Krull. Illus. by Yuyi Morales. Harcourt. \$17.00. This stunning picture book biography about Chavez is told from age 10 until his death at age 66 years. The glowing illustrations add richness to the book and evoke the colors and beauty of the land and of the Hispanic culture. 2004 Pura Belpre Honor Book for Illustration. Also available in Spanish language edition: *Cosechando Esperanza* (translated by F. Isabel Campoy and Alma Flor Ada). California author. California illustrator. **Open Court: Taking a Stand.**

Hatching Magic. Ann Downer. Atheneum. \$17.00. The book's dramatic cover shows a hatchling emerging from an egg and serves to jumpstart this fantasy of wizards and wyverns (small dragons). Wycca, a pregnant wyvern, goes through a magic bolt-hole into present-day Cambridge to have her baby, causing all sorts of wizards and others to attempt to track her down. Young Theodora finds first a magic wyvern card and then a baby dragon. Can she protect the hatchling until its mother can be found?

Hawksong. Amelia Atwater-Rhodes. Delacorte. \$10.00. Danica is an avian shapeshifter and her world has been at war with the serpent shapeshifters forever. Both sides are weary of the bloodshed and it is agreed that the two rulers (Danica and Zane) will marry and thus bring peace to their world. Distrust and fear threaten to compromise the plan. YOUNG ADULT.

Henry Climbs a Mountain. D.B. Johnson. Illus. by the author. Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. This is the third in a series about a bear named Henry whose activities are based on the life of Henry David Thoreau. There are many faces of courage and in this story Henry goes to jail rather than go against his principles – even though freedom is something he highly values. **Open Court: Courage.**

Hey, Pancakes! Words by Tamson Weston. Pictures by Stephen Gammell. Silver Whistle/Harcourt. \$16.00. Three children and their dog make pancakes in the early morning – a dab of this, a dab of that, a pancake flip, a pancake flop. It seems as if the kitchen and kids are covered in pancakes and syrup! Includes a recipe for Grandma's pancakes.

Hi, Harry!: The Moving Story of How One Slow Tortoise Slowly Made a Friend. Martin Waddell. Illus. by Barbara Firth. Candlewick. \$15.00. Harry the tortoise tries to make friends with a rabbit, a badger and a mouse, but they were all too much in a hurry and running too fast. Finally Harry finds the perfect friends and they play together s-l-o-w-l-y. **Open Court: Finding Friends.**

Hill Hawk Hattie. Clara Gillow Clark. Candlewick. \$16.00. After 11-year-old Hattie's mother dies, her father becomes an angry person and that spins over to his relationship with his daughter. His occupation is rafting logs from New York to Philadelphia and he takes Hattie along to help move the logs, disguising her as a boy to avoid problems. This novel takes place in the late 19th century and brings another aspect of family dynamics, child labor, and social customs of that time.

Hold My Hand: Five Stories of Love and Family. Charlotte Zolotow. Pictures by Carol Thompson. Hyperion. \$20.00. This little collection of stories and poems by Charlotte Zolotow all focus on love and family – walking with Dad, an older brother with a tag-along little brother, a little sister with a pesky big brother and even baby's first words.

Homespun Sarah. Verla Kay. Illus. by Ted Rand. G.P.I. Putnam's. \$16.00. Written in terse verse, this is the story of Sarah who lives in Pennsylvania in the early 18th century. Sarah is in

need of a new dress because she is outgrowing her only dress and we see the sheep shorn, the dye made, the cloth woven and a new dress sewn and fitted. Author's Note explains how different it was to be a child living in Colonial times. California author.

House of Windjammer. V.A. Richardson. Bloomsbury. \$17.00. In the fall of 1636, tulip fever has gripped Amsterdam. Tulips are desired by all and the market is at a high. The Dutch family of Windjammer suffers a setback when their entire trading fleet is lost. Adam is the young heir of the House of Windjammer and he must find the rare and lucrative treasure called the Black Pearl to save the family business. The Black Pearl is not a jewel but a rare tulip and worth enough to bring fortune back to the family.

How Angel Peterson Got His Name: And Other Outrageous Tales about Extreme Sports.

Gary Paulsen. Random. \$13.00. Like many of Paulsen's stories, this one is based on his boyhood when he lived in a small northern Minnesota town during the 1940s and 1950s. He and his friends did crazy things – shooting a waterfall in a barrel, breaking the world speed record on skis (pulled by a car), hang gliding with an army surplus target kite – and that's only the beginning! If you know a boy who is a reluctant reader, he may devour this book!

How I Became a Pirate. Melinda Long. Illus. by David Shannon. Harcourt. \$16.00. Jeremy Jacob and his family are enjoying a day at the beach when Jeremy sees a pirate ship land – they invite him aboard and for a day he learns about pirate habit and manners (or lack of manners). The rollicking larger-than-life pictures and read aloud text are filled with humor and fun!

I Kissed the Baby! Mary Murphy. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. \$13.00. All the animals are excited about the arrival of a new baby – a wee duck. The illustrations are bold black and white silhouettes, until the baby is introduced and it is bright, glowing YELLOW!

Ice-Cream Cones for Sale! Elaine Greenstein. Illus. by the author. Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic. \$16.00. Arnold Fornachou, Ernest Hamwi, Charles Menches and his lady friend, Abe Doumar, and David Avayou all claimed to have invented the ice cream cone at the St. Louis World Fair in 1904. However, the true inventor was Italo Marchiony who sold them in New York City in 1903. Includes Author's Note and Bibliography. **Open Court: Our Country and Its People.**

In Defense of Liberty: The Story of America's Bill of Rights. Russell Freedman. Illustrated with archival photos and prints. Holiday House. \$25.00. At the first session of the United States Congress in 1789, delegates voted on ten amendments that were to protect the rights and liberties of all citizens. Those amendments comprise the Bill of Rights. In this book, Freedman discusses the meaning, history, and applications for today of each of the ten amendments. A fine book for every library! Includes Notes, Index of Supreme Court Cases, Bibliography, Index.

Inside the Alamo. Jim Murphy. Delacorte. \$17.00. An overview of the struggle for control of Texas between Mexico's General Santa Anna and Texan settlers. In 1836 the Battle of the Alamo was fought and the author separates fact from folklore in his presentation. The text is enhanced with archival prints, quotes from survivors, diaries and letters, and sidebars of facts.

Into the Wild. Erin Hunter. HarperCollins. \$16.00. For generations, four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to the laws laid down by their powerful ancestors. It looks like war between the ThunderClan cats and the treacherous ShadowClan cats. And then Rusty, an ordinary house cat, appears on the scene...

It's a Hummingbird's Life. Irene Kelly. Illus. by the author. Holiday House. \$17.00. Did you know that a single penny fits snugly in a hummingbird's nest? Hummingbird eggs are so small that you could mail 60 eggs with one postage stamp? This little book is filled with interesting facts and wonders about the habits and habitats of the Ruby-throated hummingbird.

It's a Miracle: A Hanukkah Storybook. Stephanie Spinner. Illus. by Jill McElmurry. An Anne Schwartz Book/Atheneum. \$17.00. The young reader joins Owen and his grandmother every night of Hanukkah as Grandma Karen kicks off her cowboy boots and tells Owen a bedtime story that celebrates his heritage.

Jabberwocky. Lewis Carroll. Illus. by Joel Stewart. Candlewick. \$16.00. Lewis Carroll's nonsense poem first appeared in 1872 in his book, *Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There* and even Alice said after reading it, "Somehow it fills my head with ideas – only I don't know exactly what they are." Stewart's large illustrations break down each line and suddenly Jaberwocky does make sense! This is a fun look at the Jaberwocky creatures and their adventure with a small hero.

Jack: The Early Years of John F. Kennedy. Ilene Cooper. Dutton. \$23.00. What was Jack Kennedy like as a boy? What were his hobbies? Was he a good student? Filled with archival photos and anecdotes, this book covers Kennedy's life from babyhood through his high school years. The Afterword briefly details his adult life in politics. Includes Source Notes, Bibliography (books, personal papers, video, and Internet sources), Index.

Jumbo Book of Art: An Artistic Adventure from the Avenue Road Arts School. Irene Luxbacher. Illus. by the author. Kids Can Press. Paperback. \$15.00. This book is a terrific art resource for the classroom teacher. Subjects covered are drawing, color, sculpture, and mixed-media. Includes Index.

Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book. Yuyi Morales. Illus. by the author. Chronicle Books. This is an original trickster story in which Senor Calavera comes to Grandma Beetle's door and asks that she leave with him. Grandma Beetle delays him by finishing her chores – sweeping, boiling tea, making tortillas – and this goes on until she is able to spend her birthday with her grandchildren. Includes counting in both English and Spanish. 2004 Pura Belpre Award.

Keeper of the Night. Kimberly Willis Holt. Henry Holt. \$17.00. After Isabel's mother dies by suicide, the 13-year-old struggles to keep her family together, while dealing with her own grief and confusion. Set in Guam. YOUNG ADULT.

Keesha's House. Helen Frost. Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Strauss and Giroux. \$16.00. Joe opens his house to kids on the run and after Keesha takes up residency she attracts other young people to come to the house. The 7 teens all have different issues but the common goal of making it on their own and each of their poems describe why they left home and where they have found "home." 2004 Michael L. Printz Honor Book. YOUNG ADULT.

Kid's Visual Reference of the USA. Editors of Blackbirch Press. Illus. with photos, maps, and charts. Blackbirch/Gale/Thomson Learning. \$50.00. This single volume is an alphabetical presentation of brief statistics and pictorial information about each of the 50 states, plus the U.S. territories and possessions. This is an excellent reference volume that not only presents concise facts but is also is a tool for children to learn how to read charts and graphs.

King of the Mild Frontier: An Ill-Advised Autobiography. Chris Crutcher. Greenwillow/HarperCollins. \$18.00. While this may seem to be an autobiography of this wildly popular young adult author, he states on the verso page, “Memory is selective and by nature faulty. That statement is probably doubly true for my memory. Add to that my penchant for exaggeration ... and you have a memoir that may not stand up to close historical scrutiny.” Crutcher grew up in the small town of Cascade, Idaho in the 1950s and obviously tucked away many adventures for his career as an author! Those who like Chris Crutcher won’t want to miss this story! Cataloged as Fiction. YOUNG ADULT.

Kingfisher Book of Family Poems. Selected by Belinda Hollyer. Illus. by Holly Swain. Kingfisher/Houghton Mifflin. \$19.00. The 159 poems in this anthology explore the dynamics of families and family situations. The poems are poignant, funny, sad and most of all, insightful. Includes Index of Poets and Index of First Lines.

The Last Treasure. Janet S. Anderson. Dutton. \$18.00. Thirteen-year-old Tom and his father always seem to be on the run. When Tom is invited to come back to the family ancestral home for a visit, he accepts and becomes involved in looking for the final treasure of several that the family patriarch hid many years before.

Leonardo, Beautiful Dreamer. Robert Byrd. Illus. by the author. Dutton. \$18.00. This is a biography to be savored by all ages. It is filled with detailed illustrations and interesting facts about both da Vinci and the Renaissance, as well as quotations from his notebooks. As the world knows, Da Vinci was a painter, sculptor, scientist, mathematician and architect. However, he had little formal schooling and throughout his lifetime, left many projects unfinished. Includes Author’s Note, Timeline, Bibliography.

Li’l Dan, the Drummer Boy: A Civil War Story. Romare Bearden. Illus. by the author. Foreword by Henry Louis Gates Jr. Simon & Schuster. \$19.00. Includes a CD of the story as read by Maya Angelou. When a company of black Union soldiers arrive at the plantation where Li’l Dan lives, they tell him that he is no longer a slave – and because he has no family they take him along on their battle march. During an encounter with the Confederates, Li’l Dan saves the regiment from attack with the beating of his drum. **Open Court: Fine Art.**

Little One Step. Simon James. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. \$16.00. Three ducking brothers have a long distance to go to return to their mother. The two older ducklings make a game of their journey so that the youngest doesn’t get discouraged – hence the name Little One Step.

Locomotion. Jacqueline Woodson. Putnam’s Sons. \$16.00. Lonnie Collins Motion is only 11-years-old and has had a rough life – both parents are dead and he and his little sister are sent to different foster homes. And then in school, he learns to express himself through poetry and in learning to communicate, he learns to cope and even look forward to the future. Coretta Scott King Honor Book.

Lost City: The Discovery of Machu Picchu. Ted Lewin. Illus. by the author. Philomel/Penguin Putnam. \$17.00. In 1911 a Yale professor, Hiram Bingham led an expedition to the mountains of Peru where he hoped to find the lost city of the Inca, Vilcapampa. A young Peruvian boy brought him to a wondrous discovery – the ruins of the ancient city of Machu Picchu buried under jungle foliage for hundreds of years.

Lucas. Kevin Brooks. Scholastic. \$17.00. Fifteen-year-old Caitlin tells her story of the past summer when she met the mysterious Lucas on an isolated island off Great Britain where her family vacations. Lucas sees things as they are and not through the lens of the islanders and in turn they suspect and resent him – so much so that after there are rape attempts, people assume the worst of Lucas and the mob mentality takes over. **YOUNG ADULT.**

Lunchtime for a Purple Snake. Harriet Ziefert. Paintings by Todd McKie. Walter Lorraine Books/Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. Jessica likes to visit her artist grandfather because they paint together during those times. Jessica (and the young reader) learn how to mix many colors from just 5 primary colors and paint a picture Jessica calls “Lunchtime for a Purple Snake.” **Open Court: Fine Art.**

M Is for Music. Kathleen Krull. Illus. by Stacy Innerst. Harcourt. \$16.00. This alphabet book introduces musical terms (from allegro to zydeco) as well as musicians and musical instruments. Includes Musical Notes from A to Z that explains the musical references found in each letter of the alphabet. California author. **Open Court: Beyond the Notes.**

Mack Made Movies. Don Brown. Illus. by the author. Roaring Brook Press/ Millbrook. \$17.00. This little gem is a picture book biography of Mack Sennett, the film director whose silent films immortalized such slapstick clowns as the Keystone Kops, Charlie Chaplin, and Fatty Arbuckle. A nice glimpse of the movie industry in its infancy. Includes Author’s Note and Bibliography.

Made You Look: How Advertising Works and Why You Should Know. Shari Graydon. Illus. by Warren Clark. Annick. \$25.00. This book talks about what is good about advertising and what is bad about advertising. The point it makes is that all consumers should be able to “read” advertisements and make wise decisions. There are four questions to ask: 1) Who wants me to believe this?; 2) How do they benefit if I do?; 3) What does the ad leave out?; 4) What else does this ad sell? Includes list of ad enforcers in the United States and Canada, Consumer Organizations, Chapter Notes, Index.

The Man Who Made Time Travel. Kathryn Lasky. Pictures by Kevin Hawkes. Melanie Kroupa Books/Farrar Straus and Giroux. \$17.00. In 1714 Great Britain offered the Longitude Prize to anyone who could create an accurate and reliable means of measuring longitude. There were many scientific attempts the (Lunar Distance Method), some quackish attempts (the Bleeding Dogs Method) but only one man, John Harrison, a carpenter and clock maker, was able to unlock the secret of measuring longitude. It took him almost 40 years and even then his instrument, H5, was not totally accepted. **Open Court: Perseverance.**

The Man Who Walked between the Towers. Mordicai Gerstein. Illus. by the author. Millbrook. \$25.00. In 1974, when the World Trade Center was being completed, a young French tightrope walker could not resist the challenge and spent over an hour walking, dancing, resting, and doing tricks a quarter of a mile above pedestrians on the streets below. What motivated such actions? How did he accomplish his feat without being detected? This marvelous story of courage and risk is enhanced with stunning illustrations that will make your heart beat a little faster as you read the story. 2004 Caldecott Award. **Open Court: Risks and Consequences.**

Math Appeal: Mind-Stretching Math Riddles. Greg Tang. Illus. by Harry Briggs. Scholastic. \$17.00. Poetry, riddles, mathematics and art are all rolled into this colorful book. Hints are given with each poetic riddle, but the answers are all included at the end of the book.

Mathematticles! Poems by Betsy Franco. Illus. by Steven Salerno. Margaret K. McElderry Books. \$18.00. What fun! The poet writes poems using mathematical concepts: “farmland minus harvest equals earth’s naptime.” This is a wonderful pattern book and seamlessly integrates mathematics and language arts!

Meanest Doll in the World. Ann M. Martin & Laura Godwin. Pictures by Brian Selznick. Hyperion. \$16.00. Dolls Annabelle and Tiffany are inadvertently carried to another household and must now cope with Mean Mimi, a bullying princess doll who rules over all the toys in the house. Sequel to *The Doll People*.

