

Notes on the Notables 2000
Compiled by Linda Jewett, Coordinator of Library Services
Sacramento City Unified School District
Reading Support Center
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This bibliography is a compilation of the preschool through young adult books that have been selected as the best books published in 2000 from several sources. The Children's Notable Books, 2000 (ALA) were selected by the Notable Children's Books Committee for the Association for Library Services to Children, a division of the American Library Association. In addition, the Best books of 2000 from the School Library Journal's Best Books, and the Best Books for Young Adults, 2000 (ALA) are included. The books are listed in alphabetical order by title. Books Too Good To Miss were selected by Linda Jewett, Coordinator, Library Services, Sacramento City Unified School District are also on this list.

123 POP! Rachel Isadora. Illus. by the author. Viking. \$16.00. The numbers from 1 to 20 to 100 to 500 to 1000 to 1,000,000 are presented in a vibrant pop art style. Count on this book to be popular with the younger set!

24 HOURS. Margaret Mahy. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry. \$17.00. During his first 24-hours after graduating from prep school, 17-year-old Ellis unexpectedly becomes part of an inner-city world far different from his comfortable life. **YOUNG ADULT.**

4 FANTASTIC NOVELS. Daniel Pinkwater, foreword by Scott Simon. Aladdin. Paperback. \$10.00. Four previously published novels by Daniel Pinkwater are combined in this paperback volume. Includes *Borgel*, *Yobgogle: Mystery Monster of Lake Ontario*, *The Worms of Kukumlima*, and *The Snarkout Boys and the Baconburg Horror*. Pinkwater's fantasies are filled with the kind of humor that appeals to both intermediate and adult readers.

A IS FOR SALAD. Mike Lester. Putnam & Grosset. \$10.00. This is an alphabet book with a different twist! Each letter of the alphabet is presented in an unusual way, such as: “F is for soup” showing a frog eating a bowl of soup and “L is for hair dryer” showing a lion using a hair dryer.

A IS FOR THE AMERICAS. Cynthia Chin-Lee and Terri de la Pena. Illus. by Enrique O. Sanchez. Orchard. \$17.00. From Canada to South America, and through the letters of the alphabet, the reader is introduced to the history, geography, and culture of the Americas. Acrylic and gouache paintings add softness and depth to this non-fiction book.

A TO Z: DO YOU EVER FEEL LIKE ME? Bonnie Hausman. Illus. with photos by Sandi Fellman. Dutton/Penguin Putnam. \$16.00. Photos of children pantomiming their feelings for the letters of the alphabet create a guessing game for the reader. The margins contain cultural objects that begin with that page’s letter.

ACROBAT & THE ANGEL. Mark Shannon. Illus. By David Shannon. G.P. Putnam’s Sons. \$16.00. In this French folktale, a little boy with a talent as an acrobat finds a home in a monastery after his grandmother dies. Although he is told to stop his acrobatics, one last effort becomes a miracle never to be forgotten. The illustrations evoke the printed style of medieval times. California illustrator.

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL: AN INVENTIVE LIFE. Elizabeth MacLeod. Kids Can Press. A photo essay biography of one of the world’s greatest inventors. Filled with archival photographs, “margin bites” and tidbits of information. AGB’s Life at a Glance. Visit AGB. Index. **Open Court: Technology.**

ALPHABET ATLAS. Arthur Yorinks. Illus. by Adrienne Yorinks with letter art by Jeanyee Wong. Winslow. \$20.00. This unique atlas presents geographic facts visually on quilt squares. Each square focuses on one country.

AMBER SPYGLASS. Philip Pullman. Knopf. \$20.00. In Book III of the His Dark Materials series, Lyra and Will find themselves at the center of a battle between the forces of the Authority and those gathered by Lyra’s father, Lord Asriel. Other books in the series are: *The Golden Compass* and *The Subtle Knife*. Harry Potter fans will probably enjoy this well-crafted series of fantasy novels. Grades 6+.

AMERICA’S CHAMPION SWIMMER: GERTRUDE EDERLE. David Adler. Illus. by Terry Widener. Harcourt/Gulliver. \$16.00. Told in picture book format, this is the story of Gertrude Ederle, who in 1926 became the first woman to swim the English Channel. **Open Court: Perseverance.**

AN ALGONQUIAN YEAR. Michael McCurdy. Illus. by the author. Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. The reader follows the Algonquian year as it was before white settlers arrived. Each month is named for a moon, and the activities accomplished in that month are described. Scratchboard illustrations emphasize the stark reality of the passing year.

ANCIENT MEDICINE: FROM SORCERY TO SURGERY. Michael Woods and Mary B. Woods. Illus. with photos, maps and reproductions of ancient art. Runestone/Lerner. \$25.00. This book describes medical techniques and treatments in ancient civilizations including the Stone Age, Egypt, Greece, China, India, and Rome. Includes a glossary and an index. **Open Court: Ancient Civilization. Resource for Medicine unit.**

ANGUS, THONGS AND FULL-FRONTAL SNOGGING: CONFESSIONS OF GEORGIA NICOLSON. Louise Rennison. HarperCollins. \$16.00. This humorous journal of 14-year-old Georgia Nicolson tells of her attempts to reduce the size of her nose, stop her cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the affections of Robbie. Includes "Georgia's Glossary" which explains British terms to the American reader. **YOUNG ADULT.**

APPLE BATTER. Deborah Turney Zagwyn. Illus. by the author. Tricycle Press. \$15.00. Because of their persistence, Delmore succeeds in learning how to hit a baseball and his mother Loretta succeeds in growing apples. Includes "Up to Bat" instructions for the ballplayer and "In the Batter" recipe for the apple crumble. **Open Court: Keep Trying.**

APPLES. Gail Gibbons. Holiday House. \$17.00. This picture book explains how apples are grown, how they came to America, as well as their traditional uses and cultural significance. A nice book to use in the fall when talking about harvest and Johnny Appleseed. **Open Court: Country Life.**

ART OF KEEPING COOL. Janet Taylor Lisle. Simon & Schuster/Richard Jackson. \$17.00. During World War II, 13-year-old Robert and his cousin Elliot uncover family secrets while staying with their grandparents in Rhode Island. At the same time they become involved with a German artist who is suspected of being a spy.

ASTEROID IMPACT. Doug Henderson. Dial. \$17.00. Text and color illustrations explore the theory that the collision of an asteroid with Earth ended the Cretaceous Period and caused the extinction of the dinosaurs. Includes Asteroid Questions and Answers. Index. Bibliography. **Open Court: Fossils.**

AT THE SIGN OF THE STAR. Katherine Sturtevant. Farrar. \$16.00. In 17th-century England, Meg, who has little interest in cooking, needlework, or other

homemaking skills, dreams of someday inheriting her father's bookstore. When her father remarries a young woman and has another child, Meg finds adjustment to the new situation difficult. A realistic look, through historical fiction, at the social significance of women in the 17th century. California author.

AUTHOR TALK: CONVERSATIONS WITH JUDY BLUME [et al]. Compiled and edited by Leonard S. Marcus. Illus. with photos and prints. Simon & Schuster. \$22.00. In a question and answer format, this book presents conversations with fifteen well-known children's writers. Includes a bibliography of books by each author. A book for every school library!

THE BABE & I. David A. Adler. Illus by Terry Widener. Gulliver/Harcourt Brace. \$16.00. Based on actual historical events reported between July 14 and July 22, 1932, this picture book tells of how a boy meets Babe Ruth during the Great Depression while selling newspapers to earn money for his family. **Open Court: Money.**

BABY BEEBEE BIRD. Diane Redfield Massie. Pictures by Steven Kellogg. HarperCollins. \$16.00. A new edition of a wonderful read-aloud! The baby beebie bird is new to the zoo and talks all night while the other animals are trying to sleep. The zoo animals come up with a solution that makes all the animals happy. Kids will love the incessant chattering of the beebie bird and chime right in to help tell the story. **Open Court: Animals.**

BAREFOOT BOOK OF FATHER AND SON TALES. Retold by Josephine Evetts-Secker. Illus. by Helen Cann. Barefoot. \$20.00. This book presents father and son tales from cultures all over the world. Foreward. Notes. Sources.

BAREFOOT BOOK OF STORIES FROM THE OPERA. Retold by Shahrukh Husain. Illus. by James Mayhew. Barefoot. \$20.00. At last! Relief comes for those tired, dated opera books in our libraries. Tales from operas by renowned composers make this a terrific introduction to opera for children. Includes Introduction, Notes. **Open Court: Music and Musicians.**

BASHO AND THE FOX. Tim Myers. Illus. by Oki S. Han. Marshall Cavendish. \$16.00. The famous Japanese poet, Basho, is challenged by a fox to create his best haiku, and then comes to realize that a poem should be written for its own sake, not for the approval of others. **Open Court: Persistence.**

BEAST. Donna Jo Napoli. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum. \$17.00. The story of Beauty and the Beast told from the viewpoint of the beast. This version is set in Persia and is based on Charles Lamb's poetic version written in 1811. Includes Author's Note and Glossary of Persian and Arabic Words. Grades 6+.

BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE. Kate DiCamillo. Candlewick. \$16.00. Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog, Winn-Dixie.

Opal's voice throughout the story is authentic to the story and the setting, and this is a wonderful read-aloud about friendship and love. Not to be missed!

