

Notable Books for Children 2006

10,000 Days of Thunder: a History of the Vietnam War. Philip Caputo. Atheneum. 2005. \$23.00
Grades 5 and up

Beginning with the rise of Communism in the Soviet Union, this narrative by a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist paints an historical picture of the events leading up to the Vietnamese War and shows through full-page photos and engaging narrative the conflict both on the front and at home.

5,000 Miles to Freedom: Ellen and William Craft's Flight from Slavery. Judith Bloom Fradin. Nat Geog. \$20.00 Grades 4-8

An engaging narrative that brings the history of slavery and the inherent difficulties to life through the experiences of William and Ellen Craft, slaves who were able to escape to freedom using their wits. The text is illustrated with black and white photos, illustrations and reproductions that enhance the text that relies upon primary sources, including letters, diaries, and newspapers. **Open Court 4: Risks and Consequences**

Across the Blue Pacific: a World War II Story. Louise Borden. Houghton. Illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker. \$17.00 Grades 3-5.

A moving story that brings the reminiscence of a young girl's experiences during World War II. Told through free verse, a young, much admired neighbor heads off to war and ultimately is lost at sea. Life goes on as details of the era and life at home continue through the sadness of loss. Illustrated with loose-lined ink and watercolor artwork that captures the time and place. **Open Court 5: Heritage**

Adèle & Simon. Barbara McClintock. Farrar. &16.00 Grades K-3

Simon and his sister, Adele, are on their way home from school and travel through scenes of 20th Century Paris. Along their leisurely trip home, they make stops at places including the grocery, museum, a puppet show, and bakery. At each stop Simon loses something, a picture, books, or scarf. Readers can hunt for the item that is hidden on the detailed pen-and-ink and watercolor two-page spread. When they arrive home, helpful neighbors and friends come to return Simon's lost items. Readers will enjoy the visual game of hide-and-seek because the more they look, the more they can find.

☺ *The Adventures of Polo.* Regis Faller. Roaring Brook. \$18.00 PreK-2

Polo the dog sets out from his home and enjoys many adventures, including sailing his boat on top of a whale, roasting hot dogs over a volcano, and taking a ride in a spaceship built from a mushroom.

Aliens are Coming!/: The True Account of the 1938 War of the Worlds Radio Broadcast. Meghan McCarthy. Knopf. \$17.00 Grades K-4.

A picture book account of Orson Well's famous Mercury Theatre broadcast of the *War of the Worlds* the night before Halloween 1938 and the mayhem that occurred as listeners

believed Martians had really landed. Beginning with black-and-white artwork, more and more color is added as the story progresses and engages readers in the heyday of radio. An extensive author's note provides extensive background for curious readers. **Open Court 3: Storytelling**

⊗ *Almost Gone: The World's Rarest Animals*. Steve Jenkins. HarperCollins \$17.00 Grades K-3
Profiles animal species around the world that have gone extinct within human history, or that are at risk for extinction. Maps on endpapers.

American Story: 100 True Tales from American History. Jennifer Armstrong. Knopf. \$35.00
Grades 4-7

Contains 100 short stories about real people and events in American history, arranged chronologically from 1565 to 2000, including the lost colony of Roanoke, Pocahontas, the Chicago fire, and the 2000 presidential election.

⊗ *Baby Shoes*, Dashka Slater. Bloomsbury. \$16.00 Grades PreK-1

After taking a walk with his mother, Baby's new white shoes with the blue stripe are covered with a variety of colors.

Bebé Goes Shopping. Susan Middleton Elya. Illustrated by Steven Salerno. Harcourt. \$16.00
Grades PreK-3

An ordinary shopping trip becomes an exciting outing as Mamá tries to keep Bebé entertained and contained. The rhyming text is sprinkled with Spanish words that are well integrated into the story for complete understanding. Bright watercolor illustrations in a somewhat retro style bring this charming story to life. Highly recommended as a read-aloud for young children.

Behind the Curtain: an Echo Falls Mystery. Peter Abrahams. Laura Geringer Books. \$16.00
Grades 5-8

An avid Sherlock Holmes fan, eighth grader Ingrid Levin-Hill is kidnapped while investigating mysterious happenings in her home town. This is a fast paced mystery with well-defined characters and a plausible plotline and ending.

Bella at Midnight. Diane Stanley. Illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline. HarperCollins. \$17.00
Grades 5-8

Raised by peasants, Bella discovers that she is actually the daughter of a knight and finds herself caught up in a terrible plot that will change her life and kingdom forever. A subtly twisted Cinderella story that will keep readers engaged, Diane Stanley doesn't disappoint in her absorbing narrative style.

⊗ *Benny & Beautiful Baby Delilah*. Jean Van Leeuwen. Dial. \$17.00 PreK-K

Benny is not pleased when his new baby sister, Delilah, arrives at his house. The illustrations give the story the energy and emotions that make it a success. The characterizations, created with a heavy ink line, are expressive, jaunty, and lively.

Bess and Bella. Irene Haas. McElderry \$15.00 Grades PreK-2.