Milkweed. Jerry Spinelli. Knopf. \$16.00. The setting for this book is Warsaw, Poland, 1939. A boy wanders the streets and survives by stealing food. He doesn’t know who he is, nor does he know if he is a Jew or gypsy and the only name he recognizes is “Stopthief.” A band of orphaned Jewish boys befriend him and he becomes part of their group. He becomes Misha and then meets Janina, the daughter of a middle class Jewish family who is moving to the newly formed ghetto. It is when living with this family in the ghetto that he begins to understand what the Nazis are planning for the Jews in Warsaw.

Millions to Measure. David M. Schwartz. Pictures by Steven Kellogg. HarperCollins. \$18.00. This is the third in a series of “million-dollar” titles by Schwartz and Kellogg. This time, Marvelosissimo the Magician explains the history and development of standard units of measure and shows how to calculate length, height, weight, and volume. Includes Measuring and the Metric System. California author.

Moon, Have You Met My Mother?: The Collected Poems of Karla Kuskin. Karla Kuskin. Illus. by Sergio Ruzzier. HarperCollins. \$18.00. Many, many delightful poems – both new and some previously published by Kuskin, are included in this volume. Cats, dogs, reading and books, food, clothes, and many more subjects are addressed thoughtfully, whimsically, and with humor.

Morris the Artist. Lore Segal. Pictures by Boris Kulikov. Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux. \$16.00. Morris’s friend Benjamin is having a birthday and Morris takes a present he himself would like to receive. When it comes time to open gifts Morris refuses to hand over the present and then the package begins to grow and grow ... A delightful story about sharing, friendship and artistic creativity.

Mortal Engines. Philip Reeve. (The Hungry City Chronicles). EOS/HarperCollins. \$18.00. Imagine a future where cities are on tracks and 15-year-old Tom and his friend Hester rush to find a deadly weapon that is about to be unleashed. Tension abounds in this science fiction novel.

Mosque. David Macaulay. Illus. by the author. Walter Lorraine Books/Houghton Mifflin. \$18.00. The reader follows the architects and builders as they build an Ottoman mosque during the late 16th century. Although the tale is fiction the information showing the planning and subsequent construction is accurate. Views of construction from above and inside give a comprehensive understanding of the enormity of building the mosque.

Mother to Tigers. George Ella Lyon. Illus. by Peter Catalanotto. Richard JacksonAtheneum. \$17.00. The vibrant paintings in this non-fiction picture book will draw the reader to the poetic text. The story is about Helen Delaney who married Fred Martini, a zoo keeper at the Bronx

Zoo. Fred began bringing tiger cubs home to be raised and Helen officially began the Zoo Nursery in 1944 and worked for the Bronx Zoo until 1960.

Mount Olympus Basketball. Kevin O'Malley. Illus. by the author. Walker. \$16.00. What a hoop – oops, I mean – what a hoot! This picture book pits mortals against the Gods of Greece in a basketball game – complete with commentators and a half-time commercial about Ancient Greece. Reading this book aloud with older students is a perfect jumpstart for a study of Ancient Civilizations. Includes: “Greeks Rule, Romans Drool!” which includes a book and web site bibliography. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations.**

Mrs. Chicken and the Hungry Crocodile. Retold by Won-Ldy Paye & Margaret H. Lippert. Illus. by Julie Paschkis. Henry Holt. \$17.00. Vanity almost does in Mrs. Chicken. She's admiring herself in the river when a hungry crocodile decides she looks like dinner. But the clever chicken claims they are sisters and you can't eat your sister! How Mrs. Chicken convinces Crocodile to set her free is truly ingenious! Colorful, bright illustrations on black backgrounds with African patterned accents are captivating – but not good enough to eat! Leave those chickens alone, Mr. Crocodile!

Muhammad. Written and illustrated by Demi. Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster. \$20.00. According to notes in the book, this biography is the first written of the Prophet Muhammad for children in a Western language. In keeping with Islamic tradition, Muhammad and members of his family are not shown pictorially. The vibrant colors and exquisite borders evoke the Islamic culture of hundreds of years ago. This book is a beautiful bridge to cultural understanding in today's troubled world.

My Diary From Here to There/Mi diario de aqui hasta alla. Amada Irma Perez. Illus. by Maya Christina Gonzalez. Children's Book Press. Amada overhears her parents whisper of moving from Mexico to Los Angeles where they will have better economic opportunities. As they travel north, Amada records her fears, hopes, and dreams for all of the family in the United States. 2004 Pura Belpre Honor Book for Author. **Open Court: Our Country and Its People.**

My Family Plays Music. Judy Cox. Illus. by Elbrite Brown. Henry Holt. \$17.00. Ten different types of music are presented in this picture book. The African American child narrator introduces each member of her extended family and the style of music they each play – covering blue grass to rock and roll to church hymns. Cut-paper illustrations evoke the spirit and strength of each musical genre. Includes Glossary. 2004 Coretta Scott King/Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award.

My Brothers' Flying Machine: Wilbur, Orville, and Me. Jane Yolen. Paintings by Jim Burke. Little, Brown. \$17.00. Orville Wright once said, “When the world speaks of the Wrights, it must include our sister. Much of our effort has been inspired by her.” This story of the Kitty Hawk flight that changed history is told through the voice of their sister, Katharine. She never wavered in her confidence that they would fly an aeroplane successfully. This is another fine book that celebrates the 100th anniversary of man's first flight.

My Fellow Americans: The Most Important Speeches of American Presidents from George Washington to George W. Bush. Compiled by Michael Waldman. Includes two audio CDs narrated by George Stephanopoulos. Sourcebooks. \$45.00. This is a marvelous book to use in the classroom. The actual voices of every president since Benjamin Harrison are included. The book contains the text of the speeches as well a background information.

My Grandmother's Stories: A Collection of Jewish Folk Tales. Adèle Geras. Illus. Paintings by Anita Lobel. Knopf. \$20.00. Originally published in 1990, new illustrations bring added charm to this anthology of Jewish stories. A small girl spends time with her grandmother and as they move from room to room, Grandmother tells stories from her Russian Jewish heritage. **Open Court: Storytelling.**

My Name Is Yoon. Helen Recorvits. Illus. by Gabi Swiatkowska. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. \$16.00. Yoon's Korean name means "Shining Wisdom," and when written in Korean it looks happy – but in English "Yoon" stands alone and being new to the United States, she also feels lonely. Maybe a name like "Cat," "Bird," or even "Cupcake" might be a better name.

My Pig Amarillo. Satomi Ichikawa. Illus. by the author. Philomel/Penguin Putnam. \$16.00. The setting is Guatemala and Pablito has lost his best friend, his pig Amarillo. No matter how hard he looks, Amarillo is gone. Grandpa makes him a wooden pig that looks just like Amarillo but it's not the same. Finally, on All Saints' Day, Pablito follows tradition by flying a kite to let Amarillo know that Pablito is looking for him. A tender story that has a satisfying ending but not the happy one a reader might want.

Mystery in Mt. Mole. Richard W. Jennings. Walter Lorraine Books/Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. Assistant Principal Jacob Farley had disappeared, but as Mt. Mole's least-liked citizen, no one in town seemed to be in any hurry to find him or his captor. Andrew decides to solve the mystery of the missing man and unearths buried secrets about the town and its citizens as well as the mountain for which the town is named.

Necessary Noise: Stories about Our Families as They Really Are. Edited By Michael Cart. Illus. by Charlotte Noruzi. Joanna Cotler Books/HarperCollins. \$17.00. The authors whose stories are included in this anthology read like a Who's Who of young adult fiction: Joan Bauer, Walter Dean Myers, Joyce Carol Thomas, Rita Williams-Garcia, and Lois Lowry, among others. Their stories reflect families as they are today - functional and dysfunctional, a single parent situation, or homeless – bottom line, they are connected and through the connections they make the necessary noises that a family makes when interacting together. **YOUNG ADULT.**

The Neighborhood Mother Goose. Nina Crews. Illus. by the author. Greenwillow. \$16.00. Here is another Mother Goose book that will delight young children. Imagine Georgie Porgie kissing all the girls (on the schoolgrounds), or a fine lady riding a white horse (on a carousel). It will be fun for children to see Mother Goose let loose in a neighborhood similar to their neighborhood!