BEDHEAD. Margie Palatini. Illus. by Jack E. Davis. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Oliver is having a very bad hair day and even his family can't control the situation. Finally, he sets off to school with a favorite hat, only to discover it is picture day at school! A fun read-aloud. **Open Court: Appearances.**

BEET FIELDS: MEMORIES OF A SIXTEENTH SUMMER. Gary Paulsen. Delacorte. \$16.00. Based on the author's life, this story tells of his experiences as a migrant laborer and carnival worker after he ran away from home at age sixteen. **YOUNG ADULT.**

BIG CHEESE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE: THE TRUE TALE OF A TREMENDOUS CHEDDAR. Candace Fleming. Illus by S.D. Schindler. DK Ink. \$17.00. In 1801, in Cheshire, Massachusetts, Elder John Leland heard that the President was serving Norton cheese. He promptly organized his fellow townspeople to make a big Cheshire cheese for President Jefferson and transport it to the White House. The story is based on an actual event, and there's even a statue of the cheese and Elder John Leland in the village. Read the story aloud and serve some cheese! **Open Court: Our Country, E Pluribus Unum.**

BIG JABE. Jerdine Nolen. Illus. by Kadir Nelson. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. \$16.00. Momma Mary tells the story of a little boy found in a basket in the river who grows up to do wondrous things for the slaves on the Plenty Plantation. **Open Court: Storytelling.**

BLANCA'S FEATHER. Antonio Hernandez Madrigal. Illus. by Gerardo Suzan. Rising Moon. \$16.00. On the eve of the yearly blessing of the animals, a girl searches for her pet hen. The illustrations seem to celebrate the beauty of rural Mexico.

BLIZZARD! Jim Murphy. Illus. with archival photos and prints. Scholastic Press. \$19.00. In 1888 a massive blizzard hit the Northeast. This book is a collection of personal and newspaper accounts of storm's impact on New York City. Includes Notes on Sources and Related Reading Material. Index.

BONAPARTE. Marsha Wilson Chall. Illus by Wendy Anderson Halperin. DK Ink. \$17.00. When Jean Claude is sent off to La School d'Excellence he desperately misses his dog, Bonaparte. Bonaparte also misses Jean Claude and devises various ways to sneak into the school, all without success - until one

event brings boy and dog together and changes the boarding school forever.
Open Court: Keep Trying.

BOOK OF THE LION. Michael Cadnum. Penguin/Putnam. \$16.00. Set in 12th century England, 17-year-old Edmund travels to the Holy Land as squire to a knight crusader on his way to join the forces of Richard Lionheart.

BOUND FOR THE NORTH STAR: TRUE STORIES OF FUGITIVE SLAVES. Dennis Brindell Fradin. Illus. with prints and archival photos. Clarion. \$20.00. The stories of twelve fugitive slaves are told in this book. Each story is illustrated with prints from the period depicted and evoke the hardships these people suffered during their servitude. Afterword by the author describes slavery as it exists in the world today. Includes Bibliography and Internet sites for further research. **Open Court: Taking a Stand.**

BRAVO, LIVINGSTONE MOUSE! Pamela Duncan Edwards. Illus. by Henry Cole. Hyperion. \$16.00. Livingstone Mouse puts on his explorer's hat once again and this time sets off into the Wild Wood. He discovers the Wild Wood animals preparing a dance performance, but they can't quite get it right. It's Livingston's clever idea that saves the show and allows the foxes to trot and the snakes to twist. A delightful read aloud that looks at language and slang through the eyes of the creatures trying to perform. **Open Court: Animals.**

BUZZ. Janet Wong. Illus. by Margaret Chodos-Irvine. Harcourt. \$15.00. How many buzzes can a child hear when reading this book? The buzz of a bee, the buzz of an alarm clock and many more buzzes throughout the little boy's day. Young children will enjoy hearing this story and will probably participate in the telling.

A CAKE FOR HERBIE. Petra Mathers. Illus. by the author. Anne Schwartz/Atheneum. \$15.00. Herbie spends days writing alphabet poems about food for a contest. A rude audience and then a kitchen full of friendly beasts bring a happy ending to a day that could have been a disaster. **Open Court: Finding Friends.**

CARL SANDBURG: A BIOGRAPHY. Milton Meltzer. Illus. with photographs. Twenty-First Century/Millbrook. \$30.00. A biography of the great poet and writer whose words continue to reach out to all Americans. Includes thought-provoking frames of text for the reader, as well as Bibliography and Index.

CASSIE LOVES BEETHOVEN Alan Arkin. Hyperion. \$17.00. Would you believe that Cassie is a cow? A very discontented cow until she discovers Beethoven's music. However, further discontent occurs when Cassie is determined to play a musical instrument but discovers that hooves are not hands. However, the humans with whom she lives find a way that she can truly become

a concert pianist. A fantasy chapter book to read aloud! **Open Court: Music and Musicians.**

CAVE. Diane Siebert. Illus. by Wayne McLoughlin. HarperCollins. \$17.00. Poetic text and stunning illustrations bring the life and the mystery of a limestone cave to the reader. **Open Court: Ecology.**

CENTURY FARM: ONE HUNDRED YEARS ON A FAMILY FARM. Cris Peterson. Illus. with photographs by Alvis Upitis. Boyds Mills. \$17.00. This is the story of the Peterson family farm in Wisconsin that has been in the same family for 100 years. The reader will note interesting changes in the way work is accomplished throughout the years. Also includes archival photos. **Open Court: Country Life.**

CENTURY THAT WAS: REFLECTIONS ON THE LAST ONE HUNDRED YEARS. Edited by James Cross Giblin. Illus. with archival photos. Atheneum/Simon & Schuster. \$20.00. Well-known children's authors present essays, reflecting on various aspects of life in 20th century America. Authors include Russell Freedman, Eve Bunting, Walter Dean Myers, Lois Lowry, and others.

THE CHRISTMAS RAT. Avi. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum. \$16.00. It's the week before Christmas and 11-year-old Eric is home alone and bored. A strange roach and rat exterminator named Anjela Gabrail comes to the apartment and asks Eric to help him get rid of a rat in the basement. Why is Eric chosen for this job? Why is this man so strange? How can Eric save the rat and himself from this weird man?

CINDERELLA. K.V. Craft. Illus. by the author. North-South/Sea Star. \$16.00. A lavish retelling of the classic Cinderella story set in 17th century France. **Open Court: Storytelling**

CIRCUS FAMILY DOG. Andrew Clements. Illus. by Sue Truesdell. Clarion. \$15.00. Ol' Grumps is a circus dog who loves to make people laugh. But one day a new dog named Sparks joins the circus and Ol' Grump sees that he'd better improve his entertainment skills and surprises everyone when he does just that. **Open Court: Friendship.**

CLARENCE GOES OUT WEST AND MEETS A PURPLE HORSE. Jean Ekman Adams. Illus. by the author. Rising Moon. \$16.00. Clarence, a city slicker pig, meets up with a pony who plays cards and line dances!

CLOUD DANCE. Thomas Locker. Paintings by the author. Silver Whistle/Harcourt. \$16.00. A picture book that combines art with science. Clouds are described and shown during different times of the day and night and different seasons of the year. Each page of the poetic and succinct text is accompanied

by a full-page painting portraying the images the words evoke. Includes: About Clouds and Types of Clouds.

COLOR ME A RHYME: NATURE POEMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. Jane Yolen. Photographs by Jason Stemple. Boyds Mills/Wordsong. \$16.00. Each poem in this book evokes a color in nature. The pages are alive with photographs and each has a quotation about the featured color. Yolen suggests that the photographs be used as a springboard for children's poetry writing.

COLOR OF MY WORDS. Lynn Joseph. HarperCollins/Joanna Cotler. \$15.00. Twelve-year-old Ana Rosa, who lives in a small village in the Dominican Republic, is determined to be a writer. She lives in a country where words are feared and it is because of the courage of her beloved older brother that she learns the importance of both writing and freedom. **Open Court: Taking a Stand.**

COLORS OF US. Karen Katz. Illus. by the author. Holt. \$16.00. Lena and her mother observe how variations in skin color match the colors of food and things found in nature.

COUNTRY MOUSE COTTAGE: HOW WE LIVED ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO. Nigel Brooks and Abigail Horner. Walker. \$16.00. A charming look at British country life 100 years ago, as told by Edward Country Mouse. **SEE ALSO: TOWN HOUSE MOUSE: HOW WE LIVED ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.** Nigel Brooks and Abigail Horner. Illus by Nigel Brooks and Abigail Horner. Walker. \$16.00. This companion volume tells about British town life 100 years ago, as told by Augustus Town Mouse. **Open Court: Homes.**

CRICKWING. Janell Cannon. Harcourt. \$16.00. The creator of Stellanina and Verdi brings us Crickwing, the cockroach! Crickwing is an artist but after being bullied by larger predators, he decides to bully the leafcutters. But when the army ants invade the leafcutter colony, it is Crickwing who comes to the leafcutters' rescue. Includes Cockroach Notes and Ant Notes. **Open Court: Appearances.**

DAILY LIFE IN A PLAINS INDIAN VILLAGE, 1868. Michael Bad Hand Terry. Illus. with photos. Clarion/Houghton Mifflin. \$20.00. Through photos and artifacts, the author creates a facsimile of a Plains Indian village of 1868. Real Bird and his family are part of the Northern Cheyenne tribe of the Plains Indians and the reader sees the customs of the Cheyenne through the pages of this oversized volume. **Open Court: The American West.**

DANCE, SING, REMEMBER: A CELEBRATION OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS. Leslie Kimmelman. Illus by Ora Eitan. HarperCollins. \$19.00. This book

contains explanations and descriptions of eleven Jewish holidays. Includes stories, games, recipes and crafts to make.

THE DAY THE RABBI DISAPPEARED: JEWISH HOLIDAY TALES OF MAGIC.

Retold by Howard Schwartz. Illus. by Monique Passicot. Viking. \$16.00. Included in this book are retellings of twelve traditional tales from Jewish folklore featuring elements of magic and relating to various Jewish holidays. Includes information about each holiday, Glossary, Sources. California illustrator.

