

Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People

2011



2011 Book Review Committee Members

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Kay A. Chick, Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, Penn State Altoona, Altoona, Penn. (KAC)

Cynthia Grady, Head Librarian, Sidwell Friends Middle School, Washington, D.C. (CG)

Eileen V. Hilke, Professor of Education, Lakeland College, Sheboygan, Wisc. (EVH)

Gregory M. Imbur, Director of Accreditation, Goshen College, Goshen, Ind. (GMI)

Kathleen Kavet, Social Studies Teacher, North High School, Denver, Colo. (KK)

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Sung Choon Park, Assistant Professor, Department of Ethics Education, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea (SCP)

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Glenda A. Sheppard, Teacher Librarian, John Muir Middle School, LA Unified School District, Los Angeles, Calif. (GAS)

Scott Waters, Professor, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS. (SDW)

About the List and Criteria for Selection

The books that appear in this annotated list were evaluated and selected by a Book Review Committee appointed by the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and assembled in cooperation with the Children's Book Council (CBC). NCSS and CBC have cooperated on this annual bibliography since 1972. Books selected for this bibliography were published in 2010 and were written for children in grades K-12. The Book Review Committee looks for books that emphasize human relations, represent a diversity of groups and are sensitive to a broad range of cultural experiences, present an original theme or a fresh slant on a traditional topic, are easily readable and of high literary quality, have a pleasing format, and, where appropriate, include illustrations that enrich the text. Each book is read by several reviewers, and books are included on the list by committee assent; the annotations do not necessarily reflect the judgment of the entire committee.

Publishers' addresses are available in standard reference works such as *Children's Books in Print* (R.R. Bowker) and *Literary Market Place* (R.R. Bowker), and from CBC. CBC's Members List may be downloaded at www.cbcbooks.org/about/ourmembers. Credits for permission to reproduce the cover art included in this supplement are printed on page 16.


Titles are arranged by broad subject categories. Although many are appropriate for more than one category, they have been placed where their usefulness in social studies education appears greatest. Annotators have also indicated the thematic strands (shown below) from *National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies: A Framework for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment*, to which the book relates.

Thematic Strands of the NCSS Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- 1 CULTURE
- 2 TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
- 3 PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
- 4 INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY
- 5 INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS
- 6 POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE
- 7 PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSUMPTION
- 8 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY
- 9 GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
- 10 CIVIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES

Parts of a Notable Listing

1. The titles marked with the green binoculars icon are Selectors' Choices—books that individual committee members responded to with particular enthusiasm. 2. Title: Subtitle 3. Author(s) 4. Illustrator 5. Publisher. 6. Number of pages 7. International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs) are included for all available editions (trade, library, and paperback). The symbol "F" indicates that a paperback edition is forthcoming. A publisher's name in parentheses indicates that a different publisher will issue the paperback edition. 8. Price as of January 2011 9. Reading levels: P: Primary (K-2), I: Intermediate (3-5), M: Middle (6-8), H: High (9-12). They are intended as guidelines and are not meant to limit the potential use of titles. 10. Brief descriptive annotation, plus notations of the presence of additional textual materials, if any. 11. Initials indicating the reviewer responsible for the annotation (see list at right). 12. Thematic strands of the curriculum standards for social studies in order of relevancy (see list above).

1. 	2. Buffalo Sisters.	3. Jim Morrison.	4. Illustrated with various photographs.
5. Whiffman Press.	6. 56 pp.	7. Trade ISBN 0-696-67321-1, Library ISBN 0-696-64213-X, F (Wannamaker)	8. \$12.89.
9. (M, H)	10. The true story of sisters Florence and Ester Weeks's childhood on the American frontier.	11. (ABM)	12. 3, 5

Biography



Black Elk's Vision: A Lakota Story.

S.D. Nelson. Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8109-8399-1, \$19.95.

(I, M) This book's impressive array of primary sources includes photographs and quotations from Black Elk, a Lakota medicine man. Combining original paintings and drawings with archival images, Nelson creates a vivid context and powerful representation of Black Elk's life. Timeline, Bibliography, Index, Author's Note. (GMI) 1, 2, 4

The Brave Escape of Edith Wharton.

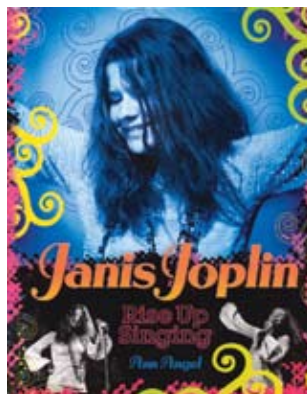
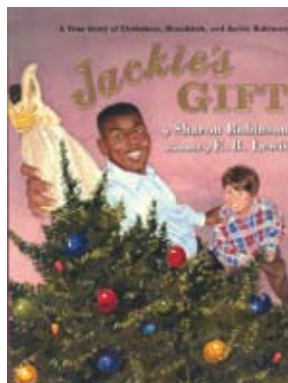
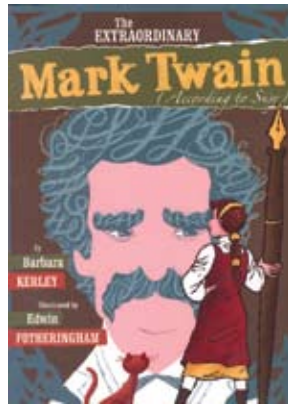
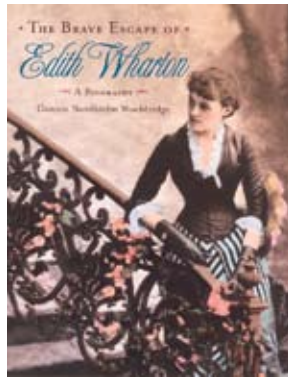
Connie Nordhielm Wooldridge. Clarion Books / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 192pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-547-23630-8, \$20.00. (M, H) This biography of popular novelist Edith Wharton tells of her rigid upper-class upbringing, childhood fascination with creating stories, and adult life filled with independence and adventure. Photographs, Afterword, Source Notes, Bibliography, Works by Edith Wharton, Index. (EVH) 4

Clemente! Willie Perdomo. Illustrated by Bryan Collier. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8050-8224-1, \$16.99. (P, I) The first Latin American inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, Roberto Clementé was known not only for his exceptional baseball skills, but his charity work throughout Latin America. Timeline, Author's Note, Illustrator's Note, Bibliography, Websites. (SDW) 3, 10

The Dreamer. Pam Muñoz Ryan. Illustrated by Peter Sís. Scholastic Press, Scholastic. 348pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-439-26970-4, \$17.99. Paperback F (Scholastic Press). (I, M) Fictionalized biography of the great Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, told in narrative and poetic form. A sensitive boy finds his voice within a macho household and culture. (DS) 1, 4

Driven: A Photobiography of Henry Ford.

Don Mitchell. National Geographic Children's Books. 64pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4263-0155-1, \$18.95. (M) Clear photographs and a fascinating narrative recount the life of the intelligent, complex, "driven" visionary who would change the course of history, labor, and society through his determination to make cars affordable for the general popu-



lation. Source Notes, Bibliography, Webliography, Chronology. (CG) 4, 7, 8

The Extraordinary Mark Twain (According to Susy).

Barbara Kerley. Illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham. Scholastic Press, Scholastic. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-545-12508-6, \$17.99. Paperback F (Scholastic Press). (I, M) Twain's daughter Susy began penning a biography of him when she was 13 years old to "set the record straight." Fotheringham's exuberant, oversized illustrations match the life of Twain through America's and Susy's eyes perfectly. Author's Note, Selected Timeline, Sources. (CG) 3, 4

Henry Aaron's Dream.

Matt Tavares. Candlewick Press. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7636-3224-3, \$16.99. (I, M) This author/illustrator brings to life the dream of a boy in an era of segregation. With Jackie Robinson as a role model, Aaron journeys from Negro Leagues to the minors, and finally to the majors. Author's Note, Aaron's Baseball Statistics, Bibliography. (GMI) 2, 4, 5

Jackie's Gift.

Sharon Robinson. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Viking. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-670-01162-9, \$16.99. (P, I) In this funny, touching and true story, Jackie Robinson discovers that his new Brooklyn neighbors do not have a Christmas tree. He brings them one, not realizing that they celebrate Hanukkah instead of Christmas. Author's Note. (ASL) 1, 4

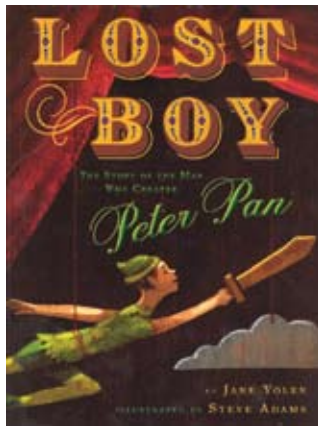
Janis Joplin: Rise Up Singing.


