

Notable Books of 2004

Actual Size. Steve Jenkins. Houghton. \$16.00. Grades PreK-3

An oversize book that presents Jenkins' signature collage illustrations of animals appearing at actual size. Small animals fit nicely on the pages, and larger animals are cleverly pictured with just a hand or a jowl. Illustrations are accompanied by short informational text. **Open Court: Animals**

Airborn. Kenneth Oppel. HarperCollins. \$18.00. Grades 6-8

Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.

Al Capone Does My Shirts. Gennifer Choldenko. Putnam. \$16.00. Grades 5-8

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister. **Open Court: A Question of Value**

Alphabet Room. Sara Pinto. Bloomsbury. \$17.00. Pre S - K

Each double spread in this alphabet book shows a letter and corresponding object. Lifiable flaps hide pictures that show a room that fills up with the featured objects thus creating a cumulative tale. Bright illustrations. **Open Court: Let's Read**

America the Beautiful. Katharine Lee Bates. Illus. by Chris Gall. Little, Brown. \$17.00. Grades K-5

Presents the 1893 poem written by Katharine Lee Bates in celebration of the beauty of America. The illustrations depicting American scenes and the diverse contributions of all Americans are hand engraved on clay-coated board and digitized with computer graphics. The resulting images resemble woodcuts. Includes the musical notation for the song inspired by the poem. **Open Court: Red, White, and Blue**

American Revolution Battles and Leaders. Ed. by Aaron R. Murray. DK. \$17.00. Grades 5-8

Offers a brief overview of the American Revolution, highlighting key people, places, and events, with more than two hundred paintings, portraits, artifacts, and maps. This heavily illustrated volume works well for quick facts and summaries of important battles. **Open Court: Making a New Nation**

Ancient Romans, The. Allison Lassieur. Franklin Watts. Grades 6-8

Surveys the history and culture of ancient Rome and examines Roman government and the power of the senate, the rise of the monarchy, scholars and Roman soldiers, the role of women, religion, and slavery. This is an attractive, thorough, and comprehensible book, illustrated with full-color photos and reproductions. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations**

Anybodies. N.E. Bode. Illus. by Peter Ferguson. HarperCollins. \$16.00 Grades 5-8

After learning that she is not the biological daughter of boring Mr. and Mrs. Drudger, Fern embarks on magical adventures with her real father and finally finds "a place that feels like home." Includes inside jokes for children who are fans of children's literature, for example, the appearance of a tree bearing a giant peach.

Apples to Oregon: Being the (Slightly) True Narrative of How a Brave Pioneer Father Brought Apples, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Grapes and Cherries (and Children) across the Plains. Deborah Hopkinson. Illus. by Nancy Carpenter. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00.

Grades K-4

A pioneer father transports his beloved fruit trees and his family to Oregon in the mid-nineteenth century. Based loosely on the life of Henderson Luelling, a pioneer who transported plants and fruit trees to Oregon in 1847. Illustrated with oil paintings.

Open Court: Our Country and Its People, Going West

April Foolishness. Teresa Bateman. Illus. by Nadine Bernard Westcott. Albert Whitman. \$16.00. Grades K-3

Grandma, Grandpa, and the grandkids enjoy April Fools' Day on the farm. The grandkids race in and out of the kitchen reporting a series of catastrophes, but Grandpa just keeps cooking breakfast, sure that these events are just April foolery. Children may notice the story parallels the children's tales and Grandpa's actions, for example, when the kids report the pigs are loose, he reaches for the bacon, when the hens are loose, he reaches for the eggs. A humorous gotcha ending. Illustrated with bright watercolor and ink artwork.

Open Court: Country Life

Are We Alone? Scientists Search for Life in Space. Gloria Skurzynski. National Geographic. \$19.00. Grades 5-7

Presents a study of space and the possibility of extraterrestrial civilizations and discusses UFO sightings throughout the twentieth century, crop circles, and other paranormal occurrences. Well-placed color photographs and illustrations are important tools in helping readers to understand the science presented. **Open Court: Astronomy**

Atomic Ace: (He's Just My Dad). Jeff Weigel. Albert Whitman. \$16.00. Grades 1-4

In this rhyming story told in comic book format, a boy considers his family normal, though his superhero dad, Atomic Ace, does amazing feats, even battling the evil Insect King. The comic-strip panels alternate between super heroics and regular-guy domesticity in this humorous look at a hero balancing work and home.

Open Court: Courage

B for Buster. Iain Lawrence. Delacorte. \$16.00. Grades 7+

Sixteen-year-old Kak, desperate to escape his abusive parents, lies about his age in the spring of 1943 to enlist in the Canadian Air Force and soon finds himself based in England as part of a crew flying bombing raids over Germany. This is a coming-of-age novel and a fascinating bit of aviation history.

Baby Babka, the Gorgeous Genius. Jane Breskin Zalben. Illus. by Victoria Chess. Clarion. \$15.00. Grades K-3

Unhappy when her baby sister turns out to be a brother, Beryl schemes with her brother Sam to make the newborn disappear, but Uncle Morty helps by telling stories of the love his big sisters had for him, even when he squirted one with pickle juice and ruined another's doll. The soft, rounded illustrations bring the characters to life.

Open Court: Kindness

Baby Brains: The Smartest Baby in the Whole World. Simon James. Candlewick. \$16.00. Grades PreK-2

Mr. and Mrs. Brains wanted to be sure their baby was going to be very intelligent, reading, playing music and the news for the unborn baby. He is indeed intelligent, and by the time he is just a few months old, is an astronaut. However, when Baby Brains finds himself alone in space, he wants his mommy, and normalcy is restored in the form of a warm bath, a tickle, and a nap in his own crib. Watercolor and ink illustrations.

Open Court: Stick to It

Basho and the River Stones. Tim Myers. Illus. by Oki S. Han. Marshall Cavendish. \$17.00. Grades 1-4

Tricked by a fox into giving up his share of cherries, a famous Japanese poet is inspired to write a haiku and the fox, ashamed of his actions, must devise another trick to set things right. The lush illustrations are composed of pastoral scenes highlighted with kimono-silk patterns. **Open Court: Kindness**

Basilisk. N.M. Browne. Bloomsbury. \$18.00. Grades 7-12

Two teens who discover they are sharing the same dream of dragons fight to stop the evil dictator from bringing their dreams to life in the form of a terrible basilisk with the power to literally scare people to death.

Bee-Man of Orn. Frank Stockton. Illus. by P.J. Lynch. Candlewick. \$18.00. Grades 1-5

The Bee-Man of Orn first appeared as a short story in St. Nicholas magazine in November 1883. The Bee-man, informed by a Junior Sorcerer that he was once something or someone entirely different, sets out to discover his original form so that he can be changed back. Includes a DVD that shows P.J. Lynch at work in his studio. Lush paintings in watercolor-and-gouache. **Open Court: Storytelling, Fine Arts**

Behind You. Jacqueline Woodson. Putnam. \$16.00. Grades 8-12

After fifteen-year-old Jeremiah is mistakenly shot by police, the people who love him struggle to cope with their loss as they recall his life and death, unaware that he is watching over them.

Best Cat in the World. Lesléa Newman. Illus. by Ronald Himler. Eerdmans. \$14.00. Grades K-3

A young boy deals with the loss of his beloved cat Charlie, that he called the best cat in the world. When he accepts the arrival of a new kitten, he learns to appreciate the differences and begins to realize that there can be more than one best cat in the world. The watercolor and pencil illustrations create a just right quietness for this tender story.

Open Court: Finding Friends

Best Pet of All. David LaRochelle. Illus. by Hanako Wakiyama. Dutton. \$16.00. Grades K-3

A young boy enlists the help of a dragon to persuade his mother to let him have a dog as a pet. Kids will cheer the solution in which he finally gets the dog he has longed for. Retro-style illustrations add a bit of sly humor to this tale. **Open Court: Animals**

Big House. Carolyn Coman. Illus. by Rob Shepperson. Front Street. \$15.00. Grades 4-6

When Ivy and Ray's parents are sent to jail, and left in the custody of their parent's accusers, they decide to look for evidence that will "spring" their parents. Illustrated with a whimsical-style black-and-white art. **Open Court: Risks and Consequences**

Biggest Soap. Carole Lexa Schaefer. Illus. by Stacey Dressen-McQueen. Farrar. \$16.00. Grades K-3

When Kessy, who lives in the Truk Islands of Micronesia, is sent by his mother to buy laundry soap, he hurries back to listen to her storytelling, discovering that his own experience makes a good story too. The artwork features lush tropical colors and islanders wearing brightly patterned clothes. **Open Court: Sharing Stories**

Bittle. Patricia MacLachlan & Emily MacLachlan. Illus. by Dan Yaccarino. HarperCollins. \$17.00. Grades PreK-2

Nigel, the marmalade cat and Julia, the rotund beagle, think they will have no use for the new baby in their house, but after awhile they realize that they have come to love her. Readers see that she loves them too as the book concludes with her first words: "Woof" and "Meow." Illustrated with bold and bright gouache paintings. **Open Court: Kindness**

Blood Gold. Michael Cadnum. Viking. \$17.00. Grades 7-12

After an arduous journey, Will Dwinelle and his friend Ben finally reach California in 1849 intending to bring home the man who betrayed the honor of a girl back home in Philadelphia, but find themselves tempted by the riches of the Gold Rush.

Blow Out the Moon. Libby Koponen. Little, Brown. \$17.00. Grades 3-6

A fictionalized account of the author's childhood experiences moving from the United States to London, England, and attending a boarding school. The diary-like text is lively with anecdotes, creating a nostalgic memoir.

Blue Bowl Down: An Appalachian Rhyme. C.M. Millen. Illus. by Holly Meade.

Candlewick. \$17.00. Grades PreK-2

Rhyming text reveals the process of preparing bread dough in the evening while the stove is still warm so that it will rise overnight, ready to bake into loaves before the family awakens the next morning. The lullaby-like text sings with repeated phrases and words, making it an excellent read-aloud choice. Illustrated with watercolor and collage artwork.

Open Court: Let's Read, Our Country and Its People

Bones Rock!: Everything You Need to Know to Be a Paleontologist. Peter Larson & Kristin Donnan. Invisible Cities. \$12.00. Grades 5-9

A comprehensive guide to paleontology for young readers, which explains how to dig for fossils, clean them, keep records, and develop and test theories and describes projects from the authors' experience, including the excavation of the Tyrannosaurus rex known as Sue. Illustrated with high-quality color photographs, diagrams, and drawings.

Open Court: Ancient Civilizations (Anthropological research)

Book of Dead Days. Marcus Sedgwick. Random House. \$16.00. Grades 6-9

A magician named Valerian has only the last five days of a late-medieval year between Christmas and New Year to save his own life after making a pact with the devil years before. He seeks the help of a servant boy and an orphan girl named Willow.

Bound. Donna Jo Napoli. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. Grades 5-9

In a novel based on Chinese Cinderella tales, fourteen-year-old stepchild Xing-Xing endures a life of neglect and servitude, as her stepmother cruelly mutilates her own child's feet so that she alone might marry well. The story takes place in the Ming Dynasty and is enriched with well-rounded characters and with accurate information about a specific time and place in Chinese history.

Open Court: Ancient Civilizations

Bremen Town Musicians and Other Animal Tales from Grimm. Doris Orgel. Illus. Brian Kitchen. Roaring Book. \$16.00. Grades K-3.

Presents illustrated retellings of six animal stories by the Grimm brothers, including the title work in which four aging animals, no longer of any use to their masters, find a new home after outwitting a gang of robbers.

Open Court: Storytelling

Bucking the Sarge. Christopher Paul Curtis. Random House. \$18.00. Grades 8-12

Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.

Cactus Soup. Eric Kimmel. Illus. by Phil Huling. Marshall Cavendish. \$17.00. Grades K-4

Text mostly in English with some Spanish. During the Mexican Revolution, when a troop of hungry soldiers comes to a town where all the food has been hidden, they charm the townspeople into helping make a soup from water and a cactus thorn. This Stone Soup story is set in the Mexico of the Zapatistas and highlighted with bright watercolor illustrations.

Open Court: Teamwork, Sharing Stories

Camel's Lament. Charles Edward Carryl. Illus. by Charles Santore. Random House. \$17.00. Grades K-4

The camel compares his life with that of other animals of the world in this poetic offering from a contemporary of Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear. The rich and detailed illustrations bring the text of the poem to life. **Open Court: Animals, Poetry**

Cats in Krasinski Square. Karen Hesse. Illus. Wendy Watson. Scholastic. \$17.00. Grades 2-4

Two Jewish sisters, escapees of the infamous Warsaw ghetto, devise a plan to thwart an attempt by the Gestapo to intercept food bound for starving people behind the dark Wall. The story, told in free verse poetry, describes how the abandoned cats were used to distract the Gestapo's dogs. **Open Court: Kindness, Courage.**

Cave Paintings to Picasso: The Inside Scoop on 50 Art Masterpieces Henry Sayre. Chronicle. \$23.00. Grades 3+

Introduces fifty celebrated works of art, including King Tut's sarcophagus and Andy Warhol's paintings of Campbell's soup cans. Each spread features a sharply reproduced image of an individual artwork, a time line placing the work in history, and a story about the artist, the medium, or the piece's origins. **Open Court: Fine Art**

César: Sí, se puede! / Yes, We Can! Carmen Bernier-Grand. Illus. by David Diaz. Marshall Cavendish. \$15.00. Grades 3-6

Tells the life story of Cesar Chavez, whose efforts as a labor leader in the mid-twentieth century brought better working conditions to migrant farmworkers in the U.S. This is a powerful biography told through poems, many of which are in Spanish. Illustrated with stylized, computer-drawn, folk-art illustrations by David Diaz. **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

Chanda's Secrets. Allan Stratton. Firefly/Annick. \$20.00. Grade 8 up.