DESERT SONG. Tony Johnston. Illus. by Ed Young. Sierra Club. \$16.00. Brilliant desert colors at sunset, desert creatures hunting, glowing collages evoke the desert night, and succinct poetic text complete the desert song. California author. **Open Court: Ecology.**

DIGGING FOR BIRD-DINOSAURS: AN EXPEDITION TO MADAGASCAR. Nic Bishop. Houghton. \$16.00. This photo-essay tells of Cathy Forsteris' experiences as a member of a team of paleontologists who went on an expedition to the island of Madagascar in 1998 to search for fossil birds. Bibliography and Index. **Open Court: Fossils.**

DINOSAUR NAMED SUE: THE STORY OF THE COLOSSAL FOSSIL, THE WORLD'S MOST COMPLETE T. rex. Pat Relf and the SUE Science Team of the Field Museum. Illus. with photos. Scholastic. \$16.00. SUE was the fossil find of the 20th century and this is the photo-essay that tells the story. The story begins in the hills of South Dakota and ends in Chicago's Field Museum. The reader will be astonished at the details of how the puzzle pieces were put together. **Open Court: Fossils.**

DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'LL DO? Carlotte Zolotow. Pictures by Javaka Steptoe. HarperCollins. \$16.00. In this revised and newly illustrated edition of a favorite story, a little girl delights her brother with a series of promises about all the wonderful things she'll do to make him happy as they both grow up. Bright collages capture the essence of this charming little story.

DOGS HAVE THE STRANGEST FRIENDS & OTHER TRUE STORIES OF ANIMAL FEELINGS. Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson. Illus. by Shirley Felts. Dutton. \$20.00. A collection of 15 true stories that illustrate that animals do indeed have emotions. Includes stories about dogs, elephants, grizzlies, cats, birds, gorillas, and even a fly. The stories come from all parts of the world and from various sources. California author.

DOLL PEOPLE. Ann M. Martin & Laura Godwin. Pictures by Brian Selznick. Hyperion. \$16.00. A family of porcelain dolls that has lived in the same house for 100 years is taken aback when a new family of plastic dolls arrives and doesn't

follow "The Doll Code of Honor." A fantasy read aloud or read alone that will appeal to many intermediate readers.

DOVEY COE. Frances O’Roark Dowell. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum. \$16.00. When accused of murder in her North Carolina mountain town in 1928, Dovey Coe, a strong-willed 12-year-old girl, comes to a new understanding of others and herself. The voice of Dovey is authentic and readers from grade 4+ will remember Dovey Coe long after the book is finished.

DREAM FREEDOM. Sonia Levitin. Harcourt. \$17.00. Based on a true story and real-life events, this novel tells how a group of American students learn about slavery in present-day Sudan and raise money to help buy the freedom of some of the slaves. Alternate chapters tell the stories of the slaves. California author. YOUNG ADULT.

DREAMLAND. Sarah Dessen. Viking. \$16.00. After her older sister runs away, 16-year-old Caitlin decides that she needs to make a major change in her own life and begins an abusive relationship with a boy who is mysterious, brilliant and dangerous. YOUNG ADULT.

EDMONIA LEWIS: WILDFIRE IN MARBLE. Rinna Evelyn Wolfe. Dillon. \$15.00. Edwina Lewis was 15 when she entered Oberlin College in 1859. Of racially-mixed heritage (African American and Native American) Lewis eventually settled in Rome where she lived for many years and pursued a successful career as a sculptor - a field usually reserved for men. Her motto was "The mind and heart, not color, make the man and woman, too." Winner of the 1999 Carter G. Woodson Secondary Award.

EIGHT SECONDS. Jean Ferris. Harcourt. \$17.00. Eighteen-year-old John spends a summer at rodeo camp and must come to terms with his attraction to an older boy who is tough, smart and gay. YOUNG ADULT.

ELEPHANT QUEST. Ted and Betsy Lewin. HarperCollins. \$16.00. The authors/illustrators take the reader on a four-day expedition through the Moremi Wildlife Reserve in Botswana and describe the vegetation and wildlife - especially the sighting of an African elephant herd. The watercolor illustrations are a visual feast of the fauna and wildlife depicted. Includes African Elephant Fact and Index.

ELIZABETH I: RED ROSE OF THE HOUSE OF TUDOR. (The Royal Diaries series). Kathryn Lasky. Scholastic. \$11.00. Eleven-year-old Princess Elizabeth, the daughter of King Henry VIII, keeps a diary in which she tells about daily events, celebrations and happenings, and even relives the beheading of her

mother, Anne Boleyn. The diary format for historical fiction will bring the 16th century right to the lap of the intermediate and young adult reader.

ERETH'S BIRTHDAY. Avi. Illus. by Brian Floca. HarperCollins. \$15.00. In this fourth novel in the *Tales From Dimwood Forest* series, it is grumpy old Ereth Porcupine's birthday and while he expects surprises he is not prepared to become the guardian of three fox kits, and have to hide from humans setting porcupine traps. A fun read-aloud for intermediate grades.

ESPERANZA RISING. Pam Munoz Ryan. Scholastic. \$16.00. Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave a privileged life style on a Mexican rancho after Esperanza's father is killed. It is the eve of the Great Depression when they migrate to California to work in the labor camps. While the conditions are harsher than anything they have ever known, Esperanza is determined to see that her family survive despite the odds. California author. California setting. **Open Court: Perseverance.**

EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT PIRATES: A COLLECTION OF MADE-UP FACTS, EDUCATED GUESSES, AND SILLY PICTURES ABOUT BAD GUYS OF THE HIGH SEAS. Tom Lichtenheld. Illus by the author. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. A "tongue-in-cheek" presentation of a pirate "encyclopedia." The pages are filled with silly facts, a mixture of yesteryear and today's technology, clever illustrations and trivia galore. Older students will have fun pulling truth from fiction - or maybe embellishing the facts even more! Not recommended for research!

EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN OF THE AMERICAN WEST. (Extraordinary People series). Judy Alter. Children's Press/Grolier. \$37.00. Seventy short biographies of women who made a difference in the settling of the west. Includes For Further Information and Index. **Open Court: American West.**

FEATHER DINOSAURS. Christopher Sloan. Illus. with photos and drawings. National Geographic. \$18.00. This book, with close-up photos and drawings makes a case for the idea that not all dinosaurs died 65 million years ago. **Open Court: Fossils.**

FIELD DAY FRIDAY. Judith Caseley. illus. by the author. Greenwillow/HarperCollins. \$16.00. Mickey and Longjohn have been best friends forever. When Field Day arrives Longjohn wins a medal in the Fifty Yard Dash and Mickey is crushed that he didn't win. Mickey's sister and Longjohn come up with a solution that eases the pain and brings a smile to Mickey's face. **Open Court: Games.**

FIELD MOUSE AND THE DINOSAUR NAMED SUE. Jan Wahl. Illus. by Bob Doucet. Scholastic. \$13.00. This picture book story of the discovery of the dinosaur named SUE is told from the viewpoint of a little field mouse who had lived near one of SUE's bones. The mouse travels with the bones from North Dakota to the Field Museum in Chicago - all the while telling the young reader

about the discovery. A nice companion book to *Dinosaur Named Sue: The Story of the Colossal Fossil, the World's Most Complete T.rex*. **Open Court: Fossils.**

FIRE BRINGER. David Clement-Davis. Dutton. \$20.00. Set in old Scotland, this epic tells the story of the prophecy among the deer that a fawn will be born who will be able to bond with all creatures, including humans. When Rannoch is born, the mark of an oak leaf on his forehead proclaims that he is the chosen one - but he must be hidden from the tyrannical leadership that rules the herd - and is eventually forced to flee. Another fantasy for Harry Potter fans who are not quelled by exciting books of 500 pages!

FIREFIGHTERS A TO Z. Christ L. Demarest. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry. \$17.00. This oversized alphabet book covers the firefighter's day from A to Z. The large, bright pictures heighten the excitement of fire fighting and will assure that this book is checked out often. Another plus is that women are shown in active fire-fighting roles. Includes Author's Note.

FRANK O. GEHRY: OUTSIDE IN Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan. DK Ink. \$20.00. The biography of an architect who marches to the beat of a different drummer. After seeing pictures of buildings by the unusual French architect Le Corbusier, young Frank Gehry realized that it was possible to break away from the square box of most buildings. Gehry designed the unusual Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain and as the authors say "...never looked back."

FREEDOM LIKE SUNLIGHT: PRAISESONGS FOR BLACK AMERICANS. Patrick J. Lewis. Illus. by John Thompson. Creative Editions. \$18.00. A collection of poems and brief biographical notes about such well-known African Americans as Arthur Ashe, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Martin Luther King, Jr., Satchel Paige, Rosa Parks, Jesse Owens, Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, and others. Includes Biographical Notes.

GATHERING BLUE. Lois Lowry. Houghton/Walter Lorraine. \$15.00. In this novel set in the future, Kira is shunned by villagers because she is lame. However, she is a talented weaver and is chosen to live in comfort in order to weave important ceremonial cloths for the all-powerful guardians. Her dilemma is whether to escape and live outside the compound in uncertainty, or to live in comfort but without any personal choice. An intriguing look at a possible future world and a book that will create rich discussions. **Open Court: Taking a Stand.**

GHOST BOY. Iain Lawrence. Delacorte. \$16.00. Fourteen-year-old Harold is unhappy in a home seemingly without love. As an albino, he thinks of himself as Harold the Ghost and runs away to join the circus where he works with the elephants and comes to know himself better. **YOUNG ADULT.**

THE GIFT OF THE CROCODILE: A CINDERELLA STORY. Judy Sierra. Illus. by Reynold Ruffins. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. In this Indonesian version of the Cinderella story, the setting is the Spice Islands. Damura escapes her cruel stepmother and stepsister and, with the help of Grandmother Crocodile, marries a handsome prince. California author. **Open Court: Storytelling.**

GIRL WHO SPUN GOLD. Virginia Hamilton. Illus. by Leo Dillon and Diane Dillon. Blue Sky Press/Scholastic. \$17.00. A West Indian version of *Rumpelstiltskin* that is filled with lilting dialogue perfect for reading aloud (with practice). The gorgeous illustrations are painted with acrylic paint on acetate and then over-painted with gold paint. The gold borders were created with gold leaf. The illustrations perfectly convey the spinning of gold and the greed of the Big King.