Bess is feeling terribly lonely when out of the sky tumbles a bird named Bella, her tiny suitcases packed with all manner of wonderful things. Thus begins a wonderful

friendship full of surprises, a tender story encased in a small jewel of a book. Bella stays with Bess throughout the winter as she departs, as all birds do, Bess spots a new human friend. **Open Court 3: Friendship**

Best Best Friends. Margaret Chodos-Irvine. Harcourt. \$16.00 Grades PreK-K.

Clare and Mary are best friends in preschool. But when Mary's birthday comes and she gets special treatment from everyone, Clare is quite put out but eventually make up to be best best friends. The artwork looks deceptively simple, but it is full of pattern, color, shape and form. Captures the ups and downs of early childhood friendship. **Open Court K: Finding Friends**

Blood on the River: Jamestown 1607. Elisa Carbone. Viking. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

Traveling to the New World in 1606 as the page to Captain John Smith, twelve-year-old orphan Samuel Collier settles in the new colony of James Town, where he must quickly learn to distinguish between friend and foe. A strong example of historical fiction showing the hardship and peril settlers faced, as well as the brutal realities of colonial conquest. Includes an author's note and sources. **Open Court 4: A Changing America**

Bodies from the Ash: Life and Death in Ancient Pompeii. James M.Deem. Houghton Mifflin. 2005. \$16.00 Grades 5-8.

Accessible text brings the story of the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79 to life, an eruption that buried the cities and people of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Handsome photographs of the bones and artifacts that have been unearthed through the years combined with period artwork help to tell the tale. **Open Court 6: Ancient Civilizations**

Boo and Baa Have Company. Lena and Olaf Landstrom. R & S Books. \$15.00 Grades K-3

While raking leaves, Boo and Baa, two noodle-headed sheep, see a cat in the tree, try to get it down, and wind up with Boo up there instead. A series of comic situations follow that will delight young readers. Translated from the Swedish, the story is accompanied by comic line drawings using bright colors.

Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs!. Kathleen Kudlinski. Dutton. \$16.00 Grades 2-4

With a light hearted tone, the misconceptions and corrections regarding dinosaurs are presented as well as the evolving research about dinosaurs. The illustrations are detailed bring these ideas to life as 'old' and 'new' dinosaurs are placed side by side for comparison. Presents an excellent jumping-off point to discuss the scientific method. **Open Court 2: Fossils**

The Boy Who Cried Wolf. B.G.Hennessy. S&S. \$16.00 Grades K-3

A fresh new version of the old tale that tells the story of a bored shepherd and how he tries to drum up excitement by yelling "Wolf!" and bringing the whole town out to the field to help the young shepherd. Then the day comes when a wolf is really a danger, and all the townspeople ignore his cries. Humorous embellishments bring the story to life as does the detailed watercolor artwork.

The Boy Who Loved Words. Roni Schotter. Illustrated by Giselle Potter. Random. \$17.00 Grades K-4

Selig is a boy who loves the sound of words, their taste, and the way they “move his heart.” He collects them until his pockets are full and they fill his world. Perceived as different and teased by other children, he seeks his life’s purpose and spreads words all around his world and in the process finds fulfillment and love. Illustrated in a folk-art style by Giselle Potter, this is a rich and satisfying tribute to creative language.

⊗ *Bread and Roses, Too*. Katherine Paterson. Clarion. \$16.00 Grades 5-8

Twelve-year-old Rosa and thirteen-year-old Jake form an unlikely friendship as they try to survive and understand the 1912 Bread and Roses strike of mill workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

⊗ *The Buffalo and the Indians: a Shared Destiny*. Dorothy Hinshaw Patent. Clarion. \$18.00 Grades 5-8

This well-written book covers the years before the Europeans came to America, discussing how the bison and Native Americans came to the New World, the importance of the animal to the survival of the Plains Indians, and the Native peoples' spiritual relationship with the buffalo. **Open Court 5: Going West**

Built to Last: Building America's Amazing Bridges, Dams, Tunnels, and Skyscrapers. George Sullivan. Scholastic. \$18.00 Grades 4-8

An engaging narrative of some amazing construction projects throughout America, including the Erie Canal, the US Capitol, the Brooklyn Bridge, tunnels, and buildings. Information on the times is interspersed with the sections on the construction projects. Illustrated with contemporary and archival drawings and photographs, this is a handsome and accessible offering.

But Excuse Me That is My Book. Lauren Child. Dial. \$17.00 Grades PreK-2

Another hilarious story from Lauren Child featuring Lola and Charlie. In this tale, Lola is disappointed when she can’t find her favorite book on the library shelf. Charlie tries to cajole her into trying another book and ultimately succeeds. Illustrated with Child’s signature collage and cartoon-style characters. **Open Court 2: Sharing Stories**

Carnival of the Animals: Poems Inspired by Saint-Saens Music. Judith Chernaik, edit. Illustrated by Satoshi Kitamura. Candlewick. \$17.00 Grades 3-6

A collection of fourteen poems inspired by Saint-Saens' "Zoological Fantasy," accompanied by a fifty-five-minute CD featuring a reading of the poems and music performed by the Apollo Chamber Players. Illustrated with watercolor artwork that brings the poems to life. **Open Court 6: Beyond the Notes**

⊗ *The Case of the Missing Marquess: An Enola Holmes Mystery*. Nancy Springer. Philomel. \$11.00 Grades 5-8

Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, must travel to London in disguise to unravel the disappearance of her missing mother. Plucky and insightful, Enola figures out why her mother disappeared, and also solves a second mystery beating Sherlock to the punch.

