

## Notable Children's Books 2005

**Notables 2005** (Titles from 2004 are indicated)

*10 Little Rubber Ducks*. Eric Carle. HarperCollins. \$20.00 Grades PreK – 2

When a storm strikes a cargo ship, ten rubber ducks are tossed overboard and swept off in ten different directions. This counting-book format story has a rubber duck's squeak reproduced at the end. Illustrated with Carle's trademark cut paper collages rendered in bright colors. Based on a 1992 news story. **OPEN COURT:** Let's Read

*The 1918 Influenza Pandemic*. Stephanie T. Peters, Benchmark. \$21.00 Grades 5 – 9

Describes the 1918 influenza pandemic, from how World War I soldiers spread the disease to recent scientific efforts to understand the virus that took between twenty and forty million lives worldwide. Illustrated with archival material and clearly reproduced paintings, photos, and micrographs that bring a strong sense of reality to the events. **OPEN COURT:** From Mystery to Medicine

*A Apple Pie*, Gennady Spirin. Philomel. \$15.00 Grades K – 3

Presents a children's alphabet book for early readers that describes the fortunes of the famous apple pie in art. The watercolor illustrations take on a Victorian flavor and are inspired by a 17<sup>th</sup> century English alphabet rhyme.

*Absolutely, Positively, Not...* David Larochelle. Arthur E. Levine. \$17.00 YA

In a lighthearted setting, a teenage boy attempts to fit in at his Minnesota high school by becoming a macho, girl-loving playboy. He is absolutely positively not gay. He is sure of it, so he sets out to prove it to himself and the world. When he can no longer deny that he is in fact gay, he looks for support and answers to his questions.

*Africa: Facts and Figures*. William M. Habeeb. Mason Crest. \$22.00 Grades 5 – 8

This is a comprehensive overview of the African continent in a slim volume, highlighted by excellent full-color photographs, maps, and charts. This is the first in a new series that will be followed by books covering specific countries in Africa. In this overview, the author discusses the land, economy, people, and cities.

*Alia's Mission: Saving the Books of Iraq*. Mark Stamaty. A. Knopf. 2004. \$13.00 Grades 3 – 6

In a graphic-novel format, the true story is told of how Alia Muhammad Baker, chief librarian of the Central Library in Basra, Iraq, managed to save over 80% of the library collection during the opening days of the war in Iraq in 2003. Details of how she smuggled more than 30,000 volumes out of the building before it was totally destroyed are presented in crisp pen-and-ink panels. **OPEN COURT:** Perseverance, Taking a Stand

*Alone in the World: Orphans and Orphanages in America*. Catherine Reef. Clarion. \$16.00 Grades 5 – 8

Examines the history of orphanages in the United States, looking at what life was like for children living in orphanages, discussing influences on how orphans were treated, and considering why orphanages have all but disappeared. There is use of primary source material including individual orphanages' histories, archival drawings and photographs. An afterword detailing the later lives of some of the children included makes a satisfying conclusion to this fascinating account. **OPEN COURT:** Perseverance

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*Always Remember Me: How one Family Survived World War II.* Marisabina Russo. Atheneum. \$17.00 Grades 2 – 4

Opening with end pages of family photos, this is the true story of a Jewish family's survival during the Holocaust of World War II. Oma and her granddaughter, Rachel, go through two family picture albums at a family gathering, one showing Oma's "first life" before the war, the other her "second life" after the war. The harsh reality of what this family faced during the years of World War II is presented through gouache illustrations in a folk art style that show documents, and the events of the war as Rachel imagines what they must have been like. **OPEN COURT:** Courage, Survival, Heritage, Perseverance

*A-maze Me: Poems for Girls.* Naomi S. Nye. Greenwillow. \$17.00 Grades 5+

This thoughtful and inspiring collection of poems is aimed at girls who might be struggling with adolescence. At age twelve, the author began a lifelong habit of journal writing and these free-verse poems are a reflection of her thoughts for girls from about age twelve to seventeen. The poems range from ones about feelings to humorous ones.

*Amelia to Zora: Twenty-six Women Who Changed the World.* Cynthia Chin-Lee. Charlesbridge. \$16.00 Grades 3 – 6

Presents brief, illustrated biographies of twenty-six women, one for each letter of the alphabet, who are diverse and have made history in their various fields. The choices include expected ones such as naturalist Jane Goodall, missionary Mother Teresa, as well as some unusual ones such as democratic leader and political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi and Pueblo painter Quah Ah. The mixed media illustrations highlight the essence of each woman. **OPEN COURT:** Taking a Stand

*And Tango Makes Three.* Richardson, Justin. Simon & Schuster. \$15.00 Grades K – 3

Two male chinstrap penguins at New York's Central Park Zoo bond, make a nest, and with the help of a zookeeper, hatch a chick. This is a true, straightforward story that is engaging that can serve as a gentle way to open discussions about same-sex partnerships in human society. Illustrated with soft watercolors that set the tone for this uplifting story. **OPEN COURT:** Animals

*Andy Shane and the Very Bossy Dolores Starbuckle.* Jennifer Richard Jacobson. Candlewick. \$14.00 Grades 1 – 3

Andy Shane hates school, mainly because of a tattletale know-it-all named Dolores Starbuckle, but Granny Webb, who has taken care of him all his life, joins him in class one day and helps him solve the problem. Illustrated with humorous pen-and-ink illustrations that highlight Andy's frustration and Dolores' temper. **OPEN COURT:** Friendship

*Angel Coming.* Heather Henson. Atheneum. \$16.00 Grades K – 3

A family makes preparations, eagerly awaiting the arrival of the angel who will come up the mountain bringing a new baby. This gentle story is set in the Kentucky mountains and reflects the 1920's when trained nurse-midwives of the Frontier Nursing Service made monthly visits on horseback. It is narrated in unrhymed, lilting verse through the eyes of a child. **OPEN COURT:** From Mystery to Medicine.

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*Anne Frank*. Josephine Poole. Knopf. \$18.00 Grades 3 – 6

This picture book biography presents an engaging portrait showing what Anne Frank was like as a child. The story is set in the context of Hitler's Germany and presents the anguish of leaving a happy childhood, and tells of Anne's writing and growing affection for Peter. The story concludes with the Nazi raid. Illustrated with powerful realistic paintings. **OPEN COURT:** Survival

*Ariel*. Grace Tiffany. HarperCollins. \$18.00 Grades 8 – 12

Contains a retelling of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest* from the point of view of Ariel, the mischievous air spirit. The author brings the characters from *The Tempest* and provides background as to how they get to the point where readers find them in the play. This is a witty tale that presents the bustle of Shakespeare's London as seen through the eyes of the heroine. A vivid introduction to the Elizabethan theatre.

*The Art of Reading: Forty Illustrators Celebrate RIF's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*. Dutton. \$17.00 All

Presents a collection of essays by popular children's writer/illustrators celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the Reading Is Fundamental literacy program. Includes illustrations in which each illustrator has selected a classic book from their childhood and re-imagined it. Includes a short paragraph about each illustrator.

*The Autobiography of My Dead Brother*. Walter Dean Myers. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Gr. 8 – 12

Jesse pours his heart and soul into his sketchbook to make sense of life in his troubled Harlem neighborhood and the loss of a close friend, Rise. His sketchbook shows his dynamic talent, and he begins to create a biography of Rise in pictures. Striking black-and-white illustrations, done by Christopher Myers, show moments from the boys' youth. There are also comics-style panels.

*Bad Baby*. Ross MacDonald. Roaring Brook \$17.00 Grades K – 3

Superhero Jack, the superhero of MacDonald's *Another Perfect Day* (2002), is back to grapple with his next big challenge. He finds his life turned upside down by the arrival of a very big, and very naughty, baby sister. The story is illustrated with stylized cartoon art in warm '40s comic-book colors.

*The Bake Shop Ghost*. Jacqueline Ogburn. Houghton. \$16.00 Grades K – 3

Miss Cora Lee Meriweather haunts her bakeshop after her death, until Annie, the new shop owner makes a deal with her. Annie visits the library and discovers what the long-ago orphaned baker really wants. Illustrated with bright watercolor artwork. **OPEN COURT:** Kindness

*The Battle Against Polio*. Stephanie T. Peters. Benchmark. \$21.00 Grades 4 – 9

The science and social history of polio is well presented in this book that also describes the history of polio, the way it spreads, its major epidemics, treatments such as the iron lung and the Kenny method, and the impact of Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin's vaccines. The engaging design includes photographs and includes a time line, glossary, and annotated bibliography. **OPEN COURT:** From Mystery to Medicine

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*Bears*. Ruth Krauss. HarperCollins. \$16.00 Grades PreK – 2

This is a re-issue of Krauss' story first published in 1948 with new illustrations by Maurice Sendak. Sendak creates a visual story showing a young boy in a wolf suit, tucked into bed, and roused when his jealous dog snags his stuffed bear takes off. A chase through a world of adult-sized ensues. Sendak's illustrations carry the story to a satisfying conclusion.

*Black and White*. Paul Volponi. Viking. \$16.00 YA

Two star high school basketball players, one black and one white, experience the justice system differently after committing a crime together and getting caught. Social conflicts, basketball fervor, and tough personal choices make this title a gripping story.

*Black Juice*. Margo Lanagan. HarperCollins. \$17.00 YA

Provides glimpses of the dark side as well as the beauty of the human spirit through ten short stories that explore significant moments in people's lives. The stories are set in both cultures that are familiar and unknown. Each story is carefully crafted and uses both familiar and inventive language in such a way that English teachers may want to incorporate the stories into classroom writing exercises.

*Black Storm Comin'*. Diane Lee Wilson. Margaret K. McElderry Books. \$17.00 Grades 5 – 8

Twelve-year-old Colton, son of an African-American mother and a white father, takes a job with the Pony Express in 1860 after his father abandons the family on their California-bound wagon train, and risks his life to deliver an important letter that may affect the growing conflict between the North and South. This is a fictional account based on historical facts and footnotes. **OPEN COURT:** Perseverance

*The Bora Bora Dress*. Carole Lexa Schaefer. Candlewick. \$17.00 Grades 1 – 3

Lindsay has a whole wardrobe of shorts, jeans, and even a pirate suit. But for Aunt Fiona's end of summer party, she must wear a dress. After a valiant search, she finds the perfect frock, made in Bora Bora, just for her, according to the label. The dress is covered with sparkly stars and a winking parrot and Lindsay has a magical night in it.

*Boy Girl Boy*. Ron Koertge. Harcourt. \$16.00 YA

Three troubled high school seniors, who plan to run away together from Illinois to California after graduation, try to figure out who they are who they want to be.

*Captain Raptor and the Moon Mystery*. Kevin O'Malley. Walker. \$18.00 Grades 2 – 4

Captain Raptor and his spaceship crew rush to investigate when an unidentified object lands on one of the moons of the planet Jurassica. This is an action packed adventure with a cast of dinosaurs. Presented in comic-book style with watercolor illustrations, this story will appeal to science fiction fans, lovers of dinosaurs, and reluctant readers. **OPEN COURT:** Astronomy

*Carmine a Little More Red*. Melissa Sweet. Houghton Mifflin. \$16.00 Grades K – 3

A unique retelling of Little Red Riding Hood that also serves as an alphabet book. The abecedarian telling highlights a single unusual word on each page as Carmine journeys to her grandmother's house for alphabet soup. She dawdles on the route, and her dog Rufus

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meets up with a wolf and takes him straight to grandma's house. Illustrated with a variety of techniques including maps, sketches, and watercolor washes. **OPEN COURT:** Fine Art, Sharing Stories, **Imagination**

*Catch a Tiger by the Toe.* Ellen Levine. Viking. \$16.00 Grades 5 – 8

Set in the early 1950s, in the Bronx, New York, during the McCarthy era, this story portrays how the suspicion of McCarthyism undermined community life including teachers being fired, books removed from public libraries, and fights on the playground. The story focuses on twelve-year-old Jamie who keeps a terrible secret about her family. Ultimately, she witnesses her father's defiance of Senator Joseph McCarthy himself and for the first time feels proud. **OPEN COURT:** Taking a Stand

*Central Heating: Poems about Fire and Warmth.* Marilyn Singer. Knopf. \$20.00 Grades 3 – 8

Presents an illustrated collection of energetic short poems about fire and warmth by American children's author Marilyn Singer. The poems connect to the ordinary such as roasting marshmallows and birthday candles as well as to the unexpected such as jalapeños and dragons. Illustrated with linocuts, washed in a fiery red color. This book will be useful across the curriculum, in science and history as well as language arts classes when studying poetry.

*Chameleon, Chameleon.* Joy Cowley. Scholastic. \$17.00 Grades K – 3

From the same team that produced *Red Eyed Tree Frog* comes this book about a brightly colored panther chameleon that carefully searches for food on the forest floor and in the end, finds a companion. The stunning photographs set against backgrounds of lime, yellow and orange bring out the details of this colorful chameleon. **OPEN COURT:** Animals, Look Again.

*The Champ: the Story of Muhammad Ali.* Tonya Bolden. Knopf. \$22.00 Grades 2 – 6

Chronicles the life and career of boxing great, Muhammad Ali from his childhood and early boxing matches, his gold medal in the Rome Olympics, and his 1996 appearance at the summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia. The story is told in lively text and accompanied by acrylic paintings that bring the story to life. **OPEN COURT:** Perseverance, Keep Trying.