GIVE A BOY A GUN. Todd Strasser. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Two boys take their classmates hostage at a high school dance. The plot is interwoven with the voices of students, teachers, friends, and the gunmen themselves. Their motive is revenge on all the football players and teachers who have tormented them. Sidebars of facts about guns and young people are interspersed throughout the text. This is a book that will haunt readers after the last page is turned. **YOUNG ADULT.**

GIVE ME LIBERTY! THE STORY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. Russell Freedman. Illustrated with archival prints and paintings. Holiday. \$25.00. This book describes the events leading up to the Declaration of Independence as well as the people and the politics that framed the document. Also includes: The Declaration of Independence, Visiting the Declaration of Independence, Chronology of Events, Selected Bibliography, Index. **Open Court: Colonial Life.**

THE GRADUATION OF JAKE MOON. Barbara Park. Simon & Schuster/Antheneum. \$15.00. Fourteen-year-old Jake Moon and his mother have always lived with Jake's grandfather, Skelly. Jake tells this story about his beloved grandfather who had always been there for him, until he got Alzheimer's disease and now it's up to Jake to always be there for Skelly. Jake is torn between his love and loyalty to Skelly and the embarrassment Skelly sometimes causes him. A powerful story that will enlighten the reader on a debilitating disease and the strain it causes in families.

THE GRANDAD TREE. Trish Cooke. Illus. By Sharon Wilson. Candlewick. \$16.00. The changing nature of their apple tree, as it grows and matures through the seasons, reminds Leigh and Vin of their grandfather, who is gone, but lives on in their memories.

GRANDFATHERS: REMINISCENCES, POEMS, RECIPES, AND PHOTOS OF THE KEEPERS OF OUR TRADITIONS. Edited by Nikki Giovanni. Illus. with photos and drawings. Henry Holt. \$19.00. A collection of tributes to nearly 50 different grandfathers by their adult grandchildren. **Open Court: Family Traditions.**

THE GRAVE. James Heneghan. Farrar/Frances Foster. \$17.00. Thirteen-year-old Tom, has spent his entire life shuffled between foster homes in Liverpool. A mass grave is uncovered during construction on his school grounds. He finds himself drawn to the site, falls into the huge open grave and is transported to Ireland in 1847, where he finds himself in the midst of the deadly potato famine.

GROWING FROGS. Vivian French. Illus. by Alison Bartlett. Candlewick. \$16.00. A little girl's mother helps her gather frog spawn from a pond and nurture the spawn from tadpole to frog and then return the frogs to the neighborhood pond. Bright, sunny illustrations help to explain the growth cycle. Includes index and is a wonderful book for a primary grade research project, as well as a good example of primary research. **Open Court: Animals.**

GROWING SEASONS. Elsie Lee Splear. Illus by Ken Stark. G.P. Putnam's Sons. \$16.00. A tribute and celebration of the family farm that is disappearing at a rapid rate. The author, born in the early part of the 20th century, recalls things and events such as threshing day on the farm, Christmas traditions, the cellar during a summer storm. **Open Court: Country Life.**

HANNAH'S COLLECTIONS. Marthe Jocelyn. Dutton. \$14.00. Hannah has many, many collections and when it is sharing time at school she has great difficulty trying to decide what to share. The illustrations are collages of collections and fun for children to pick out objects from the pictures. **Open Court: School.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LULU! Caroline Uff. Illus. by the author. Walker. \$15.00. The third in a series of pre-school picture books. Lulu celebrates her birthday from breakfast time to party time. Others in the series: *Hello, Lulu* and *Lulu's Busy Day*.

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE. J.K. Rowling. Illus. by Mary Grandpre. Arthur A. Levine/ Scholastic. \$26.00. Harry is now a 14-year-old wizard starting his fourth year at Hogwarts, Lord Voldemort still wants to see him dead and he just may have a love interest. The fourth and latest novel in a 7-part series.

HENRY HIKES TO FITCHBURG. D.B. Johnson. Houghton. \$15.00. While his friend works hard to earn the train fare to Fitchburg, young Henry Thoreau walks the 30 miles through woods and fields, enjoying nature. Both arrive at their

destination - but one is richer for the experience. Includes biographical information about Henry Thoreau.

HERE COMES PONTUS! Ann-Sofie Jeppson. Illus. by Catarina Kruusval. Translated from the Swedish by Frances Corry. R&S Books, distributed by Farrar Straus Giroux. \$14.00. Told from the horse's point of view, the story of a horse's first month at a new home with a new family. A wealth of information is given about feed, riding, and care. Includes index.

HERE WE ALL ARE. Tomie dePaola. Illus. by the author. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$14.00. In this sequel to *26 Fairmont Avenue*, children's author and illustrator Tomie dePaola continues to describe his experiences at home and in school when he was a boy.

HOPE WAS HERE. Joan Bauer. Putnam's Sons. \$17.00. When 16-year-old Hope and the aunt who raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in a diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor. **YOUNG ADULT.**

THE HOUSE OF WISDOM. Florence Parry Heide and Judtih Heide Gilliland. Illus. by Mary Grandpre. DK Ink. \$17.00. Ishaq, a young boy living in ancient Baghdad, becomes a scholar and traveler in search of books and manuscripts for Baghdad's library, known as the House of Wisdom. The message here is that knowledge preserved is an important value. **Open Court: Learning.**

HOW DO DINOSAURS SAY GOOD NIGHT? Jane Yolen. Illus. by Mark Teague. Blue Sky/Scholastic. \$16.00. Rhyming text compares the different reactions a dinosaur has when Papa and Mama turn off the light and say good night. Oversized pictures will delight young readers who have an affinity to dinosaurs. **Open Court: Fossils.**

THE HUNTER: A CHINESE FOLKTALE. Mary Casanova. Illus. by Ed Young. Atheneum. \$17.00. In a Chinese village, a drought scorches the countryside and the people are beginning to starve. Hai Li Bu, a hunter, saves a small snake from a crane, and in return the snake brings him to the bottom of the sea, where the snake's father, the Dragon King of the Sea, lives. The Dragon King offers rubies and emeralds as a reward, but Hai Li Bu wants only to understand the language of animals so that he can be a better hunter and feed his village. **Open Court: Storytelling.**

HURRY FREEDOM: AFRICAN AMERICANS IN GOLD RUSH CALIFORNIA. Jerry Stanley. Archival photos and prints. Crown. \$19.00. This book has been nominated for the National Book Award, and while it recounts the activities of African Americans during the gold rush, the focus is on the life and work of Mifflin Gibbs who came to San Francisco in 1850 and was dedicated to the civil rights of African Americans in California. California author. Excellent resource for

California history curriculum. Includes Bibliographic Note and Index. **Open Court: Taking a Stand.**

IF WISHES WERE HORSES. Natalie Kinsey-Warner. Dutton. \$16.00. It is the Great Depression in rural Vermont and 12-year-old Lily resents her sister, Emily, wants her own horse, and hopes that a visiting great aunt will take her side in the matters of life that seem so unfair. But when sister Emily comes down with polio and the family needs electricity to hook up an iron lung, Lily makes a sacrifice of love that leads her to understand how dreams can change. A poignant story with a gritty, honest protagonist.

IN EVERY TINY GRAIN OF SAND: A CHILD'S BOOK OF PRAYERS AND PRAISE. Collected by Reeve Lindbergh. Illustrated by Christine Davenier, Bob Graham, Anita Jeram, Elisa Kleven. Candlewick. \$22.00. Four artists each illustrated one of four sections in this book of prayers and poems from many faiths, cultures and philosophers from around the world. Included are *For The Day, For the Home, For the Earth, For the Night*. Includes Index of First Lines.

IN NOVEMBER. Cynthia Rylant. Illus. by Jill Kastner. Harcourt. \$16.00. A celebration of all the activities and traditions that the cooling temperatures of November bring to all creatures - especially in America. The glowing oil paintings fill the pages and evoke the chilliness of the month and the warmth of togetherness.

INSPECTOR HOPPER. Doug Cushman. Illus by the author. HarperCollins. \$15.00. Inspector Hopper is a grasshopper detective who solves mysteries with his assistant, McBugg. They tackle the mystery of a missing ladybug, investigate the clues to a boat's disappearance, and discover who is following them in a dark alley. An I Can Read Book for the beginning reader that involves them in problem solving. **Open Court: Animals.**

INTO THE A, B, SEA: AN OCEAN ALPHABET. Deborah Lee Rose. Pictures by Steve Jenkins. Scholastic. \$16.00. A rhyming text and large, bright collages present an alphabetic rendition of many creatures of the sea. Includes: More About the A,B, Sea. California author. **Open Court: Animals.**

ISLAND OF THE AUNTS. Eva Ibbotson. Illus. by Kevin Hawkes. Dutton. \$16.00. The aunts, Etta, Coral, and Myrtle, have been caretakers of the Island for years. They have cared for the seals, the gulls, the mermaids, the selkies, and even a couple of ghosts. They realize the work is too hard and decide to kidnap some children who can take over the Island. Not only do the children care for the inhabitants, it is up to them to save the Island from destruction. This fantasy is full of fun, warmth and adventures for all!