Chandra Kabelo, a sixteen-year-old in a small South African town, faces down shame and stigma in her efforts to help friends and family members who are dying of AIDS.

Chasing Vermeer. Blue Balliett. Illus. by Brett Helquist. Scholastic. \$17.00. Grades 4-8

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal. This is a debut novel which mixes mystery, puzzles, possibilities, and art. **Open Court: Fine Art**

Children's Night Sky Atlas. Robin Scagell. DK. \$19.00. Grades 3-6

Contains a variety of maps used to identify stars, constellations, nebulas, and planets in the night sky, includes see-through maps and general information on star gazing. Spiral bound. **Open Court: Astronomy**

Christopher Mouse: The Tale of a Small Traveler. William Wise. Illus. by Patrick Benson. Bloomsbury. \$16.00. Grades 3-5

After being sold to an unscrupulous pet store owner, a young mouse lives with several owners and has many adventures that are full of daring, lessons, and hope. Finally, he ends up with an appreciative family. A good read aloud choice as well as a good choice for children moving past beginning readers. The ink illustrations and the enticing cover will help them along. **Open Court: Storytelling**

Circle Unbroken. Margot Theis Raven. Illus. by E.B. Lewis. Farrar. \$16.00. Grades K-5

A grandmother tells a young girl the tale of beautiful Gullah sweetgrass baskets, a craft that was brought from West Africa to South Carolina and Georgia. The rich watercolor illustrations depict the setting in the Sea Islands off the coast of Georgia, and show how these baskets keep their African heritage alive. Includes a bibliography and notes on how sweetgrass baskets are made. **Open Court: Heritage**

- Civil War Battles and Leaders.** Ed. By Aaron R. Murry. DK. \$13.00. Grades 5-8
Offers a battle-by-battle overview of the Civil War and profiles key military and civilian leaders from the era. This is a slim volume, illustrated with well placed color spot art, thumbnail-sized portraits, small maps showing troop movements, vintage photos, and helpful pull-quotes.
- Clare and Francis.** Guido Visconte. Illus. by Bimba Landmann. Eerdmans. \$20.00.
Grades 3-6
Reviews the lives and works of two members of Assisi society, Francis and Clare, who renounced their wealth and founded religious orders dedicated to relying on God and living in peace, poverty, and humility. The illustrations incorporate a Byzantine style, and are accented in gold gilt.
- Cluck O'Clock.** Kes Gray. Illus. by Mary McQuillan. Holiday House. \$17.00. Grades K-3
A group of chickens has a full day on the farm, from eating breakfast early in the morning to avoiding a fox late at night. Narrated in rhyme, the story features artwork that incorporates egg clocks and makes for a delightful lesson on telling time. **Open Court: Let's Read, Animals**
- Coming on Home Soon.** Jacqueline Woodson. Illus. by E. B. Lewis. Putnam. \$17.00.
Grades K-4
After Mama takes a job in Chicago during World War II, Ada Ruth stays with Grandma but misses her mother who loves her more than rain and snow. The story ends on a positive note as the long-awaited letter from Mama promising she'll be home. Illustrated with warm watercolor paintings that are a perfect backdrop for the story. (Caldecott Honor 2005) **Open Court: Courage, Country Life**
- Cooper's Lesson.** Sun Yung Shin. Illus. by Kim Cogan. Children's Book Press. \$17.00.
Grades K-4
Cooper, confused about his half-American, half-Korean heritage, gains insights from Mr. Lee, the owner of the neighborhood grocery store, whose insistence on speaking Korean to Cooper takes the young boy from anger to understanding. Illustrated with full-page oil paintings. Text in English and Korean. **Open Court: Our Country and Its People**
- Count on Us: American Women in the Military.** Amy Nathan. \$18.00. National Geographic.
Grades 9-12
A well-designed and comprehensive book tells of the contributions American women involved in the armed forces from the Revolutionary War to the present, including the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Illustrations and mini biographies of women in each time period provide a solid historical overview. Quotations, insets, and many period photographs bring the narrative to life.
- A Coyote's In The House.** Elmore Leonard. Harper Collins. \$14.00. Grades 4-8
Antwan, a coyote, befriends Buddy, an aging movie-star pooch, poses as a dog to move in with a human family, and finds himself giving his new pal advice when Buddy decides to eschew humans and take a walk on the wild side. This canine version of The Prince and the Pauper features quirky characters, a strong plot, and retro red and black illustrations that break up the text. **Open Court: Storytelling**
- A Crack in the Line.** Michael Lawrence. Greenwillow. \$16.00. Grades 8-12
Sixteen-year-old Alaric discovers how to travel to an alternate reality, where his mother is alive and his place in the family is held by a girl named Naia.
- Creature Carnival.** Marilyn Singer. Illus. by Gris Grimly. \$14.00. Hyperion. Grades 2-4
Presents a collection of poems about the fabled beasts that are part of the Creature Carnival, including the Sphinx, Cerberus, Nessie, the Frog Prince, and others. The

- rhymed couplets bounce along and are accompanied by ink-and-watercolor illustrations that create a ghoulish menagerie of characters. **Open Court: Let's Read**
- Crow-Girl: The Children of Crow Cove, The.** Bodil Bredsdorff. Farrar. \$17.00. Grades 4-6
After the death of her grandmother, a young orphaned girl leaves her house by the cove and begins a journey which leads her to people and experiences that exemplify the wisdom her grandmother had shared with her. Translated from the Danish, this novel has features clean, spare prose. **Open Court: Journeys and Quests**
- Cup of the World.** John Dickinson. Random House. \$16.00. Grades 9-12
Phaedra, the willful daughter of a baron, sets off an unforeseeable chain of events and a battle between good and evil when she announces her intention to marry for love. The story features a well described setting and well-developed characters.
- Curse of the Blue Tattoo: Being an Account of the Misadventures of Jacky Faber, Midshipman and Fine Lady.** L. A. Meyer. Harcourt. \$17.00. Grades 8-12
In 1803, after being exposed as a girl and forced to leave her ship, Jacky Faber finds herself attending school in Boston, where, instead of learning to be a lady, she battles her snobbish classmates, roams the city in search of adventure, and learns to ride a horse. A sequel to *Bloody Jack* (2002).
- Dante's Daughter.** Kimberley Heuston. Front Street. \$17.00. Grades 7-12
In fourteenth-century Italy, Antonia, the daughter of Dante Alighieri, longs for a stable family and home while developing her artistic talent and seeking a place for herself in a world with limited options for women.
- Don't Forget I Love You.** Miriam Moss. Illus. by Anna Currey. Dial. \$16.00. Grades PreK-2
After spending too much time playing with his favorite toy, Billy and his mother are very late for nursery school and his mother forgets some crucial things as she rushes to work. Warm pastels complement the happily-ever after ending. **Open Court: School**
- Don't Forget to Come Back!** Robie Harris. Illus. by Harry Bliss. Candlewick. \$16.00. Grades PreK-2
When her parents go out for the evening, a little girl uses a variety of strategies to dissuade them, even threatens to run off to Alaska. In the end, she has a good time with the hip, easy-going babysitter. The ink-and-watercolor artwork adds humor and details from a child's point of view. **Open Court: Stick to It**
- Doodler Doodling.** Rita G. Gelman. Illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky. Greenwillow. \$17.00. Grades 2-4
A young doodler begins drawing as her teachers teach and allows her imagination to run free to a surprising conclusion. This is a playful tribute to the creative process, and is illustrated with her doodles and scribbling. Includes fold-out pages. **Open Court: Imagination**
- Double Helix: A Novel.** Nancy Werlin. Dial. \$16.00. Grades 9-12
Eighteen-year-old Eli discovers a shocking secret about his life and his family while working for a Nobel Prize-winning scientist whose specialty is genetic engineering. The author builds suspense and creates clever manipulations that keep readers eagerly turning the pages.
- Dragon Rider.** Cornelia Funke. Scholastic. \$13.00. Grades 4-8
After learning that humans are headed toward his hidden home, Firedrake, a silver dragon, is joined by a brownie and an orphan boy in a quest to find the legendary valley known as the Rim of Heaven, encountering friendly and unfriendly creatures along the way, and struggling to evade the relentless pursuit of an old enemy. **Open Court: Journeys and Quests**

Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968. Diane McWhorter. Scholastic. \$20.00. Grades 5-8

Examines the rise of the Civil Rights movement in America, the men and women whose lives made an impact in the pursuit of social and political equality, and landmark Supreme Court cases that changed the fabric of American society in the mid-to-late twentieth century. **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

Drop of Blood, A. Paul Showers. Illus. by Edward Miller. HarperCollins. \$17.00. Grades K-3
A simple introduction to the composition and functions of blood. The Dracula-inspired illustrations by Miller give a fresh look to an old favorite from the Let's Read-and-Find-Out series.

Duck for President. Doreen Cronin. Illus. by Betsy Lewin. Simon & Schuster. \$14.00. Grades K-3

When Duck of Click, Clack, Moo fame gets tired of working for Farmer Brown, his political ambition eventually leads to his being elected President. He quickly learns that it's not much fun running the government, and retires to write his memoirs, graduating from the typewriter to a computer. **Open Court: Red, White, and Blue**

Dust to Eat: Drought and Depression in the 1930s. Michael L. Cooper. Clarion. \$13.00
Grades 5-8

Presents a photographic chronicle of the 1930s, focusing on Depression and the dust storms that crippled the Great Plains, and looks at the effects of the twin disasters on American society and domestic policy. Illustrated with stunning black-and-white archival photos that are accompanied by eyewitness reports. Pair with the fiction selection *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse. **Open Court: Heritage**

Elena's Serenade. Campbell Geeslin. Illus. by Ana Juan. Simon & Schuster. \$15.00. Grades K-4

In Mexico, a little girl who wishes to be a glassblower is rebuked by her father, who says, "Who ever heard of a girl glassblower?" Undeterred, she disguises herself as a boy and lands a position as an apprentice. Along the way, she gains confidence. Illustrated with acrylic and crayon artwork. **Open Court: Stick to It**

Ella's Big Chance: A Jazz Age Cinderella. Shirley Hughes. Simon and Schuster. \$17.00. Grades K-4

Presents a retelling of the Cinderella story, set in the 1920s, in which Ella finds herself with two suitors--the handsome Duke of Arc, and Buttons, the delivery boy. Pen-and-inks ornament each blocks of text and full-color illustrations show the action.

Ellington Was Not a Street. Ntozake Shange. Illus. Kadir Nelson. Simon & Schuster. Grades 3-6

Presents an illustrated poem in which Ntozake Shange recalls her childhood growing up in the company W.E.B. Du Bois, Dizzy Gillespie, Paul Robeson, and other great African-American men who were instrumental in changing American culture and society. **Open Court: Beyond the Notes**

Empire State Building: When New York Reached for the Skies. Elizabeth Mann. Illus. by Alan Witschonke. Mikaya. \$20.00. Grades 4-8

This is a well told history of the design, and construction of New York City's Empire State Building. Period photos and the full-color artwork add much to the text. Includes maps on endpapers and an index. **Open Court: Risks and Consequences**

Encyclopedia of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Facts on File. \$65.00. Grades 8-12

Contains over 360 alphabetically arranged entries that provide information about the people, places, plants, animals, tools, and ideas associated with the Lewis and Clark Expedition initiated by President Jefferson in 1801, and includes maps, and photographs.

Exploring Saturn. Dan Bortolotti. \$16.00. Firefly. Grades 4-8

This appealing presentation features a well-organized and engaging text as well as many exceptionally clear, colorful illustrations, photographs, space-telescope images, paintings, and drawings. It describes the exploration of Saturn from ancient astronomers to the latest NASA findings. Includes website resources, and location guide for backyard observations. **Open Court: Astronomy**

Eyes Like Willy's. Juanita Havill. Illus. by David Johnson. HarperCollins. \$16.00. Grades 4-8

While vacationing over the course of several summers in Austria, French siblings Guy and Sarah Masson become best friends with a German boy, until the outbreak of World War I puts them on opposing sides. This thoughtful story personalizes the pain of this brutal, futile war. **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

Flag Maker. Susan Campbell Bartoletti. Illus. by Claire A. Novola. Houghton. \$16.00. Grades 3-5

This is the story of the U.S. flag told in lyrical prose. Events of the War of 1812 are seen through the eyes of a twelve-year-old girl, who worked with her family and their servants to sew the enormous flag, which waved over Fort McHenry. Delicate watercolors, additional facts and bibliographic sources extend the text. **Open Court: Making a New Nation**

Follow the Blue. Brigid Lowry. Holiday. \$17.00. Grades 8-12

Fifteen-year-old Bec, living with her family in Perth, Australia, decides to stop being sensible and follow her wilder impulses during the summer that her parents are away on a long trip to help her father recover from a breakdown. Lowry uses many different stylistic devices (lists, postcards, poems, how-to instructions, and cleverly titled vignettes) to tell the story.

Fortune's Bones: The Manumission Requiem. Marilyn Nelson. Front Street. \$15.00. Grades 6+

A series of poems on the life of Fortune, an eighteenth-century African-American slave in New England whose skeleton came to be an exhibit at Connecticut's Mattatuck Museum; includes notes and archival photos.

Free at Last! Stories and Songs of Emancipation. Doreen Rappaport. Illus. by Shane W. Evans. Candlewick. \$20.00. Grades 3-8

Describes the experiences of African Americans in the South, from the Emancipation in 1863 to the 1954 Supreme Court decision that declared school segregation illegal. Dramatic oil paintings illustrate the text. Included are historical vignettes, brief historical summaries, and poems and songs, a chronology, bibliography, and index. **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

Game of Sunken Places. M. T. Anderson. Scholastic. \$17.00. Grades 4-8

When two boys stay with an eccentric relative at his mansion in rural Vermont, they discover an old-fashioned board game that draws them into a mysterious adventure. This is an action-packed adventure that will appeal to middle grade readers.