*Chato Goes Cruisin'.* Gary Soto. Putnam. \$15.00 Grades 1 – 4

Chato and Novio are back in another adventure. In this story they win a cruise but are disappointed to find that all the other passengers are dogs, and things go from bad to worse when the dogs party themselves sick and it is up to the cats to find help. The story has lessons about being a friend and keeping your word. Guevara's colorful acrylic and scratchboard paintings are filled with texture and motion. Inked comic strips play up the humor and add another dimension to the story. **OPEN COURT:** Friendship

*Chicken Boy.* Frances O. Dowell. Atheneum. \$16.00 Grade 4 – 8

Since the death of his mother, Tobin's family life and school life have been in disarray, but after he starts raising chickens with his seventh-grade classmate, Henry, everything starts to fall into place. Tobin narrates this story with a unique and humorous voice. A great read and read aloud choice.

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*The Children Who Smelled a Rat.* Allan Ahlberg. Candlewick \$17.00 Grades K – 3

All the Gaskitts have a bad day when the baby rolls away in a shopping cart, the twins' teacher acts peculiar, and a lost bird tries to hypnotize the cat. Sixteen short chapters are interspersed with hilarious comments and commercials. The whimsical watercolor-and-crayon illustrations and clever designs add to the hilarity. A rare treat for new readers.

**OPEN COURT:** Sharing Stories

*Choo Choo Clickety-Clack!* Margaret Mayo. Carolrhoda. \$15.00 Grades PreK – 2

Rhythmic text imitates the sounds of trains, airplanes, boats, and other busy transports that come and go. Bright, colorful illustrations are combined with text that tells the way it moves and the sound it makes. **OPEN COURT:** Things that Go

*Cinderella.* Barbara McClintock, ret. Scholastic \$17.00 Grades K – 4

Although mistreated by her stepmother and stepsisters, Cinderella meets her prince with the help of her fairy godmother. The intricate pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations clearly set this version of the Perrault tale in the magnificent French court of Louis XIV.

**OPEN COURT:** Kindness

*Clatter Bash! A Day of the Dead Celebration.* Richard Keep. Peachtree. 2004. \$14.00 Gr K – 4

As family members bring offerings to the cemetery at sunset for the Mexican celebration of Day of the Dead, the skeletons begin lifting lids of the coffins in order to leave their graves to party. The spare text includes rhyming words that echo the Spanish/English onomatopoeic sounds. The illustrations are cut-paper collages, accented with paint and markers. An afterword explains the holiday and its customs. **OPEN COURT:** Our Country and its People

*Code Orange.* Caroline B. Cooney. Delacorte \$16.00 YA

While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City. The FBI gets involved; Mitty is kidnapped by would-be bioterrorists; and the reader is set up for the thrilling climax (with a twist). The book is replete with detailed information about the gruesome effects of smallpox and the terrifying possibilities of bioterrorism.

*Crackback.* John Coy. Scholastic \$17.00 YA

High school sophomore Miles barely recalls when football was fun after being sidelined by a new coach, constantly criticized by his father, and pressured by his best friend to take performance-enhancing drugs. When he discovers his teammates are using steroids, and one of them is his best friend, he's faced with a tough decision.

*A Crash Course for Molly.* Eva Eriksson. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades K – 3

Molly just received a new bike but despite Grandma's warnings, Molly can't seem to stop running into things as she rides along the path. Once she learns to keep her eyes on the road ahead instead of on the object she is trying to avoid, she succeeds. The soft, colored-pencil drawings add warmth to this story as Molly gains confidence in riding her bike.

**OPEN COURT:** Stick to It

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*Criss Cross*. Lynn Rae Perkins. Greenwillow. \$18.00 Grades 6 – 9

Teenagers in a small town in the 1960s experience new thoughts and feelings, and question their identities as they search for the meaning of life and love. Debbie, who wishes that something would happen so she'll be a different person, and Hector, who feels he is *unfinished*, narrates most of the novel. Both are 14 years old. There is a great deal of humor in this gentle story. The book is profusely illustrated with Perkins's amusing drawings and some photographs.

*Crooked River*. Shelley Pearsal. Knopf. \$16.00 Grades 4 – 6

When thirteen-year old Rebecca Carter's father brings a Native American accused of murder into their 1812 Ohio settlement town, Rebecca, witnessing the town's reaction to the Indian, struggles with the idea that an innocent man may be convicted and sentenced to death. **OPEN COURT:** Going West

*Cubanita*. Gaby Triana. HarperCollins. \$17.00 YA

Seventeen-year-old Isabel, eager to leave Miami to attend the University of Michigan and escape her overprotective Cuban mother, learns some truths about her family's past and makes important decisions about the type of person she wants to be. A funny and romantic read this is also a touching story.

*Danitra Brown, Class Clown*. Nikki Grimes. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades 3 – 5

Rhyming text tells the story of how Zuri faces her fears about starting a new school year, with the help of her free-spirited best friend Danitra. Danitra provides support, friendship, and her own unique styles to her advice. Illustrated with detailed watercolor paintings by E.B. Lewis. **OPEN COURT:** Friendship.

*Dark Sons*. Nikki Grimes. Hyperion. \$16.00 YA

Alternating poems compare and contrast the conflicted feelings of Ishmael, son of the Biblical patriarch Abraham, and Sam, a teenager in New York City, as they try to come to terms with being abandoned by their fathers and with the love they feel for their younger stepbrothers.

*A Day at the New Amsterdam Theatre*. Dana Amendola. Disney. 2004. \$22.00 Grades 4+

Photographs and text provide a behind-the-scenes look at the day-to-day activities that take place at Broadway's New Amsterdam Theatre and the production of *The Lion King*. It is a celebration of stagehands, technicians, and performers working six days a week to put on eight shows and is illustrated with full-color photographs.

*Day of Tears: a Novel in Dialogue*. Julius Lester. Jump at the Sun. \$16.00 Grades 5 – 8

Presents an historical fiction written in first-person in the form of dialogues and monologues, that follows Emma, the slave of Pierce Butler, through a series of events in her life as her master hosts the largest slave auction in American history in Savannah, Georgia in 1859 in order to pay off his mounting gambling debts. It begs to be read aloud, and it could be used in sections to produce some stunning reader's theatre. **OPEN COURT:** Risks and Consequences

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*Defiance.* Valerie Hobbs. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades 5 – 8

While vacationing in the country, eleven-year-old Toby, a cancer patient, discovers a lump on his side and hides it from his parents. He strikes up a friendship with an old, almost blind woman, and her cow. He helps with chores and reads poetry to her, and the two care for the failing cow whose inevitable death becomes a metaphor for what must be accepted and for what it is not yet time. **OPEN COURT:** From Mystery to Medicine

*The Diary of Pelly D.* L.J. Adlington. Greenwillow. \$17.00 YA

A disturbing account from a futuristic society that tells of a young laborer who finds the diary of a teen girl who had it all before the war, but whose life has been turned upside-down by holocaust-like events. He defies regulations by keeping the diary, rather than giving it up to the authorities. The two narratives are interwoven, and through the events, readers will easily detect echoes of 1930s Europe.

*Dickens: His Work and His World.* Michael Rosen. Candlewick. \$20.00 YA

Introduces the life and times of Charles Dickens, and explores the likely inspiration for his writing style, stories and characters through an examination of four of his most popular works. Illustrated by Robert Ingpen. His handsome paintings range from lavish two-page spreads to spot art decorating the oversize format.

*Double Crossing: a Jewish Immigration Story.* Eve Tal. Cinco Puntos. \$17.00 Grades 5 – 8

In 1905, as life becomes increasingly difficult for Jews in Ukraine, eleven-year-old Raizel and her father flee to America in hopes of earning money to bring the rest of the family there, but her father's health and Orthodox faith become barriers. This fictionalized account of the author's grandfather and his journey to America is fast paced, full of suspense, and highly readable. **OPEN COURT: Heritage**

*Down the Rabbit Hole: An Echo Falls Mystery.* Peter Abrahams. HarperCollins. \$17.00  
Grades 6 – 9

Eighth-grader Ingrid Levin-Hill, who is a fan of Sherlock Holmes as well as an amateur actress, finds herself caught up in the murder of an eccentric local woman. As the police investigation gets further away from the truth and the wrong suspects are arrested, Ingrid takes increasingly daring risks to solve the case herself and eliminate the evidence she left behind indicating her own suspicious involvement. A page turning thriller.

*The Driving Book: Everything New Drivers Need to Know but Don't Know to Ask.* Karen Gravelle. Walker. \$14.00 YA

Presents a guide to driving an automobile, for new drivers, and includes anecdotes and information on everyday challenges, from how to drive in bad weather, to unexpected mishaps such as road rage and traffic accidents. It also discusses some of the special issues facing adolescents, such as handling peer pressure to drive unsafely and dealing with nervous parents. The style is engaging and humorous, and includes lighthearted illustrations.

*Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie.* Jordan Sonnenblick. Scholastic. \$17.00 YA

When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family.

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*Earth Mother.* Ellen Jackson. Walker. \$18.00 Grades K – 3

Portrays a day in the life of Earth Mother who, as she tends plants and animals around the world, meets three of her creations with advice on how to make the world more perfect. The magnificent illustrations are classic Leo and Diane Dillon.

*Edward Lear's A Was Once an Apple Pie.* Suse MacDonald. Orchard Books. \$13.00 Grades PreK – 1

Edward Lear's zany alphabet nonsense rhymes are treated well in this adaptation. Hilarious rhymes beg to be read aloud and repeated by children. Each silly rhyme is illustrated with bright collage artwork that provides visual links from one to the other.  
**OPEN COURT:** Let's Read

*Ella Takes the Cake.* Carmela and Steven D'Amico. Arthur A. Levine Books. \$17.00 Gr K – 3

This is a second adventure of Ella the Elephant. In this story, Ella wants to help in her mother's bakery but she is frustrated by her inability to help because she is too small to pull the hot pastry out of the oven, or handle pie knives. Her mother thinks she is too little to do anything but sweep. Finally, she is successful in delivering a cake in her little wagon, proving that she can be responsible. The illustrations are reminiscent of H. A. Rey.

*Elsewhere.* Gabrielle Zevin. Farrar. \$16.00 YA

After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust. She discovers that as Lizzie will never age because in this new place everyone ages backward from the day they die. When they are a few days old, they return to Earth as a new baby.

*Eyes of the Emperor.* Graham Salisbury. Wendy Lamb. \$16.00 YA

Having recently enlisted in the United States Army, several young Japanese American men are sent to Cat Island, Mississippi to train K-9 units to hunt Japanese by their "Japanese scent" following the attack on Pearl Harbor. As part of the training, they must face abject prejudice, and are forced to follow orders to enrage the dogs by beating them with sacks and whips, then trying to evade attack. Even more disturbing, an author's note reveals that this historical fiction is based on actual events.

*Fairy Dust and the Quest for the Egg.* Gail Carson Levine. Disney. \$19.00 Grades 3 – 5

Prilla, the newest fairy to Never Land, is not like any of the other fairies, and not even Mother Dove, the wisest creature in Never Land, knows what to make of her until they face a devastating hurricane, Captain Hook, and an evil dragon. Illustrated with full-color watercolor illustrations rendered in the glorious tradition of Arthur Rackham.

*Fake I.D.* Walter Sorrells. Dutton. \$11.00 YA

After a lifetime of moving and assuming new identities, sixteen-year-old Chass begins to piece together the past that haunts her and her mother which involves a mysterious tape, a deceased popular singer, and the secrets of several people in a small Alabama town. This is a fast paced mystery with many twists and turns that will keep readers engaged.

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*First Snow.* Bernette Ford. Holiday House. \$17.00 Grades K – 3

A family of young rabbits goes into a meadow at night to explore and play in winter's first snow. Poetic rhythm emphasizes the senses as the rabbits explore their world in winter. The full color illustrations are detailed and enhance the poetic text. The book works well as a read aloud and as a story that beginning readers will be able to tackle independently. **OPEN COURT:** Weather.

*Food for Thought.* Saxton Freymann. Scholastic. \$15.00 Grades PreK – K

Uses bright photographs of fruit and vegetables shaped like animals and simple labels to teach toddlers shapes, colors, numbers, letters, and opposites. The illustrations bring a whole new meaning to playing with your food.