Castaway Cats. Lisa Wheeler. Atheneum. \$17.00 PreK-2

Fifteen soggy cats and kittens are marooned on an island and are not quite sure what to do. They must overcome their differences to build a raft so they can get back home. In the end, they have come together to build a beautiful raft but decide that they are like a family and are much too happy on the island to ever leave. Illustrated with detailed acrylic and ink artwork.

The Cat with the Yellow Star: Coming of Age in Terezin. Susan Goldman Rubin. Holiday House. \$17.00 Grades 3-6

The true and poignant story of a young girl sent to the model camp for Jews in Terezin during World War II. Describes how she survived and at time flourished thanks to the loving care of others in the compound. Illustrated with photos and children's artwork done at the camp. The true events are filled with trauma, friendship, and hope. **Open Court 4: Survival**

Cause: Reconstruction in America, 1863-1877. Tonya Bolden. Knopf. \$20.00 Grades 6-9

Told in the voice of a storyteller, this thorough history of America during Reconstruction covers Lincoln's Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, the Civil Rights Act of 1866, the troubles of freed slaves, the expansion of the nation and the plight of Native Americans, the 15th Amendment, and the women's suffrage movement. Richly illustrated with all primary source material: photographs, maps, and documents.

Changing Woman and her Sisters: Stories of Goddesses from Around the World. Retold by Katrin Hyman Tchana. Holiday. \$17.00 Grades 4+

An illustrated collection of traditional tales which feature goddesses from different cultures, including Navajo, Mayan, and Fon. Notes explain each goddess's place in her culture, the reason for the book, and how the illustrations were developed.

Ⓢ *Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food*. Eric Schlosser. Houghton. \$16.00. Grades 7+

A look at fast food, what's in it, how it's made, and what it does to our bodies.

Chicken and Cat. Sara Varon. Scholastic \$17.00 Grades PreK-1

A wordless picture book that tells the story of a country Cat who comes to visit Chicken in the city. Cat's first impressions of the big city come from the darker aspects, rats, roaches, and garbage. Even trips to Central Park and Coney Island don't lift Cat's spirits, until they come to a store where Cat is delighted to see some seeds for planting. They buy flower and vegetable seeds and turn an empty lot visible from Cat's window into a garden, bringing a little country to the city. Illustrated with cartoon illustrations.

Ⓢ *Children of the Great Depression*. Russell Freedman. Clarion. \$20.00 Grades 4-8

Presents a collection of illustrated archival photographs describing children of the Great Depression, and draws upon memoirs, diaries, letters, and other first-hand accounts that look at the lives of young Americans during the 1930s.

Chowder. Peter Brown. Little Brown. \$16.00 Grades K-3

Chowder the bulldog has never fit in with the other neighborhood canines, but he sees a chance to make friends with the animals at the local petting zoo. Illustrated with bright artwork. A good choice when talking about acceptance and tolerance.

⊗ *Clip-Clop*. Nicola Smee. Sterling. \$13.00 Grades K-3

Cat, Dog, Pig, and Duck all take Mr. Horse up on his offer of a ride and encourage him to run faster and faster until they are in danger of falling off.

Clue of the Linoleum Lederhosen. M. T. Anderson. Harcourt. \$15.00 Grades 5-8

Katie, Lily, and Jasper attach their flying Gyroscopic Sky Suite to the Moose Tongue Lodge and Resort, where they mingle with other child heroes found in books, and where they become embroiled in a mystery involving lederhosen-clothed quintuplets and a screaming ventriloquist.

⊗ *Coming to Canada: Building a Life in a New Land*. Susan Hughes. Maple Tree. \$27.00 Grades 6-9

Chronicles the history of immigration to Canada, from the founding of the first permanent French colony at Quebec in 1608 to the adoption of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act in 2001.

Cookies: Bite Size Life Lessons. Amy Rosenthal Krouse. HarperCollins. \$13.00 Grades PreK-2

Simple text and illustrations describe lessons in life as a young girl bakes cookies and learns cooperation, patience, pride, compassion, trust, and more. Lovely pastel watercolor illustrations show appealing children and anthropomorphic animals interacting with one another and the treats. **Open Court 1: Let's Read**

Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Somerset Sisters. Leskley M. M. Blume. Random. \$16.00 Grades 5-7

Cornelia, the lonely eleven year-old daughter of world-famous pianist who travels is left in the care of a housekeeper. She has no desire to follow in her famous mother's footsteps... instead she is enthralled with words. She meets a neighbor in her Greenwich Village neighborhood who shares fabulous adventures with Cornelia that she and her sisters had while traveling around the world.