George vs. George: The American Revolution as Seen from Both Sides. Rosalyn Schanzer. National Geographic. \$25.00. Grades 3-6

Explores how the characters and lives of King George III of England and George Washington affected the progress and outcome of the American Revolution. This is a carefully researched, evenhanded narrative highlighted by well-crafted, vibrant, watercolor illustrations. **Open Court: Making a New Nation**

George Washington, Spymaster: How the Americans Out-spied the British and Won the Revolutionary War. Thomas B. Allen. Illus. by Cheryl Harness. National Geographic.

\$17.00. Grades 5-9

This small, concise volume focuses on Washington's use of spies to gather intelligence that helped the colonies win the Revolutionary War. The engaging text is laced with details about invisible ink, codes, and double agents. The book design is intended to resemble an antique publication from the 1700's and is illustrated with reproductions of archival art and pen-and-ink sketches. **Open Court: Making a New Nation**

Gifts. Ursula K. Le Guin. Harcourt. \$17.00. Grades 9-12

When a young man in the Uplands blinds himself rather than use his gift of "unmaking"- a violent talent shared by members of his family-he upsets the precarious balance of power among rival, feuding families, each of which has a strange and deadly talent of its own. The tale is narrated by the central character.

Girl with a Baby. Sylvia Olsen. Sono Nis, dist. by Orca. \$17.00. Grades 8-12

Jane, one of the most popular girls and best students in her school, loses her good reputation when she has a baby at the age of fourteen, but as her Native American grandmother predicted, Jane learns that motherhood has only made her stronger. The story is inspired by the true story of the Canadian author's half-Indian daughter.

God Bless the Child. Billie Holiday and Arthur Herzog. Illus. by Jerry Pinkney.

HarperCollins. \$17.00. Grades 2-5

Presents the lyrics of Billie Holiday's classic "God Bless the Child" illustrated with images of a southern African-American family's move to a northern city during the Great Migration, and includes a CD of Holiday's 1941 recording of the title song. **Open Court: Country Life, Beyond the Notes**

Godless. Pete Hautman. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Grades 9-12

When sixteen-year-old Jason Bock and his friends create their own religion to worship the town's water tower, what started out as a joke begins to take on a power of its own. The narrative is by turns funny, worried, and questioning.

Going for the Record. Julie A. Swanson. Eerdmans. \$8.00. Grades 9-12

Seventeen-year-old Leah's quest to make the national soccer team does not seem so important when she learns that her father has cancer and may only have months to live. This is a compassionate and authentic portrait of a teen facing a parent's death without sugarcoating the painful dying process or a family's struggle to cope.

Going North. Janice Harrington. Illus. by Jerome Lagarrigue. Farrar. \$16.00. Grades 3-5

A young African American girl and her family leave their home in Alabama and head for Lincoln, Nebraska, where they hope to escape segregation and find a better life. As their car heads north, the young girl watches the world go by. Illustrated with impressionistic paintings. **Open Court: Our Country and Its People**

Golem's Eye. Jonathan Stroud. Hyperion. \$16.00. Grades 6-8

In the second book in the Bartimaeus Trilo, magician's apprentice Nathaniel, now fourteen years old, and the djinni Bartimaeus travel to Prague to locate the source of a golem's power before it destroys London.

Good Night Pillow Fight. Sally Cook. Illus. by Laura Cornell. HarperCollins. \$16.00.

Grades K-3

Rhyming bedtime conversation between a city full of parents and their children, who are much more interested in playing than sleeping. The short snippets of text are highlighted by colorful paint-and-ink illustrations, that are rendered with irresistible detail and skewed angles. **Open Court: Let's Read**

- Good Night, Harry.** Kim Lewis. Candlewick. \$14.00. Grades PreK-2
When Harry, a toy elephant, has trouble sleeping, his friends help him. He tries everything including reading, tidying, and exercise. Finally, after being reassured by his friends, he is able to fall asleep. Soft illustrations accompany this quiet tale. **Open Court: Finding Friends**
- Gothic: Ten Original Dark Tales.** Deborah Noyes, Ed. Candlewick. Grades 9-12.
Presents ten original stories of vampires, ghosts, witches, and sorcerers, including selections from Joan Aiken, Neil Gaiman, Gregory Maguire, and others.
- Great Tree of Avalon: Child of the Dark Prophecy.** T.A. Barron. Putnam. \$20.00. Grades 6-12
The fate of Avalon rests in the hands of three people: Tamwyn, Elli, and Scree; however one of them is the true heir of Merlin and the only one who can save Avalon and one of them is the child of Dark Prophecy, the person chosen to destroy it.
- Greatest Skating Race: A World War II Story from the Netherlands.** Louise Borden. M. K. McElderry Books. Grades 3-6
During World War II in the Netherlands, a ten-year-old boy's dream of skating in a famous race allows him to help two children escape to Belgium by ice skating past German soldiers and other enemies. The sepia-tone illustrations highlight the boy's viewpoint, and show spacious views of the kids speeding through the white landscape. **Open Court: Courage**
- Guess Who, Baby Duck!** Amy Hest. Illus. by Jill Barton. Candlewick. \$12.00. Grades PreK-2
On a rainy day when Baby Duck is sick with a cold, her grandfather cheers her up by showing her family photographs. The photo album includes pictures of Baby Duck on the day she was born, as she took her first steps, and at her first birthday party. This is a cozy read-aloud choice. **Open Court: Finding Friends, Sharing Stories**
- Guitar Girl.** Sarra Manning. Dutton. \$16.00. Grades 9-12
This is the story of Molly, seventeen, and the lead singer in a British pop band, The Hormones. She's not having fun, and a series of bad relationships with music-biz types eventually lead to her resignation. This is a quick-read that is highlighted with rock 'n' roll clichés.
- Guji Guji.** Chih-Yuan Chen. Kane/Miller. \$13.00. Grades K-3
Guji Guji, a crocodile hatched and raised by a mother duck, must come up with a plan to save his family when a trio of bad crocodiles try to convince him to serve up his relatives for their dinner. Illustrated with ink-and-wash drawings in gray and brown tones that give this book an old fashioned look. **Open Court: Animals**
- Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog.** Pamela Turner. Illus. by Yan Nascimbene. Houghton. \$15.00. Grades K-3
Relates the true story of a dog, that accompanied his master to and from a Tokyo train station for a year and, after his master died, continued to wait for him there every day for many years. The elegant watercolor artwork adds to this straightforward and moving tale. A good read aloud choice. **Open Court: Friendship, Stick to It**
- Harlem Stomp! A Cultural History of the Harlem Renaissance.** Laban Carrick Hill. Little Brown. \$19.00. Grades 7-12
Offers a cultural history of the Harlem Renaissance, discussing how it sparked a period of intellectual, artistic, literary, and political blossoming for many African-Americans. This illustrated history combines the politics Harlem with detailed chapters on the performers, writers, visual artists, and intellectuals of the time and place. **Open Court: Fine Art**

- Haunting of Alaizabel Cray.** Chris Wooding. Scholastic. \$17.00. Grades 7-12
As Thaniel, a wych-hunter, and Cathaline, his friend and mentor, try to destroy the terrible creatures that infest the alleys of London's Old Quarter, their lives become entwined with that of Alaizabel Cray, a woman who may be either mad or possessed. This is a gripping tale that will keep readers turning the pages.
- Heartbeat.** Sharon Creech. HarperCollins. \$17.00. Grades 4-7
Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of life the year that her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant. Told in spare, free verse poetry.
- Henry and the Kite Dragon.** Bruce Edward Hall. Philomel. \$16.00. Grades K-3
In New York City in the 1920s, the children from Chinatown go after the children from Little Italy for throwing rocks at the beautiful kites Grandfather Chin makes, not realizing that they have a reason for doing so. The vibrant Chinese-American community is beautifully captured in the detailed, dramatic artwork. **Open Court: Friendship**
- Here in Harlem: Poems in Many Voices.** Walter Dean Meyers. Holiday. \$17.00. Grades 7-10.
Presents fifty-four poems by Walter Dean Myers, written in the voices of people living and working in Harlem, the author's beloved hometown. The author was inspired by Edgar Lee Master's work, Spoon River Anthology where the townspeople tell their stories in verse. Expressive period photos accompany the text.
- Here Today.** Ann M. Martin. Scholastic. \$17.00. Grades 5-7
In 1963, when her flamboyant mother abandons the family to pursue her dream of becoming an actress, eleven-year-old Ellie Dingman takes charge of her younger siblings, while also trying to deal with her outcast status in school and frightening acts of prejudice toward the "misfits" that live on her street.
- Hidden Folk, The: Stories of Fairies, Dwarves, Selkies, and Other Secret Beings.** Lise Lunge-Larsen. Illus. Beth Krommes. Houghton Mifflin. \$18.00. Grades 3-5
Brief stories featuring such creatures as flower fairies, elves, dwarves, and river sprites. The eight short stories are taken from northern European folklore and are accompanied by stylized paintings that and detailed borders. **Open Court: Storytelling**
- Home.** Jeannie Baker. Greenwillow. \$16.00. Grades K-4
A wordless picture book that observes the changes in a neighborhood from before a girl is born until she is an adult, as it first decays and then is renewed by the efforts of the residents. The artwork is composed of detailed collage, and each double-page spread is a view through the same window, a view that shows the changes over time. **Open Court: Our Neighborhood at Work, City Wildlife**
- Honey, Baby, Sweetheart.** Deb Caletti. Simon & Schuster. \$13.00. Grades 9-12
In the summer of her junior year, sixteen-year-old Ruby McQueen and her mother, both nursing broken hearts, set out on a journey to reunite an elderly woman with her long-lost love and in the process learn many things about "the real ties that bind" people to one another.
- Honeysuckle House.** Andrea Cheng. Front St. \$14.00. Grades 4-7
An all-American girl with Chinese ancestors and a new immigrant from China find little in common when they meet in their fourth grade classroom, but they are both missing their best friends and soon discover other connections. Told in the girls' alternating voices, this novel shows cultural differences across generations and inside families.
- Hoop Kings.** Charles Smith, Jr. Candlewick. Grades 4-8
This is a collection of twelve poems that celebrate contemporary basketball stars, including Shaquille O'Neal, Allen Iverson, and Kobe Bryant. Notes on each poem's style

or central image tempt readers to turn back the pages for repeated looks. Pair with *Hoop Queens* (2003) that celebrates women basketball stars.

Hot City. Barbara Joosse. Illus. by R. Gregory Chistie. Philomel. \$17.00. Grades K-3
Mimi and her little brother Joe escape from home and the city's summer heat to read and dream about princesses and dinosaurs in the cool, quiet library. Illustrated with painted-collage style artwork. The contrast between the red-hot city scenes and the excitement the kids find inside books makes for great library advocacy. **Open Court: Sharing Stories**

Hot Day on Abbott Avenue. Karen English. Illus. by Javaka Steptoe. Clarion. \$13.00.
Grades K-3

After having a fight, two friends spend the day ignoring each other, until the lure of a game of double-dutch helps them to forget about being mad. And when the ice cream man comes around, a shared blue ice pop strengthens their bond. Illustrated with collage artwork. **Open Court: Finding Friends**

How I live Now. Meg Rosoff. Random House. \$17.00. Grades 8-12

To get away from her pregnant stepmother in New York City, fifteen-year-old Daisy goes to England to stay with her aunt and cousins, with whom she instantly bonds, but soon war breaks out and rips apart the family while devastating the land. This is a first novel that intelligent, funny, serious, and sweet.

How It Works: Everyone Gets the Angel They Deserve. Graham Marks. Bloomsbury
\$12.00. Grades 9-12

Eighteen-year-old Seb's life is falling apart as he falls into dealing drugs and stops going to school. After he is nearly beaten to death by a crazed homeless man and when he discovers that someone interceded and saved his life, he is prompted to turn his life around and find the man who saved his life.

How Many Miles to Bethlehem? Kevin Crossley-Holland. Illus. By Peter Malone. Scholastic.
\$15.00. Grades K-3

Presents the Christmas story from the perspective of those who witnessed it including some of the animals, innkeeper, shepherds, and wisemen. Included are large, tableau illustrations, medieval in style, and brilliant with color and feeling.

Human Story: Our Evolution from Prehistoric Ancestors to Today. Christopher Stone.
Photographs by Kenneth Garrett. Illus. by Alfons Kennis & Ardie Kennis. National Geographic. \$19.00. Grades 8-12

Explores the origins of humans, including how such developments as Linnaeus' classification system and recent understanding of the human genome have improved scientists' comprehension of evolution. Casual in tone and beautiful in design, the text is illustrated with clear color photos, diagrams, and paintings on every page.

Hummingbird Nest: A Journal of Poems. Kristine O'Connell George. Illus. by Barry Moser.
Harcourt. \$16.00. Grades K-4

When a mother hummingbird builds a nest in a tree on the patio of the author's California home, the poet keeps a journal as she and her family watch and record the actions of the mother hummingbird and the birth and development of her fledglings. Illustrated with exquisitely detailed artwork. **Open Court: Animals, Look Again**

Hungry Coat: A Tale from Turkey. Demi. Illus. by the author. Simon & Schuster. \$20.00.
Grades K-3

After being shunned by his host because of his tattered coat, Nasrettin Hoca goes home and changes into a fancy new coat to attend the party. He stuffs wine and food into his coat, feeding it and reasoning that it was the coat that was the invited guest. Illustrated with elegant artwork featuring gold accents, and is inspired by Turkish paintings. **Open Court: Storytelling**

I Am Too Absolutely Small for School. Lauren Child. Candlewick. \$17.00. Grades PreK-2
Siblings Lola and Charlie return in this new offering from Lauren Child. Big brother Charlie must convince Lola to give school a chance, though she is full of reasons why she doesn't need it. Charlie eventually comes up with a reason Lola cannot refute and Lola is off to school. Illustrated with mixed media illustrations that include photos, fabric, and childlike cartoon renderings. **Open Court: School**

I Took the Moon for a Walk. Carolyn Curtis. Illus. by Alison Jay. Barefoot. \$15.00.
Grades PreK-2

As the sun sets and everyone heads indoors, a young boy takes the moon on an imaginary stroll around his neighborhood. This is a bedtime poem that is illustrated with oil paintings rendered in muted tones and treated with a crackling varnish that give them an antique look. **Open Court: Shadows**

Ida B... and her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World.
Katherine Hannigan. Greenwillow. \$16.00. Grades 4-6

In Wisconsin, fourth-grader Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled and playing in her family's apple orchard, until her mother begins treatment for breast cancer and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school. A poignant, affirming, and often funny first novel.