*The Forbidden Schoolhouse: The True and Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall and Her Students.* Suzanne Jurmain. Houghton Mifflin \$18.00 Grades 5 – 8

In 1833, Prudence Crandall made the bold decision to admit African-American girls to her exclusive girls' academy in Canterbury, Conn. In doing so, she made a conscious decision to change her life forever. When the white in the town refused to send their children to the school, she changed the school to a boarding school for middle-class black girls. In less than two years, it was closed altogether. The primary sources and engaging narrative makes this a fast paced read. **OPEN COURT:** Taking a Stand

*The Game of Silence.* Louise Erdrich. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades 5 – 8

Nine-year-old Omakayas, of the Ojibwa tribe, and her family are forced to leave their island on Lake Superior in 1850 when white settlers move into the territory, and realizes that the things that are the most important to her is her home and way of life. This is a satisfying sequel to Erdrich's *The Birchbark House*. **OPEN COURT:** Going West

*Genius: a Photobiography of Albert Einstein.* Marfe F. Delano. National Geographic. \$18.00 Grades 4 – 8

The life of Albert Einstein is told through a myriad of pictures and a strong narrative with wonderfully simple explanations of many of his theories. The black-and-white and sepia photographs throughout the book follow Einstein from boyhood to old age and show him in a variety of settings. The overall effect will bring Einstein to life for young readers. **OPEN COURT:** Taking a Stand

*Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator.* Jennifer Allison. Dutton. \$11.00 Grades 5 – 8

During the summer before ninth grade, intrepid Gilda Joyce invites herself to the San Francisco mansion of distant cousin Lester Splinter and his thirteen-year-old daughter, where she uses her purported psychic abilities and detective skills to solve the mystery of the mansion's boarded-up tower. In the process she befriends her cousin, helps mend a broken family and solves the mystery of the spooky tower.

*Gnat Stokes and the Foggy Bottom Swamp Queen.* Sally M. Keehn. Philomel. \$17.00 Grades 5 – 8

In Mary's Cove, Tennessee, in 1869, twelve-year-old Gnat Stokes decides to prove she's not just a troublemaker by rescuing a boy who was spirited away seven years earlier by the evil Swamp Queen of Foggy Bottom. This post-Civil War Appalachian tall tale has

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all the elements of a story that will hook young readers... a nightmarish swamp, bewitching creatures, tragic sweethearts, and an enchanted locket. **OPEN COURT: Going West (Tall Tales)**

*Goha, the Wise Fool.* Denys Daviesi-Johnson. Philomel. \$15.00 Grades 2 – 4

A collection of fourteen tales about the folk hero known as Goha, a Middle Eastern trickster-fool who is a man with a reputation for being able to answer difficult questions in a clever way. The tales are illustrated by a team of Cairo tent makers in the form of traditional tapestries, with bits of bright, solid-colored fabric stitched to roughly woven, oatmeal-toned backgrounds. **OPEN COURT: Storytelling**

*Good Brother, Bad Brother: the Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth.* James C. Giblin. Clarion. \$22.00 Grades 5 – 8

Tells the life stories of nineteenth-century actor Edwin Booth and his actor brother John Wilkes Booth, describing the differences between the two men, chronicling John's assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and examining the impact of John's crime on the Booth family for decades afterward. Includes archival photographs and reproductions of posters, playbills, paintings and engravings that complement the text.

*Good Dog.* Maya Gottfried. Knopf. \$16.00 Grades K – 3

Free verse poems are presented with full-page portraits of a variety of dogs. The poems perfectly capture the characteristics of each breed of dog, and bring them to a very personal level. Each portrait is accompanied by several pencil sketches of the dog. **OPEN COURT: Friendship**

*Gorilla Doctors: Saving Endangered Great Apes.* Pamela S. Turner. Houghton. \$17.00 Grades 4 – 8

This is an engaging narrative with many full-color-photographs that examines the Mountain Gorillas of Rwanda, describes the effects of human exposure on the gorillas, and tells how emergency medical care is provided to them in the wild. It also presents ways to protect their species from poachers and common human diseases. **OPEN COURT: Ecology**

*Granite Baby.* Lynne Bertrand. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades K – 4

Five giant New Hampshire sisters, who each have a larger than life talent, try to sooth a tiny baby that one has carved out of granite, but nothing they can do will quiet him. It takes the experience of a normal sized girl with lots of experience caring for siblings to quiet him down and to teach the sisters that their giant sized talents must be scaled down. The exaggerations in this tall tale are well partnered with Hawke's lush paintings in the style of *Swamp Angel*. **OPEN COURT: Going West**

*The Great Blue House.* Kate Banks. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades K – 3

When its owners leave, a summerhouse comes alive with the sounds of a mouse nibbling crumbs in the fall, a cat taking shelter in the winter, and rain falling on the roof in the spring. The cycle is completed when the family returns with new kittens and a new baby. Illustrated with brilliant Van Gogh-like colors and artwork. Use when exploring the cycle of the seasons. **OPEN COURT: Weather**

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*The Great Fuzz Frenzy.* Janet Stevens. Harcourt. \$17.00 Grades K – 3

Violet the dog drops a tennis ball down the hole of a prairie dog town. The prairie dogs find that their newfound frenzy for fuzz creates a fiasco. The energetic artwork and the layout that includes both horizontal and vertical spreads are the real standout in this funny story.

*The Great Graph Contest.* Loreen Leedy. Holiday House. \$17.00 Grades 1 – 3

Gonk and Beezy, two amphibian friends, hold a contest to see who can make better graphs. The lively text, contained in dialogue and thought balloons, is well supported by the vivid, cartoon illustrations. The story is informative and instruction is provided at the end of the book where each graph's data collection and construction is carefully explained, with a page reference provided.

*Gruesome Guide to World Monsters.* Judy Sierra. Candlewick. \$18.00 Grades 3 – 6

Provides illustrations and brief descriptions of dozens of monsters found in world folklore, including the Australian Bunyip, Bloody Mary, who pulls children into mirrors throughout North America, and the blood-sucking, water-dwelling Kappas of Japan. The mixed-media illustrations look like doodles after nightmares, and suggest terrified glimpses of these 60-odd ghouls. **OPEN COURT:** Imagination

*Guinea Pig Scientists: Bold Self-Experimenters in Science and Medicine.* Leslie Dendy. Holt. \$19.00 Grades 5 – 8

Recounts the true stories of ten scientists and medical researchers that have served as subjects in their own experiments in order to test new discoveries and inventions in the fields of medicine and science. The accounts are a bit gruesome yet provide fascinating insights into the research of deadly diseases, extreme temperatures, gas inhalation, and radiation. Black-and-white sketches and old photographs give the accounts a sense of realism. **OPEN COURT:** From Mystery to Medicine

*Guys Write for Guys Read: Boys' Favorite Authors Write About Being Boys.* Jon Scieszka. Viking. \$17.00 Grades 5 – 9

Contains a collection of short stories, drawings, poems, and memoirs from well-known writers of "guy" fiction, written by boys, for boys. Includes pieces by Dan Gutman, Daniel Pinkwater, Will Hobbs, Stephen King, and Gary Paulsen, among others. Scieszka includes a wide variety of subjects and includes illustrators and sports columnists as well as a few educationalists particularly concerned with male literacy. These are excellent essays for reading aloud and as models for writing.

*Heavy Metal and You.* Christopher Krovatin. Push. \$17.00 YA

High schooler Sam begins losing himself when he falls for a preppy girl who wants him to give up getting wasted with his best friends and even his passion for heavy metal music in order to become a better person. Contains mature language and themes.

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*The Hello, Goodbye Window.* Norton Juster. Hyperion. 14.00 Grades PreK – 1

A little girl tells about the special kitchen window at her beloved Nanny and Poppy's house from which a person can see anyone or anything coming and going. The mixed media paintings by Chris Raschka are executed in paint box colors and highlight the wiggly energy of the little girl.

*The Hero and the Minotaur: The Fantastic Adventures of Theseus.* Robert Byrd. Dutton. \$18.00 Grades 3 – 6

This is a tale featuring the legends of Aegeus, Heracles, the Minotaur, Ariadne, and Icarus melded with the story of Theseus. In the tale, Theseus performs many heroic deeds and then attempts to defeat a terrible beast known as the Minotaur. The lush watercolor illustrations bring the story to life. **OPEN COURT:** Ancient Civilizations

*He's Got the Whole World in His Hands.* Dial. \$15.00 Grades K – 3

Families, communities, and forces of nature are celebrated with lively images and inspiring scenes using the lyrics of this familiar spiritual. As each page is turned, a line of verse is presented with fresh, thought-provoking interpretations to the lyrics that will stir the imagination and spark discussion. **OPEN COURT:** Let's Read

*Hidden Child.* Isaac Millman. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades 5 – 8

The author details his difficult experiences as a young Jewish child living in Nazi-occupied France during the 1940s. When his mother was caught by the Nazis, he was sent alone to a hospital where Jewish children were secretly sheltered until homes were found. Millman tells his story in a straightforward way, mindful of both the cruelty and kindness of the strangers he encountered. He never forgot his parents, yet was able to live as any child, making friends and attending school. **OPEN COURT:** Survival

*Hitler Youth.* Susan C. Bartoletti. Scholastic. \$20.00 Grades 6 – 10

This well-written collection of stories about the youth organizations Hitler founded and used to promote his sociopolitical and military ends is moving and brings the experiences close to modern youth. The author makes it clear that the excitement, adventure, hope, power, and the chance to defy parents and authority figures appealed to many youth. The narrative draws from oral histories, letters, interviews, and diaries of survivors. Illustrated with large black-and-white photographs and concludes with an epilogue that tells what happened to the youth in the book. **OPEN COURT:** Taking a Stand

*The Hunter's Moon: The Chronicles of Faerie-Book #1 (The Chronicles of Faerie).* O. R. Melling. Abrahms. \$17.00 Grade 8 – 11

This story follows two cousins, Gwen and Finn, as they backpack around Ireland in search of the country's magical past. But the girls go too far when they dare to spend the night in a known fairy mound. Finn is stolen away by the dark king of Faerie to become his bride sacrifice to the Great Worm, or Hunter. It is up to timid Gwen to rescue her intrepid cousin.

*Hurry and the Monarch.* Antoine O'Flatharta. Knopf. \$15.00 Grades K – 3

This is a fictionalized account of one monarch butterfly's life cycle. As she stops in a Texas garden during her migration from Canada to Mexico, Hurry the tortoise befriends

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her. They talk about winter plans, and the butterfly is off. When she returns in the spring, she lays her eggs and then rests her wings for a while... "for a while becomes forever." The story is illustrated with bright watercolors in an impressionistic style and includes some realistic sketches of the monarchs and caterpillars. **OPEN COURT:** Kindness

*I Ain't Gonna Paint no More.* Karen Beaumont. Harcourt. \$16.00 Grades PreK – 3

In the rhythm of the folk song "It Ain't Gonna Rain No More," a child who loves to paint the walls and everything else he sees cannot resist adding one more dab of paint to some surprising places. Illustrated with technicolor artwork that will keep kids giggling. Sing it as you read aloud and the kids will beg for more. **OPEN COURT:** Imagination, Fine Art

*I Am the Messenger.* Markus Zusak. Knopf. \$17.00 YA

Nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy has little to be proud of, spending his time driving a taxi, and hanging out with his friends and his dog. But, when he foils a bungled bank robbery and captures the robber, he begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help. In the alternating dark and humorous situations in which he becomes involved, he begins getting over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness.

*I am the Wallpaper.* Mark P. Hughes. Delacorte. \$18.00 Grades 5 – 8

Thirteen-year-old Floey Packer, jealous of her attractive and popular older sister, shares her home with two younger cousins and experiences a summer vacation filled with embarrassing events, with herself as the star, such as when her diary is posted on the Internet by her bratty cousins. Humorous incidents abound as the story progresses.

*I Could do That! Ester Morris Gets the Women the Vote.* Linda Arms White. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades 2 – 5

In 1869, a woman whose "can-do" attitude had shaped her life was instrumental in making Wyoming the first state to allow women to vote, then became the first woman to hold public office in the United States. An author's note explains the facts known about Morris and resources for further exploration. **OPEN COURT:** Taking a Stand

*I, Coriander.* Sally Gardner. Dial \$15.00 Grades 5 – 8

In 17th century London, Coriander, a girl who has inherited magic from her mother, must find a way to use this magic in order to save both herself and an inhabitant of the fairy world where her mother was born. She begins her life story by introducing the artifacts she holds dear and proceeds to explain how she acquired these objects, the secrets they hold and her journey into a fairy world, where she learns startling information about her heritage.

*If You Decide to go to the Moon.* Faith McNulty. Scholastic \$18.00 Grades K-4

This adventure takes readers from a blastoff into space to touchdown on the Moon and back again. The text is a lovely union of science and lyricism, evoking both the emotions and experiences of the solitary reader-astronaut and the hard facts of space. The illustrations show space and moonscapes using watercolors that make the most of the stark grays and whites of space. **OPEN COURT:** Risks and Consequences

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*Inkspell*. Cornelia Funke. Scholastic \$20.00 Grades 4 – 8

In this sequel to *Inkheart*, Dustfinger finds a crooked storyteller who can read him back to Inkscape, and in doing so, he leaves his apprentice Farid behind. But Farid seeks out Meggie and the two follow him back into the enchanted book.

*Inside, Inside, Inside*. Holly Meade. M.Cavendish. \$17.00 Grades K – 3

Noah and his sister Jenny invent a game where one thing is put into another, then another, and another until they place it all in the shower. When they finish that game, they imagine and draw the shower inside the house, inside the neighborhood, and all the way to the solar system. The story is illustrated with bright paintings that support the story.

**OPEN COURT:** Imagination, Fine Art

*Invisible*. Pete Hautman. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00 Grades 7 up

Doug and Andy are unlikely best friends who grew up together and share a mysterious bond. Doug is a disturbed loner, obsessed by his model trains, who is overly reliant on his friend Andy, a popular student involved in football and theater. This is a compelling book on mental illness.