Counting on Grace. Elizabeth Winthrop. Random. \$16.00 Grades 5-7

Inspired by a Lewis Hine photo of a child at work in a Vermont cotton mill in the early twentieth century, this is a fictional story of twelve-year-old Grace who is torn from her one-room schoolhouse and forced to work long hours in the textile mill as a "doffer," turning cotton into thread, alongside her mother, in the spinning room. Grace and her friend Arthur are championed by their teacher who urges them to write the National Child Labor Committee, an action only Grace seems to realize will have serious repercussions.

⊗ *The Cow Who Clucked*. Denise Fleming. Holt. \$19.00 Grades PreK-2

When a cow loses her moo, she searches to see if another animal in the barn has it.

⊗ *Crispin: at the Edge of the World*. Avi. Hyperion. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

Sequel to: *Crispin*, the cross of lead. Branded as traitors by the king's authorities, Crispin and his guardian, Bear, flee to coastal towns in fourteenth-century England, where they perform a musical juggling act and bond as a family after befriending a disfigured girl.

⊗ *Crossing Bok Chitto: a Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom*. Tim Tingle. Cinco Puntos. \$18.00. Grades 3-6

In the 1800s, a Choctaw girl becomes friends with a slave boy from a plantation across the great river, and when she learns that his family is in trouble, she helps them cross to freedom.

⊗ *Curse of the Bane (Last Apprentice Book 2)*. Joseph Delaney. Greenwillow. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

Now thirteen years old, Tom Ward continues his apprenticeship with the Spook as they confront a dangerous bane who can control people's thoughts.

⊗ *Dark Water Rising*. Marian Hale. Holt. \$17.00 Grades 6+

While salvaging and rebuilding in the aftermath of the Galveston flood of 1900, sixteen-year-old Seth proves himself in a way that his previous efforts never could, but he still must face his father man-to-man.

Dear Max. D. J. Lucas. McElderry. \$15.00 Grades 2-4

As nearly ten-year-old Max and his favorite author, D.J. Lucas, exchange letters, the two writers help each other with their new books and develop a special friendship. Through short and funny letters and postcards, the two trade personal experiences and writing suggestions. Max wants to become an author; and D. J. is agonizing over her latest book. Max shares his troubles with bullies and illness, and D. J. describes her school visits, book signings, and fears about parachuting.

Dear Miss Breed: True Stories the Japanese American Incarceration During WWII. Joanne Oppenheim. Scholastic. \$23.00

This is an engaging true-life story of Clara Breed, a librarian whose outreach efforts helped a group of Japanese-American children survive the persecutions of the American government during the World War II internment. The narrative is based on interviews and a collection of letters written to Breed by her incarcerated Japanese patrons, grateful, illuminating responses to Breed's faithful missives and care packages containing books and other gifts that she sent to the children. Illustrated with photographs, letters, and documents, including a reproduction of a racist cartoon by Theodor Geisel, or Dr. Seuss. An important book for this post 9-11 atmosphere.

⊗ *Dickens: His Work and His World*. Michael Rosen. Candlewick. \$20.00 Grades 5-8

Introduces the life and times of Charles Dickens, and explores the likely inspirations for his writing style, stories, and characters through an examination of four of his most popular works, including "A Christmas Carol," "Oliver Twist," "David Copperfield," and "Great Expectations." Ingpen's acrylic illustrations are detailed, and expertly paint a portrait of the times.

The Dog Who Cried Wolf. Keiko Kasza. Putnam. \$16.00 Grades PreK-2.

Tired of being a house pet, Moka the dog moves to the mountains to become a wolf. Unsuccessful in hunting for food and confronted with real wolves when he tries to howl, he runs back to the comforts of home and the love of his owner. Illustrated with colorful paintings with lots of humor.

⊗ *Don't Let The Pigeon Stay Up Late!.* Mo Willems. Hyperion. \$13.00 PreK-2

A pigeon fights yawns while coming up with many reasons why it should be allowed to stay up late.

Drita My Homegirl. Jenny Lombard. Putnam. \$16.00 Grades 4-6

Two girls come together in this story of immigration and multicultural friendship. Ten-year-old Drita and her family, refugees from Kosovo, move to New York. Drita is teased about not speaking English well, but after a popular student named Maxine is forced to learn about Kosovo as a punishment for teasing Drita, the two girls soon bond.

ER Vets: Life in an Animal Emergency Room. Donna M.Jackson. Houghton. \$17.00 Grades 4-8

Bright, colorful design and full color photos enhance this description of the workings of a veterinary emergency room from behind the scenes. Includes profiles of the doctors, vet techs, and grief counselors, a variety of case studies of stricken animals, a history of veterinary medicine, and commonsense tips on pet health. Short chapters keep the pace moving; sidebars offer tidbits of additional information. Includes a reading list, Web sites, and glossary.

Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini. Sid Fleischman. Greenwillow. \$19.00 Grades 5-8

A fascinating biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator, and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926. Fleischman, an amateur magician, looks at Houdini's life through his own magician's eyes. An engaging book that is highlighted with well chosen photographs of Houdini.