I, Doko: The Tale of a Basket. Ed Young. Philomel. \$17.00. Grades K-5

The story is told of the varied uses of a Nepalese basket through three generations of a family in the voice of the basket. Based on a Nepalese folktale, it is illustrated with gold-bordered spreads that are rendered in gouache, pastel, and collage. **Open Court: Journeys and Quests**

In Your Face: The facts about Your Features. Donna M. Jackson. \$18.00. Viking Press.
Grades 4-8

Presents an extensive study of the face and discusses how facial recognition technology can help find missing children as well as how different cultures define beauty. Illustrated with color photos that work well with the text.

Indigo's Star. Hilary McKay. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Grades 4-8

Spurred on by his youngest sister, Rose, twelve-year-old Indigo sticks up for himself and an American boy who has replaced him as the primary target of the school bullies. Companion volume to Saffy's Angel (2002). **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

Into the Land of Freedom: African Americans in Reconstruction. Meg Greene. Lerner.
\$25.00. Grades 5-8

Historical photographs and text help chronicle the experiences of African-Americans during the Reconstruction era, discussing how they adapted to life after being freed from slavery and tried to build new lives for themselves. Each page features a sepia-toned photograph, many of which are candid. Includes Web sites, bibliography, and appended documents. **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

Is This Forever, or What? Poems & Paintings from Texas. Ed. By Naomi Shihab Nye.
Greenwillow. \$20.00. Grades 5+

A collection of free verse poetry and full-color artwork from Texas. The poems share matters that are unique to Texans, but that can relate to all of us. The artwork includes still life, landscapes, portraits, folk art, pop art, and studies in color.

Jazzy Miz Mozetta. Breanda Roberts. Illus. Frank Morrison. Farrar, Straus, Giroux. \$16.00
Grades K-4

On a beautiful evening, Miz Mozetta puts on her red dress and blue shoes and dances the jitterbug just like she did many years before. The exuberant spirit of Miz Mozetta is captured with a colorful jumble of exaggeratedly long, skinny limbs in dynamic

illustrations that just about dance off the page. Share this book with a recording of swing music. **Open Court: Beyond the Notes**

John Philip Duck. Patricia Polacco. Philomel. \$17.00. Grades K-4

During the Depression, a young Memphis boy trains his pet duck to do tricks in the fountain of a grand hotel and ends up becoming the first Duck Master of the Peabody Hotel. The story is loosely based on actual events, and is illustrated with Polacco's signature color artwork. **Open Court: City Wildlife**

Jude. Kate Morgenroth. Simon and Schuster. Grades 9-12

Still reeling from his drug-dealing father's murder, moving in with the wealthy mother he never knew, and transferring to a private school, fifteen-year-old Jude is tricked into pleading guilty to a crime he did not commit.

Jumbo Book of Drama. Deborah Dunleavy. Illus. by Jane Kurisu. Kids Can Press. \$15.00. Grades 4-8

A guide to drama for children, featuring activities and ideas designed to help young people learn dramatic movement and voice; looking at behind-the-scenes skills such as lighting, sound effects, costumes, and set design; and including sample scripts and a glossary.

Kaddish for Grandpa in Jesus' Name Amen. James Howe. Illus. by Catherine Stock. Simon & Schuster \$17.00. Grades K-3

Five-year-old Emily tries to understand her grandfather's death by exploring the Christian and Jewish rituals that her family practices during and after his funeral. The warmth of this extended family is reinforced by the rich colors of the quiet watercolor illustrations.

Karate Hour. Carol Nevius. Illus. by Bill Thomson. Marshall Cavendish. \$15.00. Grades K-3

Brief rhyming text portrays the exuberance of an hour of karate class in this picture book. The artwork is photographic in its realistic portrayal of the students. Includes an afterword that tells of the history of karate and its philosophy as a defensive discipline.

Open Court: Stick to It

Key to the Golden Firebird: A Novel. Maureen Johnson. HarperCollins. \$16.00. Grades 7+

As three teenaged sisters struggle to cope with their father's sudden death, they find they must reexamine friendships, lifelong dreams, and their relationships with each other and their father. The story is told alternately by all three girls, with the middle sister as the primary narrator.

Kid Blink Beats the World. Don Brown. Roaring Brook. \$17.00. Grades 2-5

A story of the newsboys (and girls) who took on the world's most powerful press barons and won. A picture book for older readers, it details the events in the summer of 1899, during which hundreds of young news vendors stood up to two of the most powerful men in the U.S., William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer. Illustrated with sepia-tone ink-and-wash artwork. **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

King of the Middle March. Kevin Crossley-Holland. Scholastic. \$18.00. Grades 7+

Arthur de Caldicot, thirteenth-century namesake of King Arthur, is on his way to becoming a man, and witnesses the horrors of the Fourth Crusade in Venice and Zara, as well as the downfall of King Arthur's court, in his seeing stone. This volume concludes a trilogy that began with *The Seeing Stone* (2001) and continued with *At the Crossing-Places* (2002).

Kira-Kira. Cynthia Kadohata. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Grades 6-8

Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill. Told in the first person voice. (Newbery Winner 2005)

- Kitten's First Full Moon.** Kevin Henkes. Greenwillow. \$17.00. Grades PreK-2
When naïve Kitten mistakes the full moon for a bowl of milk, she ends up tired, wet, and hungry trying to reach it. This is a warm, humorous story, extended in Henkes' shimmering, gray-toned artwork. (Caldecott Winner 2005) **Open Court: Let's Read**
- Knockin' on Wood.** Lynne Barasch.. Lee & Low. \$17.00. Grades K-3
Presents a picture book biography of Clayton "Peg Leg" Bates, an African American who lost his leg in a factory accident at the age of twelve and went on to become a world-famous tap dancer. Sprightly ink-and-watercolor art depicts both the poverty of Bates'early life and the colorful world of entertainment. **Open Court: Stick to It**
- Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale.** Mo Willems. Hyperion. \$14.00. Grades PreK-2
Toddler Trixie becomes very unhappy when she accompanies her daddy to the laundromat and realizes she has lost her stuffed bunny. The playful illustrations are digitally incorporated into sepia-toned photographs of a quiet urban neighborhood. (Caldecott Honor 2005)
- Kumak's Fish: A Tall Tale from the Far North.** Michael Bania. Alaska Northwest. \$14.00. Grades K-3
On a beautiful Arctic morning when Kumak and his family go ice fishing, Kumak hooks what seems like an enormous fish, and the entire village gets involved. This comical tale combines folklore with some realistic detail of the Arctic setting and community. Light watercolor washes outlined in ink show an icy setting while still conveying the joyful energy of the people as they work together to bring in the fish. **Open Court: Storytelling**
- La La Rose.** Satomi Ichikawa. Putnam. \$16.00. Grades K-3
La La Rose, a young girl's stuffed rabbit, gets lost in Luxembourg Gardens. While lost, she is thrown around by a soccer team, falls down some stairs, and lands in a pond before being picked up by a little girl who brings doll and owner back together. Illustrated with ink-and-watercolor paintings that are a wonderful mix of action sweetness.
- Legend of Buddy Bush.** Sheila Moses. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Grades 6-9
In 1947, twelve-year-old Pattie Mae is sustained by her dreams of escaping Rich Square, North Carolina, and moving to Harlem when her Uncle Buddy is under arrest for attempted rape of a white woman and her grandfather is diagnosed with a terminal brain tumor.
- Little Gentleman, The.** Philippa Pearce. Illus. by Tom Pohrt. Greewillow. \$17.00. Grades 3-5
A young girl's dull life is transformed when she meets and befriends an extraordinary talking mole that likes to be read to and tell of his past exploits throughout the centuries. There are many exciting and dangerous events in this humorous and moving novel.
- Little Rabbit Goes to School.** Harry Horse. Peachtree. \$14.00. Grades K-3
Little Rabbit takes his favorite toy, Charlie Horse, along for his first day of school and when there is trouble, he blames it all on Charlie. Ink-and-watercolor illustrations showcase a charming woodland world. **Open Court: School**
- Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy.** Gary D. Schmidt. Clarion. \$15.00. Grades 7-12
In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers--and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot.
- Look at My Book: How Kids Can Write & Illustrate Terrific Books.** Loreen Ludy. Holiday House. \$17.00. Grades 2- 4
Provides ideas and simple directions for writing, illustrating, designing, and binding books. The format includes as lists, captioned illustrations, and thought bubbles, making the book accessible even to emerging readers and writers. Includes a list of age-

appropriate books dealing with writing and illustration, and research skills for teachers, parents, and young authors. **Open Court: Sharing Stories**

Looking for Seabirds: Journal from an Alaskan Voyage. Sophie Webb. Houghton Mifflin. \$16.00. Grades 4-8

The journal of researcher and artist Webb includes her observations and adventures while working on a research vessel counting seabirds through Alaska's Aleutian Island chain. In her narrative and watercolor artwork, she gives equal time to the details of daily life aboard a research vessel and to her observations of a variety of marine life. **Open Court: Journeys and Quests**

Lost Colony of Roanoke. Jean Fritz. Illus. by Hudson Talbott. Putnam. \$17.00. Grades 3-5
Describes the English colony of Roanoke, which was founded in 1585, and discusses the mystery of its disappearance. In Fritz's lively narrative style, the conjectures, hoaxes, and evidence that have fueled speculation about the colony for 400 years is discussed. Includes artwork that reflects the work of John White and sixteenth-century portrait artists. **Open Court: Changing America**

Love and Roast Chicken: A Trickster Tale from the Andes Mountains. Barbara Knutson. Carolrhoda. \$17.00. Grades K-4

In this folktale from the Andes, a clever guinea pig repeatedly outsmarts the fox that wants to eat him for dinner. The author, who lived in Peru, includes an author's note, a glossary and pronunciation guides for the Spanish and Quechua words that appear in the story. Illustrated with bright watercolors by the author. **Open Court: Storytelling**

Lucky Leaf. Kevin O'Malley. Walker. 18.00. Grades K-3

After his mother tells him to stop playing video games and go outside, a young boy tries to catch the last leaf on a tree, thinking it will bring him luck. The story is illustrated with inked artwork that is colored digitally and laid out like a comic strip in panels.

Madam President: The Extraordinary, True (and Evolving) story of Women in Politics.

Catherine Thimmesh. Illus. by Douglas B. Jones. Houghton. \$17.00. Grades 4-8

This is an introduction to women, some better known than others, who have influenced politics and policies in the United States and in the world. The author presents short narratives highlighting each woman's achievements, including a well-chosen quotation from each one, and concludes with a list of source material and a time line. Illustrated with color cartoons that add interest and supplementary tidbits of information.

Me Baby, You Baby. Ashley Wolff. Dutton. \$15.00. Grades K-1

Simple rhyming text describes a day in the life of two babies as they greet the day, go to the zoo with their mothers, and return home at night. The text is a bouncy rhyme that makes this a good read aloud choice for young children. The warm, colorful illustrations are softly drawn and include zoo animals. **Open Court: Let's Read**

Merlin and the Making of the King. Margaret Hodges. Illus. by Trina Schart Hyman. Holiday. \$17.00. Grades 4-8

A retelling of four Arthurian legends, The Sword in the Stone, Excalibur, The Lady of the Lake, and The Last Great Battle, which feature Merlin, King Arthur, and other familiar figures. The author successfully distills the many tales of Arthurian legend into a brief but understandable story. The acrylic paintings are illuminated with heraldic colors and gold in the tradition of medieval bookmaking. **Open Court: Journeys and Quests**

Messenger. Lois Lowry. Houghton. \$16.00. Grades 6+

In this novel that unites characters from *The Giver* and *Gathering Blue*, Matty, a young member of a utopian community that values honesty, conceals an emerging healing power that he cannot explain or understand.

Mimmy and Sophie All around the Town. Tiriam Cohen. Illus. by Thomas F. Yezerki. Farrar. \$16.00. Grades 2-4

Describes the experiences of two sisters growing up in Brooklyn in the time of Shirley Temple movies and trolleys in six short chapters. The format provides an excellent first chapter book for newly independent readers. The stories are enhanced by many ink-and-wash illustrations. **Open Court: Friendship**

Miss Bridie Chose a Shovel. Leslie Connor. Illus. by Mary Azarian. Houghton. \$16.00 Grades K-3

Miss Bridie emigrates to America in 1856 and chooses to bring a shovel, which proves to be a useful tool throughout her life. This is a lyrical tribute to hard working immigrants, and is expressively illustrated with wood cuts that provide additional details to the time and place. **Open Court: Our Country and Its People**

Mississippi Morning. Ruth Vander Zee. Illus. Floyd Cooper. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. \$16.00. Grades 3-6

Amidst the economic depression and the racial tension of the 1930s, a boy discovers a horrible secret of his father's involvement in the Ku Klux Klan. Warm oil paintings create the perfect sense of time, place, and atmosphere. **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

Missy Violet and Me. Barbara Hathaway. Houghton Mifflin. Grades 3-6

During the early 1900s, eleven-year-old Viney spends her summer working for the local midwife and learns firsthand about birth, death, and "catchin' babies." Based on the fond memories of the author's mother, these are warm and funny stories with some memorable characters. **Open Court: From Mystery to Medicine**

Mister Seahorse. Eric Carle. Putnam. \$17.00. Grades K-3

After Mrs. Seahorse lays her eggs on Mr. Seahorse's belly, he drifts through the water, greeting other fish fathers who are taking care of their eggs. The artwork illustrates how different kinds of fish can hide themselves, executed in Carle's signature elegant painted tissue-paper collages. **Open Court: Animals, Look Again**

Monkey Business. Wallace Edwards. Kids Can Press. Grades 2-5

Introduces idioms through a collection of animal portraits and illustrations. The artwork is full of details that young readers will enjoy discovering with each subsequent reading. Use when teaching idioms in **Open Court**, Grade 4, Unit 3.