*Invisible Allies: Microbes that Shape our Lives*. Jeanette Farrell. Farrar. \$17.00 Grades 5 – 8

The author examines some of the microbes that can be harmful to humans and others that are essential to preserving foods in a very readable format. She discusses the helpful role of microbes in the production of bread, cheese, and chocolate as well as their vital role in the gut, where they break down certain foods and kill harmful microbes. It is illustrated with effective images, from microphotos to old advertisements. It is engaging enough for readers to appreciate microbes.

*Invisible Enemies: Stories of Infectious Diseases*, 2nd edit. Jeanette Farrell. Farrar. \$18.00 Grades 5 – 8

This revised edition from 1998 includes the story of man's fight against seven major dangerous diseases including smallpox, leprosy, plague, tuberculosis, malaria, cholera, and AIDS. A new section on smallpox offers a discussion of the Russian biological weapons development program plus the controversial smallpox vaccination plans following September 11, 2001. **OPEN COURT:** From Mystery to Medicine

*In God's Hands*. Lawrence Kushner and Gary Schmidt. Jewish Lights Pub. \$17.00 Grades 2 – 4

While contemplating their problems in a synagogue, Jacob and David, one man rich, the other poor and worried about feeding his family, unknowingly cross paths and come to realize their role in making miracles happen. Inspired by an ancient legend. Illustrated with folk-style paintings. **OPEN COURT:** Kindness

*Ish*. Peter H. Reynolds. Candlewick. \$14.00 2004 Grades K – 3

Ramon loses confidence in his ability to draw, but his sister gives him a new perspective on things by telling him a house can be "house-ish" or a fish "fish-ish". Thinking "ish-ly" re-inspires him to let his artwork flow. Illustrated with simple black-line artwork

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highlighted with splashes of watercolor. A wonderful companion to Reynolds 2004 title, *Dot*. **OPEN COURT:** Fine Art

*Jerusalem Sky: Stars, Crosses, and Crescents*. Mark Podwal. Doubleday. \$16.00 Grades 3 – 6

Impressionist paintings illustrated poetic text showing the beauty and sacredness of Jerusalem to the world's major religions. The art features holy places of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim peoples. Useful in grade 6 history social studies when introducing the religions of the world.

*Jitterbug Jam*. Barbara J. Hicks. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades K – 3

Grandpa Boo-Dad not only believes that Bobo has seen a pink-skinned boy with orange fur on his head hiding under the bed, he knows exactly how a little monster can scare off such a horrible creature. The illustrations create a slightly surreal, dreamy scene and it concludes with a reassuring ending that shows respect to any child's fear of the unknown. **OPEN COURT:** Courage

*John Lennon: All I Want is the Truth*. Elizabeth Partridge. Viking \$25.00 Grades 5 – 8

Presents a biography of musician John Lennon, chronicling his life and times from his troubled childhood in Liverpool, England, through his career writing, recording, and performing as a member of the Beatles. Includes 140 black-and-white photographs. **OPEN COURT:** Beyond the Notes

*José! Born to Dance, The Story of José Limón*. Susanna Reich. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00 Grades 2 – 5

An illustrated biography of Mexican-born dancer Jose Limon, who moved to the United States and later became world famous as a dancer and choreographer. The illustrations by Raúl Colón capture the dancer's strength and grace. **OPEN COURT:** Keep Trying

*The Journey of the One and Only Declaration of Independence*. Judith St. George. Philomel. \$15.00 Grades 3 – 6

This is an illustrated introduction to the Declaration of Independence, from its origin to its final home in the National Archives. Its interesting and sometimes perilous journey through time is illustrated with lively mixed-media artwork that is a perfect match for the text, filling the pages with visual energy and humor. **OPEN COURT:** Making a New Nation

*Kai's Journey to Gold Mountain: An Angel Island Story*. Katrina Currier. Angel Island Association. \$17.00 Grades 3 – 6

This book presents an engaging story for children who may unfamiliar with what it was like to immigrate to the United States from Asia in the 1930's. Twelve-year-old Kai is coming to San Francisco from China to join his father, who is an American citizen, but he is interned at Angel Island with other immigrants until a long, dreaded interrogation can be completed. The story is based on a true-life experience and carefully researched. It is illustrated with beautiful full-page watercolor-and-pencil artwork. Pair this with books on Ellis Island. **OPEN COURT:** Our Country and its People, Heritage

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*Kalpana's Dream.* Judith Clarke. Front Street. \$17.00 Grades 6 – 9

Neema's struggle to complete an essay on the topic "Who Am I" for her freshman English class is complicated by the arrival of Kampala, her Indian great-grandmother who has come to Australia chasing her dream of flying, and although they do not speak the same language, the two find common ground in skateboarder Gull Oliver.

*Kamishibai Man.* Allen Say. Houghton. \$17.00 Grades K – 3

After many years of retirement, an old Kamishibai man, a Japanese street performer who tells stories and sells candies, decides to make his rounds once more even though such entertainment declined after the advent of television. **OPEN COURT:** Storytelling

*A Kick in the Head: An Everyday Guide to Poetic Forms.* Selected by Paul B. Janeczko. Candlewick. \$18.00 Grades 3 – 6

This is a collection of poems, which showcases twenty-nine different poetic forms, from the familiar to the obscure, each with a brief definition. The poems include classics, as well as some from contemporary poets. The illustrations by Chris Raschka are spirited paper-and-paint collages with bright colors and imagination.

*Kidogo.* Anik McGrory. Bloomsbury \$16.00 Grades K – 3

Sure that he is the smallest creature on earth, a young elephant leaves home and journeys over woodlands, rivers, and plains searching for someone even smaller than he is. Just as he gives up, he feels an itching and a tickling and discovers tiny ants around him. Kidogo helps them find acacia leaves, cross the flooding river, and take a dust bath, while following them through the vast land to his home. **OPEN COURT:** Kindness

*Kids' Guide to Digital Photography: How to Shoot, Save, Play with & Print Your Digital Photos.* Jenni Bidner. Lark Books. 2004. \$15.00 Grades 5 – 8

Presents a comprehensive full-color illustrated guide for kids in understanding digital photography and provides information on the basics and taking good pictures, software and the Internet, and interesting projects, gifts, and crafts to make. The book is filled with visual examples and defines imaging terminology within the text and supports the text with a glossary. This is an excellent how-to book on digital imaging.

*Kipling's Choice.* Geert Spillebeen. Houghton. \$14.00 Grades 7 – 10

In 1915, mortally wounded in Loos, France, eighteen-year-old John Kipling, son of writer Rudyard Kipling, remembers his boyhood and the events leading to what is to be his first and last World War I battle. This well-written novel combines facts with speculation about John Kipling's short life and rather gruesome death.

*Lara and the Gray Mare (Hoofbeats, Book One).* Kathleen Duey. Dutton. \$16.00 Grades 3 – 6

This is the first story in a new quartet of books in the *Hoofbeats* series about a young Irish girl in Medieval Ireland. While her father is away fighting the Normans and other Irish clans, nine-year-old Lara works hard to help harvest food and also cares for the pregnant gray mare that she loves. When the mare dies, Lara is fiercely protective of the foal and takes an unexpected path that leads her away from home and directly into Book Two.

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*Leaf Man*. Lois Ehlert. Harcourt. \$16.00 Grades K – 3

A man made of leaves blows away, traveling wherever the wind may take him in this poetic and well designed book. The pages are die-cut into the shape of leaves and designed using brilliant fall colors. Use as an introduction to fall when talking about seasons, or to explore the imagination of young children. The author/illustrator explains in a concluding note how she created the illustrations from color copies of the leaves she collected. **OPEN COURT:** Imagination

*Leonardo da Vinci*. (Giants of Science) Kathleen Krull. Viking \$17.00 Grades 5 – 8

A biography of Leonardo da Vinci focusing on his scientific rather than his artistic work. This lively biography is the first in a new series *Giants of Science*. Krull has a great gift of engaging readers with her lively text. Illustrated with occasional pen-and-ink drawings.

*Leonardo, the Terrible Monster*. Mo Willems. Hyperion. \$15.00 Grades K – 3

Regardless of all his efforts, Leonardo the monster simply cannot seem to frighten anyone, until he meets the perfect nervous little boy. The monster act makes Sam cry, but not, Sam says, because he's scared. Sam reveals he's having a very bad day. Leonardo decides that "instead of being a terrible monster, he would become a wonderful friend." Illustrated with spare uncluttered illustrations. **OPEN COURT:** Courage, Friendship

*Let it Begin Here! Lexington & Concord: First Battles of the American Revolution*. Dennis F. Fradin. Walker. \$17.00 Grades 3 – 6

Presents a short history of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, and describes how the rebel leaders were warned of the approaching British and the standoff between seventy Lexington militiamen and two hundred fifty British regulars. Fradin uses active verbs and present tense to create a vivid you-are-there account. The appealing format and double page illustrations make it a good read aloud choice. **OPEN COURT:** Making a New Nation

*Let me Play: the Story of Title IX: the Law that Changed the Future of Girls in America*. Karen Blumenthal. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00 Grades 5 – 8

Examines Title IX, the 1972 legislation that mandated that schools receiving federal funds could not discriminate on the basis of gender and focuses on its effects in schools, politics, sports and the culture as a whole. Human-interest stories personalize the issues, and photographs illustrate the challenges of the battle. **OPEN COURT:** Cooperation and Competition

*Let's Talk About Race*. Julius Lester. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades 1 – 5

This book introduces the aspect of race as just one part of an individual's life story. He asks questions of his young readers and encourages them to explore who they are and to tell their own stories. The illustrations are bold and bright, blending and enhancing the text. This is an excellent vehicle to open up discussions about families and race. **OPEN COURT:** Heritage

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*The Librarian of Basra*. Jeanette Winter. Harcourt. \$16.00 Grades K – 4

The story of courageous Alia Muhammad Baker, the Chief Librarian of Bashra's Central Library in Iraq, is told in a beautiful picture-book format. Alia was successful in removing more than 30,000 of the library's collection before the building was destroyed during the invasion of Iraq in 2002. The illustrations are bright and detailed in a folk-art style. **OPEN COURT:** Courage

*Lies and Other Tall Tales*. Adapted and illustrated by Christopher Myers. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades K – 4

A compilation of tall tales collected by folklorist Zora Neale Hurston during her travels in the Gulf states during the 1930s. Includes an introduction that explains that she found these tall tales while "studying anthropology with a bunch of educational-type liars at Columbia University." Meyers' captures the language of the original speakers and his illustrations bring the tales to life. **OPEN COURT:** **Survival**, Going West

*The Lightning Thief*. Rick Riordan. Hyperion \$16.00 Grades 5 – 8

Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war. **OPEN COURT:** Ancient Civilizations

*Listening for Lions*. Gloria Whelan. HarperCollins. \$16.00 Grades 4 – 8

Left an orphan after the influenza epidemic in British East Africa in 1918, thirteen-year-old Rachel is tricked into assuming a deceased neighbor's identity to travel to England, where her only dream is to return to Africa and rebuild her parents' mission hospital. Pair with *The 1918 Influenza Pandemic* for a factual comparison of the events behind this story. **OPEN COURT:** From Mystery to Medicine

*Little Book of Fables*. Veronica Uribe. Groundwood. 2004. \$10.00 Grades K – 4

This small volume contains a collection of twenty fables for children selected from Aesop, de la Fontaine, Don Juan Manuel, and others. An author's note supplies information on Aesop, the origin of fables, and the genre itself. A detailed full-page scene in pen-and-ink and watercolor wash opens each fable. **OPEN COURT:** OC presents fables in Grades K, 1, 3, and 4

*Little Stevie Wonder*. Quincy Troupe. Houghton. \$18.00 Grades 2 – 6

This biography is told in the form of a long poem that serves as tribute to the singer Stevie Wonder, and describes, in verse, his musical talent, and cultural impact. The acrylic artwork is dynamic using bold, pure colors and big shapes. Includes a CD with two songs. **OPEN COURT:** Beyond the Notes

*Lizette's Green Sock*. Catharina Valckx. Clarion. \$15.00 Grades K – 3

Lizette is a charming little bird with a fashion sense as unconventional as many young children. She finds a single green sock, and proudly wears it. Two bullies tease her saying socks are only useful in pairs. As she tries to figure out what to do with it, her friend Burt

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decides to use the sock for a cap. Unsuccessful in locating the mate, Lizette's mother helps out by knitting a matching sock. **OPEN COURT:** Kindness

*Long-Long's New Year: a Story about the Chinese Spring Festival.* Catherine Gower. Tuttle. \$15.00 Grades K – 3

Long-Long helps his Grandfather sell vegetables at the market so his family can make money for the Spring Festival (Chinese New Year) celebration. When he and Grandpa run into trouble, Long-Long wonders if they will sell enough to make do. The story is accompanied by detailed drawings that are brightened with colorful washes. Most stories about the Chinese New Year focus on a Chinese-American child's experience. This title will be a useful addition since it is set in China. **OPEN COURT:** Our Country and its People (Holidays from other cultures).

*Looking for Alaska: A Novel.* Green, John. Dutton. \$16.00 YA

Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks. The Alaska of the title is a fascinating and vivid girl that is seen through Miles' eyes. His experience at the prep school is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash that takes Alaska's life.