THE JANITOR'S BOY. Andrew Clements. Simon & Schuster. \$15.00. Fifth grader Jack finds himself a target of ridicule at school when it becomes known that his father is one of the janitors. Jack turns his anger toward his father, until

he has an opportunity to learn more about his father, himself and what is important in life. **Open Court: Family Heritage.**

JAZZ FLY. Matthew Gollub. Illus by Karen Hanke. Tortuga Press. \$18.00. Seeking directions to town, a tuxedo-clad fly picks up the rhythm of the answers he gets from a frog (RRRibit), a hog (OINK), a donkey (Hee Haw) and a dog (Rruff) and puts them together to add to his jazz band's music. A music CD, starring the Jazz Fly, Willie the Worm, Nancy the Gnat, and Sammy the Centipede accompanies the text. California author. **Open Court: Music and Musicians.**

JESSIE DE LA CRUZ: A PROFILE OF A UNITED FARM WORKER. Gary Soto. Illustrated with photos. Persea Books. \$18.00. This is the biography of a woman who was a migrant worker in the fields of California during the 1960s and worked with Cesar Chavez for the civil rights of all migrant workers. Includes Bibliography and Index. California author. California setting. **Open Court: Taking a Stand.**

JOE AND THE SKYSCRAPER: THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING IN NEW YORK CITY. Dietrich Neumann. Prestel. \$15.00. Joe Carbonelli is a 16-year-old waterboy during the construction of the Empire State Building and tells the story of the project as he experienced it. Joe's story explains how the world's tallest skyscraper was built in only 18 months, a tower 1,250 feet high with 102 floors. The text is enhanced with many archival photos. **Open Court: Technology.**

JOEY PIGZA LOSES CONTROL. Jack Gantos. Farrar. \$16.00. In this sequel to *Joey Pigza Swallows the Key*, Joey goes to spend the summer with the hard-drinking father he has never known and tries to help the baseball team he coaches win the championship.

JOHN RILEY'S DAUGHTER. Kezi Matthews. Front Street/Cricket Books. \$16.00. This novel takes place over three days during the summer of 1973. Thirteen-year-old Memphis Riley lives with her grandmother and mentally handicapped cousin, Clover, after her mother dies and her father abandons her. She is not a welcomed addition and after Clover disappears, Memphis comes to realize that family is not necessarily about being related by blood.

KATE AND THE BEANSTALK. Mary Pope Osborne. Illus by Giselle Potter. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum \$16.00. In this version of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, a girl, Kate, climbs to the top of a giant beanstalk, where she uses her quick wits to outsmart a giant and to right an evil wrong. **Open Court: Folk Tales.**

THE KIDS CAN PRESS JUMBO BOOK OF GARDENING. Karyn Morris. Illus. by Jane Kurisu. Kids Can Press. Paperback. \$15.00. Dedicated by the author to

“Miss Rumphius,” this book includes *How Gardens Grow, Fruit and Vegetable Gardens, Flower Gardens, Gardening With Native Plants, Wildlife Gardens, School and Community Gardens, Plant Lists and Index*. **Open Court: City Wildlife. Open Court: Ecology.**

KIT’S WILDERNESS. David Almond. Delacorte. \$16.00. Thirteen-year-old Kit goes to live with his grandfather in the decaying coal mining town of Stoneygate, England, and finds both the old man and the town haunted by ghosts of the past.

LENA. Jacqueline Woodson. Delacorte. \$16.00. Thirteen-year-old Lena and her younger sister, Dion, mourn the death of their mother as they hitchhike from Ohio to Kentucky to escape from their abusive father.

LET IT SHINE: STORIES OF BLACK WOMEN FREEDOM FIGHTERS. Andrea Davis Pinkney. Illus. by Stephen Alcorn. Gulliver/Harcourt. \$20.00. The stories of ten courageous women are presented in this large format book. The biographies are illustrated with paintings symbolic of the huge and universal contribution each woman made. **Open Court: Taking a Stand.**

LETTERS FROM VINNIE. Maureen Stack Sappey. Front Street. \$17.00. Based on actual events, this is a fictionalized account of the Washington, D.C. Civil War years as experienced by Vinnie Ream the teen sculptress, who is best known for the Abraham Lincoln statue that is in the Capitol building.

LIBERTY. Lynn Curlee. Illus. by the author. Atheneum. \$18.00. In large picture book format, the author discusses and illustrates the planning and efforts that went into the construction of the Statue of Liberty. **Open Court: Our Country, E Pluribus Unum.**

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: AN ARCHITECTURAL ALPHABET. Foreword by James H. Billington. Pomegranate. \$18.00. Written in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Library of Congress, this unique alphabet book celebrates the architecture of the nation’s library - from Arch to Zigzag. Each letter of the alphabet is accompanied by a full-size color photograph explaining the term that it represents.

LIFE: OUR CENTURY IN PICTURES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. Edited by Richard B. Stolley, adapted by Amy E. Sklansky. Little, Brown. \$26.00. Each chapter of this book spans one decade of the 20th century and is introduced with an essay by a notable children’s writer. The pages are filled with photos of the decades accompanied by sidebars of text. A reference book for every library!

LITTLE WHITE DUCK. Walt Whippo & Bernard Zaritzky. Illus. by Joan Paley. Little, Brown. \$14.00. Adapted from the favorite nursery song of the same name,

pre-school and kindergarten children will enjoy helping to tell the story by making the appropriate sounds of the animals.

LIVES OF EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN: RULERS, REBELS (AND WHAT NEIGHBORS THOUGHT). Kathleen Krull. Illus. by Kathryn Hewitt. Harcourt. \$20.00. Beginning with Cleopatra, this book presents brief biographies of twenty women leaders who made a difference to the world. Each biography is introduced with a full-page caricature of the subject. Includes bibliography. One of a series.

LIZZY AND SKUNK. Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick. Illus. by the author. DK Ink. \$15.00. Lizzy is a very shy child and her best friend is her hand puppet, Skunk. When skunk is in danger, Lizzy finds the courage to save him.

LULU'S BUSY DAY. Caroline Uff. Illus. by the author. Walker. \$15.00. A charming book for the pre-school audience. Lulu enjoys many activities during the day, including drawing a picture, visiting the park, and reading a bedtime story.

MADLENKA. Peter Sis. Illus. by the author. Farrar Straus Giroux. \$17.00. Madlenka has always lived on the same block in New York City. It is a microcosm of the many cultures throughout the world. As Madlenka sets off to tell the neighborhood that her tooth has a wiggle in it, the reader experiences Madlenka's neighborhood and Madlenka feels as if she has been around the world. **Open Court: Captain Bill Pinkney's Journey.**

THE MAGIC FISH-BONE. Charles Dickens. Pictures by Robert Florczyk. Harcourt. \$17.00. A lavish new version of an English classic. Princess Alicia is given a magic fishbone by the Fairy Grandmarina who tells Alicia that the fishbone will grant her whatever she wishes, provided she wishes at the right time. But, when is the right time? The illustrations are lush in color and detail and simply splendid.

MAMMALABILIA. Douglas Florian. Illus. by the author. Harcourt. \$16.00. A collection of humorous poems about 21 mammals such as the tiger, gorilla, coyote and rhebok. **Open Court: Animals.**

MANY STONES. Carolyn Coman. Front Street. \$16.00. After her sister Laura is murdered in South Africa, Berry and her estranged father travel to Capetown to participate in the dedication of a memorial in her name. The trip takes them beyond their personal grief as they relive Laura's path in a country searching for reconciliation. **YOUNG ADULT.**

MATILDA BONE. Karen Cushman. Clarion. \$15.00. When Matilda is apprenticed to a medieval bonesetter, she finds it difficult to adjust to the coarser ways of the common folk. The book contains much lore about the practice of medicine during the medieval age. California author. **Open Court: Medicine.**

THE MATS. Francisco Arcellana. Illus. by Hermes Alegre. Kane/Miller. \$14.00. In this charming book set in the Philippines, a traveling father returns home with a special gift for each member of his large family.

MAX. Bob Graham. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. \$16.00. Max, the young son of superheroes, is a late bloomer when it comes to flying, until he is inspired by the plight of a falling baby bird. Like the superhero family, this bright book is supersized! A fun read aloud! **Open Court: Kindness.**

MEI-MEI LOVES THE MORNING. Margaret Holloway Tsubakiyama. Illus. by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying Hwa Hu. Albert Whitman. \$16.00. This richly illustrated picture book conveys how Mei-Mei and her grandfather spend their mornings in modern urban China.

MEMORIES OF SUMMER. Ruth White. Farrar. \$16.00. In 1955, 13-year-old Lyric finds her whole life changing when she moves to Michigan from rural Virginia with her father and older sister, Summer. Lyric adapts to the new environment but Summer begins descending into mental illness. How Lyric and her father try to hold on to Summer and then help her by letting go is a poignant story.

MESSENGER, MESSENGER. Robert Burleigh. Illus. by Barry Root. Atheneum. \$16.00. Calvin Curbhopper, a bicycle messenger in a large city, akes his way through the city in all kinds of conditions to make sure that his messages get delivered on time. A picture book look at an usual business that thrives in cities. **Open Court: Business.**

MICHELANGELO. Diane Stanley. Illus. by the author. HarperCollins. \$16.00. Presented in picture book format, this is the biography of the Renaissance sculptor, painter, architect, and poet, well known for his work on the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. **Open Court: Perseverance. Open Court: Fine Arts units.**

MIDNIGHT MATH: TWELVE TERRIFIC MATH GAMES. Peter Ledwon. Illus. by Marilyn Mets. Holiday House. \$16.00. In this vividly illustrated book animal characters help readers play twelve different math games. Includes *Did You Know* answer page.