Montmorency: Thief, Liar, Gentleman?. Eleanor Updale. Scholastic. \$17.00. Grades 6-9

In Victorian London, after his life is saved by a young physician, a thief utilizes the knowledge he gains in prison and from the scientific lectures he attends as the physician's case study exhibit to create a new, highly successful, double life for himself. Short chapters and a fast-paced plot make this a readable historical fiction that paints an accurate picture of the times. Look for the sequel coming in 2005, *Montmorency on the Rocks: Doctor, Aristocrat, Murderer?* **Open Court: From Mystery to Medicine**

Mouse in the House. Ann Hassett. Illus. by John Hassett. Houghton. \$15.00. Grades K-3

When Nana Quimby is upset by the mouse in the house, Father gets an owl, which also upsets Nana, so Mother gets a dog ... until the family ends up with an elephant in the house. The tale comes full circle when the Quimbys use a certain rodent to get rid of the elephant. Illustrated with colorful artwork in a folk-art style. **Open Court: Animals**

Mr. Maxwell's Mouse. Frank Asch. Illus. by Devin Asch. Kids Can Press. \$16.00. Grades K-4

Mr. Maxwell celebrates his promotion by treating himself to a live mouse at the Paw and Claw restaurant; however, the mouse is a clever one, and outsmarts Mr. Maxwell. This slightly dark story is well illustrated with computer-generated art that is stylishly elegant, and executed in dark hues of slate and black. **Open Court: Being Afraid**

Mrs. Watson Wants Your Teeth. Alison McGhee. Illus. by Harry Bliss. Harcourt. \$16.00. Grades K-2

A first grader is frightened on her first day of school after hearing a rumor that her teacher is a 300-year-old alien with a purple tongue who steals baby teeth from her students. The clever watercolor and black-ink illustrations provide details that will keep children looking. **Open Court: Being Afraid**

My Kindergarten. Rosemary Wells. Hyperion. \$17.00. Grades K-1

Emily, a little rabbit child, and her classmates learn many new things as they journey through the months of their kindergarten year of school. This is a reassuring picture book that is illustrated with detailed panels and spreads of well-dressed animal characters.

Open Court: School

My Light. Molly Bang. Scholastic. \$17.00. Grades 2-4

The sun explains the different ways in which its light is transformed into energy which powers the bulbs that illuminate the night, and explains how we harness energy from water, wind, earth, and sun. The science is sound and the illustrations enhance the information.

My Special Day at Third Street School. Eve Bunting. Illus. by Suzanne Bloom. Boyds Mills. \$16.00. Grades K-4

This is a fictionalized story, but probably based on Bunting's experiences, of an author's visit to a school. The children are well prepared; they have read her books, decorated the school, and prepared questions to ask. Illustrated with bright watercolors, this would be a good choice to use when preparing for an actual visit by an author. **Open Court:**

Sharing Stories

Mystery of Eatum Hall. John Kelly and Kathy Tincknell. Candlewick. \$16.00. Grades 2-4

Mr. and Mrs. Pork-Fowler are invited to spend a weekend of gourmet dining at a spooky castle where their host, Mr. Hunter, is anxious to "meat" them. Illustrated with digital artwork that is rendered as paintings.

Never Mind! A Twin Novel. Avi & Rachel Vail. HarperCollins. \$16.00. Grades 5-7

Twelve-year-old New York City twins Meg and Edward have nothing in common, so they are just as shocked as everyone else when Meg's hopes for popularity and Edward's mischievous schemes coincidentally collide in a hilarious showdown. The tale is written by two writers and told in alternating chapters that provide each twin with a separate narrative.

New Found Land: Lewis and Clark's Voyage of Discovery. Allan Wolf. Candlewick. \$19.00. Grades 6-8

Letters and thoughts of fourteen participants are presented in a poetic style to tell the story of the journey of Lewis and Clark to the Pacific and back. Four years of research is shown in an author's note, and includes maps and a list of the crew and the Native American nations encountered. **Open Court: Going West**

Night Eater, The. Ana Juan. A. A. Levine. \$17.00. Grades K-2

The Night Eater, who brings each new day by gobbling up the darkness, decides he is too fat and stops eating, with dire consequences. Illustrated with rounded shapes and bright colors in a surrealist art style. **Open Court: Shadows**

Noisy Way to Bed. Ian Whybrow. Illus. by Tiphonie Beeke. Scholastic. \$16.00. Grades K-1

As a sleepy boy decides it is bedtime and sets out across the farm toward home, he meets several animals who, in their noisy way, express the same idea. The rhyming verse encourages young children to join in to the telling of the tale. The story is accompanied by full-page, mixed-media pictures that provide a pleasing blend of colors, textures, and facial expressions. **Open Court: Let's Read, Animals**

Nonsense! Edward Lear. Illus. by Valorie Fisher. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. Grades 1-5
Presents fifteen nonsense limericks by nineteenth-century English author Edward Lear. Illustrated with bright collage artwork that includes definitions of words decoratively integrated as ribbons, scrolled paper, or street signs, making the verses more accessible for young readers.

Old Hickory: Andrew Jackson and the American People. Albert Marrin. Dutton. \$25.00.
Grades 7+

Presents a study of the seventh president of the United States, Andrew Jackson, and chronicles his childhood, participation in the Revolutionary War and War of 1812, and his political policies that led to problems with Native Americans and the "Trail of Tears."

Open Court: Going West

Old Man Mad about Drawing: a Tale of Hokusai. François Place. Godine. \$20.00.

Grades 4-8

Tojiro, a young seller of rice cakes in the Japanese capital of Edo, later known as Tokyo, is amazed to discover that the grumpy and shabby old man who buys his cakes is a famous artist renowned for his sketches, prints, and paintings of flowers, animals, and landscapes. The tale is illustrated with good reproductions of Hokusai's drawings.

Open Court: Fine Art

The Old Willis Place: A Ghost Story. Mary Downing Hahn. Clarion. \$13.00. Grades 5-8

Tired of the rules that have bound them ever since "the bad thing happened," twelve-year-old Diana ignores her brother's warnings and befriends the daughter of the new caretaker, setting in motion events that lead to the release of the spirit of an evil, crazy woman who once ruled the old Willis place.

One Little Lamb. Elaine Greenstein. Viking. \$11.00. Grades K-1

Describes how a lamb's coat is made into yarn, which is made into mittens worn by a little girl when she visits the lamb on the farm. The illustrations highlight each step of the process. **Open Court: Animals**

One Little Seed. Elaine Greenstein. Viking. \$11.00. Grades K-1

Depicts a seed's growth from initial planting through its development and eventual blossoming as a bright sunflower. Folk-influenced, full-bleed watercolors accompany the text.

One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies. Sonya Sones. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Grades 7-12

Fifteen-year-old Ruby Milliken leaves her best friend, her boyfriend, her aunt, and her mother's grave in Boston and reluctantly flies to Los Angeles to live with her father, a famous movie star who divorced her mother before Ruby was born. Ruby is plunked into the middle of Hollywood celebrity, and learns to adjust. Told in one- to two-page breezy poetic prose-style entries.

Orson Blasts Off! Raúl Colón. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Grades K-3

When his computer breaks down, a little boy discovers that imagination is way more fun than a computer game. The tale unfolds in dialogue and is highlighted by Colón's warm watercolor and pencil artwork. **Open Court: Imagination**

Otto and the Flying Twins: The First Book of the Karmidee. Charlotte Haptie. Holiday House. \$18.00. Grades 4-7

Young Otto comes to the rescue when he discovers that his family and city are the last remnants of an ancient magical world now under threat from the Normal Police. This is a fast paced adventure that is a good choice for middle graders looking for an entertaining fantasy.

Our Nest. Reeve Lindbergh. Illus. by Jill McElmurry. Candlewick. \$16.00. Grades PreK-2
A rhymed view of the interrelatedness and belonging of all things and creatures in the universe, from the stars, to the sea, to a mouse, to a child. The folk-art style illustrations lend simplicity to the concept of the interrelatedness of nature. **Open Court: Animals**

Our Secret, Siri Aang. Christina Kessler. Philomel. \$18.00. Grades 4-8

Text mostly in English with some Masai. Namelok, a Masai girl, tries to persuade her traditionalist father to delay her initiation and marriage because they will restrict her freedom and keep her from the black rhino mother and baby she is protecting from poachers. **Open Court: Perseverance**

Out-of-This-World Astronomy: 50 Amazing Activities & Projects. Joe Rhatigan and Rain Newcome. Sterling. \$17.00. Grades 4-7

Introduces "the study of stuff in space," providing statistics, quizzes, activities, and experiments about the stars and planets. The text is lively, and the activities are suitably linked to the ideas covered. Illustrated with colorful, photo-filled layouts that support the text. Includes Web sites, a glossary and index. **Open Court: Astronomy**

Outside and Inside Killer Bees. Sandra Markle. Walker. \$18.00 Grades 3-6

Provides information about killer bees, explaining the similarities and differences between European and Africanized honeybees, discussing the spread of the Africanized, or killer bees, from Brazil to North America, and examining efforts to control killer bee populations. Illustrated with full color photographs.

Panda Rescue: Changing the Future for Endangered Wildlife. Dan Bortolotti. Firefly. \$17.00. Grades 3-8

Discusses threats to the survival of the giant panda and examines panda conservation efforts around the world. Includes a time line of conservation efforts, short profiles of conservationists, and forecasts of the animals' future. Illustrated with full color photographs. **Open Court: Ecology**

Parthenon. Lynn Curlee. Simon & Schuster. \$18.00. Grades 4-7

A detailed history of the Parthenon exploring its construction and restoration. The author focuses on the history of Athens, and of the temple built to honor Athena as well as the later disasters, desecration, and metamorphoses it survived. Illustrated with detailed, realistic artwork. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations**

Pascual and the Kitchen Angels. Tomie dePaola. Putnam. \$17.00. Grades K-3

Pascual, a boy blessed by angels at his birth, receives divine help when the Franciscan monks make him their cook. He is helped by young angels, who flit across the cover and the inside spreads and busily gathering ingredients and cooking. dePaola's paintings feature chalky white backgrounds that provide a celestial feeling to the story.

Past Perfect, Present Tense: New and Collected Stories. Richard Peck. Dial. \$17.00. Grades 7+

A collection of short stories, including two previously unpublished ones that deal with the way things could be. Each story is accompanied by author's notes, telling where it came from, why and how he wrote it, and, sometimes, how it led to a novel.

Pearl and Wagner: Three Secrets. Kate McMullan. Illus. by R.W. Alley. Dial. \$15.00 Grades K-3

Pearl and Wagner, a rabbit and a mouse who are best friends, learn about secrets during a trip to an ice cream factory and an amusement park birthday party. Many children will recognize their own fears in this story that is told with simple words and plenty of realistic dialogue. **Open Court: Friendship**

Pearl of Anton. Gene Del Vecchio. Pelican. \$17.00. Grades 10-12

Jason Del struggles to master himself and the Pearl of Anton in order to defend humanity in the Final Contest. The action intense and is accompanied by violence. A well developed fantasy novel.

People Could Fly: The Picture Book. Virginia Hamilton. Illus. by Leo Dillon and Diane Dillon. Knopf. \$17.00. Grades 3-8

This is a retelling of a folktale, in which a group of slaves, unable to bear their sadness and starvation any longer, calls upon the African magic that allows them to fly away. Illustrated with large paintings that are magic realism at its finest. This is an illustrated version of the title story in Hamilton's 1985 book, *People Could Fly: American Black Folktales*. **Open Court: Survival**

People of Sparks. Jeanne Duprau. Random. \$16.00. Grades 5-9

Lina and Doon are thrilled to see their people join them above ground in the vibrant village of Sparks, but suspicion and prejudice soon turn the villagers and newcomers against each other. Sequel to *The City of Ember* (2003).

Peter and the Starcatchers. Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson. Hyperion. \$18.00. Grades 4-8
Peter, an orphan boy, and his friend Molly fight off thieves and pirates in order to keep the secret safe away from the diabolical Black Stache and his evil associate Mister Grin. This is a prequel to Peter Pan that explains how Peter Pan, the Lost Boys, and Captain Hook all ended up in Never Land.

Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog! Mo Willems. Hyperion. \$12.00. Grades PreK-2

Pigeon, from the hilarious *Pigeon Drives the Bus* (2003), learns about sharing when a curious duckling keeps asking questions about the hot dog Pigeon has found. Told through artistic minimalism and clever dialog that will keep young readers laughing.

Open Court: Finding Friends

Piratica : Being a Daring Tale of a Singular Girl's Adventure Upon the High Seas. Tanith Lee. Dutton. \$18.00. Grades 6-9

Maps on endpapers. Artemesia finally escapes the prim and proper world of finishing schools and sets out to win her mother's title as pirate queen of the seas until she meets her match against Goldie Girl, the treacherous captain of the pirate ship "Enemy."