*Looking for Jaguar and Other Rain Forest Poems.* Katz, Susan. Greenwillow. \$17.00 Grades 3 – 6

This is a collection of 19 poems about the plants and animals of the rain forest. The poems are accompanied by a section with facts and a two-page essay on rain forests and their significance. The illustrations are lush, and softly detailed paintings that show the habitat as a shadowy and misty atmosphere. **OPEN COURT:** Ecology

*Looking for Lucy Buick.* Rita Murphy. Delacorte \$16.00 YA

Following the death of her favorite adoptive aunt, Lucy goes searching for her biological family who abandoned her in an old Buick eighteen years before.

*Love, Cajun Style.* Diane Les Becuets. Bloomsbury. \$17.00 YA

Teenage Lucy learns about life and love with the help of her friends over the course of one hot Louisiana summer before her senior year of high school. This is a quick-moving story focusing how the girls cope with the tensions of sexuality in their small Louisiana town. Not all characters make good decisions, but the love of the three friends for each other heals wounds.

*Magic or Madness.* Larbalestier, Justine. Penguin. \$17.00 Grades 8 – 11

From the Sydney, Australia, home of a grandmother she believes is a witch, fifteen-year-old Reason Cansino is magically transported to New York City, where she discovers that friends and foes can be hard to distinguish. This is a compelling mystery that is the first of a proposed trilogy.

*Mahjong all Day Long.* Ginnie Lo. Walker. \$17.00 Grades K – 2

Describes the role of the game mahjong in keeping love, togetherness, and tradition alive in a Chinese American family. Includes terms related to mahjong, presented in Chinese characters and English translations. The artwork reflects the stylized engravings on

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mahjong tiles. Ends with an historical endnote. **OPEN COURT:** Our Country and Its People, Games

*Maritcha! A Nineteenth-Century American Girl.* Tonya Bolden. Abrams. \$16.00 Grades 4 – 7

This book presents the personal memoirs of Maritcha Remond Lyons who was born in 19<sup>th</sup> century New York City. The story describes how she and her family escaped to Rhode Island during the 1863 Draft riots and how she overcame prejudice to become the first African-American person to graduate from Providence High School. Archival materials, and other primary sources are incorporated to tell an engaging tale. **OPEN COURT:** Taking a Stand

*Memories of Survival.* Esther Nisenthal Krinitz. Hyperion \$16.00 Grades 2 – 4

Esther Nisenthal Krinitz was a survivor of the Holocaust in Poland. At the age of 15, in October 1942, having lived under Nazi occupation for three years, Esther ran from her farm community to a hidden life disguised as a Catholic farmhand in a neighboring village. She eventually arrived in New York following the end of the war and the loss of her immediate family. She tells her story in very simple words that accompany her artwork, an amazing series of 36 beautifully and delicately embroidered scenes of a Polish girl's escape. **OPEN COURT:** Survival

*Mercy Watson to the Rescue.* Kate DiCamillo. Candlewick. \$13.00 Grades K – 3

This is a debut in a new early chapter book series about a pig named Mercy Watson who has a special fondness for toast with a great deal of butter on it. Through a series of misadventures, Mercy manages to rescue Mr. and Mrs. Watson who are trapped in their bed that is falling through the second story floor. Delightful illustrations bring these characters to life and will engage even the most reluctant reader. **OPEN COURT:** Sharing Stories

*Michael Rosen's Sad Book.* Michael Rosen. Candlewick. \$17.00 Grades 3 – 6

This is a poignant account of experiences with grief and sadness felt by the author on the loss of his eighteen-year-old son. He tries to hide his sadness, and talk about it. He describes a variety of ways he copes with it, including putting on a happy face, and finding solace in his happy memories. Quentin Blake's illustrations are a perfect match to the text as they go from subdued colors washed in gray to happier scenes that are highlighted with a wash of color. This is a moving and truly sad book.

*The Milkman.* Carol F. Cordsen. Dutton. \$16.00 Grades PreK – 2

In the early morning, the milkman makes his rounds, helping his neighbors in a variety of ways. Children learn about home delivery of milk and cream as it was in another time. This is a delightful taste of Americana and may encourage children to reminisce with their grandparents about "the olden days" and to talk about other community jobs that have vanished. The artwork uses colors that lighten from nighttime blue to pre-dawn gray to sun-washed orange, as the milkman makes his rounds. **OPEN COURT:** Our Neighborhood at Work

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*Mimus.* Lilli Thal. Annick. \$20.00 Grades 8 – 10

Twelve-year old Prince Florin encounters a devastating betrayal that separates him from his father and loyal followers, placing him as a lowly apprentice to the spiteful and wily court jester, Mimus. This is a sophisticated and engrossing historical tale by a writer who brings exceptional attention to detail, character development, and theme.

*The Misadventures of Maude March, or, Trouble Rides a Fast Horse.* Audrey Coulombis. Random House. \$20.00 Grades 5 – 8

Sallie March, 11, devotee of dime novels, narrates this rollicking Wild West adventure. When she and her sister, Maude, are orphaned for the *second* time, they decide to escape their new self-serving guardians for the wilds of the frontier and an adventure the likes of which Sallie has only read about. Bursting with memorable characters, fast-paced action, this is a laugh-out-loud story that is a great read aloud. **OPEN COURT:** Going West

*Mother Teresa.* Demi. McElderry. \$20.00 Grades 3 – 6

Demi tells the story of the small, pious nun from Croatia who became a shining light to so many on the streets of Calcutta, India. Her clear narrative brings the story of Mother Teresa's journey and inspiration as she left homeland, joined the Sisters of Loreto in Ireland, eventually taking a post in the poor streets of Calcutta. Demi's notable illustration style incorporates illumination and paint-and-ink illustrations that are highlighted with decorative gold-leaf borders. **OPEN COURT:** Taking a Stand

*Mr. Chickee's Funny Money.* Christopher Paul Curtis. Random House \$18.00 Grades 3 – 6

Flint Future Detective Club members Steven Carter, his friend Russell, and Russell's huge dog Zoopy solve the mystery of a quadrillion-dollar bill with the image of James Brown on it. This is a premiere volume of a series that introduces fourth grader Steven Carter, detective extraordinaire and "second-smartest student at Clark Elementary School." The book is well aimed at readers in search of an unconventional and comical brand of mystery.

*Mr. Putter & Tabby Make a Wish.* Cynthia Rylant. Harcourt \$15.00 Grades K – 3

Mr. Putter wants to celebrate his birthday even though he thinks he's too old for such things. He calls to invite his good friend and neighbor Mrs. Teaberry to tea, and she keeps him waiting in order to surprise him with an enormous cake with dozens of candles, balloons, and a model-airplane kit.

*Mr. Williams.* Karen Barbour. Holt \$15.00 Grades K – 3

Describes the routine of rural life in Arcadia, Louisiana around the 1930s as experienced by J.W. Williams, an African American Louisiana farmer. Mr. Williams describes his childhood, depicting a severe daily routine of hard work interspersed by Sundays and seasonal changes and embellished by his joy in the natural world. The story touches on images of racism. The ink-and-gouache illustrations, punctuated with well-placed bits of fabric collage, are a perfect compliment to this story. **OPEN COURT:** Our Country and Its People

*My Best Friend.* Mary Ann Rodman. Viking. \$16.00 Grades PreK – 2

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At the neighborhood pool, six-year-old Lily has a best friend all picked out, seven-year-old Tamika. But unfortunately the difference of just one year is sometimes very large. In the end Lily gives up on wanting a friend who doesn't want her and finds someone even better with whom to share her summer. Illustrated with luscious watercolor paintings that capture the summer setting. **OPEN COURT:** Finding Friends

*My Big Brother.* Miriam Cohen. Star Bright. \$16.00 Grades PreK – 2

When his big brother leaves to become a soldier, a boy does what he can to take his place in the family. He helps his younger brother shoot baskets, compliments Mama on Sundays, and tries to fill the huge void left by his older brother's absence. Illustrated with soft watercolor artwork that complements this poignant story. **OPEN COURT:** Kindness

*My Daddy is a Giant.* Carl Norac. Clarion. \$16.00 Grades PreK – 1

To a little boy his daddy seems so large that he needs a ladder to cuddle him, so tall that birds nest in his hair, and so strong he can kick a soccer ball to the moon. "But I'm not scared of anything when I'm in my daddy's arms." This line captures the essence of this quiet offering and will certainly speak to all children.

*My Mom's Having a Baby!* Dori H. Butler. Whitman. \$16.00 Grades 2 – 4

Provides factual information for children about how babies are created, grow, and are born through the story of a little girl waiting for the arrival of a new brother. Details are not spared in explaining conception and birth. This informative book incorporates full-page paintings, cartoon panels, word balloons, and free-floating images, many of which are of the developing baby. This is an excellent choice for children who are asking about life's basic facts.

*The Naming.* Alison Groggon. Candlewick. \$18.00 YA

A manuscript from the lost civilization of Edil-Amarandah chronicles the experiences of sixteen-year-old Maerad, an orphan gifted in the magic and power of the Bards, as she escapes from slavery and begins to learn how to use her Gift to stave off the evil Darkness that threatens to consume her world.

*National Geographic Prehistoric Mammals.* Alan Turner. National Geographic. 2004 \$30.00 Grades 3 – 6

Describes the characteristics of mammals, and features profiles of over one hundred prehistoric mammals that lived on Earth during the time of early humans, with information on their size, variety, and fossil remains. Dramatic full-color pictures enhance the brief but informative text. **OPEN COURT:** Fossils

*Naughts & Crosses: a Thriller.* Malorie Blackman. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00 Grades 8 – 10

Callum is a naught, a pale-skinned second-class citizen, discriminated against by the politically and socially powerful dark-skinned Crosse, the ruling class. Sephy is a Cross, and daughter of the man slated to become prime minister. In their world, pale-skinned naughts and dark-skinned Crosses simply don't mix – and they certainly don't fall in love. But that's exactly what they've done. This is a shocking thriller from England that tests whether love is strong enough to survive society's racism.

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*The Neat Line: Scribbling Through Mother Goose.* Pamela D. Edwards. HarperCollins. \$17.00  
Grades PreK – 3

A young scribble matures into a neat line, and then wriggles into a book of nursery rhymes where he transforms himself into different objects to assist the characters he meets there. For Little Boy Blue, he becomes a horn to call the sheep back, for little Miss Muffet, a bird to frighten the spider away. This is a unique look at nursery rhymes, and will bring them to a whole new audience of children and will provide children with inspiration to create new rescues for other nursery rhyme characters. Illustrated with large cartoon paintings that are outlined with thick, bold lines and framed by book pages on either side. **OPEN COURT:** Sharing Stories

*Nora's Ark.* Natalie Kinsey-Warnock. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades 2 – 5

This story takes place during the Vermont flood of 1927 that left many areas under water and many people and animals dead. Grandpa is building a new house on a hill, and when rain pours down, Grandpa sets out to help a neighbors round up his animals while Nora and Grandma head for the new house on the hill. They are soon joined by many neighbors and animals whose homes and livestock are lost to wait out the storm. The story is illustrated with paintings that reflect the warmth of family life. **OPEN COURT:** **Survival**, Courage

*Not the End of the World.* Geraldine McCaughrean. Harper Tempest. \$18.00 YA

Noah's daughter, daughters-in-law, sons, wife, and the animals describe what it was like to be aboard the ark while they watched everyone around them drown. The author is able to accurately show what life onboard might really have been like for Noah and family.

*Oh, No! Where are my Pants? and Other Disasters: Poems.* Lee B. Hopkins. HarperCollins. \$17.00  
Grades 2 – 5

This is a collection of poems that shows those little moments of being human that we would just as soon forget; how it feels when a friend moves, or a beloved pet dies, the embarrassment of swinging and missing the ball in a big game, or when you give the totally wrong answer to a question in class. The poems are written in the first person, and are accompanied by very funny illustrations that perfectly capture the moment. These are an excellent choice for reading aloud or for oral interpretation by students.

*The Old African.* Julius Lester. Dial. \$20.00 Grades 3 – 6

An elderly slave uses the power of his mind to ease the suffering of other slaves and eventually leads them back to Africa. Lester's story is based on a legend about Ybo Landing, GA, where a group of slaves walked into the water, saying they were walking to Africa. His writing captures how hope, memory, and freedom can live in a people even when the spirit dies. **OPEN COURT:** Survival

*Only You Can Save Mankind.* Terry Pratchett. HarperCollins. \$16.00 Grades 5 – 8

Twelve-year-old Johnny endures tensions between his parents, watches television coverage of the 1991 Gulf War, and plays a computer game called *Only You Can Save Mankind*, in which he is increasingly drawn into the reality of the game's newt-like female alien ScreeWee. First published in Britain in 1992, this is the first in a trilogy of very different adventures that readers will find fresh, engaging, and thought provoking.

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*The Orpheus Obsession.* Dakota Lane. HarperCollins. \$15.00 YA

Sixteen-year-old Anooshka Stargirl, whose home life is less than rosy, meets a rock singer named Orpheus and finds her obsession with him drawing her into his world. This lyrical, angst-filled story will appeal to teens looking for an edgy love story.