THE MILDENHALL TREASURE. Roald Dahl. Illus. By Ralph Steadman. Knopf. \$23.00. In 1942 a British plowman, Gordon Butcher, unearthed one of the most remarkable early Roman treasures ever found in the British Isles. Not knowing what it was, he was cheated out of a fortune that should have been his. In 1947 Roald Dahl read a newspaper account of the find and immediately

contacted Mr. Butcher. This story, first published in 1977, is a result of that contact and is a lesson to be learned about innocence and greed. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations.**

MIRACLE'S BOYS. Jacqueline Woodson. G.P. Putnam's Sons. \$16.00. Twelve-year-old Lafayette's close relationship with his older brother Charlie changes after Charlie is released from a detention home and blames Lafayette for the death of their mother. **YOUNG ADULT.**

MISSING MITTEN MYSTERY. Steven Kellogg. Illus. by the author. Dial. \$16.00. A "re-imagined" edition of Kellogg's classic *The Mystery of the Missing Red Mitten*, this is bound to be a favorite once again. Annie loses her fifth mitten of the winter and she searches the entire neighborhood before finding it (with a little help from the rain).

MONK CAMPS OUT. Emily Arnold McCully. Illus. by the author. Scholastic. \$16.00. Monk goes on his first camp-out in the backyard. It's hard to say who is most fearful of the adventure: Monk, Mom or Dad Mouse? **Open Court: Being Afraid.**

MORT THE SPORT. Robert Kraus. Illus. by John Himmelman. Orchard. \$16.00. Mort is good at all sports which make his parents very proud. But, to please his mother, Mort takes violin lessons. Then the confusion begins when Mort uses the violin for a bat and tries to make music with the bat! Finally, it is just too much and Mort comes to a huge decision on his own. **Open Court: Games.**

MR. BEAR'S VACATION. Debi Gliori. Illus. by the author. Orchard/Grolier. \$16.00. When the Bear family's relaxing camping trip turns into a scary nightmare, they decide they need a vacation from their vacation! **Open Court: Being Afraid.**

MY AMERICA: A POETRY ATLAS OF THE UNITED STATES. Selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins. Illus. by Stephen Alcorn. Simon & Schuster. \$20.00. A collection of poems evocative of seven geographical regions of the United States: the Northeast, Southeast, Great Lakes, Plains, Mountain, Southwest, and Pacific Coast states. The illustrator worked directly on the paper without making sketches first. Said the artist, "This enabled me to surrender to the magic of each poem." A fine addition to the elementary library collection! **Open Court: E Pluribus Unum.**

MY DOG TOBY. Andrea Zimmerman and David Clemesha. Illus. by True Kelley. Silver Whistle/Harcourt. \$15.00. Toby is a wonderful dog in every way...except he doesn't know how to do any tricks. Patience and perseverance

win when Toby learns to SIT on command. California authors. **Open Court: Animals.**

MY SEASON WITH PENGUINS: AN ANTARCTIC JOURNAL. Sophie Webb. Illus. by the author. Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. The author spent two months in the Antarctic studying the Adelie penguin. This book is the result of her research and is presented in journal format illustrated with numerous water color paintings. Glossary. California author and illustrator. **Open Court: Ecology.**

NIGHT FLYING. Rita Murphy. Delacorte. \$15.00. It is an old family tradition in Georgia's family - when a girl reaches her 16th birthday she can fly after dark. As Georgia's birthday approaches she knows her passion is flying but wonders if the trade-off of following a predetermined life course and family rules is worth the freedom of flight. Winner of the 17th Annual Delacorte Press Prize for a First Young Adult Novel. **YOUNG ADULT.**

NIGHT WORKER. Kate Banks. Illus. by Georg Hallensleben. Frances Foster/Farrar Straus Giroux. \$16.00. Alex wants to be a "night worker" like his father who goes to work at a construction site after Alex goes to bed. One night Papa gives Alex a hard hat and takes him to work with him. The young reader will enjoy the vivid illustrations of heavy equipment working at night to construct a structure while the rest of the city sleeps.

NORMAN ROCKWELL: STORYTELLER WITH A BRUSH. Beverly Gherman. Atheneum/Simon & Schuster. \$20.00. This book describes the life and work of the popular American artist, Norman Rockwell. The biography is illustrated with photos and the artist's work. **Open Court: Fine Arts units.**

NORY RYAN'S SONG. Patricia Reilly Giff. Delacorte. \$16.00. The terrible Irish potato famine of 1845 is vividly recreated in this historical fiction novel. Twelve-year-old Nory Ryan's courage, love and loyalty to family shine throughout an incredibly bleak setting. Without her fortitude, her family would have perished. Based on incidents in the author's family history. **Open Court: Perseverance.**

OLIVIA. Ian Falconer. Illus. by the author. Simon & Schuster/Anne Schwartz. \$16.00. Who couldn't love Olivia! The reader follows the little pig through her day from brushing her teeth and combing her ears, to getting dressed, to going to the art museum, to creating her own art museum, bedtime stories and an affirmation that she is loved. The illustrations are droll and charming...Surely, there will be an Olivia doll on the market soon!

ORWELL'S LUCK. Richard Jennings. Houghton/Walter Lorraine. \$15.00. A 12-year-old girl rescues a wild rabbit, names him Orwell, and the mysterious happenings begin. It seems that Orwell is a horoscope writer, a source of good luck, and the catalyst for learning to see things in more than one way. Kindness and friendship are the themes in this charming fantasy chapter book.

OZ: THE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. Edited by Peter Glassman. Illustrated by various artists. HarperCollins. \$25.00. Thirty noted children's authors and illustrators pay tribute to *The Wizard of Oz* on the 100th anniversary of its initial publication. Includes: About the Authors and Illustrators.

PARABLES: STORIES JESUS TOLD. Mary Hoffman. Illus. by Jackie Morris. Penguin Putnam/Phyllis Fogelman. \$17.00. The author recounts eight of Jesus' lessons. Each is boldly illustrated in watercolors and interpreted by the author. Includes an index to finding the parables in the Bible.

PEDDLER'S GIFT. Maxine Rose Schur. Illus. by Kimberly Bulcken Root. Dial/Penguin Putnam. \$16.00. A young boy at the end of the 19th century in Russia learns that appearances are sometimes deceiving after stealing a dreidel from a traveling peddler. **Open Court: Appearances.**

PEG AND THE WHALE. Kenneth Oppel. Illus. by Terry Widener. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. Peg is 7-years-old - a big strong lass who loves to fish and has caught one of every fish in the sea. Peg wants big, she wants better, she wants best and so joins the crew of a whaling ship determined to catch herself a whale. A rollicking read-aloud with a surprise ending!

PHOTO ODYSSEY: SOLOMON CARVALHO'S REMARKABLE WESTERN ADVENTURE, 1853-54. Arlene B. Hirschfelder. Illus. with archival photos and prints. Clarion. \$18.00. Solomon Nunes Carvalho, a Jewish artist and photographer accompanied John Charles Fremont on his last expedition to the West. This book is an account of that expedition in 1853-54.

PIG AND CROW. Kay Chora. Illus. by the author. Holt. \$17.00. Pig loves to cook and crow loves to eat. Crow tricks Pig by trading him supposedly magic items for food, but in the process Pig discovers the value of hard work, patience, and friendship. **Open Court: Finding Friends.**

PIG IN THE SPIGOT. Poems by Richard Wilbur. Illus. by J. Otto Seibold. Harcourt. \$16.00. Rhyming text gives many examples of short words found within longer ones such as "pig" in "spigot" and "ant" in "pantry." A delightful pattern book for writing.

PLAYERS. Joyce Sweeney. Winslow. \$17.00. Eighteen-year-old Cory Brennan is the star of the high school basketball team. Trouble begins when a transfer student comes on the team expecting to start as center. Team members begin to

drop off the team, trust is lost and winning the championship may be out of reach. This novel is all about friendship, trust and ambition. **YOUNG ADULT.**

QUILTMAKER'S GIFT. Jeff Brumbeau. Illus. by Gail de Marcken. Pfeiffer-Hamilton. \$18.00. A generous quiltmaker finally agrees to make a quilt for the greedy king, but only on the condition that he give away all his possessions before receiving the quilt. At first the king resists but soon learns that wealth is not held in material objects but in the happiness that giving brings. Beautifully illustrated with quilting details. **Open Court: Storytelling.**

RADIO RESCUE. Lynne Barasch. Illus. by the author. Farrar Straus Giroux. \$16.00. In the 1920s, after learning Morse code and setting up his own amateur radio station, a 12-year-old boy sends a message that leads to the rescue of a family stranded by a hurricane in Florida. Based on experiences of the author's father. **Open Court: Technology.**

THE RAFT. Jim LaMarche. Illus by the author. HarperCollins. \$16.00. A city boy spends the summer in the country with his grandmother and discovers the pleasures of rafting and sketching the wildlife. **Open Court: Country Wildlife.**
RAIN. Manya Stojic. Illus by the author. Crown. \$18.00. Dramatic changes occur when rain comes to the parched African savanna. This picture book with dramatic and color-filled illustrations depicts the reactions of the animals to the rain. **Open Court: Animals.**

RAINBOW WINGS. Joanne Ryder. Illus. by Victor Lee. HarperCollins. \$16.00. A winged cat takes the reader on a flight of fancy by letting a variety of birds, insects, and mammals describe flight as they experience it. Includes factual explanation of how each is able to fly. California author.