Pocket Poems. Bobbie Katz. Illus. by Marilyn Hafner. Dutton. \$16.00. Grades K-3

A collection of poems short enough to be carried in one's pocket, by such authors as Emily George, Emily Dickinson, Gwendolyn Brooks, Charlotte Pomerantz, Nikki Giovanni, and Eve Merriam. The poems are accompanied by clear watercolor paintings that extend the poems. **Open Court: Our Neighborhood at Work**

Polar Bear Night. Lauren Thompson. Scholastic. \$16.00. PreK-2

After wandering out at night to watch a magical star shower, a polar bear cub returns home to snuggle with her mother in their warm den. Bold linocut prints in cool blues.

Open Court: Animals, Let's Read

President is Shot! The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Harold Holzer. Boyds Mills Press. \$18.00. Grades 5-8

Discusses the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln in 1865; discussing how John Wilkes Booth executed and was punished for the killing and how the event transformed Lincoln from man to myth. The illustrations, a combination of photos and archival illustrations, help to make this a highly readable text that will engage readers.

Pride of African Tales, A. Donna Washington. Illus. by James Ransome. HarperCollins. \$17.00. Grades 2-5

A collection of African folktales originating in the storytelling tradition that include trickster stories, porquoi and cautionary tales. A map of Africa pinpoints the countries of

origin. The paintings that illustrate the tales draw elements from African textiles. **Open Court: Storytelling**

Prince Across the Water. Jane Yolen. Putnam/Philomel. \$19.00. Grades 5-8

In 1746, a year after the Scottish clans have rallied to the call of their exiled prince, Charles Stuart, to take up arms against England's tyranny, fourteen-year-old, epileptic Duncan MacDonald and his cousin, Ewan, run away to join the fight at Culloden and discover the harsh reality of war.

Princess Knight. Cornelia Funke. Illus. by Kerstin Meyer. Scholastic. \$16.00. Grades 1-4

Princess Violetta, raised by her widowed father, the king, to ride and joust just like her brothers, is horrified when he announces plans to hold a tournament, the winner of which will win her hand in marriage. Illustrated with images that are inspired by the Bayeux tapestry. Pair with Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch. **Open Court: Storytelling**

Private Peaceful. Michael Morpurgo. Scholastic. \$17.00. Grades 7-12

When Thomas Peaceful's older brother is forced to join the British Army, Thomas decides to sign up as well, although he is only fourteen years old, to prove himself to his country, his family, his childhood love, Molly, and himself.

Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America. Sharon Robinson. Scholastic. \$17.00. Grades 4-7

A biography of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in the major leagues, as told by his daughter. This is a compelling story that emphasizes the role Jackie Robinson played in advancing the rights of blacks through his life and work, generously illustrated with photographs and letters. **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

Race to Save the Lord God Bird. Phillip Hoose. Farrar. \$17.00. Grades 7+

Tells the story of the ivory-billed woodpecker's extinction in the United States, describing the encounters between this species and humans, and discussing what these encounters have taught us about preserving endangered creatures. This well researched work is based on interviews, primary materials, and published sources. Illustrated with archival photos.

Railroad Fever: Building the Transcontinental Railroad 1830-1870. Monica Halpern. National Geographic. \$13.00. Grades 4-6

Presents the story of the transcontinental railroad and those who built it including both Irish and Chinese immigrants and former slaves. The numerous illustrations include vintage black-and-white photos, sepia photos, maps, and several attractive softly tinted, pen-and-ink drawings. **Open Court: A Changing America**

Rain, Rain, Rain Forest. Brenda Z. Guiberson. Illus. by Steve Jenkins. Holt. \$17.00. Grades K-4

Takes a journey through a rain forest, by trailing a sloth as he investigates the plants and animals that dwell there. The lyrical text incorporates a great deal of information. Jenkins' signature collage illustrations are a great enhancement to the text.

Open Court: Animals

Red Book, The. Barbara Lehman. Houghton. Grades K-6

A wordless story in which a little girl finds a red book in the snow that holds an astonishing surprise. The bright artwork is simply drawn and incorporates geometric forms. Pair this title with Zoom by Istvan Banyai.(1995). **Open Court: Imagination**

Red Land, Yellow River: A Story from the Cultural Revolution. Ange Zhang. Douglas and McIntyre. \$17.00. Grades 4-8

Presents an autobiographical account in both narrative and the drawings of artist Ange Zhang who witnessed the Cultural Revolution in China in the 1960s and, like his father, found himself at odds with the ideology of Mao. **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

Reluctant Dragon, The. Kenneth Grahame. Illus. by Inga Moore. Candlewick. \$18.00. Grades 3-6

In this beautifully illustrated, abridged version of the original, the boy who finds the dragon in the cave knows it is a kindly, harmless one, but how can he convince the frightened villagers and, especially, St. George the dragon killer that there is no cause for concern? The colored pencil and ink drawings provide detailed images of town and countryside, as well as close-ups of the friendly dragon. **Open Court: Imagination**

Remember D-Day: The Plan, the Invasion, Survivor Stories. Ronald J. Drez. National Geographic. \$16.00. Grades 4-8

Discusses the events and personalities involved in the momentous Allied invasion of France on June 6, 1944. The large format is easily accessible and contains many fine illustrations that include black-and-white photos of individuals and battle scenes and color shots of leaders, sites, and artifacts.

Remember: The Journey to School Integration. Toni Morrison. Houghton Mifflin. \$18.00. Grades 3-8

Presents a selection of archival photographs that document events surrounding the integration of U.S. schools following the 1954 Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, and includes captions in which Toni Morrison imagines what the people in the pictures must have been thinking and feeling.

Open Court: Taking a Stand

Revenge and Forgiveness: An Anthology of Poems. Ed. by Patrice Vecchione. Holt. \$16.00. Grades 7+

A collection of nearly sixty poems dealing with revenge and forgiveness, plus suggested readings about each contributing poet. The anthology was inspired by the events of September 11 and includes biographical and notes on the poems.

Rickie & Henri: A True Story. Jane Goodall. Illus. Alan Marks. Minedition/Penguin. \$16.00. Grades K-4

When her human guardian goes on a business trip, Rickie, an orphaned chimpanzee infant, adopts Henri, a shaggy dog, as her "mother." This is a powerful picture book that stays true to the experience of the baby chimpanzee in Central Africa. Illustrated with realistic line-and-watercolor paintings. **Open Court: Friendship**

Right Dog for the Job: Ira's Path from Service Dog to Guide Dog. Dorothy Hinshaw Patent. Photos by William Muñoz. Walker. \$20.00. Grades 3-5

Tells how a golden retriever is trained as a service dog, to help someone who has trouble moving their arms or legs, and later as a guide dog for a man who cannot see. Includes many large, full color photographs that follow the dog's growth and relationships.

Roman Army: The Legendary Soldiers Who Created an Empire. Dyan Blacklock. Illus. by David Kennett. Walker. \$18.00. Grades 4-8

Presents an illustrated history of the Roman Army, including information about its composition, organization, training, methods, weapons, and campaigns. Includes discussion of the treatment of the defeated people, captives, and individual soldiers. Bold full-color illustrations provide informative details to supplement the text. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations**

Rooster Gallo. Jorge Elias Luján. Translated by Elisa Amado. Illus. by Manuel Monroy. Groundwood. \$15.00. Grades PreK-2

A rooster's call begins the unfolding of the morning and heralds the continuing cycle of day and night. Text in English and Spanish. The simple, yet lyrical text, is accompanied by bright artwork that is the real star of this picture book. **Open Court: Shadows**

Rotten Ralph Feels Rotten. Jack Gantos. Illus. by Nicole Rubel. Farrar. \$15.00. Grades 1-3
Rotten Ralph comes to appreciate Sarah's healthy cat food after he gets sick from eating out of trash cans. This cautionary tale about eating junk food is accompanied by bright artwork that lights up this beginning reader.

Ruby Lu, Brave and True. Lenore Look. Illus. by Anne Wilsdorf. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Grades 1-3

Almost-eight-year-old Ruby Lu spends time with her baby brother, goes to Chinese school, performs magic tricks and learns to drive, and has adventures with both old and new friends. This beginning chapter book includes some Chinese words and poetic phrases. Illustrated with pencil artwork that bounces throughout the story. **Open Court: Storytelling**

Saving Francesca. Merlina Marchetta. Knopf. \$16.00. Grades 9-12

Sixteen-year-old Francesca could use her outspoken mother's help with the problems of being one of a handful of girls at a parochial school that has just turned co-ed, but her mother has suddenly become severely depressed.

Saying Goodbye to Lulu. Corinne Demas. Illus. by Ard Hoyt. Little, Brown. \$16.00. Grades PreK-2

After taking care of her dog Lulu whose general health is declining, the dog dies, and the girl grieves but then continues with her life. This is a touching story that will resound with any child who has lost a beloved pet. Illustrated with ink-and-colored-pencil drawings washed with watercolors.

School at the Crooked Creek. Laurie Lawlor. Illus. Ronald Himler. Holiday House. \$16.00. Grades 2-5

Living on the 19th-century Indiana frontier with his parents and irritable older sister Louise, six-year-old Beansie dreads his first day of school, but his resilience surprises even his sister. This short chapter book depicts the struggle on the frontier from a young boy's point of view, and is illustrated with black and white drawings.

Open Court: A Changing America

Schwa Was Here, The. Neal Shusterman. Dutton. \$16.00. Grades 7-10

A Brooklyn eighth-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa, an "invisible-ish" boy who is tired of blending into his surroundings and going unnoticed by nearly everyone. This is a clever tall tale that is reminiscent of E. L. Konigsburg's quirky characters.

Science Verse. Jon Scieszka. Illus. by Lane Smith. With CD. Viking Press. \$17.00. Grades 3-5

Presents a story about a teacher who tells his class that they can hear the poetry of science in everything and a student is struck with a science curse where he hears nothing but science verses that sound very much like some well-known poems. Includes a CD with readings and singing of the verses, and additional poems.

Sea of Trolls. Nancy Farmer. Simon & Schuster. \$18.00. Grades 5-9

After Jack becomes apprenticed to a Druid bard, he and his little sister Lucy are captured by Viking Berserkers and taken to the home of King Ivar the Boneless and his half-troll queen, leading Jack to undertake a vital quest to Jotunheim, home of the trolls.

Search for the Golden Moon Bear: Science and Adventure in the Asian Tropics. Sy Montgomery. Houghton Mifflin. \$17.00. Grades 5-8

The author shares the story of her dangerous journeys throughout Southeast Asia, along with evolutionary biologist Gary Galbreath, in search of the golden moon bear and evidence that will prove whether or not it is a previously unknown species or subspecies. Illustrated with full color photographs by the author and biologist. **Open Court: Ecology**

Secrets of the Sphinx. James Cross Giblin. Illus. by Bagram Ibatoulline. Scholastic. \$18.00. Grades 4-7

Discusses some of Egypt's most famous artifacts and monuments, including the pyramids, the Rosetta Stone, and, especially, the Great Sphinx, presenting research and speculation about their origins and their future. The realistic gouache and watercolor illustrations include paintings of the desert, close-ups of the sculptured face, details of hieroglyphics, and portraits of famous figures through history. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations**

See You Down the Road. Kim Ablon Whitney. Knopf. \$16.00. Grades 9-12

Sixteen-year-old Bridget, member of an Irish Traveler community in the U.S., questions the traditions of her family's nomadic, criminal way of life and begins to consider breaking free. The first-person narration is sprinkled with raunchy humor and some expletives but is strong and convincing.

September Roses. Jeanette Winter. Farrar. \$14.00. Grades K-3

Two sisters find a good use for the roses they are transporting from South Africa to a flower show in New York City. The women arrive in New York on the morning of September 11, along with the 2,400 flowers they had planned to exhibit. Stranded at the airport, they are offered shelter by a stranger. As a way of thanking him, the sisters take their roses to Union Square Park and arrange the blossoms into the shape of the fallen buildings. Based on a factual anecdote. Beautifully illustrated.

Sequoyah: The Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing. James Rumford. Translated by Anna Sixkiller Huckaby. Houghton. \$16.00. Grades 1-4

This is a biography of Sequoyah, a member of the Cherokee nation who was born in the 1760s in eastern Tennessee and who developed the first written alphabet and language for the Cherokee people. The text is accompanied by stately illustrations that are primitive in appearance. The text is presented in English and Cherokee. **Open Court: Going West**

Shadows of Ghadames. Joelle Stolz. Delacourte. \$16.00. Grades 5-8.

At the end of the nineteenth century in Libya, eleven-year-old Malika simultaneously enjoys and feels constricted by the narrow world of women, but an injured stranger enters her home and disrupts the traditional order of things. Conveys the traditional Muslim world.

She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain. Philemon Sturges. Illus. by Ashley Wolff. Little, Brown. \$14.00. Grade K-3

New words to the traditional tune describe a camper-driving, "hootin'" and "shoutin'" guest and the party that will begin when she arrives. This southwestern variation of the traditional folk song is accompanied by bright illustrations. **Open Court: Let's Read**

Shhhhh! Everybody's Sleeping. Julie Markes. Illus. David Parkins. Harper Collins. \$16.00. Grades PreK-2

A young child is encouraged to go to sleep by the thought of everyone else sleeping, from teacher to baker to postman. Short rhyming text is accompanied by two-page spread paintings that show each person asleep with the tools of their trade surrounding them.

Open Court: Our Neighborhood at Work

Shooter. Walter Dean Myers. HarperCollins. \$16.00. Grades 8-12

Written in the form of interviews, reports, and journal entries, the story of three troubled teenagers ends in a tragic school shooting. The story is told from multiple viewpoints, and questions of guilt and innocence drive the plot will stay with the reader.