*Oscar's Half Birthday.* Bob Graham. Candlewick. \$17.00 PreS – K

To celebrate his half birthday, Oscar and his mixed race family go out for a picnic. This multicultural story is full of the joy of childhood, family, and community as the whole hillside joins in singing happy birthday to Oscar. The sounds heard at the park, such as the "tickety-clack, tickety-clack" of the train on the overhead tracks, make this book an especially good read aloud choice. **OPEN COURT:** Our Country and its People.

*Our Stories, Our Songs: African Children Talk About AIDS.* Deborah Ellis. Fitzhenry & Whiteside \$19.00 Grades 5 – 8

Deborah Ellis traveled to Malawi and Zambia in 2003 to meet with children affected by the AIDS crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa. This book is a record of her interviews with children living in a variety of different situations, from prisons and the street to hospitals and relatives' houses. Although their stories are sad, there are also touching and hopeful moments in this book, particularly when the children talk about their dreams for the future.

*The Pea Blossom.* Amy L. Poole. Holiday. \$17.00 Grades 1 – 3

In a retelling of a Hans Christian Anderson story, and set in Beijing, China, five little peas wait inside their pod to see what life will bring. Four have lofty aspirations, and the fifth simply says, "I shall go wherever it is that I am meant to." A young boy finds the peas and blows them from his peashooter. The first four meet an untimely end, but the fifth finds a place to grow on the windowsill of a very sick little girl. As the pea begins to grow, the little girl becomes healthier and healthier. Illustrated with delicate and lovely watercolors. **OPEN COURT:** Storytelling

*Pearl's New Skates.* Holly Keller. Greenwillow. \$17.00 Grades K – 3

Pearl is delighted with her birthday skates and imagines herself skating like "a ballerina on the ice." Because they have a single blade, learning to use them is harder than she expects, and she gives up on her first try. Encouraged by her uncle who takes Pearl to the pond early in the morning before anyone else is there, she learns to start slowly, stay upright, and enjoy herself. Illustrated with attractive pastel and watercolor art. This provides children with a good example of someone accepting the failures and frustrations that come with learning something new. **OPEN COURT:** Keep Trying

*Peeps: a Novel.* Scott Westerfield. Penguin \$18.00 YA

Cal Thompson is a carrier of a parasite that causes vampirism, and must hunt down all of the girlfriends he has unknowingly infected. Both medical thriller and science fiction, this is a fast-paced, captivating modern vampire story that is enriched with biology and history.

*The Penderwicks: a Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy.* Jeanne Birdsall. Knopf. \$18.00 Grades 4 – 6

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While vacationing with their widowed father in a cottage on an estate in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. Throughout the book problems are solved and lessons learned in this wonderful, humorous book.

*The Perfect Shot.* Elaine Marie Alphin. Carolrhoda. \$17.00 YA

Brian uses basketball to block out memories of his girlfriend and her family who were murdered; however, the upcoming trial and a high school history assignment forces him to face the past. Adding to the suspense, early in the story readers learn that Brian has been shot, and appears to be dying. The story is then told in flashbacks, as his life passes before him.

*Photo by Brady: A Picture of the Civil War.* Jennifer Armstrong. Atheneum. \$19.00 Grades 5 – 8

Armstrong presents a story like narrative of the Civil War using photographs taken under the direction of Mathew B. Brady that is full of fascinating details, many drawn from soldiers' diaries and letters. These images were either posed or were of still objects since it took up to 10 seconds to take a picture in the 1860s. It presents the first visual images of war for Americans, images that are far different from those of war today.

*A Play's the Thing.* Alike. HarperCollins. \$18.00 Grades K – 3

José is reluctant to take part in a production of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, but the confidence of his teacher, the team spirit of his classmates, and the response of the audience, including his proud mother, change his attitude. The story is told mostly through speech bubbles and tidy panel watercolor illustrations.

*The Game of Silence.* Louise Erdrich. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades 5 – 8

Nine-year-old Omakayas, of the Ojibwa tribe, and her family are forced to leave their island on Lake Superior in 1850 when white settlers move into the territory, and realizes that the things that are the most important to her is her home and way of life. This is a satisfying sequel to Erdrich's *The Birchbark House*. **OPEN COURT:** Going West

*Genius: a Photobiography of Albert Einstein.* Marfe F. Delano. National Geographic. \$18.00 Grades 4 – 8

The life of Albert Einstein is told through a myriad of pictures and a strong narrative with wonderfully simple explanations of many of his theories. The black-and-white and sepia photographs throughout the book follow Einstein from boyhood to old age and show him in a variety of settings. The overall effect will bring Einstein to life for young readers.

**OPEN COURT:** Taking a Stand

*The Prairie Builders: Reconstructing America's Lost Grasslands.* Sneed B. Collard, III. Houghton. \$17.00 Grades 4 – 8

Collard documents the efforts of volunteers, community activists and dozens of field scientists in reconstructing a tallgrass prairie from 2,500 acres of farmland to serve as a wildlife preserve and teaching center known as the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge in Iowa. Striking full-color photographs capture the beauty of the prairie, as well as the efforts to rebuild a prairie habitat. **OPEN COURT:** Ecology

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*Precious and the Boo Hag*. Patricia Kissack. Atheneum. \$17.00 Grades K – 3

This is a lively tale that feels like a folktale, about choosing right when faced with temptation. Precious stays home alone with a stomachache while the family works in the fields. Her brother has warned her about the horrifying Boo Hag who will try to get her to disobey her mama. When the boo hag shows up in a disguise, Precious isn't fooled, and proves herself to be smart, and sings a defiant song to keep her out. **OPEN COURT:** Courage

*Prehistoric Actual Size*. Steve Jenkins. Houghton \$16.00 Grades K – 4

This is an exploration of the size of various dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals from the beginning of life to about 3 million years ago. The book is designed in the same style as Jenkins' 2004 *Actual Size*, a presentation of relative size in modern animals. Short facts are supplemented by back matter that goes into depth and each animal is rendered in Jenkins' spectacular collage illustrations. **OPEN COURT:** Fossils

*Princess Academy*. Shannon Hale. Bloomsbury \$18.00 Grades 6 – 9

While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland. Strong suspense and plot drive the action as the girls outwit would-be kidnappers and explore the boundaries of leadership, competition, and friendship.

*The Problem with Chickens*. Bruce McMillan. Houghton. \$16.00 Grades K – 3

When women in an Icelandic village buy chickens to lay eggs for them to use, the chickens follow them, adopting human ways and forgetting their barnyard roots, until the ladies hatch a clever plan. The story is illustrated with oil paintings that are full of childlike humor and saturated with primary colors.

*Project Mulberry*. Linda Sue Park. Clarion. \$16.00 Grades 4 – 8

Julia, a Korean-American, and her friend Patrick learn about tolerance, friendship, and patience while working together on a project about silkworms. Between chapters, Julia makes suggestions to the author about plot details and voices her complaints about the way her life is being directed. In the end, the author, with Julia's periodic input, invents a realistic, bittersweet ending. **OPEN COURT:** Heritage

*Prom*. Laurie H. Anderson. Viking. \$17.00 YA

Eighteen-year-old Ash is an average, lower-middle class girl, with no plans for college. She wants nothing to do with senior prom, but when the new math teacher steals the prom money, Ashley finds herself working to turn nothing into the best prom ever because it means the world to her best friend, Nat. In the process, Ash's involvement transforms her life.

*Quinto's Neighborhood/El vecindario de Quinto*. Ina Cumpiano. Children's Book Press. \$16.00 Grades K – 3

Quinto shows how his family and all his neighbors have important roles to play in the community, from the barber, to the dentist, the baker, and more. The neighborhood includes signs in both English and Spanish, lots of small independent businesses and plenty of people who don't subscribe to traditional gender roles, including his father the

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nurse and his mother the carpenter. Presented in Spanish and English. **OPEN COURT:** Our Neighborhood at Work

*Raven's Gate: Book One of the Gatekeepers.* Anthony Horowitz. Scholastic. \$18.00 YA

Prequel to *Evil Star*. Sent to live in a foster home in a remote Yorkshire village, Matt, a troubled fourteen-year-old English boy, uncovers an evil plot involving witchcraft and the site of an ancient stone circle.

*Reaching for the Moon.* Buzz Aldrin. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades 2 – 5

Presents an illustrated account of astronaut Buzz Aldrin's life and the determination and experiences that led him to be part of Apollo 11, the first mission to land men on the moon. The colorful and detailed illustrations support this selection, especially in the images of Aldrin's space journeys. It concludes with a brief chronology, which blends events in the history of flight and space exploration with a few events of Aldrin's life. **OPEN COURT:** Journeys and Quests.

*The Real Revolution: The Global Story of American Independence.* Marc Aronson. Clarion \$21.00 YA

Charging war elephants, bank failures in Scotland and Daniel Boone all play a part in this "transnational" study of the American Revolution, the final installment in a trilogy, which, with *Sir Walter Raleigh and the Quest for El Dorado* (2000) and *John Winthrop, Oliver Cromwell, and the Land of Promise* (2004), covers early English explorations of the New World through the American Revolution.

*Red Hot Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Being Young and Latino in the United States.* Lori Carlson, ed. Holt. \$14.00 Grades 8 – 11

Presents a collection of poems written in both Spanish and English on being young and Latino living up in the United States. This follows *Cool Salsa* and includes many well-known writers, such as Gary Soto and Luis J. Rodriguez, who appeared in the first volume, as well as emerging poets.

*Red Ridin' in the Hood, and Other Cuentos.* Patricia S. Marcantonio. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades 3 – 6

This is a collection of folklore, nursery rhymes and pourquoi tales that are re-told from a Hispanic perspective. The eleven stories include reversals of class and gender roles and brilliant, full-page pictures with settings that range from the desert to the urban hood.

**OPEN COURT:** Heritage

*Replay.* Sharon Creech. HarperCollins. \$16.00 Grades 3 – 6

While preparing for a role in the school play, twelve-year-old Leo finds an autobiography that his father wrote as a teenager and ponders the ways people change. Includes the text for the play, *Rumpopo's Porch*. The author weaves together dreams, memories and minor crises that occur at home and onstage, to create images and voices that celebrate both the imagination and family.

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*The Revenge of the Witch: The Last Apprentice, Bk 1.* Joseph Delaney. Greenwillow. \$15.00  
Grades 5 – 8

This is a smartly crafted story in which the horror is set within the parameters of a boy's new job. In an unspecified England some centuries ago, Thomas, the 12-year-old seventh son of a seventh son, is taken on as an apprentice by the local Spook. It's the Spook's job to keep the surrounding area free from witches, bogarts, and the creepy things that cause shivers in the night. Tom is not sure he's cut out for the solitary, scary life, and he soon finds himself in trouble, inadvertently freeing a terrifying witch, Mother Malkin, at the behest of a girl named Alice because he's desperate for a friend.

*Rise of a Hero: Farsala Trilogy Book 2.* Hilari Bell. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00 Grades 7 – 10

The Hrum believe their war against Farsala is nearly over, but Soraya has information that will help stave off defeat, if only she can reach Jiaan and Kavi and their resistance movements, but discord and Time's Wheel conspire keep them apart.

*Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates.* Jonah Winter. Atheneum. \$17.00  
Grades 2 – 5

This is a stunning picture book biography of the humanitarian and amazing baseball player, Roberto Clemente, beginning in his homeland of Puerto Rico. As a young boy, Roberto lived to play baseball and always felt that “if you don't try as hard as you can, you are wasting your life.” He led the Pittsburgh Pirates to World Series fame, but sadly, died in an airplane crash on his way to help earthquake victims in South America. Raúl Colón's artwork is masterful and captures the elegance of this heroic figure. **OPEN COURT:** Cooperation and Competition

*The Ruins of Gorlan.* John Flanagan. Philomel. \$16.00 Grades 5 – 8

When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battle school because of his small stature, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt. He learns that becoming a ranger is more difficult, dangerous, and worthwhile than he had imagined and he winds up protecting the kingdom from danger. This is a debut novel in a new series from a veteran Australian screenwriter.

*Running with the Reservoir Pups.* Colin Bateman. Delacorte. \$20.00 Grades 6 – 9

Because of his parents divorcing, Eddie has moved from a peaceful Irish village to the inner city of Belfast and gets mixed up with a local gang that scams people. This is an outrageously comic caper that involves the gang trying to get hospital security codes, a kidnapping plot to steal a dozen babies from the hospital, and a team of underground scientists conducting experiments aimed at keeping Ireland's richest woman young. How all these story lines come together is entertaining and unexpected. This is the first offering in a new trilogy.

*Runny Babbit.* Shel Silverstein. HarperCollins. \$19.00 Grades 2 – 6

Completed in 1999, this collection of poems in the form of original spoonerisms was Shel Silverstein's final work. Each poem stars Runny Babbit along with his friends such as Skirtie Gunk, Millie Woose, and Hungry Hog and their misadventures. Illustrated in Silverstein's trademark cartoons. Students will enjoy creating their own spoonerisms,

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unaware that they are focusing on a key reading skill: phonemic awareness. **OPEN COURT:** Imagination

*The Sacrifice.* Kathleen Benner Duple. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00 Grades 5 – 8

Two sisters, aged ten and twelve, are accused of witchcraft in Andover, Massachusetts, in 1692 and await trial in a miserable prison while their mother desperately searches for some way to obtain their freedom.