⊗ *Exploring the Solar System: a History with 22 Activities.* Mary Kay Carson. Chicago Review. \$18.00 Grades 5 Up

A collection of twenty-two activities that describes the solar system and how it has been explored by using telescopes, satellites, landers, and human missions.

Extraordinary Ordinary People. Alan Govenar. Candlewick. \$23.00 Grades 6+

Through interviews and photographs Govenar presents the art and life stories of five American masters of the traditional arts. The artists all live in the United States but come from a variety of cultural backgrounds. The art forms they practice include singing with the Beijing Opera, boat building, wax-flower making, weaving, and performing at Mardi Gras.

⊗ *Fairest.* Gail Carson Levine. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

In the Kingdom of Ayortha, Aza, an unattractive woman with a magical voice, learns to balance her appearance with her talent, meanwhile, her singing attracts both Prince Ijori, who cannot resist it, and Queen Ivi, who plots to use it to benefit herself.

The Fairies of Nutfolk Wood. Barb Bentler Ullman. HarperCollins. \$16.00 Grades 4-6

After her parents divorce and she moves to the country with her mother, fourth-grader Willa Jane, anxious and unhappy with the changes in her life, discovers a world of little people called Nutfolk living in the woods around her new home. Willa Jane meets Hazel, a kind, eccentric old woman who lives nearby. Hazel watches Willa while her mother works, and shares stories with Willa. Willa reads between the lines of Hazel's many stories and soon they share a secret...the Nutfolk.

⊗*Families.* Susan Kuklin. Hyperion. \$16.00 Grades 3-5

Presents brief interviews with children from fifteen diverse American families--including large, small, mixed-race, immigrant, gay and lesbian, divorced, single-parent, religious, adoptive, and special-needs families--about their parents, siblings, lifestyles, and traditions, and includes photos of each family.

⊗*A Family of Poems: My Favorite Poetry for Children.* Caroline Kennedy. Hyperion. \$19.00 Grades 3+

Presents a collection of over one hundred poems from around the world drawn from her own family memories. Watercolor artwork, often on expansive double-page spreads, extends the poems.

Fast Food. Saxton Freymann. Scholastic. \$13.00 Grades PreK-1

Playful rhyming text about different modes of transportation. The rhyming text is illustrated with exceptionally clear color photos whimsical sculptures created from fruits and vegetables. This will not only be useful when learning about transportation but offers an irresistible invitation for children to play creatively with their food. **Open Court 2: Things That Go**

⊗*Fire!* Celia Godkin. Fitzhenry & Whiteside. \$17.00 Grades 1-3

A story which covers the life cycle of a North American boreal forest, from the devastation of a fire to its gradual renewal as a vital ecosystem.

⊗*Fletcher and the Falling Leaves.* Julia Rawlinson. Greenwillow. \$17.00 Grades PreK-3

When his favorite tree begins to lose its leaves, Fletcher the fox worries that it is sick, but instead a magical sight is in store for him.

⊗ *The Floating Island: The Lost Journals of Ven Polypheme.* Elizabeth Haydon. Tor/Starscape. \$18.00 Grades 5-8

While doing a presale test of one of his family ships, Charles Magnus Ven Polypheme comes under attack by pirates, is rescued by mermaid-like creatures, and travels to Floating Island, where there are heavily sought after magical waters.

Flotsam. David Wiesner. Clarion. \$17.00 Grades K-3

A bright wordless picture book that features a young, science-minded boy who goes to the beach to collect and examine anything floating that has been washed ashore and discovers an underwater camera that contains a collection of unusual pictures. A distinctive and unusual tale is told.

Fly by Night. Frances Hardinge. Harper Collins. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

A twelve-year-old orphan, Mosca Mye, and her homicidal goose, Saracen, travel to the city of Mandelion on the heels of smooth-talking con-man Eponymous Clent, driven by her love of language to find a better life. Some readers may struggle to keep track of the complex politics, history, and religion, but those who appreciate the inventive plots of Cornelia Funke and Jonathan Stroud or Lloyd Alexander will enjoy this adventure.

For You Are A Kenyan Child. Kelly Cunnane. Illustrated by Ana Juan. Atheneum. \$17.00 Grades PreK-1

From rooster crow to bedtime, a Kenyan boy plays and visits neighbors all through his village, even though he is supposed to be watching his grandfather's cows. Short Swahili sentences are scattered throughout the story and provide a sense of the setting. Accompanying color-saturated, slightly stylized paintings bring the lush landscape and friendly community to life.

☺ *Foundling*. D.M. Cornish. Putnam. \$19.00 Grades 5-8

Having grown up in a home for foundlings and possessing a girl's name, Rossamund sets out to report to his new job as a lamplighter and has several adventures along the way as he meets people and monsters who are more complicated than he previously thought. Includes glossaries and maps. (*Monster Blood Tattoo, Book 1*)

☺ *Framed*. Frank Cottrell Boyce. Harper Collins. \$19.00 Grades 5-8

Dylan and his sisters have some ideas about how to make Snowdonia Oasis Auto Marvel into a more profitable business, but it is not until some strange men arrive in their small town of Manod, Wales with valuable paintings, and their father disappears, that they consider turning to crime.

Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich: and Other Stories You're Sure to Like, Because They're All About Monsters, and Some of Them are Also About Food, You Like Food, Don't You? Well, All Right Then. Adam Rex. Harcourt. \$16.00 Grades K-3

A collection of twenty hilarious poems about the bad habits, anxieties, and other fears subject's voice. Rex uses an impressive variety of techniques and media in the artwork while paying homage to famed illustrators.

Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on The Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement. Ann Bausum. National Geog. \$19.00 Grades 5-9

The story of the Freedom Riders is the story of courage and determination of young people, black, white, male and female, who risked great personal danger and even death as they participated in the freedom rides during the Civil Rights Movement. Dramatic black-and-white photographs, accompanied by clear, engaging captions, support the text.

Open Court 6: Taking a Stand

The Freedom Walkers: the Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Russell Freedman. Holiday. \$19.00 Grades 3-6

Presents the story of the Montgomery bus boycott and the key persons and events that contributed to the year-long struggle for equal rights on Montgomery's city buses. Well-

captioned black-and-white photographs enhance the impact of the events and bring them to life. **Open Court 6: Taking a Stand.**

George Did It. Suzanne Tripp Jurmain.Dutton. \$17.00 Grades 3-5

Presents a humorous account of how George Washington tried to avoid taking on the role of President after serving in the U.S. military during the revolution. Dramatic black-and-white photographs, accompanied by clear, engaging captions, support the text. The story conveys the idea that even when George Washington doubted his own abilities, he nevertheless accomplished many important goals. **Open Court 5: Making a New Nation**

Gideon the Cutpurse: Being the First Part of the Gideon Trilogy. Linda Buckley-Archer. Simon & Schuster. \$18.00 Grades 5-8

Ignored by his father and sent to Derbyshire for the weekend, twelve-year-old Peter and his new friend, Kate, are accidentally transported back in time to 1763 England where they are befriended by a reformed cutpurse. Critics think this series will give J.K. Rowling a run for her money. A fast-paced plot with a cliff-hanger ending and characters who will be remembered. Will appeal to both reluctant and advanced readers.

⊗*Gifted.* Beth Evangelista. Walker. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

Arrogant, mentally gifted George Clark has dreaded the eighth-grade class camping trip and its inevitable bullying, but a hurricane and a friend's loyalty make him realize what is important in life.

⊗*Good Night Walk.* Elisha Cooper. Scholastic. \$17.00 Grades K-3

The reader is taken on a journey through a neighborhood and shown the sights, sounds, and smells as evening approaches

Gossamer. Lois Lowry. Houghton. \$16.00 Grades 5-8

While learning to bestow dreams, a young dream giver tries to save an eight-year-old boy from the effects of both his abusive past and the nightmares inflicted on him by the frightening Sinisteeds, givers who've gone over to the dark side, and who bring terrifying nightmares. Note that nightmares are graphically described.

Grandfather Buffalo. Jim Arnosky. Putnam. \$17.00 Grades PreK-1

The story of an older buffalo that is no longer able to keep up with the rest of the herd. In his travels behind the herd, he comes across a buffalo cow about to give birth, stays with her throughout her labor and protects and cares for the calf, saving it during a dust storm. Arnosky's signature artwork is lush with color and details. **Open Court 1: Animals**

⊗*Great Big Guinea Pigs.* Susan L. Roth. Bloomsbury. \$18.00 Grades K-3

A guinea pig tells her child the true story of giant guinea pigs that lived in Venezuela about eight million years ago.

⊗*The Great Circle: a History of the First Nations.* Neil Philip. Clarion. \$20.00 Grades 5-8

Presents a comprehensive history of Native American nations, from preColumbian times to the reclaiming of traditions; and explores Native American ideas about land and society, religion, science, and history. **Open Court 5: Going West**

Ⓢ *Hammerin' Hank: The Life Of Hank Greenberg*. Yona Zeldis McDonough. Walker. \$21.00 Grades 2-5

An illustrated biography of Hank Greenberg, the first Jewish-American to become a celebrity in major league baseball. Quotes from Greenberg convey his sympathetic personality (especially evident in his words of encouragement to Jackie Robinson).

Hanne's Quest. Olivier Dunrea. Philomel. \$17.00 Grades 2-5

On an island off the coast of Scotland, a young hen must prove herself wise and brave in a quest to help her beloved owner, Mem Pocket, from losing her family's farm.

Handsome artwork accompanies this well-written book. **Open Court 3: Storytelling**

Happy Valentines Day, Dolores. Barbara Samuels. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades K-3.

Temptation and curiosity get the best of Dolores as she 'borrows' her sister's singing frog necklace. She puts it on and a stuck clasp prevents her from taking it off, so she wears it to school and ultimately loses it. Love and forgiveness prevail and all ends happily. Illustrated with bright ink and watercolor cartoon artwork.