Shredderman: Secret Identity. Wendelin Van Draanen. Illus. by Brian Biggs. Knopf. \$13.00. Grades 3-6

Fifth-grader Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity--Shredderman! This is a new character-driven series that's great for middle-graders and for reluctant readers, especially boys.

Sidewalk Circus. Paul Fleischman. Illus. by Kevin Hawkes. Candlewick. \$16.00. Grades K-4

A young girl watches as the activities across the street from her bus stop mirror the upcoming acts in the circus that's coming to town. This is an almost wordless picture book with spectacular illustrations. As she leaves on the bus at the end of the book, her place is taken by a wide-eyed boy who seems destined to find new parallels of his own.

Open Court: Our Neighborhood at Work

Sign Language for Kids: A Fun and Easy Guide to American Sign Language. Lora Heller. Sterling. \$15.00. Grades 4-6

Color photos illustrate sign language for numbers, letters, colors, feelings, animals, and clothes. This is a well-designed, well-thought-out book that provides fully captioned photos of both boys and girls demonstrating signing.

Sign of the Qin. L.G. Bass. Hyperion. \$16.00. Grades 6+

In long-ago China, Prince Zong, the mortal young Starlord chosen to save humankind from destruction, joins the twin outlaws, White Streak and Black Whirlwind, to fight the Lord of the Dead and his demon hordes.

Silk Umbrellas. Carolyn Marsden. Candlewick. \$15.00. Grades 3-6

Eleven-year-old Noi worries that she will have to stop painting the silk umbrellas her family sells at the market near their Thai village and be forced to join her older sister in difficult work at a local factory instead. A few Thai words appear in the text and are generally understandable from context; they are also translated in the appended glossary.

Open Court: Fine Art

Sing a Song of Tuna Fish: Hard-to-Swallow Stories of Fifth Grade. Esme Raji Codel. Illus. LeUyen Pham.. Hyperion. \$15.00. Grades 4-7.

Provides fictionalized anecdotes of the author's childhood as a ten-year old living in Chicago. This is a funny and poignant book about growing up that celebrates the places and moments of her Chicago childhood.

Singer of All Songs. Kate Constable. Scholastic. \$17.00. Grades 6+

Calwyn, a young priestess of ice magic, or "chantment," joins with other chanters who have different magical skills to fight a sorcerer who wants to claim all powers for his own. This first book in a new fantasy trilogy.

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. Michael Morpurgo. Illus. by Michael Foreman. Candlewick. \$19.00. Grades 4-8

The quest of Sir Gawain for the Green Knight teaches him a lesson in pride, humility, and honor. A retelling of this classic poem, the lively writing brings out the humor and horror of this tale. The watercolor-and-pastel artwork highlights the drama. Use to introduce classic English literature, and as an example of an allegorical saga. **Open Court:**

Journeys and Quests

Skin Again. Bell Hooks. Illus. by Chris Raschka. Hyperion. \$15.00. Grades K-4

Children note that skin color is not as important as what is inside a person for determining who a person really is. Hooks and Raschka have created a visual and verbal celebration. The bright and exuberant illustrations will help to open up discussions.

Skyscraper: From the Ground Up. Susan Goodman. Photographs by Michael Doolittle. Knopf. \$19.00. Grades 3-6

Presents a study of skyscrapers, how they are built, the men who design them, and the various jobs involved in building them. This photo-essay showcases the various workers, their jobs, and their equipment and provides clear explanatory notes.

Snail and the Whale, The. Julia Donaldson. Illus. by Axel Scheffler. Dial. \$17.00. Grades K-3

Wanting to sail beyond its rock, a tiny snail hitches a ride on a big humpback whale and then is able to help the whale when it gets stuck in the sand. The rhyming text is accompanied by pleasant illustrations. **Open Court: Animals**

Snakes: Strange and Wonderful! Laurence Pringle. Illus. Meryl Henderson. Boyds Mills. \$16.00. Grades 1-5

Describes the physical characteristics and abilities of snakes, looks at how they climb, swim, and move across the ground, discusses their hunting abilities and eating behaviors, and explains how they reproduce. Full-color drawings on every page are dramatic and visually satisfying and extend the text. **Open Court: Animals**

Snap: A Novel. Alison McGhee. Candlewick. \$16.00. Grades 4-6

Eleven-year-old Edwina confronts old and new challenges when her longtime best friend Sally faces the inevitable death of the grandmother who raised her. The title comes from the multicolored rubber bands that Edwina wears on rubber bands on her arm that she snaps to remind herself of things.

So B. It: A Novel. Sarah Weeks. HarperCollins. \$16.00. Grades 5-8

After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is after she discovers an undeveloped roll of old film that holds clues to her past. Her realistic voice lends authenticity to her unusual circumstances.

Sonny's House of Spies. George Ellem Lyon. Greenwillow. \$15.00. Grades 6-10

In a small Alabama town in 1947-1956, Sonny searches for answers about his father's disappearance, Uncle Marty, who looks after the family, and Mamby, their black housekeeper. This is a hilarious and heartbreaking coming of age story.

Speak To Me: (and I Will Listen Between the Lines). Karen English. Farrar. \$14.00. Grades 2-4

Poems describe the events of one day at a San Francisco elementary school as perceived by different third-graders, from the observations of the first to arrive on the playground, to the walk home. The poems are highlighted by warm, realistic watercolors and are told in the voices of the mostly African American children. **Open Court: School**

Star of Kazan, The. Eva Ibbotson. Illus. by Kevin Hawkes. Dutton. \$17.00. Grades 5-8

Annika, a twelve-year-old foundling in late nineteenth-century Vienna, inherits a trunk of costume jewelry, and soon afterwards a woman claiming to be her aristocratic mother arrives and takes her to live in a strangely decrepit mansion in Germany.

Storm Chaser (Edge Chronicles). Paul Stewart. Illus. by Chris Ridell. Random House. \$13.00. Grades 4-6

This is the second installment of the Edge Chronicles. Since his childhood in the Deep Woods young Twig has always longed to soar above the forest canopy and explore the sky. Now a crew member on his father's sky pirate ship, the Stormchaser, his dream seems fulfilled. This is a rousing adventure that will keep youngsters turning the pages. Illustrated with whimsical ink drawings.

Story of Science, Book One: Aristotle Leads the Way. Joy Hakim. Smithsonian. \$22.00.
Grades 8+

This is the first book in a projected series of six that weaves creation myths, history, physics, and mathematics to present a multifaceted view of the foundation of modern science. Full-color photos and illustrations appear throughout.

Superdog: The Heart of a Hero. Caralyn Buehner. Illus. by Mark Buehner. HarperCollins. \$16.00. Grades K-3

Tired of being overlooked because he is so small, a big-hearted dog named Dexter works hard to transform himself into a muscular superhero. The illustrator's retro-style artwork is charming. **Open Court: Stick to It, Courage**

Sure as Sunrise: Stories of Bruh Rabbit and His Walkin' Talkin' Friends. Alice McGill. Illus. by Don Tate. Houghton. \$17.00. Grades 1-5

Presents five stories of Bruh Rabbit and his friends, based on tales the author heard from her African American family while growing up in Halifax County, North Carolina. Presents a good combination of trickster fun, historical truth, and a storytelling tradition. Illustrated with big, clear oil-and-acrylic artwork. **Open Court: Storytelling**

Swifter, Higher, Stronger: A Photographic History of the Summer Olympics. Sue Macy. National Geographic. \$19.00. Grades 4-8

A detailed look at the history of the Olympic Games, from their origins in Ancient Greece, through their rebirth in nineteenth century France, to the present, highlighting the contributions of individuals to the Games' success and popularity. Vibrant, full-color photos enhance the work. **Grade 6: Pseverance**

Tales from the Waterhole. Bob Graham. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. \$17.00.
Grades 1-3

During the dry season, Morris the crocodile and his animal friends enjoy playing in and near the water hole. This short chapter book contains five interrelated stories accompanied by snappy ink-and-watercolor vignettes. **Open Court: Friendship**

Tarantula Scientist. Sy Montgomery. Photos by Nic Bishop. Houghton. \$16.00. Grades 4-8

Describes the research that Samuel Marshall and his students are doing on tarantulas, including the largest spider on earth, the Goliath bird-eating tarantula. Presents many facts about spiders in general and tarantulas in particular, as well as a clear understanding of how scientists use research to find answers to intriguing questions. Illustrated with full color photographs. See also *The Snake Scientist* (1999).

Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three parts. Richard Peck. Dial. \$17.00. Grades 5-8

In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew are disrupted when his older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse after mean old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies."

Technically, It's Not My Fault: Concrete Poems. John Grandits. Clarion. \$13.00. Grades 4-8

A collection of poems in which words and art combine to make pictures of the life of an 11 year-old boy. The poems are graphically inventive and printed in red and black on white.

Teeth, Tails, and Tentacles: An Animal Counting Book. Christopher Wormell. Running Press. \$19.00. Grades K-3

This counting book illustrates the numbers from 1 to 20 by highlighting intriguing parts, behaviors, or features of specific animals, rather than simply increasing the numbers of the animals themselves. Includes short snippets of information on each animal and colorful images of animals both familiar and exotic. **Open Court: Animals**

Tell Me One Thing Dad. Tom Pow. Illus. by Ian Andrew. Candlewick. \$16.00.

Grades PreK-2

Molly and her father play a bedtime game that shows how much they love each other. Molly asks questions about various creatures: a dinosaur, a polar bear, a crocodile, the mythical Grimalken, and, of course, Dad. Dad's answer to each question is that they love their babies. The illustrations are full-page close-ups of parents and offspring that are warm and whimsical. **Open Court: Animals**

Tending to Grace. Kimberly Newton Fusco. Knoph/Borzoi. \$15.00. Grades 8-12

When Cornelia's mother runs off with a boyfriend, she leaves her with an eccentric aunt. Ninth-grader Cornelia teaches her aunt to read, and her aunt helps Cornelia overcome her self-consciousness about her stuttering. In the end, Cornelia must finally confront the truth about herself and her mother.

Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak. Deborah Ellis. Douglas & McIntyre. \$17.00. Grades 7-9

Presents the words of young people between the ages of eleven and eighteen in which they share what it is like to live in the midst of the upheaval and violence of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Presents 20 stirring first-person narratives by Jewish, Christian, and Muslim young people interviewed by the author in 2002.

Tiger Rescue: Changing the Future for Endangered Wildlife. Dan Bortolotti. Firefly.

\$17.00. Grades 3-8

Discusses threats to the tiger's survival and examines tiger conservation efforts around the world. Covers the tiger's natural habitat, habits, physiology, and behavior in captivity. Also includes a time line of conservation efforts. Illustrated with exciting full color photographs. **Open Court: Ecology**

Time for Ballet. Adele Geras. Illus. by Shelagh McNicholas. Dial. \$17.00. Grades K-2

Tilly, who loves ballet, plays the part of a cat in her class's dance recital. This picture book shows the day by day preparation for the recital including rehearsals and Tilly practicing at home during the week. Illustrations are filled with humorous, realistic detail.

Tiny's Big Adventure. Martin Waddell. Illus. by John Lawrence. Candlewick. \$14.00.

Grades PreK-2

Tiny, a barn mouse, visits the wheat field for the first time with his sister, Katy, and discovers things he has never seen before. The illustrations include engravings, watercolor washes, and printed wood textures that complement the warm hearted adventure.

Toby, Who Are You? William Steig. Illus. by Teryl Euvremer. HarperCollins. \$16.00.

Grades PreK-2

On a family picnic, Toby has fun pretending to be a variety of animals and then asking his parents to guess what he is. The pastel, impressionistic pictures are a perfect complement to this quiet adventure by the late William Steig. **Open Court: Animals**

Top Secret: A Handbook of Codes, Ciphers, and Secret Writing. Paul B. Janeczko. Illus. by Jenna LaReau. Candlewick. \$17.00. Grades 4-8

Presents a guide to codemaking, codebreaking, and their role in history, describing different types of codes and ciphers, discussing codebreaking and concealment techniques, and including brief stories about exciting moments in the history of the art. Humorous illustrations.

Toughest Cowboy: Or How the Wild West Was Tamed. John Frank. Simon & Schuster.

\$17.00. Grades K-4

A group of grizzly cowboys are transformed when Foofy, a French poodle, comes to live with them on the range. The comical oil paintings, with their stunning Western

landscapes and deliberately distorted cowboy caricatures, fit this clever tall-tale read-aloud.

Trembling Earth. Kim Siegelson. Putnam. \$18.00. Grades 6-9

In 1864, two boys, one a slave running toward freedom and one hoping to collect the reward for capturing him, make their way through Georgia's Okefenokee Swamp, relying on knowledge the white boy's father, disabled by the war, had passed on to him in happier times. Told from the viewpoint of Hamp, 12, a poor white kid.

Trial, The. Jen Bryant. Knopf. \$15.00. Grades 5-9

Living in Flemington, New Jersey, in 1935, twelve-year-old Katie Leigh Flynn describes, in a series of poems, the effect on her small town of the ongoing trial of Bruno Hauptmann for the kidnapping and murder of Charles Lindbergh's baby son. The tale presents the Depression-era milieu during which the trial unfolded and, at the same time, conveys the seriousness of an episode that may have been a miscarriage of justice.

Troll Fell. Katherine Langrish. HarperCollins. \$17.00. Grades 5-7

Forced to move to Troll Fell to live with his uncles, Baldur and Grim, after his father's death, young Peer Ulfsson learns of his uncles' sinister plan to sell children to the trolls and sets out with an adventurous neighbor girl named Hilde to stop them. This is a tense, quick-paced story that will keep readers glued to the page.