THE REMARKABLE FARKLE MCBRIDE. John Lithgow. Illus. by C.F. Payne. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Musical prodigy Farkle McBride tries a number of instruments before discovering that conducting the orchestra is what makes him happiest. A nice read aloud and introduction to the instruments of an orchestra. **Open Court: Music and Musicians.**

RIBBITING TALES: ORIGINAL STORIES ABOUT FROGS. Edited by Nancy Springer. Illus. by Tony DiTerlizzi. Philomel/Penguin Putnam. \$17.00. Eight noted children's authors present short stories all featuring frogs. The black and white pen illustrations are reminiscent of Robert McClosky's endearing characters.

RIVER BOY. Tim Bowler. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry. \$16.00. Knowing that he is dying, Jess's grandfather insists on returning to the river he had known as a boy and to finish a special painting and fulfill a lifelong dream. Winner of the 1998 Carnegie Medal. **YOUNG ADULT.**

ROADRUNNER'S DANCE. Rudolfo Anaya. Pictures by David Diaz. Hyperion. \$16.00. Because Rattlesnake has taken over the road and will not let any of the people or animals in the village use it, Desert Woman enlists the aid of the other animals to create a strange new creature with the necessary tools to put Rattlesnake in his place. The illustrations, in colors and tones of the American Southwest, glow and evoke the fantasy of this creation story. **Open Court: Storytelling.**

ROBERTO: THE INSECT ARCHITECT. Nina Laden. Illus. by the author. Chronicle. \$16.00. Roberto is a termite who wants to design structures rather than reduce them to rubble.

SALT IN HIS SHOES: MICHAEL JORDAN IN PURSUIT OF A DREAM. Written by Deloris Jordan with Roslyn M. Jordan. Illus. By Kadir Nelson. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. Young Michael Jordan, who is smaller than the other players, learns that determination and hard work are more important than size when playing the game of basketball. **Open Court: Perseverance.**

THE SATURDAY KID. Edward Sorel in collaboration with Cheryl Carlesimo. Illus. by Edward Sorel. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry. \$18.00. The setting is New York City in the 1930s. Leo wonders why Morty always causes him trouble, but after spending a Saturday with his violin teacher and then seeing himself in a newsreel at the movies, Leo decides he doesn't have to worry about Morty anymore.

THE SEALS ON THE BUS. Lenny Hort. Illus. by G. Brian Karas. Holt. \$16.00. Based on a favorite nursery song *The Wheels on the Bus*, different animals make their own sounds as they ride all around town on a bus. Kindergarteners and first graders will joyfully help read and sing this amusing story! **Open Court: Animals.**

THE SECOND ESCAPE OF ARTHUR COOPER. Cynthia M. Stowe. Marshall Cavendish. \$15.00. Based on a historical event, an African American family is nearly captured by slave catchers on Nantucket Island but rescued by the Quaker community. The story is told by 10-year-old Phebe Folger. **Open Court: Surviving.**

SECRET LIFE OF FISHES: FROM ANGELS TO ZEBRAS ON THE CORAL REEF. Helen Buttfeld. Illus. by the author. Abrams. \$20.00. An alphabet book for older readers who want to learn many details about the fish that inhabit the Coral Reef. Watercolors reveal the rich details of the more than 250 varieties of fishes shown. Includes a location map, as well as the names, size and locations of the fish.

SHADOW-CATCHER. Betty Levin. Greenwillow/HarperCollins. \$16.00. The year is 1892, and although he often fancied himself a detective, Jonathan must

become a real sleuth when he attempts to solve a mystery while accompanying his somewhat distant grandfather on a photography gathering trip.

SHAKESPEARE'S SCRIBE. Gary Blackwood. Dutton. \$16.00. The setting is 1602 England. The bubonic plague is raging and the Globe Theatre has been shut down and the acting company sent out on a road trip across the country. Widge, a 15-year-old orphan-turned-actor, shares the adventures and excitement and along the way learns more about his parents. Sequel to *The Shakespeare Stealer*.

SILENT TO THE BONE. E.L. Konigsburg. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum. \$16.00. When he is accused of gravely injuring his baby half sister, 13-year-old Bramwell loses his ability to speak. Only his friend Conner is able to communicate with him as Conner searches to uncover the truth about what really happened. **YOUNG ADULT.**

SIR WALTER RALEGH AND THE QUEST FOR EL DORADO. Marc Aronson. Illus. with photos and prints. Clarion. \$20.00. This well-researched biography tells of one of the world's greatest explorers of the 16th and 17th centuries. He was a man of contradictions; for example, while he helped to massacre Catholics in Ireland, he supported religious tolerance. While he had many dark traits, there were strengths to be admired and this book tells of the total man. Note: Although the popular spelling of his name is *Raleigh*, it is a fact that he used *Ralegh* in his lifetime. Includes Endnotes and Bibliography, Timeline, Index.

SITTING BULL AND HIS WORLD. Albert Marrin. Illus. with archival photos and prints. Dutton. \$28.00. This book tells the story of Tatan'ka Iyota'ke, or Sitting Bull, who was the most revered leader of the Plains Indians and is best known for leading the Indians who defeated General Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. However, this book is not only about Sitting Bull but also describes the differences between the white and Indian cultures during the 19th century and how treaties and promises were broken. Includes Notes, Some More Books to Read, Index.

SLEDS ON BOSTON COMMON: A STORY FROM THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. Louise Borden. Illus. by Robert Andrew Parker. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry. \$17.00. Henry Price, a young lad living in Boston in 1774, complains to the royal governor, General Gage, that the British troops have taken over the sledding paths on Boston Common and asks that the children of Boston be allowed to have access to them. Gage, a father himself, orders his soldiers to vacate the sledding trails. **Open Court: Colonial Life.**

SNOW PUMPKIN. Carole Lexa Schaefer. Illus. By Pierre Morgan. Crown. \$15.00. When there is an early snow in October, children make a snow pumpkin man using a pumpkin from the garden for its head. After the snow melts, the pumpkin becomes a jack-o-lantern for Halloween.

SO YOU WANT TO BE PRESIDENT? Judith St. George. Illus. by David Small. Philomel/Penguin Putnam. \$18.00. Lavishly illustrated with caricatures of presidents from George Washington to Bill Clinton, this book talks about the physical and mental characteristics, the qualifications and the foibles of these American leaders. **Open Court: Our Country, E Pluribus Unum.**

SOME THINGS ARE SCARY. Florence Parry Heide. Illus. by Jules Feiffer. Candlewick. \$16.00. This author and illustrator have produced a delightful collaboration when listing things that make kids scared and bringing those thoughts to life with simple but expressive illustrations. **Open Court: Being Afraid.**

SOPHIE SKATES. Rachel Isadora. Illus. by the author. G.P. Putnam's Sons. \$16.00. The reader is introduced to ice skating through the storyline of a young girl who works hard to become a figure skater. It is through the watercolor illustrations and succinct text that we follow Sophie's day on the ice. **Open Court: Keep Trying.**

SPACE RACE. Sylvia Waugh. Delacorte. \$16.00. Patrick and his father are separated as they return to their space ship for their journey back to their home planet. Suspense fills this chapter book for grades 4+.

STAGECOACH: THE RIDE OF A CENTURY. A. Richard Mansir. Illus. by the author. Charlesbridge. \$16.00. This book traces the history of the stagecoach in America from the days of the Revolution to 1910. Timeline. Index.

STARGIRL. Jerry Spinelli. Knopf. \$16.00. This is a story about the perils and fleetingness of popularity, the courage of nonconformity and kindness, and the thrill of first love. After Stargirl arrives at Mica High School life for the students is never the same again.

STICK AND WHITTLE. Sid Hite. Scholastic. \$17.00. When a Civil War veteran meets up with a wandering orphan on the north Texas prairie, they begin a friendship that changes their lives. This book contains humor, adventure, elements of a tall tale, and a little romance.

THE STORY OF THE OLYMPICS (revised & expanded edition). Dave Anderson. Illus. with photos. HarperCollins. \$16.00. This book traces the history of the Olympics from its beginning in 776 B.C. to the present and relates stories of particular events such as track and field, gymnastics, and speed skating. Forward by Carl Lewis. Index.

STOWAWAY. Karen Hesse. Drawings by Robert Andrew Parker. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry. \$18.00. In this fictionalized journal, 11-year-old

stowaway Nicholas Young relates his adventures on board Captain Cook's ship *Endeavour* between 1768 and 1771. **Open Court: Journeys and Quests.**

STRONG TO THE HOOP. John Coy. Illus. by Leslie Jean-Bart. Lee & Low. \$17.00. Collages and a lively text illustrate how James, a 10-year-old inner-city boy, proves himself on the basketball court.

SUMMERTIME: FROM PORGY AND BESS. Goerge Gershwin, DuBose and Dorothy Heyward and Ira Gershwin. Paintings by Mike Wimmer. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. The words of the song *Summertime* from the opera *Porgy and Bess* are illustrated with glorious paintings depicting an African American family's summer day. The musical score for the song is included. **Open Court: Music and Musicians.**

THE SUN IS MY FAVORITE STAR. Frank Asch. Illus. by the author. Harcourt. \$15.00. Of all the stars in the galaxy there is only one that can awaken us in the morning - the sun. The pages of this bright book celebrate a small child's appreciation of the sun.

SUNWING. Kenneth Oppel. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. In this sequel to *Silverwing*, Shade, a young bat, searches for his father and struggles to prevent the evil jungle bat Goth from wiping out the sun. A fantasy for those Harry Potter fans waiting for Book Five!

THIS NEXT NEW YEAR. Janet S. Wong. Pictures by Yangsook Choi. Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux. \$16.00. A young child prepares to celebrate the Lunar New Year and looks forward to having all the good luck it might bring. The boy notes that his friends of other cultures enjoy celebrating the Chinese New Year. Author's Note.