Heat. Mike Lupica. Philomel. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

Michael and Carlos, two Cuban-American boys, hide the sudden death of their father from everyone but a kindly neighbor, Mrs. Cora, and Michael's best friend, Manny Cabrera, in fear of being separated. Michael's skill at pitching baseball causes his banishment from Little League because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer proof. **Open Court 5: Cooperation and Competition**

Here Lies the Librarian. Richard Peck. Dial. \$17.00 Grades 4-8

Feisty Eleanor "Pee-wee" McGrath, a tomboy and automobile enthusiast, discovers new possibilities for her future after the 1914 arrival in her small Indiana town of four young librarians. Peck has another winning story that will appeal equally to boys and girls, that incorporates humor, excitement, and fast paced action. Includes plenty of puns to keep librarians laughing.

Homefront. Doris Gwaltney. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

Margaret Ann Motley, who lives in Virginia, has always wanted a room of her very own, but when her English cousin Courtney moves in with Margaret's family to escape the blitz, Margaret loses her only chance of having her own room and begins to resent Courtney, until she realizes how difficult Courtney's own life has been.

The Homework Machine. Dan Gutman. S&S. \$16.00 Grades 4-6

Four fifth-grade students – a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker – as well as their teacher and mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments. Each chapter is a series of first person entries uniquely unfolding the events of the story. Touches of humor are balanced with some tragedy.

Horns and Wrinkles. Joseph Helgerson. Houghton. \$16.00 Grades 4-7

Along a magic-saturated stretch of the Mississippi River near Blue Wing, Minnesota, twelve-year-old Claire and her bullying cousin Duke are drawn into an adventure

involving Bodacious Deepthink the Great Rock Troll, a helpful fairy, and a group of trolls searching for their fathers.

How High Can a Dinosaur Count?: and Other Math Mysteries. Valorie Fisher. Random. \$17.00
Grades 1-3

Presents fifteen story problems with wacky elements such as flapjack-flipping frogs, a daisy-chomping dragon, and a laundromat whose washing machines mix frappes. The problems are clearly explained, and added alliteration and some unexpected vocabulary make for interesting reading. The artwork is a unique photographic technique using textured patterns, and hand-drawn objects that are cut out and arranged.

How to Survive in Antarctica. Lucy Jane Bledsoe. Holiday. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

The author describes her experiences visiting Antarctica and shares information on how to get there, what to bring, what to wear, what to eat, how to build a snow shelter, how to avoid crevasses, how to study Antarctic seals, and other survival strategies. **Open Court 4: Survival**

⊗ *I am I.* Marie Louise Fitzpatrick. Roaring Brook. \$16.00 Grades 2-5

Two small boys wage war against each other in this parable about the futility of fighting. Using few words the author/illustrator communicates with pictures. This thought-provoking fable about competition and the capacity of words to wound and heal will be best understood and appreciated by older audiences.

I Have a Little Dreidel. Maxie Baum. Scholastic. \$10.00 Grades PreK-3

An illustrated retelling of the classic Hanukkah song, with directions for playing the dreidel game and a recipe for making latkes. Illustrated with cheery, mural like artwork in bright colors. **Open Court 2: Our Country and its People**

I Heard It From Alice Zucchini: Poems About The Garden. Juanita Havill. Chronicle. \$16.00
Grades K-3

Twenty illustrated poems in this collection celebrate a garden's season of growth and depict a fairy who visits and listens to the stories of the garden vegetables. Lilted rhyme makes many of the poems easy to read and remember. The poems are illustrated with watercolor-washed ink sketches.

⊗ *I'm A Pill Bug (Paperback).* Yukihiisa Tokuda. Kane/Miller. \$8.00 PreK-2

Simple text and illustrations describe the life cycle of pill bugs, where they live, what they eat, and how they protect themselves. Artwork is realistic cut-paper illustrations.

⊗ *I'm Dirty.* Kate McMullan. Harper Collins. \$17.00 Grades PreK-2

A busy backhoe loader describes all the items it hauls off a lot and all the fun it has getting dirty while doing so. **Open Court 1: Things that Go**

I'm Not a Baby! Jill McElmurry. Schwartz & Wade. \$17.00 Grades PreK-2

Leo's Edwardian family clings to the notion that their youngest remains a baby. Through the years, they insist he's a baby even when he attends school, gives a graduation speech, and gets a job. Finally, when Leo's own baby is born, the myth is broken. Illustrated with artwork on a cream colored background, detailed and bright.

⊗ *Immersed in Verse: an Informative, Slightly Irreverent & Totally Tremendous Guide to Living the Poet's Life.* Allan Wolf. Sterling. \$15.00 Grades 5-8

Contains a guide to writing poetry, providing advice, ideas, writing activities, and encouragement from a working poet, presenting poems by a variety of poets from the unknown to the famous, including Langston Hughes, e.e. cummings, Eve Merriam, and more.