*Saint Francis and the Wolf.* Richard Egielski. Laura Geringer Books. \$17.00 Grades 3 – 6

Saint Francis teaches the wealthy villagers of Gubbio, Italy, the power of love and compassion when he makes peace with a wolf that has been terrorizing the community. The story is handsomely illustrated with touches of humor.

*The Scarecrow and His Servant.* Philip Pullman. Knopf. \$16.00 Grades 4 – 6

A scarecrow and his boy servant, Jack, set off on a dangerous adventure as they try to outwit the crooked Buffaloni family and stake their claim to valuable Spring Valley. Scarecrow's excellent opinion of himself sets the stage for a variety of silly, yet dangerous, adventures. Run-ins with government officials, soldiers, and unscrupulous business people provide plenty of opportunities for moralizing on the evils of society.

*The Search for Belle Prater.* Ruth White. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades 4 – 7

In this satisfying sequel to the Newbery Honor book *Belle Prater's Boy*, Woodrow Prater and his cousin Gypsy befriend a new girl in their seventh grade class in rural Virginia, and the three of them set off to find Woodrow's missing mother, encountering unlikely and intriguing coincidences along the way. The well-written story contains many references to the '50s Southern setting when racial segregation was in full force. **OPEN COURT: Taking a Stand**

*The Secret Under my Skin.* Janet McNaughton. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades 7 – 12

This is a thought-provoking science fiction tale that takes place in 2368 with themes that explore homeless children, pollution, natural history, education, and the role of science. The story follows a "technocaust" that sent scientists to concentration camps. Mystery and suspense is built as one young woman, rescued from a work camp and chosen for a special duty, uses her love of learning to discover the truth about the planet's future and her own dark past.

*Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley.* Sally M. Walker. Carolrhoda. \$19.00 Grades 6 – 10

Tells the story of the "H. L. Hunley," the Confederate submarine that in 1864 became the first to ever sink an enemy ship but lay missing on the ocean floor for more than a century, describing its creation, its discovery, skeletons and objects found onboard, and facial reconstructions of several crew members by forensic anthropologists. Documented with photographs and drawings of the H. L. Hunley and its excavation.

*Shadow Life: a Portrait of Anne Frank.* Barry Denenberg. Scholastic. \$17.00 Grades 5 – 9

This is a unique view of the journey of Anne Frank and her family. The first section is a well-researched nonfiction narrative that fills in the details of the Frank family ending

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with the family going into hiding in Amsterdam. The middle section is an invented diary of Margot Frank, Anne's older sister, and the third section returns to the nonfiction format and provides details of the horrors of Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen where the lives of Anne, Margot, and their mother ends, as well as the efforts of Otto Frank to find his daughters after the war. **OPEN COURT:** Survival, Perseverance

*Sholom's Treasure: How Sholom Aleichem Became a Writer.* Erica Silverman. Farrar. \$16.00  
Grades 1 – 4

This is the story of the Yiddish comic writer, Sholom Aleichem, who as a young boy, grew up in a family of 12 children in a Russian shtetl. The story is constructed in a series of episodes, painting a difficult life, but one in which the young boy could always find humor. He grew up to be a beloved storyteller, using familiar people and places to paint a picture of Jewish life in the rural village, stories that became the inspiration for *Fiddler on the Roof*. The book is illustrated with ink-and-watercolor artwork that captures the pathos of life for Sholom and his family. **OPEN COURT:** Heritage

*Show Way.* Jacqueline Woodson. Putnam. \$17.00 Grades K – 4

The making of *Show Ways*, quilts that once served as secret maps for freedom-seeking slaves, is a tradition passed from mother to daughter in the author's family. The story, both historical and deeply personal, begins as a seven-year-old girl is sold into slavery and taken to a South Carolina plantation. She is the first in a family that learns to hand embroider quilts that were used to guide slaves escaping to freedom. **OPEN COURT:** Survival

*The Sibling Slam Book: What it's Really Like to Have a Brother or Sister with Special Needs.* Don Meyer, ed. Woodbine. \$14.00 Grades 6+

This book is designed especially for teens with special needs siblings. Over 80 teens from around the world share the joys and trials of living with their special needs siblings. The comments are in a slam book format allowing them to vent opinions, hopes, fears, frustrations, and triumphs.

*The Sledding Hill.* Chris Crutcher. Greenwillow. \$17.00 Grades 7 – 12

Billy, recently deceased, keeps an eye on his best friend, fourteen-year-old Eddie, who has not only lost his best friend, but his father, as well. Adding to his home and school problems, Eddie has become mute. Billy sticks around, helping Eddie stand up to a conservative minister who is also a feared English teacher who is orchestrating a censorship challenge.

*Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie.* David Lubar. Dutton. \$17.00 Grades 7 – 10

While navigating his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his new baby brother, Scott loses old friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer. The story is framed by Scott's survival manual that he is writing for the unborn baby and in the process, offers some hilarious entries.

*Smallpox in the New World.* Stephanie T. Peters. Benchmark. \$21.00 Grades 5 – 8

Describes the history of smallpox in the Americas, covering the arrival of the Spanish as carriers, its spread throughout the New World, the development of the smallpox vaccine,

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the elimination of the disease, and its potential use as a terrorist weapon. It brings forth the impact of the epidemic on Western history and society. Illustrated with archival materials and reproduced paintings. Pair with *Fever 1773* and *An American Plague: the True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793*. **OPEN COURT:** Making a New Nation

*So Happy!* Kevin Henkes. Greenwillow. \$16.00 Grades PreK – 2

A thirsty seed, a young boy, and a little rabbit all experience changes when a long awaited rain finally arrives to the desert. The circular tale has a southwest flavor, and is enhanced by Anita Lobel's watercolor and gouache illustrations in a style reminiscent of Van Gogh. **OPEN COURT:** Sharing Stories

*So, What's It Like to Be a Cat?* Karla Kuskin. Atheneum. \$14.00 Grades PreK – 2

A cat answers a young child's questions about such things as how much and where it sleeps, and whether or not it likes living with people. The watercolor cartoons perfectly capture the range of expressions, postures, and mischievous ways of cats and are set against crisp white backgrounds. The rhyming text makes it a good read aloud choice. **OPEN COURT:** Let's Read

*Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems.* Joyce Sidman. Houghton. \$16.00  
Grades K – 3

Seasons set the stage for a celebration of the diverse life of ponds in this collection of poems that provides a look at some of the animals, insects, and plants that are found in ponds. The poems are accompanied with information about each subject. A variety of poetic forms are presented, such as haiku and rhymed and unrhymed verse. The plants and animals of the pond come alive in the bold woodcut prints, which are hand-colored in a palette of cool colors. **OPEN COURT:** Animals, Ecology

*A Splendid Friend, Indeed.* Suzanne Bloom. Boyds Mills. \$16.00 Grades PreK – 2

An inquisitive goose endears himself to a studious polar bear who is trying to practice quiet activities such as reading, writing and thinking. When Goose presents Bear with a note that proclaims Polar Bear as his splendid friend, he responds with a big bear hug. The oversized text makes this an accessible story for beginning readers as well as a good choice for story time about friendship and sharing. **OPEN COURT:** Finding Friends

*Stars Beneath your Bed: the Surprising Story of Dust.* April P. Sayre. Greenwillow. \$17.00  
Grades PreK – 3

In simple yet poetic free verse text, the different kinds of dust such as pollen, house dust, dirt from the farmer's plow, dust storms, fires, and ash from volcanoes is discussed and shown in full-page elegant paintings. This is a book that will be useful in classrooms, as it is both straightforward for young children as well as quite interesting for older elementary children.

*Ste-e-e-eamboat a-comin'!* Jill Esbaum. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades K – 5

This poetic narrative was inspired by a passage from Mark Twain's *Life on the Mississippi*. The author eloquently captures the bustle and commotion attending a steam packet's arrival in a small river town in 1867. She introduces a variety of words the poetic

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telling that help to paint a picture of life on the river, and the story is accompanied by fully detailed paintings in the style of Normal Rockwell. These well-drawn details make this an excellent resource for historical study. **OPEN COURT:** Things That Go, Country Life

*Stinky Stern Forever.* Michelle Edwards. Harcourt \$15.00 Grades 1 – 3

Pa Lia doesn't like Stinky Stern, the bully of her class. Stinky is hit by a van in front of her and later dies. When the students take turns remembering him, Pa Lia is unsure of what to say. The children acknowledge the truth about their relationship with Stinky, but also express their sadness and confusion about his death. The author handles the topic with skill and sensitivity, a significant accomplishment given the vocabulary and structural constraints of the easy-to-read chapter-book format. **COURT:** Friendship

*The Story Goes On.* Aileen Fisher. Roaring Brook. \$15.00 Grades PreK – 3

An illustrated poem about the cycle of life – bug eats plant, frog eats bug, snake eats frog, hawk eats snake, and so on. This is a circular tale highlighting the interdependence of life by addressing the question as to what happens to dead animals in a matter-of-fact way. It is illustrated with bright colors and collage artwork. **OPEN COURT:** Animals

*The Subway Mouse.* Barbara Reid. Scholastic. \$16.00 Grades K – 3

Remembering childhood stories of a beautiful but dangerous place called Tunnel's End, a mouse named Nib leaves his dirty, crowded home under a busy subway station and sets out on a long journey, joined by Lola, a mouse he meets along the way. When they finally crawl out of the tunnel and into a starlit night, they discover a world that is more dangerous than they expected, but also more beautiful, and make a home together. The illustrations were created using plasticine and found objects to create images that are both realistic and clever and have an inviting, three-dimensional appearance, **OPEN COURT:** Journeys

*Summer's End.* Audrey Coulombis. Putnam. \$17.00 Grades 6 – 9

13-year-old Grace's brother, Collin, burns his draft card and his stepfather throws him out of the house and he heads to Canada. Grace's mother, whose first husband died in the Korean War, supports her son's decisions. Grace is confused about who is right and where her allegiance lies and is firmly stuck in the middle. The extended family gathers at Grandma's farm and several of Grace's cousins also have older brothers who are impacted by the war. Told in the first person, this is a moving and engaging portrait of a difficult time in American history.

*Summertime Waltz.* Nina Payne. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades 1 – 3

A lyrical poem painting images of a lazy summer evening is the basis for this unique picture book. The accompanying artwork reflects the images in the mind of a child, rendered in detail with each line of the poem broken down into full-page spreads. **OPEN COURT:** Weather

*Sweetgrass Basket.* Marlene Carvell. Dutton . \$16.00 Grades 5 – 8

In alternating passages, two Mohawk sisters describe their lives at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, established in 1879 to educate Native Americans, as they try to

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assimilate into white culture and one of them is falsely accused of stealing. Their struggle to survive amid intolerance and cruelty brings about a bittersweet ending. This satisfying read will awaken young readers to a situation often ignored in our history. **OPEN**

**COURT:** Survival, **Heritage**

*Swimming in the Monsoon Sea.* Shyam Selvadurai. Tundra. \$19.00 YA

In 1980 Sri Lanka, fourteen-year-old Amrith's uneventful summer, filled with typing lessons and hopes of a part in his school's production of *Othello*, is turned upside down when he falls in love with a boy.

*Tadpole's Promise.* Willis Jeanne. Atheneum. \$16.00 Grades PreK – 3

When a caterpillar meets her perfect love, a tadpole, she begs him never to change, but their relationship is doomed. As the tadpole begins to change into a frog, the caterpillar becomes more and more heartbroken. In the end, both have changed and neither recognizes the other, and the romance concludes in a fatal ending. Illustrated with pen and ink drawings, using the gutter as the boundary between their two habitats and with the pages opening sideways. **OPEN COURT:** Animals

*Taking Wing.* Nancy Price. Graff. Clarion. \$15.00 Grades 5 – 8

Thirteen-year-old Gus, sent to live with his grandparents in Vermont while his mother recovers from tuberculosis and his father serves in the Army Air Corps during World War II, learns lessons about life, responsibility, and friendship while hatching and raising a brood of orphaned ducks, and getting to know and understand his neighbor Louise Lavictoire, an impoverished French-Canadian girl he befriends.

*That New Animal.* Emily Jenkins. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades PreK – 1

Two dogs are not happy with the new animal, a baby that comes into their house. Their people suddenly stop playing with them, and the dogs begin to think of what to do to the new animal. As the baby grows, the animals begin liking it, “just a bit”. Told from the dogs’ point of view, this reflects what often happens with older brothers and sisters when a new baby arrives. Illustrated with simple, colorful paintings.

*A Thief in the House of Memory.* Tim Wynne-Jones. Farrar. \$17.00 Grades 7-10

The death of an apparent stranger in the Steeple family's old home triggers troubling questions for sixteen-year-old Declan as he tries to make sense of his fragmented dreams, random memories, and unexplained coincidences, hoping to learn the truth about the mother who suddenly left when he was ten.

*The Three Bear's Christmas.* Kathy Duval. Holiday House. \$17.00 Grades PreK-K

Who's been eating the three bears' cookies? Who's been sitting in their chairs and sleeping in their beds? The culprit left clues: a woolly mitten, a black boot, a red coat, and presents under the tree. Children will enjoy catching the intruder as he gets away in his sleigh in just his long johns. It is illustrated with artwork that is utterly childlike, with sturdy, stocky bear figures unambiguously investigating the whereabouts of their visitor.