Ann Angel. Amulet Books, an imprint of ABRAMS. 128pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8109-8349-6, \$19.95. (H) A complete biography of Janis Joplin, including her rise and fall as one of history's great musicians. Note: Photo containing partial nudity. Bibliography, Index, Notes. (JEL) 2


Kubla Khan: The Emperor of Everything.

Kathleen Krull. Illustrated by Robert Byrd. Viking. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-670-01114-8, \$17.99. (I) Kubla Khan, the thirteenth-century emperor of China, was a wise and influential leader. Details about his childhood and rise to power, the construction of the Imperial City, luxurious court life, and inventions are shared in an engaging text with impressive illustrations. Map, Sources, Author's Note, Illustrator's Note. (EVH) 1, 4

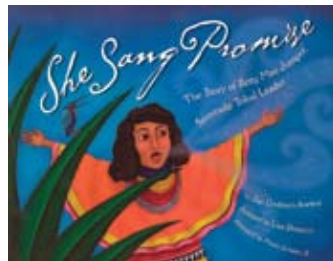
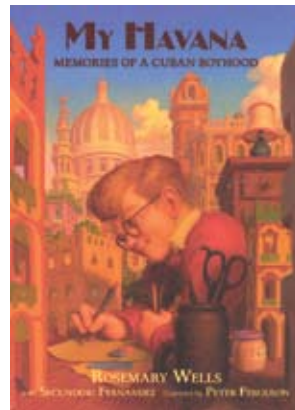
Lost Boy: The Story of the Man Who Created Peter Pan. Jane Yolen. Illustrated by Steve Adams. Dutton. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-525-47886-7, \$17.99. (P, I) J.M. Barrie grew up in Scotland, the seventh child in a poor family. A gifted storyteller and writer, he became interested in theater as a teenager. He wrote his masterpiece, *Peter Pan*, in 1904, and gifted the copyright to a hospital for sick children in London. His work has helped thousands of children. Quotes. (KAC) 3, 2



 **Lost Boy, Lost Girl: Escaping Civil War in Sudan.** John Bul Dau and Martha Arual Akech. National Geographic Children's Books. 160pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4263-0708-9, \$15.95. (M) John and Martha, in alternating narratives, give a stunning account of their separate journeys as they fled civil war in Sudan. Witnesses to mass murders and starvation, and wrenching family separations, the two meet after years in various refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya. Afterword, Timeline, Color Photographs. (CG) 1, 3, 5

 **Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya.** Donna Jo Napoli. Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4169-3505-6, \$16.99. Library ISBN 978-1-4169-3505-6. (P) This narrative details the efforts of the 2004 Nobel Prize winner, Wangari Maathai, who spearheaded reforestation efforts in Kenya. Textile and oil collages complement the inspirational story of Maathai's genius in providing Kenyan women with seedling trees to provide food and shelter for their futures. Afterword, Author's Note, Illustrator's Note, Glossary, Internet Sources. (EVH) 3

My Havana: Memories of a Cuban Boyhood. Rosemary Wells with Secundino Fernandez. Illustrated by Peter Ferguson. Candlewick Press. 72pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7636-4305-8, \$17.99 (I, M) Forced to leave his beloved city when Fidel Castro and the Communist Party take over, a homesick Dino tries to capture the beauty of Havana in his sketchpad. Years later, living in the United States, his memories never fade. Author's Note. (SDW) 4, 2, 3



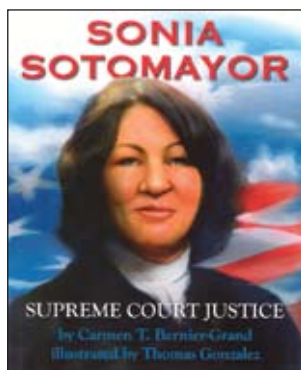
Odetta: The Queen of Folk. Stephen Alcorn. Scholastic Press, Scholastic. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-439-92818-2, \$18.99. (P, I) In the early 1960s,


Odetta Holmes was the star of the folk music world. She inspired Joan Baez, Janis Joplin, and Bob Dylan, among many others. Odetta received numerous national music awards and was also an outspoken civil rights activist and humanitarian. Author's Note, Selection of Recordings. (KAC) 3, 10

She Sang Promise: The Story of Betty Mae Jumper, Seminole Tribal Leader. Jan Godown Annino. Illustrated by Lisa Desimini. National Geographic Children's Books. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4263-0592-4, \$17.95. (P, I) Betty Mae Jumper was one of the first women to be elected leader of the Seminole Tribe. She grew up in Florida and was bilingual, but didn't have the opportunity to start school until the age of 14. Betty Mae went on to start the first Seminole newspaper and was named an advisor to President Richard Nixon. Afterword, Timeline, Author's Note, Glossary. (KAC) 3, 2, 10

Soar, Elinor! Tami Lewis Brown. Illustrated by François Roca. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-374-37115-9, \$16.99. (P, I) At the age of 17, Elinor Smith became the youngest pilot in the United States. Many people thought women shouldn't fly. In 1928, after a bet with a male pilot, Elinor flew under all four bridges in New York's East River. Author's Note, Bibliography. (KAC) 3, 8, 2

Sonia Sotomayor: Supreme Court Justice. Carmen T. Bernier-Grand. Illustrated by Thomas Gonzalez. Marshall Cavendish. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7614-5795-4, \$17.99. (I, M) This book recounts, in dynamic free verse, the story of the first Hispanic to become a member of our nation's highest court. Glossary, Chronology, Notes. (GAS) 4, 3, 1, 5, 6, 10



 **Summer Birds: The Butterflies of Maria Merian.** Margarita Engle. Illustrated by Julie Paschkis. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8050-8937-0, \$16.99. (P, I) This simple, elegant book is about 13-year-old Maria Merian who is fascinated by the transformative nature of caterpillars, moths, butterflies, and common amphibians. Young Maria questions the notion of her time: that "summer birds," the medieval name for butterflies, are born of mud. She uses her keen observation skills to prove otherwise. Colorful, whim-

sical illustrations add to this amazing biographical sketch of Young Maria. Author's Note. (IWL) 8

Under a Red Sky: Memoir of a Childhood in Communist Romania. Haya Leah Molnar. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers. 320pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-374-31840-6, \$17.99. (M, H) This account of the author's childhood has depictions of intriguing family members and their lifestyles behind the iron curtain. A young girl learns about oppression, politics, and her Jewish religion through family stories and experiences. Author's Note, Photographs. (EVH) 1, 4

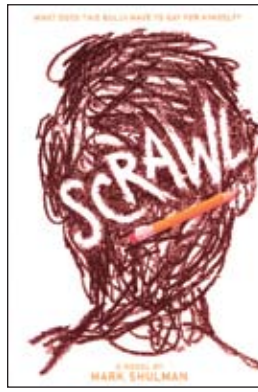
Contemporary Concerns

31 Ways to Change the World. We Are What We Do. Candlewick Press. 80pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7636-4506-9, \$8.99. (P, I) This book presents the top 31 ideas out of more than 4,000 suggestions put forth by children in Great Britain on ways to change the world. From "teach your granny to text," to "grow something and eat it," this book helps children think about the little things they can do to make a difference. (KAC) 2, 3, 9

Boys Without Names. Kashmiri Sheth. HarperCollins Publishers. 320pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-06-185-760-7, \$16.99. Paperback ISBN 978-0-06-185-762-1, \$6.99. (M, H) This book reveals contemporary global issues of poverty and child labor through the voice of Gopal, an 11-year-old boy who is forced to work at a sweatshop. Glossary, Author's Note. (SCP) 4, 9

Ostrich Boys. Keith Gray. Random House Books for Young Readers. 304pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-375-85843-7, \$17.99. Library ISBN 978-0-375-95843-4, \$20.99. Paperback ISBN 978-0-375-85844-4, \$8.99. (M, H) Three devastated teens steal the ashes of their friend Ross to spread them in Ross, Scotland, a trip he'd always wanted to take. Secrets revealed during the journey test the teens' friendship and expose something new about Ross's death. (CG) 3, 4, 5

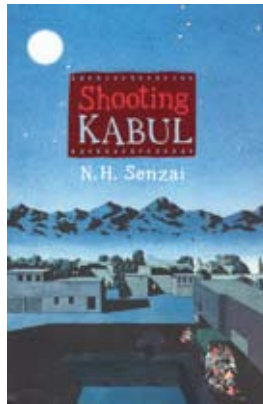
Saraswati's Way. Monika Schröder. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers. 240pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-374-36411-3, \$16.99. (M, H) This is the story of a 12-year-old Indian boy who fights against poverty and wants to have education. Young



adults will learn about world cultures and global issues. Author's Note, Glossary. (SCP) 4, 9