Truth About Forever, The. Sarah Dessen. Viking. \$17.00. Grades 9-12

The summer following her father's death, Macy plans to work at the library and wait for her brainy boyfriend to return from camp, but instead she goes to work at a catering business where she makes new friends and finally faces her grief.

Truth About Sparrows, The. Marian Hale. Holt. \$17.00. Grades 5-8

Twelve-year-old Sadie promises that she will always be Wilma's best friend when their families leave drought-stricken Missouri in 1933, but once in Texas, Sadie learns that she must try to make a new home, and new friends, too. This historical fiction tale is abundant with period details.

ttyl. (talk to you later) Lauren Myracle. Abrams. \$14.00. Grades 8-10

Chronicles, in "instant message" format, the day-to-day experiences, feelings, and plans of three friends, Zoe, Maddie, and Angela, as they begin tenth grade. Even though the plot is familiar, it is the girls' distinctly compelling IM voices that will hook readers.

Two Eggs, Please. Sarah Weeks. Illus. by Betsy Lewin. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Grades K-1

A look at the many different ways to prepare the very same food, as everyone in a diner orders eggs. A good illustration of the concept of similarities and differences, for example when the cook breaks open a brown egg and a white egg that are different, but inside they are the same. Illustrated with amusing watercolor cartoons.

Under the Watson's Porch. Susan Shreve. Knopf. \$16.00. Grades 5-8

Twelve-year-old Ellie's boring summer becomes exciting when she develops a crush on her new next-door neighbor, Tommy, an older boy who is a foster kid with a troubled past, who she is sure her parents won't like. Tommy suggests that they run a camp for younger kids under the old Watson sisters' porch. There, he intends to have kids plant seeds that will magically sprout into lollipops. A touching look at a first infatuation.

Under the Wolf, Under the Dog. Adam Rapp. Candlewick. Grades 9-12

Sixteen-year-old Steve struggles to make sense of his mother's terminal breast cancer and his brother's suicide. This is not a book for timid readers or those easily offended or shocked by rough language or graphic descriptions. As Steve fights his way out from under the "dog" of depression, readers will cheer him on.

Unseen, The. Zilpha Keatley Snyder. Delacorte. \$16.00. Grades 5-8

Feeling angry and out-of-place in her large family, twelve-year-old Xandra finds a magical key to a world of ghostly, sometimes frightening, phantoms that help her see herself and her siblings more clearly.

Up In Heaven. Emma C. Clark. Doubleday. \$16.00. Grades K-3

Daisy, greatly enjoying heaven, consults her fellow heavenly dogs when she sees that Arthur, the boy she left behind on Earth, is very sad about her death. She begins to send him dreams that ultimately prepare him for the acceptance of another dog. Illustrated with soft, cheerful pastel artwork.

Valley Forge. Richard Ammon. Illus. by Bill Farnsworth. Holiday House. \$17.00. Grades 3-6
Presents an illustrated account of the beginnings of the Revolutionary War, and tells the story of how George Washington transformed his army of ordinary citizens into an unbeatable fighting force over the course of a difficult winter at Valley Forge. Illustrated with full-page paintings. **Open Court: Making a New Nation**

Voice That Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights, The. Russell Freedman. Clarion. \$16.00. Grades 4-8

Tells the life story of singer Marian Anderson, describing her famous 1939 Lincoln Memorial performance and explaining how she helped end segregation in the American arts after being refused the right to perform at Washington's Constitution Hall because of her race. Illustrated with black-and-white documentary photos and prints that convey her personal struggle, professional artistry, and landmark civil rights role. **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

Wake Up Our Souls: A Celebration of Black American Artists. Tonya Bolden. Abrams. \$25.00. Grades 6+

Explores the lives and creations of a select number of notable African-American men and women who have contributed to the American art scene. The author presents equal attention to biography and art history. Includes reproductions of works that are accompanied by brief critiques. **Open Court: Fine Art**

Wallace's List. Barbara Bottner & Gerald Kruglik. Illus. by Olof Landström. HarperCollins. \$17.00. Grades K-2.

Devoted to making lists about everything in his life, Wallace the mouse discovers the joys of spontaneity and adventure when he becomes friends with his neighbor Albert. The comical art is expressive, rendered in soft colors and incorporates Wallace's lists. The story presents a positive message about trying new experiences and embracing new friendships. **Open Court: Friendship**

Walt Whitman: Words for America. Barbara Kerley. Illus. by Brian Selznick. Scholastic. \$17.00. Grades 4+

A biography of the American poet whose compassion led him to nurse soldiers during the Civil War, to give voice to the nation's grief at Lincoln's assassination, and to capture the true American spirit in verse. This picture-book biography sports glorious colored-pencil drawings in double-page spreads as well as miniatures. Includes author's and illustrator's notes, sources, and a bibliography.

We Are Americans: Voices of the Immigrant Experience. Dorothy Hoobler and Thomas Hoobler. Scholastic. \$22.00. Grades 5-9

A history of immigration to America, beginning with prehistoric-era immigrants, then moving on to the New England colonies, the nineteenth century's mass-migrations, the anti-foreign sentiment of the early twentieth century, and the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965. Illustrated with black and white photographs and reproductions. **Open Court: Heritage**

We Shall Overcome. Herb Boyd. Sourcebooks. \$38.00. Grades 9+

Includes bibliographical references, filmography, and index. Chronicles America's Civil Rights movement through a collection of black-and-white illustrated photographs and two audio CDs narrated by Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee. **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

Wee Winnie Witch's Skinny: An Original African American Scare Tale. Virginia Hamilton. Illus. by Barry Moser. Scholastic. \$17.00. Grades 3-6

James Lee and Uncle Big Anthony become victims of Wee Winnie Witch, who takes them on a ride up into the sky, but Mama Granny saves them. This is an original scare tale, expertly told by the late Hamilton. In the full-page wood engravings, Moser captures the tale's moonlit horror but provides comic relief at the end. Middle-grade readers will be hooked, especially at Halloween. **Open Court: Heritage**

What Did You Do Today? The First Day of School. Toby Forward. Illus. by Carol Thompson. Clarion. \$15.00. Grades PreK-2.

A child describes the events of the first day of school, from making sandwiches for lunch to holding a parent's hand on the walk home. The story is highlighted with pen-and-watercolor illustrations with bright colored borders. **Open Court: School**

What if You Met a Pirate? : an Historical Voyage of Seafaring Speculation. Jan Adkins. Illus. Jan Adkins. Roaring Book Press. \$15.00. Grades 3-5

Pictures and text describe what pirates were really like, especially the pirates of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. Pictures and text describe what pirates were really like, especially the pirates of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. Bright with color washes, the excellent, energetic drawings show pirates engaged in a variety of activities

What Is Goodbye? Nikki Grimes. Illus. by Raúl Colón. Hyperion. \$14.00. Grades 4-8

Alternating poems by a brother and sister convey their feelings about the death of their older brother and the impact it had on their family. Illustrated with small colored-pencil artwork that captures images of many of the poems.

What Makes me a Buddhist? Charles George. Kidhaven. \$19.00. Grades 4-7

Discusses Buddhism including how it began, what Buddhists believe, how they practice their faith, and what holidays they celebrate. Colorfully illustrated and include calendars, maps, and annotated lists of books and Web sites for further exploration.

What Makes me a Hindu? Charles George. Kidhaven. \$19.00. Grades 4-7

Discusses Hinduism including how Hinduism began, what Hindus believe, how they practice their faith, and what holidays they celebrate. Colorfully illustrated and include calendars, maps, and annotated lists of books and Web sites for further exploration.

When Bugs were Big, Plants were Strange, and Tetrapods Stalked the Earth: a Cartoon Prehistory of Life Before Dinosaurs. Hannah Bonner. National Geographic. \$15.00. Grades 3-6

Takes a tour of the Earth three hundred and twenty million years ago, during the Paleozoic Era, and investigates the plants and animals found there. This is a breezy look at the flora and fauna of 250-320 million years ago, illustrated with drawings of simply drawn, precisely detailed land and sea life.

When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer. Walt Whitman. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. Grades 2-5

Presents Walt Whitman's poem "When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer," illustrated with the story of a boy who finds relief in the night sky when he becomes overwhelmed by an academic presentation on the stars. **Open Court: Astronomy**

Where's Jamela? Niki Daly. Farrar. \$16.00. Grades K-3

When Mama gets a new job and a new house, everyone is excited about moving except Jamela who likes her old house just fine. As moving preparations are being made, panic ensues when Jamela cannot be found, having crawled into a box and promptly fallen asleep. When she wakes she is given a warm sendoff by her neighbors. Illustrated with full color artwork.

Who Am I without Him?: Short Stories About Girls and the Boys in their Lives. Sharon Flake. Hyperion. \$16.00. Grades 9-12

Presents ten short stories that are both hilarious and anguished, about growing up black today. They speak with a truthful voice about family, friends, school, and especially about finding a boyfriend.

Who Goes Home? Sylvia Waugh. Delacorte. \$16.00. Grades 5-8

On his thirteenth birthday, Jacob learns a secret about his birth and becomes involved in his father's work to protect other beings from the planet Ormingat who live on Earth. This is the final book in a trilogy that is a nicely done wrap-up volume for series fans.

Wild About Books. Judy Sierra. Illus. by Marc Brown. Knopf. \$17.00.

A librarian named Mavis McGrew introduces the animals in the zoo to the joy of reading when she drives her bookmobile to the zoo by mistake. The rhyming text is clever and is a tribute to Dr. Seuss that will delight young children. Illustrated with paintings that are rich in detail and color. Grades K-3. **Open Court: Let's Read**

William Shakespeare's Hamlet. Retold by Bruce Coville. Illus. by Leonid Gore. Dial. \$17.00. Grades 4-8

Retells, in simplified prose, William Shakespeare's play about a prince of Denmark who seeks revenge for his father's murder. This is a handsome volume that carries off the retelling with grace and style. The large-format design of the book makes it accessible to middle-grade children. Illustrated with acrylic and pastel artwork that is dark and paints a rich atmosphere.

Winter Night's Dream. Andrew Matthews. Delacorte. \$16.00. Grades 9-12

Casey, a high school freshman, and Stew, a senior, search for love separately, with the help of a favorite teacher, before meeting each other in this comic drama. The story is told in alternating first-person narratives. First published in England, it features fast, frank talk about friends, family, and snogging ("I didn't know you could do that standing up").

With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's Right to Vote. Ann Bausum. National Geographic. \$22.00. Grades 6+

Chronicles the long history of the fight for women's voting rights, beginning in 1848, with a focus on the years between 1913 and 1920 when the Nineteenth Amendment was passed, and includes profiles of notable women in the struggle. Illustrated with sepia-tone photographs that are highlighted in the signature colors of the movement, purple, gold, and white. **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

Woman for President: The Story of Victoria Woodhull. Kathleen Krull. Illus. by Jane Dyer. Walker. \$17.00. Grades 3-8

Describes the life of Victoria Woodhull, the first woman to run for president, have a seat on the stock exchange, own a newspaper, and speak before Congress. Writing style is lively and engaging and Dyer's large, photo-realist watercolors capture the sense of the age and involve both eye and imagination. Provides an expanded look at the birth of the movement for women's rights. **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

Wonders and Miracles: A Passover Companion. Compiled by Eric Kimmel. Scholastic. \$19.00. Grades 4-8

Describes the steps performed in a traditional Passover Seder, and includes stories, songs, poems, and commentary that celebrate the historical significance of the Jewish holiday; illustrated with art from throughout three thousand years and four continents. Illustrated with well chosen, beautifully reproduced artwork that is mostly historical in nature. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations**

Worlds Afire. Paul Janeczko. Candlewick. \$16.00. Grades 5+

In this novel written as a collection of eyewitness poems, the excitement and anticipation of attending the circus on July 6, 1944 in Hartford, Connecticut, turns to horror when a fire engulfs the circus tent, killing nearly 180 people, mostly women and children. Based on a real circus fire in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1944 that killed 167 in a few minutes and injured more than 500.

Worth. A. LaFaye. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Grades 5-8

After breaking his leg, eleven-year-old Nate feels useless because he cannot work on the family farm in nineteenth-century Nebraska, so when his father brings home an orphan boy to help with the chores, Nate feels even worse. The angry first-person narrative is brutally honest. The two boys both lonely and heartsick, and finally discover that they need each other. It is a lively story of these two boys that is set against a backdrop of the Orphan Trains, range wars, lynchings, drownings, and sheep killings.

Wow! City! Robert Neubecker. Hyperion. \$17.00. Grades PreK-2

Izzy, raised in the mountains, has only one word to describe the people, buildings, cars, and other exciting things she sees in the big, bustling city. Bright, bold illustrations feature a seek-and-find subplot that extends to the stunning endpapers.

Open Court: Let's Read

Year of Secret Assignments. Jaclyn Moriarty. Scholastic. \$17.00. Grades 9-12

Three female students from Ashbury High write to three male students from rival Brookfield High as part of a pen pal program, leading to romance, humiliation, revenge plots, and war between the schools. There are a few coarse moments, a reference to a blow job and some caustic outbursts, but the characters are real and the screwball humor will attract teens.

You Can't Rush a Cat. Karleen Bradford. Orca. \$15.00. Grades K-3

Jessica helps her sometimes lonely grandfather to befriend a homeless cat. As a comment that cats can't be hurried, Jessica and her grandfather watch, and gradually are able to win the little cat over. Illustrated with soft watercolor illustrations. **Open Court: Animals**

Young Man and the Sea, The. Rodman Philbrick. Scholastic. \$17.00. Grades 5-8

After his mother's death, twelve-year-old Skiff Beaman decides that it is up to him to earn money to take care of himself and his father, so he undertakes a dangerous trip alone out on the ocean off the coast of Maine to try to catch a huge blue fin tuna. This is a fast-paced novel that offers an atmospheric Maine setting, and a hero for whom to root.