THROUGH THE BURNING STEPPE: A WARTIME MEMOIR. Elena Kozhina. Translated by Vadim Mahmoudov. Riverhead/Penguin Putnam. \$22.00. This is one woman's story of how, as an 8-year-old child in Leningrad. She survived the German invasion in 1941, and was evacuated with members of her family to the heart of the Russian steppe. **YOUNG ADULT.**

TO BE A KID. Maya Ajmera and John D. Ivanko. Illus. with photos. Charlesbridge. \$16.00. Through colorful photos the reader is taken on a world tour to see what kids do for fun. **Open Court: Games.**

TORN THREAD. Anne Isaacs. Scholastic. \$16.00. In June 1943, 12-year-old Eva and her older sister are sent from a Jewish ghetto in Poland to a labor camp in Czechoslovakia where they manage to survive by spinning threads to make blankets and uniforms for Nazi soldiers. **YOUNG ADULT.**

THE TRUTH ABOUT GREAT WHITE SHARKS. Mary M. Cerullo. Photos by Jeffrey L. Rotman. Illus by Michael Wertz. Chronicle. \$15.00. From the cover

that is embellished with simulated shark skin, through the pages of text and photos, the reader is immersed in the habits and habitat of the Great White Shark. Includes Glossary, Bibliography, Index.

THE UGLY VEGETABLES. Grace Lin. Illus. by the author. Talewinds/Charlesbridge. \$16.00. A little girl discovers that although flowers may look and smell pretty, ugly vegetables from her mother garden makes great Chinese vegetable soup. Includes recipe. **Open Court: Machines in Our Garden.**

UNCOMMON TRAVELER: MARY KINGSLEY IN AFRICA. Don Brown. Illus. by the author. Houghton Mifflin. \$16.00. Mary Kinglsey was a self-educated English woman who traveled through West Africa in 1893 and 1894, learning much about the ecology, culture and inhabitants. This picture book biography, illustrated with watercolors, is a testimony to a courageous and undaunted Victorian woman who became a role model for others. **Open Court: Journeys and Quests.**

UPSIDE DOWN BOY; EL NINO DE CABEZA. Juan Felipe Herrera. Illus. by Elizabeth Gomez. Children's Book Press. \$16.00. In this bilingual book, Herrera tells of the year his migrant family settled down so that he could attend school for the first time. California author. California illustrator. **Open Court: Learning.**

WE THE PEOPLE. Poems by Bobbi Katz. Illus. by Nina Crews. Greenwillow/HarperCollins. \$16.00. A collection of sixty-five original poems that chronicle people and events throughout the history of the United States. A photo-collage depicting each century introduces poetry describing events and people of that century. Note From the Author. **Open Court: Use as a resource for numerous units.**

WEMBERLY WORRIED. Kevin Henkles. Illus. by the author. Greenwillow/HarperCollins. \$16.00. A mouse named Wemberly, who worries about everything, finds that she has a whole list of things to worry about when she faces the first day of nursery school. **Open Court: Schools. Being Afraid. Finding Friends.**

WHAT IS A WISE BIRD LIKE YOU DOING IN A SILLY TALE LIKE THIS? Uri Shulevitz. Illus. by the author. Farrar Straus Giroux. \$16.00. A nonsense tale, or maybe set of tales about the Emperor of Pickleberry, the janitor of Pickleberry, and Lou, the talking bird of Pickleberry. **Open Court: Storytelling.**

WHEN KAMBIA ELAINE FLEW IN FROM NEPTUNE. Lori Aurelia Williams. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. Shayla DuBubois wants to be a writer and to live in a nice, peaceful home. Her neighborhood is in the Bottom section of Houston and

anything but peaceful. Then Shayla meets Kambia Elaine, a girl with wild stories and when Shayla notices bruises and blood on Kambia Elaine's legs she knows that she needs help -but Kambia doesn't want anyone to know about her legs and Shayla must decide whether to find help or to respect Kambia Elaine's wishes. **YOUNG ADULT.**

WHEN MACK CAME BACK. Brad Strickland. Dial/Penguin. \$15.99. This story takes place in Georgia in 1943 and ten-year-old Maury discovers a sick and starving dog he's sure it is the puppy that his older brother Ben gave away to a friend before going to war. Despite his father's attitude that they don't need another mouth to feed, Maury trades his Christmas gift--a used blue bicycle--to a friend in exchange for money to take Mack to the vet.

WHEN NIGHT TIME COMES NEAR. Judy Pedersen. Illus. by the author. Viking \$16.00. A young child describes what happens in the neighborhood as daytime ends and night begins.

WHO WERE THEY REALLY? THE TRUE STORIES BEHIND FAMOUS CHARACTERS. Susan Beth Pfeffer. Illus. with archival photos. Millbrook. \$23.00. How twelve beloved book characters came to be is the thrust of this book. Includes Alice in Wonderland, Winnie the Pooh, Beatrix Potter, Betsy-Tacy and others.

WHY NOT LAFAYETTE? Jean Fritz. Illus. by Ronald Himler. G.P Putnam's Sons. \$17.00. This is the biography of the French nobleman who fought for democracy in both the United States and France. Includes Notes, Bibliography, Index.

THE WIGWAM AND THE LONGHOUSE. Charlotte Yue and David Yue. Illus. by the authors. Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. This book describes the history, customs, religion, government, homes, and present-day status of the native peoples who inhabited the eastern woodlands even before the coming of the Europeans.

WINGS. Christopher Myers. Illus. by the author. Scholastic. \$17.00. In brief text and stunning collages, the reader meets Ikarus Jackson, a boy who can fly through the air. Ikarus is mocked and teased, but one friend defends him and cheers him for his differences and individuality. **Open Court: Appearances.**

WIZZIL. William Steig. Illus. by Quentin Blake. Farrar Straus Giroux. \$16.00. Wizzil the witch is bored to the max and decides to go out and make someone

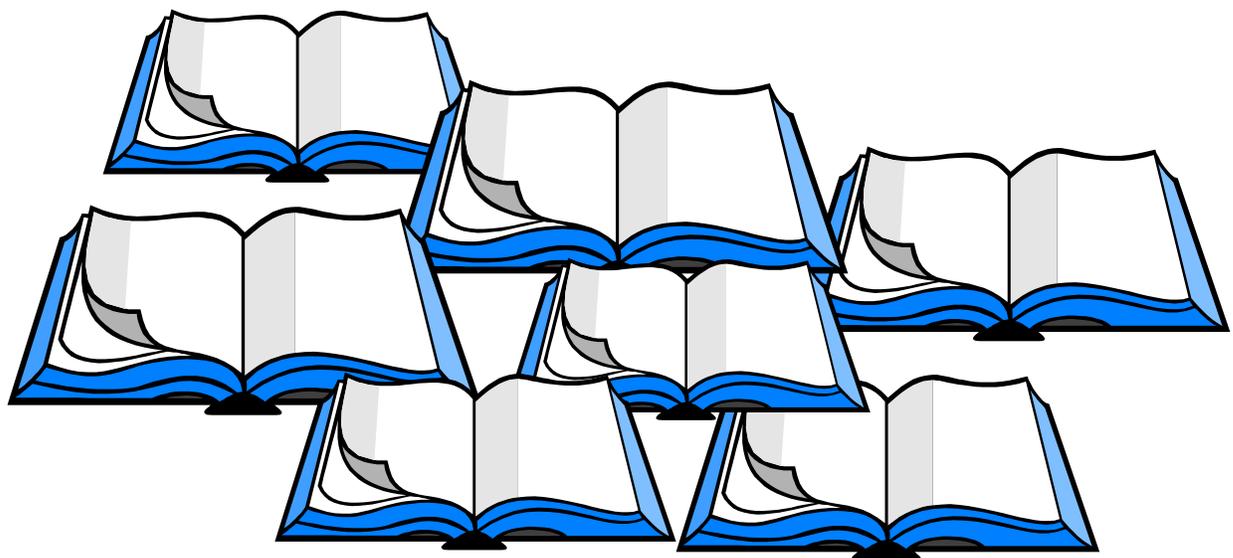
suffer - namely DeWitt Frimp at Frimp Farm. Wizzil torments Dewitt as a fly, then as a glove...but then a spill in the river changes both their lives forever.

YARD SALE! Mitra Modarressi. Illus. by the author. DK Ink . \$16.00. Mr. Fotsam has the first yard sale in the quiet town of Spudville and every purchase produces a surprise. At first the townspeople are angry but soon learn to value the adventures and friendships the yard sale has created. **Open Court: Friendship.**

A YEAR DOWN YONDER. Richard Peck. Dial. \$16.99. In this sequel to *A Long Way From Chicago*, 15-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty grandmother in a small town during the Great Depression. As in the earlier book, Grandma Dowdel is never short of adventures and Mary Alice learns not only a great deal about human nature but also that there is wisdom to be gathered from this larger-than-life woman. Richard Peck writes with great insight and humor.

YEAR OF MISS AGNES. Kirkpatrick Hill. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry. \$16.00. Ten-year-old Fred (short for Frederika) narrates the story of school and village life among the Athabascans in Alaska during 1948 when Miss Agnes arrived as the new teacher. A wonderful read aloud. **Open Court: Learning.**

YEAR OF THE GRIFFIN. Diana Wynne Jones. HarperCollins. \$16.00. In this sequel to *Dark Lord of Derkholm*, Elda, the griffin daughter of the great Wizard Derk arrives for schooling at the Wizards' University. She encounters new friends, pirates, assassins, sabotage, bloodshed, and magic misused.





Sacramento City Unified School District
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