Scrawl. Mark Shulman. Roaring Brook Press. 240pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-59643-417-2, \$16.99. (M, H) Serving detention for delinquent behavior and assigned to keep a journal, Tod Munn reveals himself through his funny, edgy, and poignant entries. (KK) 4, 5, 6

Shooting Kabul. N.H. Senzai. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. 272pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4424-0194-5, \$16.99. Library ISBN 978-1-4424-0194-5. Paperback ISBN 978-1-4424-0195-2, \$6.99. (M, H) As the devastating events of September 11th and the Afghanistan War unfold, a young boy in California begins a quest to find his sister, still back in Kabul. Glossary, Author's Note, Bibliography, Webliography. (GAS) 1, 3, 4, 9



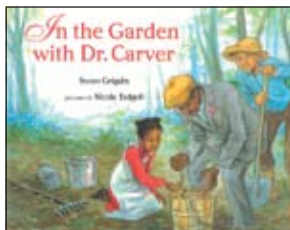
Watch This Space: Designing, Defending, and Sharing Public Spaces. Hadley Dyer. Illustrated by Marc Ngui. Kids Can Press. 80pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-55453-293-3, \$18.95. (M, H) This book fills a unique niche: while exploring concepts concerning public space, it also guides readers toward civic action with respect to personal interests. Idea-rich content will yield numerous discussion points and activities. Glossary, Index. (GMI) 3, 8, 10



Environment/Energy/ Ecology

Here Comes the Garbage Barge! Jonah Winter. Illustrated by Red Nose Studio. Schwartz & Wade. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-375-85218-3, \$17.99. Library ISBN 978-0-375-95218-0, \$20.99. (P, I) Amazing photography and artwork tell the story of the Garbage Barge. What would a town do with 3,168 tons of trash? Meet the Garbage Barge and Cap'n Duffy and find out! Author's Note. (SDW) 7, 8

In the Garden with Dr. Carver. Susan Grigsby. Illustrated by Nicole Tadgell. Albert Whitman & Company. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8075-3630-8, \$16.99. (I) Dr. George Washington Carver traveled the South showing poor communities how to grow nutritious crops; how to recover their soil, ruined by growing cotton; and how to recover their health. Author's Note. (DS) 3, 7, 8



Three Rivers Rising: A Novel of the Johnstown Flood. Jame Richards. Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers. 304pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-375-85885-7, \$16.99. Library ISBN 978-0-375-95885-4, \$19.99. Paperback F (Ember). Paperback ISBN 978-0-375-85369-2, \$8.99. (M, H) This poetic narrative uses the voices of multiple characters to describe the tragic 1889 Johnstown, Pennsylvania, flood disaster. A detailed description of the setting complements the plotline of a romance conflicted by social class. Timeline, Bibliographical References, Author's Note. (EVH) 3

Folktales

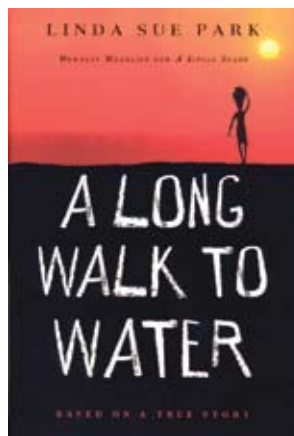
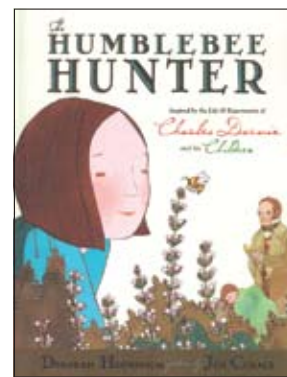
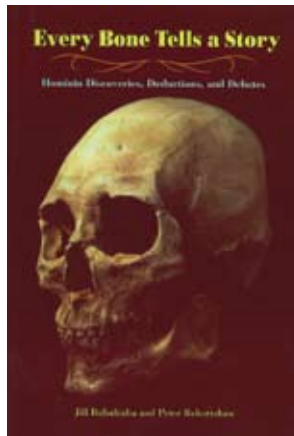
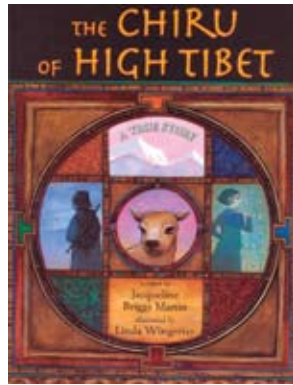
Joha Makes a Wish: A Middle Eastern Tale. Adapted by Eric A. Kimmel. Illustrated by Omar Rayyan. Marshall Cavendish. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7614-5599-8, \$17.99. (P, I) An original story based on the "wise fool" tales of the Arabic-speaking world. Hilarious watercolor illustrations add rich detail to this wry narrative of Joha whose wishing stick brings him nothing but trouble. (CG) Author's Note. 1, 3.

The Little Red Hen and the Passover Matzah. Leslie Kimmelman. Illustrated by Paul Meisel. Holiday House. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8234-1952-4, \$16.95. (P) In this charming version of a favorite folktale, a slightly frantic but industrious hen finds the true meaning of Passover in spite of her lazy barnyard friends. Author's Note, Recipe, Glossary. (SDW) 10, 1

The Spider's Gift: A Ukrainian Christmas Story. Eric A. Kimmel. Illustrated by Katya Krenina. Holiday House. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8234-1743-8, \$16.95. (P) When Katusya brings a Christmas tree crawling with spiders home, little do she and her family know that a miracle waits in the boughs. A well-known folktale from Central and Eastern Europe. Author's Note. (SDW) 1

Geography/People/Places

The Chiru of High Tibet. Jacqueline Briggs Martin. Illustrated by Linda Wingerter. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-618-58130-6, \$17.99. (P) The horns and wool of the



Tibetan chiru make it an economic target for poachers. This book details how George Schaller and companions trekked through the rugged terrain of Tibet to study, record, and photograph the habits of the chiru. Map, Photographs, Author's Note, Sources. (EVH) III



Every Bone Tells a Story: Hominin Discoveries, Deductions, and Debates.

Jill Rubalcaba and Peter Robertshaw. Illustrated with photographs. Charlesbridge. 192pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-58089-164-6, \$18.95. (M) Worldwide hominin discoveries and their respective merits unveil an engaging archeological study. Scientific and decidedly not stuffy, the scholarship reads like a story and gifts readers with knowledge and resources for further study. Source Notes, Further Readings, Timeline, Glossary, Archaeologist Bio-references, Bibliography, Author's Note, Index, Webliography. (KK) 3, 5, 8

The Humblebee Hunter: Inspired by the Life & Experiments of Charles Darwin and His Children.

Deborah Hopkinson. Illustrated by Jen Corace. Disney-Hyperion. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4231-1356-0, \$16.99. (P, I) Like the children in the story itself, young readers will benefit from adult guidance with this book, which should be identified as a fictional account. Darwin's children—especially Etty—examine a scientific question concerning pollination. Author's note on Darwin and his family included. (GMI) 2, 4, 8

The Life of Rice: From Seedling to Supper.

Richard Sobol. Candlewick Press. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7636-3252-6, \$17.99. (P, I) This volume in the Traveling Photographer series contains beautiful color photographs of the rice fields of Thailand, chronicling the significant role that this grain plays in the cultural and economic lives of the people. Rice Facts, Glossary, Rice Holidays, Some Thai Rice Dishes. (ASL) 1, 3, 7

A Long Walk to Water.

Linda Sue Park. Clarion Books / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 128pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-547-25127-1. (M, H) A young girl's daily eight-hour routine of fetching water and a boy's search for safety from war are depicted through a dual narrative. Based on the true ex-

periences of Salva Dut, whose childhood in war-torn Sudan led to his humanitarian efforts to raise money for village wells. Author's Note, Message from Salva Dut. (EVH) 3, 4

Rain School. James Rumford. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-547-24307-8, \$16.99. (P, I) A young boy from Chad goes to school for the first time, but when he arrives he learns that the students must first build the school. When the school year ends, the rain washes away the building. While the structure may have been temporary, education is lasting. Map. (ASL) 1, 2, 3

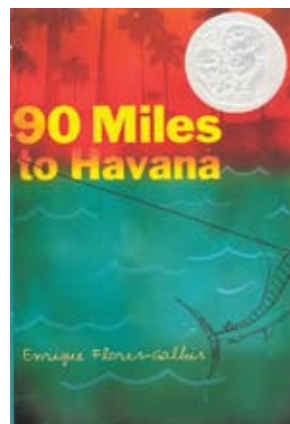
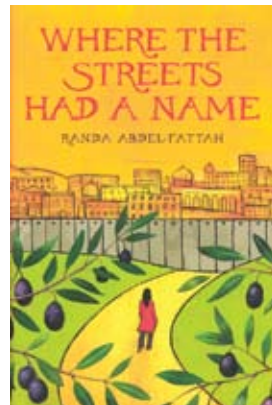
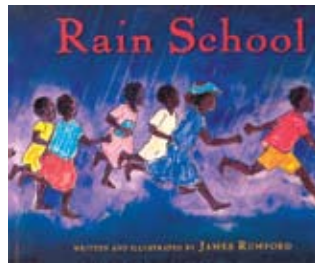
Thunder from the Sea: Adventure on Board the HMS Defender. Jeff Weigel. Putnam. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-399-25089-7, \$17.99. (I) The experiences of a young sailor aboard a British ship fighting Napoleon are chronicled in this highly engaging graphic novel that nets even the most reluctant reader. Maps, Glossary, Bibliography, Recommended Reading List. (KK) 3, 5, 6