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*Toulouse-Lautrec: the Moulin Rouge and the City of Light.* Robert Burleigh. Abrams. \$18.00  
Grades 3 – 6

Presents information on the life and times of the famous French artist, including depictions of some of his best-known paintings, drawings, and posters, to show how his art reflected the places and characters of nineteenth century Paris. It is illustrated with period photos and paintings of Paris by artists such as Pissarro and Renoir, which are mingled with reproductions of Toulouse-Lautrec's drawings, paintings, and lithographs, many in color. **OPEN COURT:** Fine Art

*Three French Hens: a Holiday Tale.* Margie Palatini. Hyperion. \$15.00 Grades PreK – 3

Three French hens decide to deliver themselves after they failed to arrive along with the two turtle doves and the partridge in a pear tree; however, they end up at the wrong house, that of a hungry fox down on his luck.

*Traction Man is Here!* Mini Grey. Knopf. \$16.00 Grades K – 3

Traction Man, a boy's courageous action figure, romps through adventures including diving into dishwater looking for the Lost Wreck of the Sieve, and in doing so, finds a pet, a brave little Scrubbing Brush. When Traction Man receives a hand knitted jumpsuit with a matching bonnet from his boy's grandmother, he is humiliated, but continues to perform brave deeds. This humorous story is well matched with bright artwork that celebrates a child's imagination. **OPEN COURT:** Imagination

*The Transcontinental Railroad.* Linda Thompson. Rourke. \$30.00 Grades 3 – 6

Presents the history and development of the transcontinental railroad linking the Pacific and Atlantic coasts and follows the construction of the Central Pacific from Sacramento and the Union Pacific from Omaha, Nebraska. The author effectively presents the idealistic motivation of linking the east and west along with a comprehensible story of the politics and greed that were part of the project. **OPEN COURT:** A Changing America

*Travels of Benjamin of Tudela: Through Three Continents in the Twelfth Century.* Uri Shulevitz. Farrar. \$17.00 Grades 4 – 7

A fictionalized account of the travels of Benjamin, a Jewish man from Tudela, Spain, who, in 1159, sets out on a fourteen-year-long journey that takes him from his home in Spain to historic cities of the ancient world: Rome, Babylon, Baghdad, and Jerusalem, among others. All manner of difficulties plague him on his journeys. Told in an expansive first-person narrative is full of details of the ancient world and illustrated with rich paintings highlighted with collage. **OPEN COURT:** Ancient Civilizations

*The Treasure of Savage Island.* Leonore Hart. Dutton. \$15.00 Grades 6 – 9

Runaway slave, Rafe, is helped by thirteen-year-old Molly after the ship on which Rafe has stowed away runs aground near the Eastern Shore, and the pair share an adventure involving pirates, spies, and lost treasure. The blend of lively dialogue, distinctive personalities, emotional conflicts, suspense, and resourceful protagonists makes this an exciting, informative, and insightful coming-of-age historical novel.

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*The Truth-Teller's Tale*. Sharon Shinn. Viking. \$17.00 YA

In this medieval tale, mirror twins, Eleda and Adele discover that they are a Truth-Teller and a Safe-Keeper. Truth-Tellers cannot tell lies and can easily recognize when someone is lying. Safe-Keepers cannot reveal what is told to them in confidence. The twins recognize their gifts when they become teens and situations begin to abound with political intrigue and romance.

*The Turning*. Gillian Chan. KidsCanPress. \$17.00 Grades 6 – 9

After his mother's death, sixteen-year-old Ben Larsson and his long-absent father move to England in search of a new start, but a series of unexplained events leads Ben to a meeting with Wyliff, a Green Man living in the nearby woods who needs Ben to help him settle an escalating dispute in fairy world.

*Tutankhamun: The Mystery of the Boy King*. Zahi Hawass. National Geographic \$28.00  
Grades 3 – 7

Hawass is the director of excavations at the Giza pyramids and head of Egypt's archaeological council. This is a unique biography of Tutankhamun, in which the author surmises how Tut and his young wife might have felt at various times in their lives. Likewise, he examines the theory that Tut was murdered, including his own part in a CT scan of the king's mummy in early 2005 and concluding that the evidence points away from murder. **OPEN COURT: Ancient Civilizations**

*Twilight: a Novel*. Stephenie Meyer. Little, Brown \$19.00 YA

When seventeen-year-old Bella leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Washington, she meets Edward, an exquisitely handsome boy at school for whom she feels an overwhelming attraction and who she finds out is a vampire, but of an unusual variety. Edward, his siblings and their adoptive parents have disciplined themselves to feed on animals rather than humans; and Edward is obsessed with Bella. Other elements factor into the plot, including a rival group of vampires who are not as disciplined as Edward's family.

*Uglies*. Scott Westerfeld. S&S. \$11.00 Grades 7 – 10

In an eerily harmonious, post apocalyptic society, Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like. This is an introduction to a new series.

*Under the Persimmon Tree*. Suzanne Fisher Staples. Farrar. \$17.00 Grades 5 – 8

A young Afghan girl, Najmah, befriends an American woman, Nusrat in Peshawar, Pakistan, after Najmah flees her native Afghanistan during the 2001 war; and together they begin a long journey to locate their missing loved ones after the war ends. **Open Court: Journeys and Quests**

*Understanding the Holy Land*. Mitch Frank. Viking. \$18.00 Grades 5 – 8

Presents a series of questions and answers that seeks to explain the origins and conflict behind the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, failed attempts at peace, and its significance to the

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rest of the world. The book goes up to July 2004 when Israel was proposing to unilaterally withdraw from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. **OPEN COURT:** Cooperation and Competition

*Up!* Kristine O'Connell George. Clarion. \$15.00 Grades PreK – 1

This is a joyful picture book that celebrates playtime with a father and his toddler daughter. The simple story is in rhymed text that highlights the little girl's day beginning with breakfast, and continuing on to the park she and her father share a day of fun. Illustrated with bright, sunny watercolor artwork. **OPEN COURT:** Let's Read

*Upstream.* Melissa Lion. Random. \$16.00 YA

After her boyfriend is killed in a hunting accident, Alaska high-school-senior Marty, with help from her mother and two younger sisters, tries to get over her grief and begin a new life in this survival-after-a-tragedy drama. This is an emotional and poignant tale that will appeal to savvy reluctant readers.

*The Vacation.* Polly Horvath. Farrar, Straus, Giroux. \$16.00 Grades 5 – 8

This is another offbeat, darkly humorous story by Horvath, again starring a child who is left in the care of child-averse adults. Henry is left in the care of his quirky and quarrelsome aunts as his parents go off to Africa. The trio begins a cross-country trip by car and along the way, Henry meets his grandfather for the first time, wanders off in the Everglades, and learns some important lessons about surviving life's unpredictable situations.

*Whales on Stilts!* M.T. Anderson. Harcourt. \$15.00 Grades 4 – 6

Racing against the clock, shy middle-school student Lily and her best friends, Katie and Jasper, must foil the plot of her father's conniving boss to conquer the world using an army of cranky, stilt-walking, laser-beam-eyed whales. This is the first in a new series of comic thrillers for young readers.

*The Wheels on the Race Car.* Alexander Zane. Harcourt. \$15.00 Grades PreK – 1

This is a racecar version of the song "The Wheels on the Bus" that provides zany lyrics and lots of action. Each verse highlights an action of a racecar and the story stars animal drivers. It is illustrated with bright artwork that incorporates motion and line. **OPEN COURT:** Things That Go

*Where I Want to Be.* Adele Griffin. Putnam. \$16.00 YA

Two teenaged sisters, separated by death but still connected, work through their feelings of loss over the closeness they shared as children that was later destroyed by one's mental illness, and finally make peace with each other. The story is told in alternating narratives told in the third person.

*Where the Great Hawk Flies.* Liza Ketchum. Clarion. \$16.00 Grades 5 – 8

Years after a violent New England raid by the Redcoats and their Revolutionary War Indian allies, two families, one that suffered during that raid and one with an Indian mother and Patriot father, become neighbors and must deal with past trauma and

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prejudices before they can help each other in the present. **OPEN COURT:** Making a New Nation

*White Girl.* Sylvia Olsen. Sono Nis, paper. \$9.00 YA

When the mother of a Canadian teen marries a "real pony-tail Indian" the family moves to his home on the reservation. Suddenly Josie is "Blondie," alone, and a stranger, taunted by bullies and longing for her friends back at the mall. She eventually finds a friend who shows her around, and later, a boyfriend; but it is the complex story of her family that is the heart of the novel.

*Whittington.* Alan Armstrong. Random House. \$15.00 Grades 3 – 6

Whittington, a feline descendant of Dick Whittington's famous cat of English folklore, appears at a rundown barnyard plagued by rats and restores harmony while telling his ancestor's story. The tale works both as historical fiction about medieval street life as well as a witty, engaging tale of barnyard friendship and survival. **OPEN COURT:** Storytelling

*Wiggle.* Doreen Cronin. Atheneum. \$13.00 Grades PreK – K

A playful pup leads children through the many ways to move around. It is told through catchy rhyming verse, and illustrated with cartoon-like artwork that incorporates digital elements. Pair with Jonathan London's *Wiggle Waggle* (1999) or Katie Davis's *Who Hops?* (1998) for an active storytime. **OPEN COURT:** Let's Read

*Willow Run.* Patricia Reilly Giff. Wendy Lamb Books. \$16.00 Grades 4 – 7

Eleven-year-old Meggie Dillon from *Lily's Crossing* (1997) shares her feelings and experiences on the home front during World War II after her family moves from Rockaway, New York to Willow Run, Michigan. This is an engrossing, heartwarming story that will help readers understand how personally war affects people. **OPEN COURT: Survival**

*Winter Lights: A Season in Poems and Quilts.* Anna Grossnickle Hines. Greenwillow. \$17.00 Grades 1 – 3

A collection of poems celebrating the lights and holidays of winter including Christmas, the feast of Santa Lucia, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the Chinese New Year. Each poem is illustrated with a photograph of a spectacular quilt made by the author.

*The Witch's Boy.* Michael Gruber. HarperCollins. \$18.00 Grades 6 – 9

An ugly foundling turns against the witch who sacrificed almost everything to raise him when he becomes consumed by the desire for money and revenge against those who have hurt him, but he eventually mends fences with his patient mother finds his true heart's desire, Bluebeard's blind daughter. **OPEN COURT:** A Question of Value

*Worlds Apart: Traveling with Fernie and Me.* Gary Soto. Putnam. \$15.00 Grades 4 – 7

Presents a collection of humorous poems that follow the adventures of two middle school friends as they embark on an imaginary trip around the world. Soto brings an authentic boy's-eye view of daydreamed foreign adventure and the rewards of best-friendship to

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this tale. Illustrated with pen-and-ink drawings that bring the free verse poetry to life.  
**OPEN COURT:** Imagination

*A Wreath for Emmett Till.* Marilyn Nelson. Houghton. \$17.00 YA

This is a collection of poems honoring the young Emmett Till who was brutally murdered by white racists in 1955. The poems form a heroic crown of sonnets – a sequence in which the last line of one poem becomes the first line of the next. Illustrated with bold artwork in shades of blood red, earth-brown, and sunny yellow.

*The Xanadu Adventure.* Alexander, Lloyd. Dutton. \$17.00 Grades 5 – 8

Vesper Holly, a young adventurer, travels with her guardians and their friends to Asia Minor in search of the ancient city of Troy, searching for a Trojan Rosetta Stone. They find themselves captured by Vesper's archenemy, Dr. Helvitus. They encounter a variety of adventures and plot twists that finally end when the travelers are able to save both themselves and the world. This is one in a series of adventure novels starring Vesper Holly.

*You and You and You.* Per Nilsson. Front Street. \$17.00 YA

Young Anon, who marches to the beat of a different drummer in galoshes to protect himself from radiation, touches the lives of all around him, resulting in disillusionment, loss, love, and more than a few surprises. This is a mature novel, sometimes graphically sexual and violent, but ultimately inspiring.

*The Young Hans Christian Andersen.* Karen Hesse. Scholastic \$18.00 Grades 3 – 6

This is a biography of Hans Christian Andersen which relates events in the early part of his life with the inspiration for the stories which he later wrote. The vignettes are illustrated with comical pen-and-ink illustrations with watercolor wash that depict a gawky hero reminiscent of Ichabod Crane, and the occasional town scenes and landscapes resemble enchanting, jewel-bright etchings.

*Zayda Was a Cowboy.* June Levitt Nislick. Jewish Publication Society. \$10.00 Grades 5 – 8

When a Jewish grandfather comes to live with his son's family, he relates his experiences fleeing Eastern Europe for America, his adventures as a cowboy, and his assimilation into American culture.

*Zen Shorts.* Jon J. Muth, Scholastic. \$17.00 Grades 1 – 4

When Stillwater the panda moves into the neighborhood, the stories he tells to three siblings teach them to look at the world in new ways. The stories introduce a Zen approach to the world and each is illustrated with fine watercolor artwork interspersed with black-and-white illustrations depicting the Zen lessons. **OPEN COURT:** Sharing Stories