New Dinos: The Latest Finds! The Coolest Dinosaur Discoveries. Shelley Tanaka. Illus. by Alan Barnard, Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. This is a photo essay that will delight the dinosaur fans and students. The author relates information about new discoveries in the Sahara, Madagascar, China, and Patagonia and discusses eggs, dung, feathers, and physiology. Includes Bibliography, Index. **Open Court: Fossils.**

Night Science for Kids: Exploring the World after Dark. Terry Krautwurst. Lark Books/Sterling. \$20.00. This book is filled with suggested activities and experiments for kids to do after dark – exploring night vision, becoming a night explorer, studying the stars, studying night birds and much more. Packed with color photos and diagrams. Includes Index.

Nine Animals and the Well. James Rumford. Illus. by the author. Houghton Mifflin. \$16.00. Did you know, we got our nine number signs and the zero from the Europeans, who got them

from the North Africans, who got them from the Arabs, who got them from the Indians of India? Nine animal friends each want to bring the perfect gift to the raja-king's birthday party but end up taking only their friendship. This is a counting book for older readers and the lovely collages and paintings beautifully evoke the setting of the fable.

A Northern Light. Jennifer Donnelly. Harcourt. \$17.00. 2004 Michael L. Printz Honor Book. In 1906, 16-year-old Mattie dreams of going to college and becoming a writer. She goes to work at a local resort and, through letters given to her for safe keeping by a young woman, discovers the truth about the woman's drowning. Based on a true story – in fact, this murder gave Theodore Dreiser the background material for his novel *An American Tragedy*. YOUNG ADULT.

Old Cricket. Lisa Wheeler. Illus. by Ponder Goembel. Atheneum. \$17.00. "...You don't get to be an *old* cricket by being a dumb bug..." By the same token, "...you don't get to be an *old* crow by being a birdbrain..." Old Cricket plays sick to avoid helping his wife around the house. She sends him off to see the doctor but instead he meets up with Old Crow and a chase for his life begins. When the adventure is over Old Cricket is only too happy to help his dear wife. Larger than life paintings make the bugs and birds seemingly bigger than the reader. A wonderful read-aloud!

Olive's Ocean. Kevin Henkes. Greenwillow/HarperCollins.\$17.00. Olive Barstow is dead, hit by a car while riding her bicycle. Martha is sorry but because they had not been friends Olive's death did not really touch her – until Olive's mother brings Martha a journal page that Olive had written before her death. Olive and Martha are connected in ways that change Martha's summer and probably her life. 2004 Newbery Honor Award.

Olivia ... and the Missing Toy. Ian Falconer. Illus. by the author. Atheneum. \$17.00. Olivia the popular pig is back for another adventure. Her favorite toy comes up missing and when Olivia searches the house she finds it torn with the thief sitting next to it! Mommy and Daddy promise Olivia a new toy but Olivia finds another resourceful solution.

Ollie. Olivier Dunrea. Illus. by the author. Houghton Mifflin. \$10.00. Ollie is an egg that does not want to hatch despite pleading from Gossie and Gertie. Then Gossie and Gertie try something different to get Ollie to hatch – they beg him *not* to come out of the egg and it works!

Ollie the Stomper. Olivier Dunrea. Illus. by the author. Houghton Mifflin. \$10.00. Gossie and Gertie are goslings with boots and they love splashing around in their red and blue boots. Ollie, another gosling, wants boots and stomps around wanting boots! Gossie and Gertie each give Ollie one boot and he hops around in them – too, too hot! They all throw off the boot and go for a swim.

On Sand Island. Jacqueline Briggs Martin. Illus. by David A. Johnson. Houghton Mifflin. \$16.00. In 1916 on an island in Lake Superior, a young boy Carl barter for parts and labor in order to build a boat. The story is based on fact and the real Carl grew up to be one of the finest boatmen ever to live on Sand Island. The text and illustrations are a masterful blend of grace and beauty – spare in line, soft and whimsical.

Once upon a Time. Story & pictures by Niki Daly. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. \$16.00. Sarie has a difficult time reading out loud in class in her South African school and dreads both school and reading. Sarie loves visiting Auntie Anna because she share her worries about reading with her. One day they sit in Auntie Anna's old beat-up car and pretend to drive far, far away and that is

when Sarie finds a dusty old copy of Cinderella. As they read the book together over the next few “rides” in the old car, Sarie’s reading skills and her confidence in reading grow. **Open Court: Let’s Read.**

One Grain of Sand: A Lullaby. Words & music by Peter Seeger. Paintings by Linda Wingerter. Little, Brown. \$16.00. Pete Seeger wrote this song in 1956 for his baby daughter, Tinya. It’s a perfect bedtime lullaby or read aloud that reminds us of how small we are, how enormous the world is, and how connected we all are. The lovely paintings evoke different cultures and environments.

One Witch. Laura Leuck. Illus. by S.D. Schnidler. Walker. \$16.00. “One witch on a hill...had an empty pot to fill.” So begins the story of one witch who seeks ingredients for her party stew from ghosts and goblins and other fiendish friends. Young readers will count along as ingredients are gathered and then count again as party-goers arrive to join the feast.

Out of Order. A.M. Jenkins. HarperTempest. \$16.00. Colt is a cool high school sophomore – he’s a baseball star, popular and he is in the “right” social circle at school. This part is good but Colt’s grades are terrible and his mother threatens to pull him from the team if he doesn’t bring them up to a C average. His steady girlfriend is beautiful and smart but when he finds himself actually interested in another classmate and English tutor (a girl with green hair) he begins to be confused about what is really important in life.

Painting the Wind. Patricia MacLachlan & Emily MacLachlan. Illus by Katy Schneider. Joanna Cotler Books/HarperCollins. \$17.00. Every summer the painters and their dogs come to paint the island where a child, the narrator of the story, lives. The landscape painter, the portrait painter, the painter of flowers – all of them and the child paint what they see. At the end of the summer when the paintings are hung in a barn for display, the child discovers that he has learned to paint the wind! Nice enrichment for **Open Court: Fine Art** units.

Paul Revere’s Ride: The Landlord’s Tale. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Illus. by Charles Santore. HarperCollins.\$18.00. The opening page shows the landlord of the Wayside Inn telling the story of Paul Revere’s midnight ride to warn of the British’s coming. The story is Longfellow’s immortal poem “...Listen, my children, and you shall hear...” The paintings show excitement and tension and perfectly enhance the dramatic poem. The Artist’s Note tells how Santore carefully researched the times and events to provide historic authenticity to the telling. **Open Court: Making a New Nation.**

Pick, Pull, Snap! Where Once a Flower Bloomed. Lola M. Schaefer. Illus. by Lindsay Barrett George. HarperCollins/Greenwillow. \$16.00. The colorful pages of this book show first the flower and then open double to show the resulting fruit or vegetable. Included are peas, raspberries, corn, peaches, peanuts and pumpkins. Includes growing seasons, instructions for growing and a glossary.

¡Pío Peep!: Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes. Selected by Alma Flor Ada & F. Isabel Campoy. English adaptations by Alice Schertle. Illus. by Viví Escrivá. HarperCollins. \$17.00. This is a bilingual collection of 29 nursery rhymes from Spain and Latin America that are presented first in Spanish and then in an English poetic re-creation of the same poem. Charming paintings surround the poems.

Pirates! Celia Rees. Bloomsbury. \$17.00. The subtitle of this book is : *The True and Remarkable Adventures of Minerva Sharpe and Nancy Kington, Female Pirates.* In 1722, 16-

year-old Nancy Kington escapes from her family's Jamaican plantation with her slave friend, Minerva Sharpe and together they become pirates searching the world for treasure. YOUNG ADULT.

Players in Pigtales. Shana Corey. Illus. by Rebecca Gibbon. Scholastic. \$17.00. Before World War II professional sports was largely limited to men players. But in 1943, with many major league baseball players serving in the military, women were recruited for a professional women's baseball league. It was a very successful league and expanded to 10 teams before ending in the early 1950s. Includes Author's Note.

Plum. Tony Mitton. Illus. by Mary GrandPré. Scholastic. \$18.00. Tony Mitton presents twenty original and delightful poems that range from the characteristics of a plum to writing poetry. The illustrations are expressive, colorful and filled with humor and visual exaggeration. The artist has previously illustrated the Harry Potter books.