Walden Then & Now: An Alphabetical Tour of Henry Thoreau's Pond. Michael McCurdy. Charlesbridge. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-58089-253-7, \$16.95. (P, I) This alphabet book, set at Walden Pond, makes Henry David Thoreau and his love for this historic pond accessible to young children. Wood engravings complement each letter. Source Notes. (KAC) 3

Where the Streets Had a Name. Randa Abdel-Fattah. Scholastic Press, Scholastic. 320pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-545-17292-9, \$17.99. Paperback F (Scholastic). (M) A Palestinian girl and her friend living in Bethlehem devise a plan to prevail over curfews and other laws to travel to Jerusalem to get a remedy for the girl's ailing grandmother. (JEL) 1, 9, 2

History/Life & Culture in the Americas

90 Miles to Havana. Enrique Flores-Galbis. Roaring Brook Press. 304pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-59643-168-3, \$17.99. (I, M) Based on the author's life, this beautifully written novel chronicles a



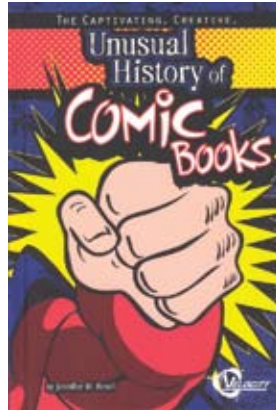
boy's experiences during the Cuban Revolution and Operation Pedro Pan, when he comes to live in a Miami refugee camp in 1961, hoping for reunion with his parents. (ASL) 1, 3, 4

Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring. Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan. Illustrated by Brian Floca. Roaring Brook Press. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-59643-338-0, \$17.99. (I, M) With minimal text and muted pastel watercolors, this book chronicles the collaboration between Martha Graham, Aaron Copland, and Isamu Noguchi to create the ballet Appalachian Spring. This famous work of art, perhaps not well known to many students, is an inspiring and culturally relevant depiction of pioneer life in America. Biographical Information, Notes and Source Notes. (IWL) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

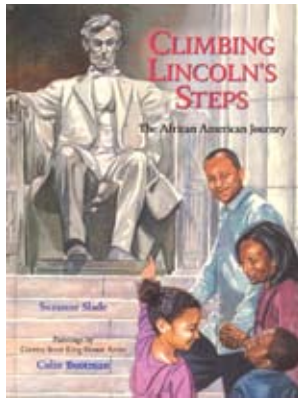
Birmingham Sunday. Larry Dane Brimmer. Boyds Mills Press. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-59078-613-0, \$17.95. (M, H) This extraordinary book describes the tragic 1963 church bombing in Birmingham that killed four young girls. Original photographs and primary source documents help place that day in the historical context of the civil rights struggle. Author's Notes, Further Reading. (DS) 1, 2, 5

Busing Brewster. Richard Michelson. Illustrated by R.G. Roth. Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-375-83334-2, \$16.99. Library ISBN 978-0-375-93334-9, \$19.99. (P, I) The first day of school is filled with a bit of fear and excitement for every child. But for Brewster, who is African American, it is especially momentous because he and his brother will be attending the previously all-white school across town. Through this engaging story, young readers learn about forced busing and its effects on children in the early 1970s following the Supreme Court's decision to further the integration of schools. Author's Note. (IWL) 2, 3, 10

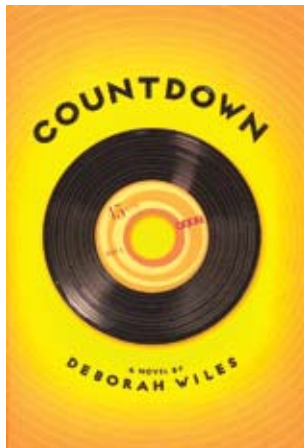
The Captivating, Creative, Unusual History of Comic Books. Jennifer M. Besel. Illustrated with photographs and illustrations. Capstone Press, a Capstone division. 48pp. Library ISBN 978-1-4296-4790-8, \$22.99. (M, I) This book traces the history of the ever-evolving world of comics, including its origins, heroes, villains, controversies and place in pop culture. The graphic layout complements the subject matter beautifully. Glossary, Bibliography, Webliography, Index. (ASL) 2



Climbing Lincoln's Steps: The African American Journey. Suzanne Slade. Illustrated by Colin Bootman. Albert Whitman & Company. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8075-1204-3, \$16.99. (P, I) The author uses the marble steps of the Lincoln Memorial as a metaphor for the many steps that African Americans have taken towards equality and justice. She describes the historic events on those steps, from Marian Anderson's performance to Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech, and finally to a visit by the first African American president and his family. Timeline. (GAS) 1, 2, 3, 5, 10



Countdown. Deborah Wiles. Scholastic Press, Scholastic. 352pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-545-10605-4, \$17.99. Paperback F (Scholastic Paperbacks). (M, H) This wonderfully creative book juxtaposes events surrounding the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Civil Rights Movement with the emotional ups and downs of teenager Franny Chapman. Interspersed throughout the novel are photographs of the people, social experiences, and cultural icons of the early 1960s. These images, excerpts from speeches of prominent leaders, and classic sound bites of the era like "Duck and Cover" create an authentic backdrop for the novel. (IWL) 4, 8, 10



The Cowgirl Way: Hats Off to America's Women of the West. Holly George-Warren. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 128pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-618-73738-3, \$18.00. (M, H) Cowgirls and rodeo stars take center stage in this book about women such as Calamity Jane and Annie Oakley who had a lasting impact on the settling of the western frontier. Bibliography, Index. (JEL) 2



Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave. Laban Carrick Hill. Illustrated by Bryan Collier. Little, Brown Books



for Young Readers. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-316-10731-0, \$16.99. Paperback F (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers). (P, I) Though living most of his life as a slave, Dave combined beautiful artistry with poetry carved into his pots to defy the limitations of slavery. Rich in history, beauty, and inspiration. Author's Note, Illustrator's Note, Bibliography, Websites. (SDW) 3, 2, 1

The Diary of Piper Davis: The Fences Between Us. Kirby Larson. (Dear America) Scholastic. 352pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-545-22418-5, \$12.99. (M) A 13-year-old girl records her experiences in a diary, beginning in November 1941, including the journey with her father to an Idaho internment camp where her Japanese neighbors have been interned. Author's Note, Historical Note, Websites, Epilogue, Bibliography, Primary Sources (including photos, maps, and transcript from FDR's speech to Congress on December 8, 1941). (GMI) 2, 4, 5

Efrain's Secret. Sofia Quintero. Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers. 272pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-375-84706-6, \$16.99. Library ISBN 978-0-375-94706-3, \$19.99. Paperback F (Ember). Paperback ISBN 978-0-440-24062-4, \$8.99. (M, H) This book tells the story of the realities faced by a high school student in the South Bronx who dreams of going to an Ivy League college. (SCP) 1, 4

Farm. Elisha Cooper. Orchard Books, Scholastic. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-545-07075-1, \$17.99. (P, I) Sensitive written and illustrated, this book transports readers through the seasonal nuances of family farm life, from planting to harvesting and children's morning chores. Glossary. (KK) 1, 2, 3

The Firehouse Light. Janet Nolan. Illustrated by Marie Lafrance. Tricycle Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-58246-298-1, \$15.99. Library ISBN 978-1-58246-346-9, \$18.99. (P, I) Read about the history of firefighting and the true story of a light bulb that has been burning for 109 years. Made of a carbon filament and hand-blown glass, the bulb hangs in a Livermore, California, fire station. You can view the light bulb through its own webcam. Afterword. (KAC) 7, 2

Fort Mose: And the Story of the Man Who Built the First Free Black Settlement in Colonial America.

Glennette Tilley Turner. Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8109-4056-7, \$18.95. (I, M) This book describes the life of Francisco Menendez, from Africa and then in British and Spanish colonies in America, and his founding of the first legal free black settlement, in 1738. Author's Note, Glossary, Sources, Internet Resources, Index. (SCP) 2

The Good, The Bad and The Barbie: A Doll's History and Her Impact on Us.

Tanya Lee Stone. Viking. 144pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-670-01187-2, \$19.99. (M, H) Color photographs and commentary from both fans and detractors make this history of the Barbie doll, from her creation to present day, an engaging and well researched read. The author chronicles the changes in Barbie and the societal changes they reflect. Author's Note, Source and Photo Notes, Bibliography, Index. (ASL) 1, 2

The Hallelujah Flight.

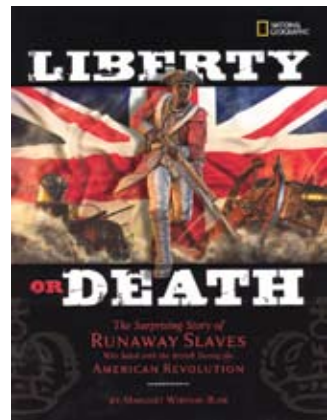
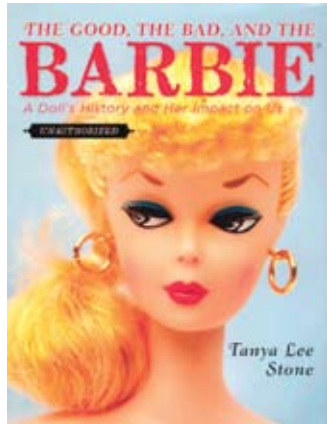
Phil Bildner. Illustrated by John Holyfield. Putnam. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-399-24789-7, \$16.99. (P, I) Rich illustrations enhance the humor in this story of two black aviators on their adventure-filled transcontinental flight during the Great Depression. Author's Note, Flight's map included on end sheets. (KK) 2, 5, 10

Liberty or Death: The Surprising Story of Runaway Slaves Who Sided with the British During the American Revolution.

Margaret Whitman Blair. National Geographic Children's Books. 64pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4263-0590-0, \$18.95. (M) This gripping Revolution-era account of slaves fighting on the side of the British contains exacting scholarship and resources. The uniqueness of the topic along with an edgy graphic layout easily grips the reader's interest. Index, Sources, Epilogue, Timeline, Map on end sheets, Resource Guide with Webliography. (KK) 1, 5, 6

Missing in Action.

Dean Hughes. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. 240pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4169-1502-7, \$16.99. Library ISBN 978-1-4169-1502-7. Paperback ISBN 978-1-4424-1248-4, \$6.99. (M) After the navy declares Jay's father Missing in Action, Jay and his mother move



to her hometown in Utah near a prison camp for Japanese Americans. Jay struggles with his own prejudicial views even as he is teased for his ¼ Navajo heritage. (CG) 1, 5, 3

Moon Over Manifest.

Clare Vanderpool. Delacorte Books for Young Readers. 368pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-385-73883-5, \$16.99. Library ISBN 978-0-385-90750-7, \$19.99. Paperback F (Yearling). Paperback ISBN 978-0-375-85829-1, \$7.99. (M, H) This historical novel features 12-year-old Abilene Tucker, who is staying with a friend of her father's in a small Kansas town, in 1936. Abilene sets out to learn about the boy her father once was. (GMI) 2, 4

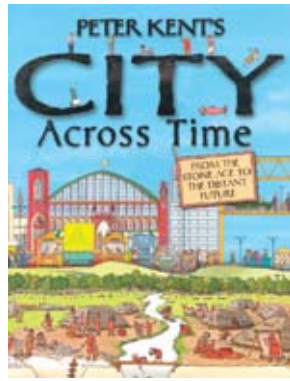
New York City: An Illustrated History of the Big Apple.

Richard Platt. Illustrated by Manuela Cappon. (Through Time) Kingfisher. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7534-6416-8, \$16.99. (I, M) This splendidly illustrated volume presents historical events and daily life in New York City, 1600 to present day. Each event gets a double-page spread, complete with aerial views or cutaways of landmarks and detailed information about how all different types of people lived. Timeline, Glossary, Index. (ASL) 2, 3

Off Like the Wind! The First Ride of the Pony Express.

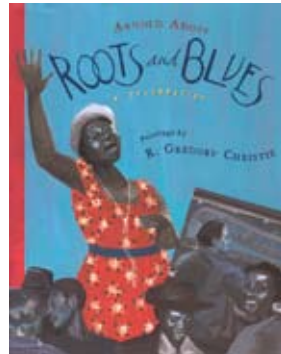
Michael P. Spradin. Illustrated by Layne Johnson. Walker Books for Young Readers. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8027-9652-3, \$17.99. Library ISBN 978-0-8027-9653-0, \$18.89. (P, I) Not a thunder storm, blizzard, buffalo stampede, or pack of hungry wolves kept the first overland delivery of mail from making its final destination in Sacramento, California. Informative text with rich illustrations. Map, Timeline, Author's Note, Bibliography, Further Reading, Webliography. (CG) 3, 5

Peter Kent's City Across Time: From the Stone Age to the Distant Future. Peter Kent. Kingfisher. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7534-6400-7, \$16.99. (I) Through text and fun illustrations, this story chronicles a city's history and archeology over time. The reader discovers artifacts buried but cleverly made visible in an ant farm-like window on the past. Introduction, Glossary, Index, Webliography. (KK) 1, 2, 8



The Ride: The Legend of Betsy Dowdy. Kitty Griffin. Illustrated by Marjorie Priceman. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4169-2816-4, \$16.99. Library ISBN 978-1-4169-2816-4. (P) This book recounts the legend of Betsy Dowdy, a North Carolina teenager who played an important part in the victory over the British during the Revolutionary War. Author's Note. (SCP) 2

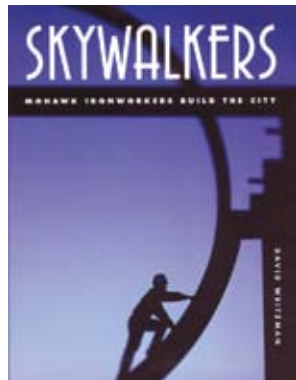
Roots and Blues. Arnold Adoff. Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie. Clarion Books / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 96pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-547-23554-7, \$17.99. (I, M) The blues, a unique American form of music, serves as the vehicle for teaching about African American history. The stories of individuals are conveyed poetically and rhythmically through text and illustrations. (SCP) 1, 2



Selling Hope. Kristin O'Donnell Tubb. Feiwel & Friends. 224pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-312-61122-4, \$16.99. Paperback F (Square Fish, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group). (M) A young girl in a vaudeville troop sells anti-comet pills to people afraid of the approaching Halley's Comet, in 1910. A look at vaudeville, community, and the pitfalls of ignorance-based panic and fear. Author's Notes, Recommended Readings. (DS) 2, 5, 8.



Sit In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down. Andrea Davis Pinkney. Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-316-07016-4, \$16.99. Paperback F (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers). (P, I) This poetically written and beautifully illustrated book tells how the simple, brave, non-violent actions of four young college students changed America. Interspersed throughout the text are lines from the writings and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The colorful, imaginative illustrations will grab the interest of children. Civil Rights Timeline, Additional Notes. (IWL) 2, 3, 4, 5, 10



Sky Sailors: True Stories of the Balloon Era. David L. Bristow. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers. 144pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-374-37014-5, \$18.99. (I, M) Nine fascinating stories of balloon flights from the 1780s to the early 1900s. Period drawings and photographs bring military, science, and adventure flights to life. Source Notes, Bibliography. (KAC) 8, 3, 2



Skywalkers: Mohawk Ironworkers Build the City. David Weitzman. Roaring Brook Press. 128pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-59643-162-1, \$19.99. (M) With skill, bravery, and agility, Mohawk ironworkers built America's skyscrapers and bridges. They walked the girders and leaped from one beam to another, hundreds and even thousands of feet in the air. Period drawings and photographs highlight the enormity of their achievements. Author's Note, Glossary, Source Notes, Index. (KAC) 7, 8, 3

Sources of Light. Margaret McMullan. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 240pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-547-07659-1, \$16.00. (M, H) This is the story of a young, white girl living with her mother in Mississippi, in 1962, as the civil rights movement gains steam. Sam, as she is called, uses photography to make sense of life and the turmoil around her. Author's Note. (JEL) 2, 4



Spies of Mississippi. Rick Bowers. National Geographic Children's Books. 128pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4263-0595-5, \$16.95. (M, H) This book tells the true story of the spy network that tried to destroy the civil rights movement. Young adults will learn about the victories and heroes who fought against white supremacy. Selected Primary Documents, Bibliography, Quote Sources, Index. (SCP) 1, 6, 10

Stable. Ted Lewin. Roaring Brook Press. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-59643-467-7, \$17.99. (P, I) With Brooklyn's Kensington Stables as a jumping off point, Lewin's beautiful watercolors and simple text detail a past when horses were used for everything and more than 180,000 of them lived in New York City and Brooklyn. Author's Note. (SDW) 2

Summer's Bloodiest Days: The Battle of Gettysburg as Told from All Sides. Jennifer L. Weber. National Geographic Children's Books.