A Poem of Her Own: Voices of American Women Yesterday and Today. Edited by Catherine Clinton. Illus. by Stephen Alcorn. Abrams. \$18.00. Twenty-five women poets celebrate the joy of life and womanhood in this anthology rich with the wisdom of women poets throughout the history of America. A soft, stylized painting illustrates each poem. Includes a brief history of American poetry written by women as well as short biographies of each featured poet. Grade 6+

Prairie Whispers. Frances Arrington. Philomel/Penguin Putnam. \$18.00. When going for a neighbor's help for her mother and new born baby, twelve-year-old Colleen McCall comes across a deserted wagon on the South Dakota prairie. Inside the wagon she finds a dying woman and a new born baby. The woman begs her to take the baby and gives her a gold watch and strongbox for safe keeping. Colleen promises to take care of the baby and stays with the mother a short time until she dies. Colleen takes the baby home and discovers her mother's baby dead in her cradle and her mother in an exhausted sleep. Colleen exchanges the babies and it is only when the healthy baby's father shows up some weeks later that suspicions are seeded.

The Prince of Ireland and the Three Magic Stallions. Retold by Bryce Milligan. Illus. by Preston McDaniels. Holiday House. \$17.00. "Old stories are like large snowballs rolling down a hill. They grow, gathering details with each telling." So begins the Author's Note that explains the Irish folktale tradition and the components of this particular folktale. The text is meant to be read aloud – it is rich in lilt and brogue – and the story itself is an exciting one of danger, giants, and curses.

Punctuation Takes a Vacation. Robin Pulver. Illus. by Lynn Rowe Reed. Holiday House. \$17.00. The punctuation marks in Mr. Wright's class go on vacation, the students can no longer make sense of books, speaking or writing. Then post cards from punctuation marks begin arriving from vacation destinations - only to be left unanswered because the class can't write back without punctuation marks. You must read the book to find the solution to this puzzle Includes Punctuation Rules Oh dear what happened to the punctuation marks they were just here

The Puppeteer's Apprentice. D. Anne Love. Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. Set in England in the Middle Ages, this is the story of Mouse, who as an abandoned baby was raised as a scullery maid. After mistreatment by Cook, Mouse runs away and happens upon a puppet show. She becomes the puppeteer's apprentice and loves her work

of carving and manipulating puppets. But there is something sinister lurking that makes Mouse wonder what secrets the puppeteer is hiding.

The Queen's Progress: An Elizabethan Alphabet. Celeste Davidson Mannis. Illus. by Bagram Ibatoulline. Viking. \$17.00. Every summer Elizabeth I, Queen of England, goes on a holiday known as the royal progress. As she and her entourage travel through the English countryside they meet with Adventure (A), Bear (B), until all of the letters of the alphabet are presented. The illustrations are sumptuous and the text brings to the reader many details of country and courtly life in Elizabethan England.

The River between Us. Richard Peck. Dial. \$17.00. During the early days of the Civil War Delphine and her servant girl are taken in by the Pruitt family after their river boat leaves them stranded in a small Illinois river town. Tilly and her twin brother Noah are fascinated by the two young women – who are they? Could one be an escaped slave? Could they be spies? This is historical fiction at its best and the surprise ending ties all the pieces of the plot together.

Road to There: Mapmakers and Their Stories. Val Ross. Tundra. \$20.00. How many different kinds of maps have there been throughout history? Did you know that certain patterned quilts were used as maps on the Underground Railroad? Songlines were created that gave directional instructions when needed – and maps were made of parchment with lovely painted artwork. Mapmakers from history are also presented with their fascinating stories. Imagine a world without maps! Includes reproductions of historical maps of importance.

Rodzina. Karen Cushman. Clarion. \$16.00. The cover of Cushman's latest book is a wonderful predictor of the personality of the protagonist of this story. Twelve-year-old Rodzina Clara Jadwiga Anatazya Brodski is an orphan whose only home is the Little Wanderers' Refuge in Chicago. When she is told that she is going West on an Orphan Train, Rodzina is sure that a family will not want a 12-year-old overlarge, unpretty, standoffish girl to love but a slave instead. The characters in this story are strong, the story moves quickly, the dialogue is authentic to the time and place and the book is simply wonderful. Cushman's female protagonists are always strong role models for girls and Rodzina will not disappoint. Great read-aloud! **Open Court: Going West.**

Roller Coaster. Marla Frazee. Illus. by the author. Harcourt. \$16.00. Not everyone wants to ride a roller coaster but there are eleven that do and one who is not so sure. So, reader – climb aboard this roller coaster and take the ride of your life! The illustrations *move* and the roller coaster ride sensations are aptly pictured here. **Open Court: Things that Go.**

Romare Bearden: Collage of Memoires. Jan Greenberg. Abrams. \$18.00. This is a biography of Romare Bearden illustrated with his collages. His bold art form shows influences of his childhood in the South, life in New York and Paris, and his love of jazz. Includes Author's Note, Important Dates, Bibliography, Text Notes, Glossary, and Some Places to View Artwork by Romare Bearden. **Open Court: Fine Art.**

Rome: In Spectacular Cross-Section. Andrew Solway. Illus. by Stephen Biesty. Scholastic. \$19.00. Detailed illustrations with concise text bring many aspects of Ancient Rome to the reader. Through large cross-sections pictures, details of a Roman house, the Colosseum, and a temple, as well as other buildings, are featured. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations.**

Rooster and the Fox. Retold and illustrated by Helen Ward. Millbrook. \$17.00. This story appeared originally in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. Chanticleer is a vain rooster and his vanity

brings him into the jaws of the fox. But, Chanticleer is clever and saves himself from being a meal. The moral?... Beware of false flattery. Includes a history of this well-known fable and folktale and a description of each of the many animals that appear in the story. The illustrations are simply glorious! **Open Court: Animals.**

Ruby Electric. Theresa Nelson. A Richard Jackson Book/Atheneum. \$17.00. For Ruby, age twelve and a half, movies are better than real life. The ones she writes are the best of all. Those stories work out. The dads in her movies always show up when they've promised. The moms don't hold onto secrets. The little brothers don't curl up with sorrow over some missing stuffed animal. How Ruby takes her unconventional life and makes good things happen and how she learns to live with disappointments make this a terrifically entertaining novel.

Ruler of the Courtyard. Rukhsana Khan. Illus. by R. Gregory Christie. Viking. PRICE. The setting for this picture book is Pakistan and a little girl must cross the courtyard daily to go to the bathhouse. She has a great fear of the chickens in the courtyard but safely reaches the bathhouse where she sees a "curled-up something" in the corner. The chickens are forgotten – this is a huge snake (she thinks). Once it is vanquished by this very brave little girl she knows that she'll never have to be afraid of those chickens again and she marches right out into the courtyard, scattering the chickens as she goes. **Open Court: Being Afraid.**

Run, Boy, Run. Uri Orlev. Translated from the Hebrew by Hillel Halkin. Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. This story is set in Warsaw during World War II and tells of an 8-year-old Jewish boy's determination to survive. His mother disappears one day as Sruvik is foraging in garbage cans for scraps of food and he is on his own. His father's advice had been to not let anyone know he is Jewish and this he follows as he works on farms, hides in forests and even loses an arm after being wounded. Based on a true story. 2004 Mildred L. Batchelder Award.

Sahara Special. Esmé Raji Codell. Hyperion. \$16.00. Codell is the author of the best selling book *Esmé: Diary of a Teacher's First Year* and in this second book written for children she concentrates on school through the eyes of the student – although the character of the teacher, Miss Pointy, is a central character. Sahara's mother comes to school and insists that Sahara be taken out of Special Ed. She reads all the time at home, writes constantly and it is a matter of wanting to do the work rather than capability – so flunk her! Sahara repeats 5th grade and her new teacher, Miss Pointy, is a marvel of unconventionality while understanding kids and their feelings. Sahara has many personal issues but it is through Miss Pointy and her classmates that Sahara becomes engaged again and her world opens to new possibilities.

Salvador Dalí and the Surrealists: Their Lives and Ideas: 21 Activities. Michael Elsohn Ross. Illus. with prints and photos, Chicago Review. \$18.00. A look at the life of Salvador Dali and other contemporaries who shared his manner of exploring art. Includes Timeline, Glossary, Resources and activities. California author. **Open Court: Fine Arts.**

The Scaredy Cats. Barbara Bottner. Pictures by Victoria Chess. Simon & Schuster. \$15.00. "...You have to be careful...All kinds of things can happen." That is the philosophy of the Scaredy Cat family and so they never do anything. Finally Baby Scaredy Cat asks, if all kinds of things can happen, can *good* things happen too? The Scaredy Cat family decides that tomorrow they will try being brave. **Open Court: Being Afraid.**

Sea Turtles: Ocean Nomads. Mary M. Cerullo. Photographs by Jeffrey L. Rotman. Dutton. \$18.00. This book tells about the habits, habitats, and life cycle of sea turtles. It also discusses

their endangered status and how they are being studied and thus helped. Includes Glossary, Bibliography, Index.

Secrets in the Fire. Henning Mankell. Annick Press. \$18.00. When Sofia is running with her sister in a field near her village in Mozambique, she steps on a landmine and loses both her legs and her sister is killed. Sofia is fitted with two artificial legs and learns to walk again – but the road to recovery is painful – both physically and emotionally. This book is based on the story of Sofia Alface who survived despite incredible odds. YOUNG ADULT.

Seven Chinese Sisters. Kathy Tucker. Illus. by Grace Lin. Albert Whitman. \$16.00. Once upon a time there were seven Chinese sisters who lived together and watched out for one another. When baby Seventh Sister is snatched by a hungry dragon, her six sisters spring into action to save her.

The Several Lives of Orphan Jack. Sarah Ellis. Pictures by Bruno St-Aubin. Groundwood/Douglas & McIntyre. \$15.00. When Jack is placed in the Opportunities School for Orphans and Foundlings he learns to be optimistic and to do his best. He is apprenticed to a bookkeeper and assumes that he will get to take care of books. Well, he's not at all successful with numbers and decides to run away and seek his fortune. Jack ends up at a village fair where he sells ideas, whims, concepts, opinions and plans. He is wildly successful and loved by all but the mayor and as the reader says goodbye to Jack he is off once again to see the world.

Shakespeare Bats Cleanup. Ron Koertge. Candlewick. \$16.00. Fourteen-year-old Kevin Boland is a MVP first baseman and when he must stay home with mononucleosis, he discovers that keeping a journal and experimenting with poetry passes the time satisfactorily – in fact writing poetry helps him deal with life, love, and loss. The story is written in free verse in the first person. YOUNG ADULT.

The Shape Game. Anthony Browne. Illus. by the author. Farrar. \$16.00. In this autobiographical picture book Browne describes his first visit, as a child, to an art gallery. He describes the day and remembers it as the day that changed the course of his life forever. This book is a fine armchair introduction to the world of art appreciation. **Open Court: Fine Art.**

Shutting Out the Sky: Life in the Tenements of New York 1880-1924. Deborah Hopkinson. Illus. with archival photos. Scholastic. This is a fascinating look at New York City tenement life through the eyes of five young people who experienced tenement living between 1880 and 1924. The book covers factory work, communication barriers, and other facets of life in the tenements. Sepia archival photos will capture the student's attention and draw them further into the text for more explanations. Includes Timeline, Bibliography, Chapter Notes, Index. Excellent resource for teachers, as well as intermediate and secondary students. **Open Court: Our Country and Its People.**

Silent Movie. Avi. Illus. by C.B. Mordan. An Anne Schwartz Book/Atheneum. \$17.00. As you read this black and white picture book you have the sense of watching a silent movie. The first page looks like text on a silent screen and it tells how people from all over the world immigrated to the United States one hundred years ago. Among those was a family from Sweden and the first to go was Papa. When the rest of the family arrives they cannot find Papa and have a difficult time surviving – until little Gustave is recruited to be in a silent film. Meanwhile Papa is looking for his family and sees his son in a silent film and they are all reunited. This book is about immigration, silent movies, and city life in the early 20th century. It would be fun to use this book and *Mack Made Movies* in tandem. **Open Court: Our Country and Its People.**

Slightly True Story of Cedar B. Hartley (Who Planned to Live an Unusual Life). Martine Murray. Illus. by the author. Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic. \$16.00. When 12-year-old Cedar loses her dog, it sets off a chain of events leading her to find a new friend, become an acrobat, and learn some bittersweet truths about family, community, and herself. YOUNG ADULT.

Small Avalanches and Other Stories. Joyce Carol Oates. HarperTempest/HarperCollins. \$18.00. In this collection of 12 short stories, Joyce Carol Oates explores the teenage years and the consequences of the choices that are sometimes made. YOUNG ADULT.

Smartypants (Pete in School). Maira Kalman. Illus. by the author. Putnam's Sons. \$16.00. Pete, the dog is left at home when Poppywise and her brother, Mookie go to school. Pets are not allowed in school – it's against the rules – but somehow Pete arrives in the classroom and breaks rules, eats the forbidden (like an encyclopedia) and is a general disaster. That night, however, Pete is able to help Poppywise and Mookie with their homework – he knows all the answers because he ate the encyclopedia earlier in the day. Wild pictures and scattered text will have kids poring through the pages to see what is happening next with Pete at school.

Someone Says. Carole Lexa Schaefer. Illus. by Pierr Morgan. Viking. \$16.00. A day at preschool and prior to each activity the children think of another way to do the activity – and they do. The pictures are charming and bold – who wouldn't love this preschool?!

Spinning Spiders. Melvin Berger. Illus. by S.D. Schindler. HarperCollins. \$17.00. This is a new addition to the Let's-Read-and-Find Science series (Stage 2). It describes the characteristics, habits, and habitats of spiders and the methods they use to trap their prey in webs. Includes an web experiment and two web sites to explore. **Open Court: City Wildlife.**

Spitting Image. Shutta Crum. Clarion. \$15.00. Set in 1967 in a small Kentucky town, the reader finds that twelve-year-old Jessie K. Bovey has a lot to worry about. She doesn't know who her father is; her old biddy of a grandmother keeps interfering in her life; her best friend, Robert, desperately needs new glasses that his family can't afford; and mean Dickie Whitten teases Robert until Jessie has no choice but to punch him out. This is a warm story about friendship, loyalty and boundaries.

The Steps. Rachel Cohn. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Annabel's father has remarried and she is invited to spend Christmas vacation with her "bazillion" stepbrothers, stepsisters and half siblings at their home in Australia. Annabel agrees to go but with the secret hope that she can convince him to come back to the United States. When she sees that her father is much happier in Australia she slowly becomes reconciled to the facts – but her concern now is how to share her father with his new family and not lose him.

The Stone Lamp: Eight Stories of Hanukkah through History. Karen Hesse. Illus. by Brian Pinkney. Hyperion. \$19.00. Each of the eight nights of Hanukkah are celebrated in one of the stories included in this large picture book. It begins with the First Night, First Light and a story set in York, England in 1190 and ends with Eighth Night, Eighth Light and a story set in Tel Aviv, Israel in 1995. Glowing scratchboard illustrations evoke the hardships and the endurance of the Jewish people through the ages.

Stop the Train!. Geraldine McCaughrean. HarperCollins. \$18.00. Despite the opposition of the owner of the Red Rock Railroad in 1893, the new group of ragtag settlers of Florence,

Oklahoma, are determined to build a real town. This story is a rollicking ride with wonderful characterizations.

Straight to the Pole. Kevin O'Malley. Illus. by the author. Walker. \$16.00. A small boy trudges through a severe winter storm on his way to school. His overactive imagination tells him he is doomed and won't survive. And then rescue help comes – with the news that school has been closed because of the storm. Hurray! It's off to play in the snow! **Open Court: Weather.**

Stravaganza: City of Stars. Mary Hoffman. Bloomsbury. \$18.00. Sequel to *Stravaganza: City of Masks*. In this time-slip fantasy 15-year-old Georgia purchases an Etruscan figurine of a winged horse and discovers that it can take her from present-day London to the 16th century world of Italy where she encounters dangers, intrigues and new friendships.

Swear to Howdy. Wendelin Van Draanen. Knopf. \$16.00. "Rusty, I swear to howdy, if you tell a soul ..." Thus friendships sometimes impose harsh consequences that cause hurt and pain if promises are either kept or broken. Rusty and Joey are best friends. Joey is often on the edge of reckless mischief but also carries the painful secret of a father that brutally beats him. Rusty is grateful to have a friend like Joey but is pulled over the limit by peer pressure. And the when an innocent prank causes a death and destroys a family the time for secrets is over. California author.