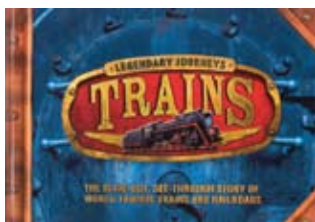
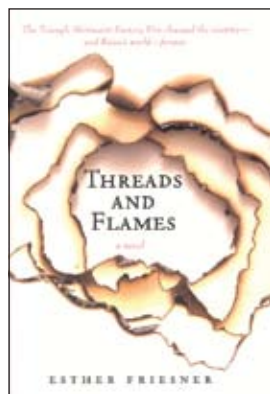
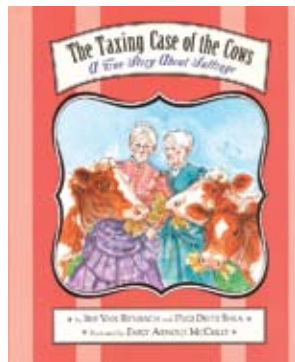
64pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4263-0706-5, \$17.95. (M, H) This account of the Battle of Gettysburg places readers on the ground, in the thick of the fighting, experiencing the fear, the suffering, and the heroism from Northern and Southern perspectives. Timeline, Webliography, Bibliography, Index. (GAS) 2, 3, 5, 6

The Taxing Case of the Cows: A True Story about Suffrage. Iris Van Rynbach and Pegi Deitz Shea. Illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully. Clarion Books / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-547-23631-5, \$16.99. (P, I) This book recounts the little-known story of two sisters whose cows were confiscated during the sisters' struggle against taxation without representation. The story offers an illustration of actions against women that fueled the suffrage movement. Bibliography, Author's Note. (EVH) 6, 10

They Called Themselves the K.K.K.: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group. Susan Campbell Bartoletti. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 176pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-618-44033-7, \$19.00. (M, H) This book provides readers with a stark view into the rise of the KKK and the era of Reconstruction in the South. The extensive use of quotations, excerpts of journals, reproductions of lithographs, photographs, and historical documents add to the quality and power of information. This is an excellent resource for American history teachers, though teachers would want to facilitate discussions, especially with middle school students, due to disturbing images and content. Extensive resource materials are included. (IWL) 5.

Threads and Flames. Esther Friesner. Viking. 304pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-670-01245-9, \$17.99. (M, H) A young girl from Poland travels to NYC, struggles to survive, and experiences the deadly Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire in 1911. This book focuses on the immigrant experience, labor abuses, and the oppressive treatment of women. Author's Note. (DS) 2, 7, 5

Turtle in Paradise. Jennifer L. Holm. Random House Books for Young Readers. 208pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-375-83688-6, \$16.99. Library ISBN 978-0-375-93688-3, \$19.99. Paperback F (Yearling). Paperback ISBN 978-0-375-83690-9, \$7.99. (I, M) In



1935, when her mother takes a housekeeping job for a woman who doesn't like children, a tough 11-year-old girl is sent to live with her boisterous cousins and experiences a very different way of life in Key West. Author's Note, Bibliography, Webliography. (ASL) 2, 3, 4

Unraveling Freedom: The Battle for Democracy on the Home Front During World War I. Ann Bausum. National Geographic Children's Books. 96pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4263-0702-7, \$19.95. (M) Archival images and provocative prose describe the erosion of civil liberties in the United States during World War I—particularly for German Americans—as a result of government propaganda. Timeline, Author's Note, Bibliography, Resource Guide, Index. (CG) 5, 6, 9, 10.

When Molly Was a Harvey Girl. Frances M. Wood. Kane Miller, A Division of EDC Publishing. 234pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-935279-51-8, \$15.99. (M, H) Two young ladies who have just lost their parents answer an advertisement to become Harvey Girls (waitresses) at a small train depot in New Mexico. A story about life in the Wild West during the 1800s. Author's Note. (JEL) 2

Woods Runner. Gary Paulsen. Wendy Lamb Books. 176pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-385-73884-2, \$15.99. Library ISBN 978-0-385-90751-4, \$18.99. Paperback F (Wendy Lamb Books). Paperback ISBN 978-0-375-85908-3, \$7.99. (M, H) Brief, interspersed historical notes illuminate a riveting wilderness adventure, as 13-year-old Samuel tracks his parents, who were kidnapped from their Pennsylvania homestead by British forces during the American Revolution. (CG) 3, 4, 6

Reference

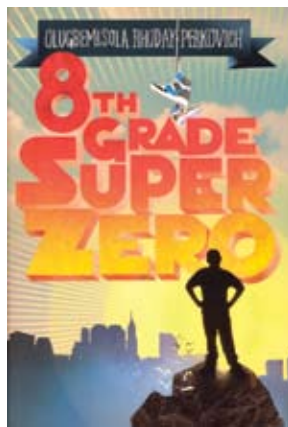
Legendary Journeys: Trains. Philip Steele. Illustrated by Sebastian Quigley. Kingfisher. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7534-6465-6, \$19.99. (I, M) This hands-on book with pullout tabs provides a brief history of wagons and wheels before telling the "Slide-Out, See-Through Story" of trains and railroads from the steam locomotives of the early 1800s to the high-speed trains of today. Index. (GMI) 2, 8

National Geographic Wild Animal Atlas.

National Geographic Children's Books. 64pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4263-0699-0, \$18.95. (I) Organized by continents, this atlas connects animals to geographical areas. Large pages (10.5" X 14") and colorful graphics (photos and maps) will provide readers with a good introduction. Bibliography, Glossary, Index. (GMI) 3, 9

Virginia Hamilton: Speeches, Essays, and Conversations.

Edited by Arnold Adoff and Kacy Cook. The Blue Sky Press, Scholastic. 368pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-439-27193-6, \$29.99. (M, H) This volume of Virginia Hamilton's writings is a must-have reference for serious students of children's literature and African American folklore. Biography Notes, Books by Virginia Hamilton, Major Awards, Contributors, Memorial Tributes. (KK) 1, 4, 5

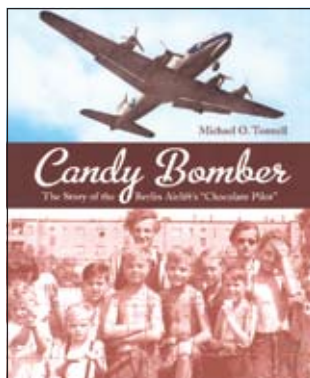
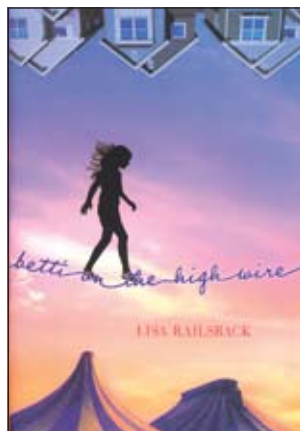


Social Interactions/ Relationships

8th Grade Super Zero. Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich. Arthur A. Levine Books, Scholastic. 272pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-545-09676-8, \$16.99. Paperback F (Arthur A. Levine Books, Scholastic). (M) In this funny, sad, and heartwarming book, 14-year-old Reginald "Pukey" McKnight struggles with questions of friendship, identity, and faith. A great read for middle-school students. (SDW) 4, 5, 3

After Ever After. Jordan Sonnenblick. Scholastic Press, Scholastic. 272pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-439-83706-4, \$16.99. Paperback ISBN 978-0-439-83708-8, \$7.99. (M, H) Jeffrey Alper discovers what it means to be a cancer survivor. For him, it means physical alterations and lapses in cognitive functioning. It means being aware of how people interact with him as "the boy who survived cancer." This sensitively told and insightful story reveals what happens when Jeffrey's cancer is in remission and he is left wondering whether, or when, the cancer will return. (IWL) 4

Betti on the High Wire. Lisa Railsback. Dial. 288pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8037-3388-6, \$16.99. Paperback F (Puffin). Paperback ISBN 978-0-14-241877-2, \$6.99. (I, M) Babo, an or-



phaned 10-year-old girl, is renamed Betti when she is adopted by a family in America. Before being adopted from her war-torn country, Betti lived with other orphans in an abandoned circus camp. When Betti comes to America, she must learn a new language. She must learn how to eat new food. She must learn new ways of interacting with others. And she must learn to trust her new family. Students will enjoy reading about even the most mundane activity as they experience it through Betti's eyes. (IWL) 1, 4, 5, 9



Cakes and Miracles: A Purim Tale.

Barbara Diamond Goldin. Illustrated by Jaime Zollars. Marshall Cavendish. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7614-5701-5, \$17.99. (P, I) Celebrate the fun-filled Jewish holiday of Purim with Hershel, a blind boy who wants to help his mother make hamantashen cakes. Hershel learns that he can see when he closes his eyes. Author's Note. (GAS) 5, 4, 1, 3

Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift's "Chocolate Pilot."