Sweetblood: A Vampire Novel. Pete Hautman. Simon & Schuster. After always being a model student, 16-year-old Lucy Szabo is suddenly in trouble at school and at home, with her uncontrolled diabetes, and with the "protogvampires" she has met online and in person. YOUNG ADULT.

Swing around the Sun. Poems by Barbara Juster Esbensen. Art by Cheng-Khee Chee, Janice Lee Porter, Mary GrandPré, and Stephen Gammell. Carolrhoda. \$17.00. Beginning with Spring, the poet and artists celebrate each of the four seasons. The poems were originally published in 1964 – the artwork is new and together they make a wonderful resource for the classroom. Includes biographical information about each artist and the poet.

Sword of the Rightful King: A Novel of King Arthur. Jane Yolen. Harcourt. \$17.00. Merlennus the magician finds a way for the newly crowned and unsure King Arthur to prove himself the rightful king of England – pulling a sword from a stone. However, when someone else removes the sword first trouble abounds.

Tadpole. Ruth White. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. \$16.00. The summer of 1955 is an eventful one for the Collins sisters. Kentucky, the eldest, is the most popular girl in Riverbend, Georgia is the smartest, and Carolina is trying to find her place. Mama struggles to make ends meet and has a big heart – when Tad, their 13-year-old cousin, suddenly shows up they open their home to him. Tad (short for Tadpole) is a talented guitar player and especially kind to Carolina and shares his music with her. When they discover that Tad's Uncle Matthew is an abusive guardian, they do all that they can to keep him safe. The dialogue is rich and the characters are well drawn. This is a story that will warm any reader's heart!

The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread. Kate DiCamillo. Illus. by Timothy Basil Ering. Candlewick. \$18.00. This is a wonderful fantasy about good and evil – and of course, good wins out. Despereaux Tilling is a small mouse who is ridiculed by other mice because he is different. One day he meets a human princess and promptly falls in love and vows to be her valiant protector. This is enough for the

mice – Despereaux is banished to the dark, dark castle basement where no one ever returns. The narrator of the story includes the reader in the story with pointed asides. The last line of the book is thus: “Stories are light ... Reader, I hope you have found some light here.” Indeed, this is a book that leaves the reader happy to have read such an uplifting story. 2004 Newbery Award.

Tears of the Salamander. Peter Dickinson. Random House. \$17.00. In this story, set in 18th century Italy, Alfredo’s family dies in a fire and the 12-year-old orphan is sent to live with his Uncle Giorgio. It becomes apparent that his uncle is a sorcerer in control of the fires of Mt. Etna and Alfredo suspects that evil will befall him. Only the salamanders who live in the fires of the mountain know the truth.

Ten Mice for Tet. Pegi Deitz Shea and Cynthia Weill. Illus. by Tõ Ngoc Trang. Embroidery by Pham Viêt Dinh. Chronicle. \$16.00. In this lovely picture book a village of mice prepares for Tet, or Vietnamese New Year, as different numbers of mice give gifts, cook food, and celebrate in other traditional ways. Includes an afterword with facts about the holiday. The illustrations were drawn and then rendered in bright embroidery with cotton thread. This is a “must buy” for every elementary library!

Theodore Roosevelt: Champion of the American Spirit. Betsy Harvey Kraft. Clarion. \$19.00. Illustrated with archival photos and prints. This is a fine, comprehensive biography of the twenty-sixth president of the United States. A nice research model in that it includes Source Notes, Bibliography (books, websites and videos), Places to Visit, Chronology, and Index.

There’s a Frog in My Throat: 400 Animal Sayings a Little Bird Told Me. Loreen Leedy & Pat Street. Illus. by Loreen Leedy. Holiday House. \$17.00. The authors collected 440 animal sayings that are similes, metaphors, idioms or proverbs. The inventory of animals includes such animals as household pets, farm animals, wild animals, birds and insects, underground creatures and fish. All of the sayings are illustrated for better understanding and additional humor. Includes Index.

Thorn Ogres of Hagwood: the Hagwood Trilogy, Book One. Robin Jarvis. Silver Whistle/Harcourt. \$16.00. The werlings are a group of peaceful forgotten forest creatures who can change shape, but when werling Gamaliel Tumpin finds himself in the center of a search for treasure stolen from an evil queen many years before, he’s not sure he has the courage needed.

Thunder Rose. Jerdine Nolen. Illus. by Kadir Nelson. Silver Whistle/Harcourt. \$16.00. On a dark night of booming thunder and driving rain, a baby girl is born. She surprises her parents when she sits up, thanks her parents for bringing her into the world, and tells them that they can name her Rose. Thunder Rose is bigger than life and this tall tale is lots of fun – Thunder Rose is a great new storybook African American heroine! 2004 Coretta Scott King Honor Book.

Tippy-Toe Chick, Go! George Shannon. Pictures by Laura Dronzek. HarperCollins/Greenwillow. \$17.00. There’s no doubt about it – small is also clever! After Hen, Big Chick, and Middle Chick are unsuccessful in getting past the angry dog, Little Chick tricks the dog and takes the family to the garden for a snack.

To the Top: The Story of Everest. Stephen Venables. “A 50th anniversary book in association with the Royal Geographical Society. Candlewick. \$18.00. This is a history of many of the attempts to climb Mt Everest – including the author’s attempt in 1988. The archival and later day

photography is stunning – both black and white and color (check out the frost bitten toes on page 85). Includes Route Maps, Glossary, Index.

Tree of Life: A Book Depicting the Life of Charles Darwin: Naturalist, Geologist & Thinker.

Peter Sís. Illus. by the author. Francis Foster Books/Farrar Straus Giroux. \$18.00. This is an intriguing biography of the famous 19th century naturalist. Much of the text comes directly from Darwin's writings but the detailed illustrations will immerse the reader into the thoughts and beliefs of this genius.

The Treekeepers. Susan McGee Britton. Dutton. \$17.00. Bird is a tough little street urchin who sets out to find her father. When her protectors are captured by the evil Lord Rendarren, she and three other children, a friendly chimera (part lion, part snake), and a kitten set off to the Kingdom of Wen to rescue their protectors.

Trucks: Whizz! Zoom! Rumble! Patricia Hubbell. Illus. by Megan Halsy. Marshall Cavendish. \$15.00. Rhyming text describes many different kinds of trucks – from the largest 18-wheelers to small ice cream trucks. The illustrations are collages made up of trucks, road maps and cut-outs. The attentive reader will notice that many different creatures drive the trucks – a penguin drives the snow plow truck, a firefly drives an electrical truck, a lobster drives the seafood truck. Count the different trucks and make a list of the different kinds and let kids find out why the artist might have a camel driving the water truck. **Open Court: Things That Go.**

True Confessions of a Heartless Girl. Martha Brooks. Melanie Kroupa Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux. \$16.00. Originally published in Canada by Groundwood Books/Douglas & McIntyre. Sometimes fate brings strangers together and the results are a better life for all. In this story, Noreen, a 17-year-old, drives into a small Manitoba prairie town and doesn't even know where she is. Lynda Bradle, a divorced mother of a small boy, meets Noreen when she stops in at her café. Del Armstrong is a middle-aged bachelor farmer who has his own emotional debts to pay, and Dolores Harper, the village elder who has always been the "helper" somehow doesn't have the enthusiasm to reach out anymore. How these characters interact with one another and how their lives are all changed makes this a good story. YOUNG ADULT.

The True Story of Christmas. Anne Fine. Delacorte. \$18.00. The Mountfield family is hilariously dysfunctional. Banished to his room on Christmas Day, Ralph Mountfield remembers the disasters that always happen when sixteen relatives arrive to celebrate Christmas. There's Titania, a "little twit" who sees herself as a fairy, Great-gran who always says that if she had her own teeth she would bite the children, and the twins who enjoy throwing dinner rolls at the cat. This is not a sweet Christmas story – it's filled with irony, sarcasm and some wacky characters. Set in England.

Twists and Turns. Janet McDonald. Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux. \$16.00. Life has many twists and turns. Teesha and Keeba Washington are sisters and have just graduated from high school – not that it didn't take an extra year or two. After they celebrate the event they are left with "What Now?" They hang out in the park until an older friend suggests that they use their talents with braiding and they open a hair salon in the shabby Brooklyn housing project where they live. The many challenges they face bring many twists and turns in their lives. YOUNG ADULT.

Two Old Potatoes and Me. John Coy. Pictures by Carolyn Fisher. Knopf. \$16.00. After a little girl finds two old potatoes at her father's house they plant them and then spend the growing

season nurturing them. When it's time to harvest they find that the two old potatoes have produced at least 67 potatoes! Includes a recipe for mashed potatoes.

Uncommon Faith. Trudy Krisher. Holiday House. \$18.00. Millbrook, Massachusetts is beginning to feel societal changes during the 1830s. Old traditions and values are being questioned and the unrest is being led by a young woman named Faith Common. Different townspeople take their turns in giving their opinions about human rights, women's rights, slaves' rights, and the rights of freed slaves. Within their opinions, we learn about their personal triumphs and tragedies. Includes a chart of the families of Millbrook and membership rosters of two ladies societies.

Unseen Companion. Denise Gosliner Orenstein. HarperCollins. \$16.00. A mysterious and emotionally riveting tale set primarily in Bethel, Alaska, told through the perspective of four teenagers: Lorraine Hobbs, Annette Weinland, Thelma Cooke and Edgar Kwagley. With them, we experience small town boredom, prejudice, abuse, despair and the healing beacons of love and spirituality. YOUNG ADULT.

Voices of Ancient Egypt. Kay Winters. Illus. by Barry Moser. National Geographic. \$17.00. In free verse, individual workers who live in Ancient Egypt during the time of the Olden Kingdom describe the work they do. We hear the scribe, the farmer, the pyramid builder, the herdsman, the birdnetter, the washer of clothes, the weaver, the goldsmith, the embalmer, the dancer, the carpenter, the sailor, and the marshman. Each page has the title of the occupation in two languages: English and ancient Egyptian (hieroglyphics). Includes Historical Note. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations.**

VOTE! Eileen Christelow. Clarion. \$16.00. This is a wonderful introduction to elementary students about the process of voting. A town's mayoral election is the example used. All the elements of voting are embraced – even to the process of a recount. Two dogs and a cat are used to pose questions that are answered in the text and the comic book style of the illustrations will delight young students. Includes Glossary, a discussion of American political parties, and Bibliography. **Open Court: Our Country and Its People.**

Walk Softly, Rachel. Kate Banks. Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux. \$16.00. Fourteen-year-old Rachel's brother Jake died in a car accident when Rachel was seven. The family has never talked about Jake's death and his bedroom is exactly as he left it 7 years ago. Rachel discovers Jake's diary and learns that his death was not an accident but a planned suicide. Her discovery is the catalyst that breaks the family silence and brings both pain and understanding to Rachel and her parents. YOUNG ADULT.

Water Gift and the Pig of the Pig. Jacqueline Briggs Martin. Illus. by Linda S. Wingerter. Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. Grandfather has the gift to use a divining rod or dowsing stick to find water and teaches his little granddaughter the lore of the waterman. When her dear pet, "Pig of the Pig" disappears the girl and her grandfather find that a divining rod can also find a lost pig. This is a lovely story of country life set on the Eastern seaboard.

The Way a Door Closes. Hope Anita Smith. Illus. by Shane Evans. Henry Holt. \$19.00. Thirteen-year-old C.J. uses poetry to tell about his family – his strong Grandmomma, his mother, his sister and brother, and most of all, his father. When C.J.'s father leaves one night and closes the door behind him, C.J. knows he is not coming back and his heart is broken. The days are full of pain and hurt, and finally healing. And then, one day C.J.'s father comes back through the door and is home again. 2004 Coretta Scott King New Talent Author Award.

The Wee Free Men. Terry Pratchett. HarperCollins. \$18.00. A rollicking tale of Tiffany Aching, a possible witch in the making, who is befriended by the Wee Free Men, small blue men with orange hair. Tiffany is a very common-sense sort of person and she realizes she is the only one who can rescue her hated baby brother from the Queen of Fairyland. Various creations from stories and dreams try to prevent her quest, but her determination is rewarded.

What a Great Idea!: Inventions That Changed the World. Stephen Tomecek. Illus. by Dan Stuckenschneider. Scholastic. \$19.00. This is a history of the greatest inventions in the world. Each chapter theme is a different age of technology beginning before 3500 B.C. and ending with the present – The Ancient World, The Metal Age, The Age of Discovery, The Age of Electricity and Communication, and The Age of the Atom. Includes Looking Ahead, Bibliography, Web Sites, and Invention Contest, Index.

What a Hat! Holly Keller. Illus. by the author. Greenwillow. \$16.00. Henry and Wizzie's cousin Newton comes for a visit but won't take off his hat! Henry thinks Newton is really weird but Wizzie thinks Newton needs a friend.

What Do You Do with a Tail Like This? Steve Jenkins & Robin Page. Illus. by the authors. Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. In this interactive guessing book, the reader explores the interesting things animals can do with their eyes, ears, mouths, noses, feet and tails. The last of the book tells more about the featured animals. The illustrations are cut-paper collages. 2004 Caldecott Honor book.

What James Likes Best. Amy Schwartz. Illus. by the author. Atheneum. \$17.00. James goes with his parents on an express bus to visit twins, in a taxi to visit grandma, in a car to the county fair, and then walks next door with his mother for a "playdate." After each visit the reader is asked to respond as to what portion of the visit did James like best.

Where's Pup? Dayle Ann Dodds. Pictures by Pierre Pratt. Dial. \$13.00. What an absolutely delightful read-aloud! Rhyming text, very concise, vibrant illustrations, a touch of suspense and a surprise ending. The kids will be shouting for MORE!

While We Were Out. Ho Baek Lee. Illus. by the author. Kane/Miller. \$16.00. The family leaves for overnight, leaving the balcony door unlocked. The pet rabbit enters the house and spends the night trying out all the things she has seen the family do. She returns to her place on the balcony before the family returns and they will never know she was in the house – unless they discover the many little clues the rabbit has left behind.

The White House: An Illustrated History. Catherine O'Neill Grace. Illus. with photos. Introduction by Mrs. Laura Bush. Scholastic. Published in cooperation with the White House Historical Association. \$20.00. This is a book for every library – it is current, written with interesting text that is accompanied with an abundance of both archival and recent photos.

Who Came First? New Clues to Prehistoric Americans. Patricia Lauber. Illus. with photos, maps and paintings. National Geographic. \$19.00. This photo-essay covers recent archaeological findings about the first people to settle in the Americas, where they came from and how they arrived. The reader will go back in time almost 30,000 years to see how civilizations developed in the Americas. The photos are large, in color and clear and the text is not dense and a nice size for intermediate and secondary readers. Includes Chronology, Resources, Index.

Will Moses Mother Goose. Will Moses. Illus. by the author. Philomel/Penguin Putnam. \$18.00. Over sixty of everyone's favorite Mother Goose nursery rhymes are presented in this charming book. The art work is folk art paintings with each rhyme enhanced by a small painting. After two pages of rhymes the next two pages consist of a glorious panorama of the previous folk characters interacting in a landscape painting. Children will think they have found a new I Spy book but what a lovely rendition! Did you know - Will Moses is the great grandson of Grandma Moses, America's most famous folk art painter?

Willow and Twig. Jean Little. Viking. \$16.00. Their mother has deserted Willow and her 4-year-old brother again, this time on the streets of Vancouver, Canada. Willow has a memory of her grandmother and when the police contact her, she is insistent that Willow and Twig be sent to her in Ontario. And so Willow and Twig begin a new life with a grandmother, a great uncle who adores them, and a great aunt who is hostile. Being in a stable home is a new happening in their young lives – will it last? Are they finally home?

Yesterday I Had the Blues. Jeron Ashford Frame. Illus. by R. Gregory Christie. Tricycle. \$15.00. Being a family and having love all around you makes the blues go away. A small boy describes the feelings of the blues and then equates other emotions with colors and his family. The pages are filled with the colors of the emotions described.

Zoo-ology. Joëlle Jolivet. Illus. by the author. Emmanuelle Grundmann, Zoology Consultant. Roaring Brook Press/Millbrook. \$25.00. This oversized book classifies the world's animals by feature or habitat: Hot, Cold, Feathered, Horned, Freshwater, In the Trees, In the Seas, Underground, On the Seabed, At Night, Black and White, Spots and Stripes, Large and Small, Close to Us All. A chameleon hides on each page blending in with the animals and young readers will enjoy looking for him when investigating the other animals. At the back of the book each animal is addressed in a short text index telling one fact about that animal. **Open Court: Animals.**