Michael O. Tunnell. Illustrated with photographs. Charlesbridge. 120pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-58089-336-7, \$18.95. Paperback ISBN 978-1-58089-337-4, \$9.95. (I, M) In the aftermath of World War II, with Berlin in ruins and suffering, American Pilot Gail Halvorsen brought hope to West Berliners through an unusual means: dropping chocolate and bubble gum! Author's Note, References, Photo Credits, Index. (SDW) 10, 3, 5

The Cardturner.

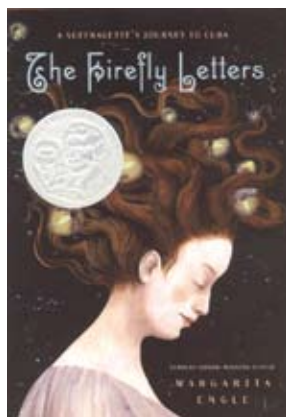
Louis Sachar. Delacorte Books for Young Readers. 352pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-385-73662-6, \$17.99. Library ISBN 978-0-385-90619-7, \$20.99. Paperback F (Ember). 978-0-385-73663-3, \$9.99. (M, H) Alton's parents urge him to warm up to wealthy, blind, cantankerous Uncle Lester. Alton is soon hired to turn Lester's cards during bridge games. Exquisite writing delights as readers learn the strategies of the game. (CG) 4, 5

The Everlasting Now.

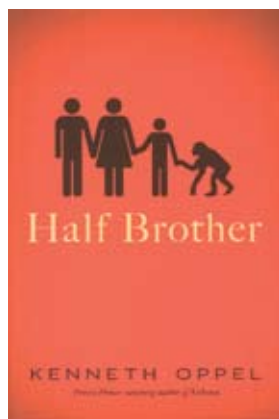
Sara Harrell Banks. Peachtree Publishers. 168pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-56145-525-6, \$15.95. (I) A child of privilege living through the Depression, "Brother" begins to question the rules of power and race when he meets Champion Always Lucky, an African

American boy his own age, who has been sent to live with his aunt in Brother's Alabama town. (SDW) 4, 5, 3


The Firefly Letters: A Suffragette's Journey to Cuba. Margarita Engle. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers. 160pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8050-9082-6, \$16.99. (M, H) Swedish writer Fredrika Bremer travels to Cuba where an enslaved woman serves as her translator. A young, rich Cuban girl envies their freedom of movement and experience, joins them, and begins her own journey of liberation. Author's Note, References. (DS) 1, 4, 5

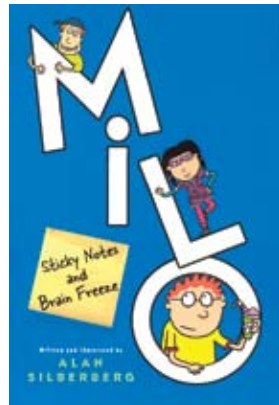


Half Brother. Kenneth Oppel. Scholastic Press, Scholastic. 368pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-545-22925-8, \$17.99. Paperback F (Scholastic Press). (M, H) Zan, a chimpanzee, becomes part of Ben's family as a participant in an advanced sign language experiment. Ben grows to love Zan as a brother; and as the research concludes, Ben has to make a difficult choice between obeying his father and protecting Zan. (EVH) 4



The Heart and the Bottle. Oliver Jeffers. Philomel. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-399-25452-9, \$17.99. (P) This is a brilliant story about love and loss and a little girl who isolates her heart from the rest of the world. (JEL) 4

 **Livvie Owen Lived Here.** Sarah Dooley. Feiwel & Friends. 240pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-312-61253-5, \$16.99. Paperback F (Square Fish, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group). (I, M) Livvie's family has had to move repeatedly because of her outbursts, but she believes that she has a way to get back to a house where they were all happy. This touching novel is narrated by Livvie, a severely autistic 14-year-old girl. (ASL) 1, 4



Milo: Sticky Notes and Brain Freeze. Alan Silberberg. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. 288pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4169-9430-5, \$15.99. Library ISBN 978-1-4169-9430-5. Paperback ISBN 978-1-4169-9431-2, \$7.99. (I, M) This funny, kid-friendly novel with cartoon drawings helps children understand the struggles involved with change. Milo tells the story of how



nothing is the same at home or at school since the death of his mother. (KAC) 4

Ninth Ward. Jewell Parker Rhodes. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 224pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-316-04307-6, \$15.99. Paperback F (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers). (I, M) Raised by Mama Ya-Ya, the midwife who delivered her, Lanesha is blessed with the "second sight" and an extraordinary love, both of which help her endure childhood teasing and the ravaging impact of Hurricane Katrina. (CG) 1, 3, 4.


Nothing. Janne Teller. Translated by Martin Aitken. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. 240pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4169-8579-2, \$16.99. Library ISBN 978-1-4169-8579-2. (H) This edgy young adult novel set in Denmark challenges readers to consider what is truly meaningful in life. Young Pierre Anthon is overwhelmed by the seeming meaninglessness of life and decides he may as well live in a plum tree. His classmates attempt to convince him that life does have meaning. First, they argue and fight with him. Then they decide to collect their most valued possessions to prove to him that everyone has something in life that really does matter. (IWL) 4, 5, 6

On the Blue Comet. Rosemary Wells. Illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline. Candlewick Press. 336pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7636-3722-4, \$16.99. (I, M) Eleven-year-old Oscar time-travels on a Lionel toy train in this creative and imaginative story that combines historical fiction, sci-fi, and fantasy, set during the Depression. (SDW) 4, 3, 2

Our Grandparents: A Global Album. Maya Ajmera, Sheila Kinkade, and Cynthia Pon. Illustrated with photographs. Charlesbridge. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-57091-458-4, \$16.95. Paperback ISBN 978-1-57091-459-1, \$7.95. (P) The authors illustrate the sharing of cultural heritage using photographs from around the world that depict grandparents listening, playing, and teaching children about the past as well as joining with them to celebrate family traditions. Foreword, Map, Five Activities. (EVH) 4

The Other Half of My Heart. Sundee T. Frazier. Delacorte Books for Young Readers. 304pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-385-73440-0, \$16.99. Library ISBN 978-0-385-90446-9, \$19.99. Paperback F (Yearling). Paperback ISBN 978-0-440-24006-8, \$6.99. (I, M) Biracial twins each resemble one parent: Minni has her father's white skin tone; Keira shares her mother's cinnamon complexion. Humor, suspense, and deeply thoughtful family members give us an intriguing twist on sibling and race relations. (CG) 1, 3, 4

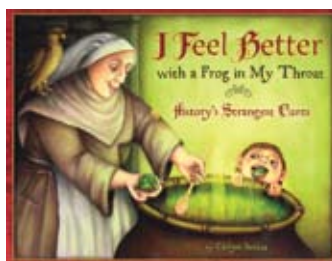
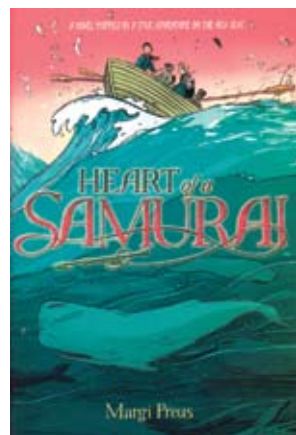
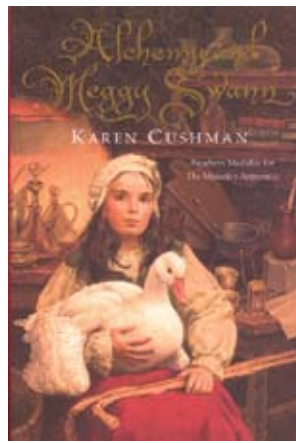
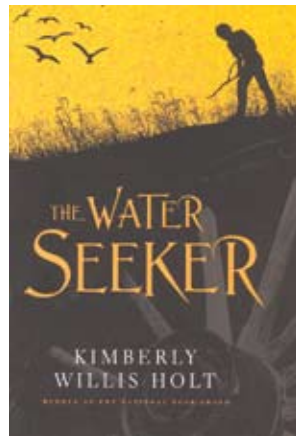
Stand Straight, Ella Kate: The True Story of a Real Giant. Kate Klise. Illustrated by M. Sarah Klise. (P, I) Told with warmth and humor, this delightfully illustrated history of enterprising, eight-foot-tall Ella Kate Ewing, gently reminds the reader to acknowledge the challenges and accept the possibilities of physical differences. Author's Note, Biographical and Physiological Notes on end sheets. (KK) 1, 4

 **The Things a Brother Knows.** Dana Reinhardt. Wendy Lamb Books. 256pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-375-84455-3, \$16.99. Library ISBN 978-0-375-94455-0, \$19.99. Paperback F (Ember). Paperback ISBN 978-0-375-84456-0, \$8.99. (H) A young boy learns about the impact of war on the human spirit as his brother attempts to deal with returning home after battle. (JEL) 4, 2

The Water Seeker. Kimberly Willis Holt. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers. 320pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8050-8020-9, \$16.99. (M) A family saga of rough conditions along the Oregon Trail highlights a young man's coming of age and the gift he and his father share of sensing where water can be found. (KK) 2, 3, 4

World History & Culture

Alchemy and Meggy Swann. Karen Cushman. Clarion Books / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 176pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-547-23184-6. (I, M) An angry 13-year-old girl, born with a disability and unwanted by both of her parents, is moved to Elizabethan London where she uses her brain and quick wit to survive. The novel offers a vivid portrayal of dirty, noisy, cold, sprawling, difficult-to-navigate



London. Author's Note, Bibliography. (ASL) 2, 3

Annexed. Sharon Dogar. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 352pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-547-50195-6, \$17.00. (M, H) This historical novel, based on Anne Frank's diary, tells us about the Holocaust from the perspective of Peter Van Pels, a 15-year-old boy hiding alongside Anne. Young adults can empathize with the historical figures. Author's Note, Further Information. (SCP) 2, 4, 10

Heart of a Samurai. Margi Preus. Amulet Books, an imprint of ABRAMS. 320pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8109-8981-8, \$15.95. Paperback F (Amulet Books, an imprint of ABRAMS). (M, H) Based on the true story of Manjiro Nakahama, believed to be the first Japanese person to set foot in America, this book tells us about global connection and cultural understanding. Historical Note, Glossary, Bibliography. (SCP) 1, 9

Hidden Teens, Hidden Lives: Primary Sources from the Holocaust. Linda Jacobs Altman. Enslow Publishers, Inc. 128pp. Library ISBN 978-0-7660-3271-2, \$31.93. (H) This book, based on primary sources, presents stories of teenagers who experienced and hid from the horrors of the Holocaust. Anne Frank's story is only one of many. Chapter Notes, Timeline, Glossary, Further Resources. (DS) 2

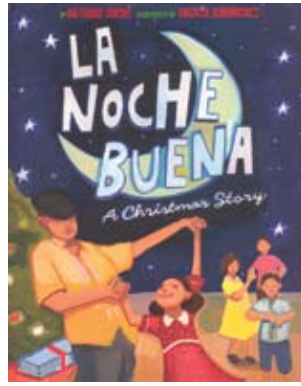
I Feel Better with a Frog in My Throat: History's Strangest Cures. Carlyn Beccia. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-547-22570-8, \$17.99. (I, M) An inquisitive examination of unusual cures used throughout history and whether or not these cures actually were effective. Selected Bibliography, Author's Note. (JEL) 8, 1, 9

If Stones Could Speak: Unlocking the Secrets of Stonehenge. Marc Aronson and Mike Parker Pearson. National Geographic Children's Books. 64pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4263-0599-3, \$17.95. (M, H) This book presents some of Pearson's new ideas about Stonehenge. Archaeology at its best, with vivid photography, maps, drawings, and other supplementary aids. Author's Note,

Timeline, Encyclopedia of Stonehenge, Additional Resources. (GMI) 1, 2, 8

La Noche Buena: A Christmas Story.

Antonio Sacre. Illustrated by Angela Dominguez. Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8109-8967-2, \$16.95. (P, I) A wonderfully woven story about the traditions of the Cuban holiday, La Noche Buena, as told through a child's eyes. (JEL) 1, 9



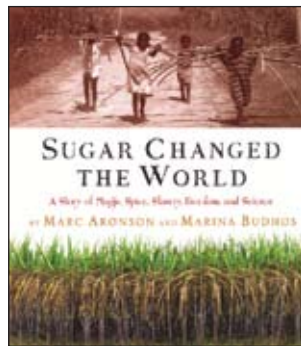
Poop Happened! Sarah Albee. Illustrated by Robert Leighton. Walker Books for Young Readers. 176pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8027-2077-1, \$15.99. Library ISBN 978-0-8027-9825-1, \$20.89. (M, H) A comprehensive history of how humans have impacted their environment through sanitation—or lack thereof. Bibliography, Index. (JEL) 3, 8, 9

Refusing to Crumble: The Danish Resistance in World War II.

Michael Burgan. Illustrated with photographs and prints. Compass Point Books, a Capstone division. 64pp. Library ISBN 978-0-7565-4298-6, \$24.99. (M, H) How Danes, individually and in groups, fought back against the German occupation of their country. The book recounts stories of courage and daring, as Danes banded together to fight the invaders and to save their Jewish fellow citizens from being sent to concentration camps. Timeline, Glossary, Bibliography, Webliography, Index. (GAS) 6, 5



Resistance. Carla Jablonski. Illustrated by Leland Purvis. Roaring Brook Press. 128pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-59643-162-1, \$16.99. (M, H) A graphic novel about the French resistance during the Holocaust. Author's Note. (JEL) 2, 9



Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom, and Science.

Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos. Illustrated with archival photographs. Clarion Books / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 176pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-618-57492-6, \$20.00. (M, H) A history of sugar manufacturing and its consequences. Details of the manufacturing process and sugar's spread around the world. Focus on the abuse and oppression of workers. Wonderful photographs, charts, maps, and docu-



mentation. Author Notes, Timelines. (DS) 7, 8, 9

Vietnam: The Bloodbath at Hamburger Hill. 24/7: Goes to War™.

John DiConsiglio. Scholastic Library Publishing. 64pp. Library ISBN 978-0-531-25526-1, \$29.00. Paperback ISBN 978-0-531-25451-6, \$7.95. (M, H) This book weaves primary-source accounts with maps, photographs, and other graphics related to the Vietnam War and offers glimpses into the experiences of three U.S. soldiers during the 11 days at Hamburger Hill. Author's Note, Timeline, Glossary, Index, Additional Resources. (GMI) 2, 4

The War to End All Wars: World War I.

Russell Freedman. Illustrated with archival photographs. Clarion Books / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 192pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-547-02686-2, \$22.00. (M, H) This amazing book provides descriptions and analyses of every aspect of World War I, beginning with the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, and includes a discussion of the Treaty of Versailles and how it set the stage for World War II. Captioned photographs capture what life was like for the common foot soldier, and how advances in weapons technology, the use of trench warfare, and advances in naval ships intensified the death and destruction. This will be an excellent resource for middle and high school teachers. Index, Source Notes, Bibliography. (IWL) 6, 7, 8, 9

Young Zeus.

G. Brian Karas. Scholastic Press, Scholastic. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-439-72806-5, \$17.99. (P, I) Karas has created a lively, engaging, and accessible retelling of the early life of Zeus for younger and/or less experienced readers. The playful text and imaginative illustrations are amusing and delightful. Told from the perspective of Amaltheia, the enchanted she-goat, caregiver of Young Zeus, readers are treated to a close-up, tongue-in-cheek view of the Western literary world's most famous dysfunctional family. A list of Greek gods is provided at the beginning of the book. (IWL) 1

Zen Ghosts.

Jon J. Muth. Scholastic Press, Scholastic. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-439-63430-4, \$17.99. (I, M) On Halloween night, a giant panda named Stillwater tells three children an unusual, eerie story. The story includes a version of a Zen koan (a paradoxical question), with evocative artwork by the author/illustrator. Author's Note. (GMI) 1, 4

The Children's Book Council

The Children's Book Council is a not-for-profit trade association of publishers of trade books for children and producers of book-related materials for young people. The CBC offers children's publishers the opportunity to work together on issues of importance to the industry at large, including educational programming, literacy advocacy, and collaboration on development projects with other national organizations including NCSS. Every Child a Reader, the CBC Foundation, is responsible for managing Children's Book Week.

Other bibliographies on which the CBC cooperates are:

Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12

Reprinted from the March issues of *Science and Children*, *Science Scope*, and *The Science Teacher*, a joint project of the National Science Teachers Association and the CBC. Single copies are available for \$5. Send orders to the Children's Book

Council, attn: Outstanding Science, 54 West 39th Street, 14th floor, New York, NY 10018. This list can also be found online at www.cbcbooks.org/readinglists/outstandingscience.

Children's Choices

Reprinted from the October issue of *The Reading Teacher*, a joint project of the International Reading Association (IRA) and the CBC. Single copies are available for \$1.00 and a self-addressed stamped 9x12 envelope. For multiple copies of annotated lists, send \$9 for 10 copies, \$50 for 100 copies, or \$185 for 500 copies. All prices include shipping and handling. Checks, payable to the International Reading Association, should be sent to IRA, Dept. EG, 800 Barksdale Road, P.O. Box 8139, Newark, DE 19714-8139.

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National Council for the Social Studies

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