Ingo. Helen Dunmore. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

As they search for their missing father near their Cornwall home, Sapphy and her brother Conor learn about their family's connection to the domains of air and of water. Invited by a Mer brother and sister, they can enter Ingo, the undersea realm, where they breathe water, ride currents, and speak with sea creatures. The call of the sea is nearly irresistible, and Sapphire finds herself being drawn away from her life on the land, which may have been her father's fate.

⊗ *Is There Really a Human Race?* Jamie Lee Curtis. HarperCollins. \$19.00 Grades K-3

While thinking about life as a race, a child wonders whether it is most important to finish first or to have fun along the way.

Isaac Newton. Kathleen Krull. Viking. \$16.00 Grades 4-6

Presents a look at the life and times of Isaac Newton, the seventeenth century scientist who provided an explanation of gravity, from his childhood through his accomplishments in science. Filled with anecdotes the engaging narrative is highlighted with witty illustrations.

⊗ *It's My School.* Sally Grindley. Walker. \$20.00 Grades K-3

Alice is entering kindergarten and is nervous and big brother Tom is unhappy about the fact that he now has to share "his school" with her. When his parents ask him to keep an eye on her, he grimaces, growls, and tries his best to ignore her. This is a new take on first-day-of-school stories. Illustrated with soft pastel artwork. **Open Court K: School**

Ivy and Bean. Annie Barrows. Chronicle. \$15.00 Grades 1-3

When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected. This is the debut of a new chapter book series that has tremendous promise. The girls' hijinks and their calamitous outcomes make for engaging reading. **Open Court 3: Friendship**

Jazz. Walter Dean Myers. Holiday. \$19.00 Grades 4-6

A collection of illustrated poems that celebrate the roots and various styles of jazz music, such as ragtime, bebop, and swing. An introduction provides historical and technical background, briefly touching on influences, improvisation, rhythm, and race. Illustrated with bold colors and lines straight from the muralists of the '30s. **Open Court 6: Beyond the Notes**

☺ *Jane Addams: Champion of Democracy*. Judith Bloom Fradin. Clarion. \$21.00 Grades 5-8

A well designed biography of Jane Addams, including excellent archival photographs and good source notes. **Open Court 6: Taking a Stand**

☺ *John, Paul, George & Ben*. Lane Smith. Hyperion. \$16.00 Grades 2-5

A humorous look at the early lives of five founding fathers of the United States, including George Washington, John Hancock, Paul Revere, Ben Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson. Each man is described in turn as either bold, noisy, honest, clever, or independent, and taking many liberties with the truth. Illustrated with pen-and-ink cartoon style illustrations. **Open Court 5: Making a New Nation**

Keep Climbing, Girls. Beah E. Richards. Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie. S&S. \$16.00 Grades K-3

Presents the poem "Keep Climbing, Girls" by noted African-American actor, poet, and playwright Beah E. Richards, that encourages all human beings, young and old, male and female, to reach far beyond the expectations that society might have for them. Illustrated with bold and bright gouache paintings. The poetic verse would be appropriate to read and discuss with older groups. **Open Court K: Stick to It**

☺ *Kids Weaving*. Sarah Swett. Stewart, Tabori & Chang. \$19.00 Grades 3-6

Introduces children to the art of weaving, with instructions for creating fifteen inexpensive, colorful projects, including note cards, friendship bracelets, magic carpets, shoelaces, and blankets. The projects shown are both whimsical and practical and are shown through bright photographs.

The King of Attolia. Megan Whalen Turner. Harper Collins. \$18.00 Grades 7+

Eugenides, still known as a Thief of Eddis, faces palace intrigue and assassins as he strives to prove himself both to the people of Attolia and to his new bride, their queen. Sequel to *The Queen of Attolia* (2000) and *The Thief* (1996).

Klondike Gold. Alice Provensen. S&S. 2005. \$18.00 Grades 3-6

A fictionalized account of young prospector William Howell's arduous journey from Boston to the Yukon Territory in search of gold in the Klondike River Valley. Includes facts about the White Horse Trail, Dawson City, and the daily lives of miners. She has drawn on first-hand accounts with oil painted scenes and a narrow border of drawings and added facts that run along the bottom of each page. **Open Court 5: Journeys and Quests**

Knitrrrl: Learn to Knit With 15 Fun and Funky Projects. Shannon Okey. Watson-Guptill. \$10.00pb Grades 5-8

Presents full-color illustrated instructions for creating fifteen knitted projects including hats, scarves, and more. Teen friendly with enticing projects that pre-teens and teens will love.

Landed. Milly Lee. Illustrated by Yangsook Choi. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades 2-5

After leaving his village in southeastern China, twelve-year-old Sun is held at Angel Island, San Francisco, before being released to join his father, a merchant living in the

area. Lee paints an engaging story of his experiences and explains the notion of ‘paper sons.’ Illustrated with full-page oil paintings this story is drawn from the experiences of her father-in-law and concludes with historical notes. **Open Court 2: Our Country and Its People**

⊗*Langston Hughes*. Langston Hughes, Arnold Rampersad & David Roessel, ed. Sterling. \$15.00 Grades 4+

An illustrated collection of twenty-six poems by noted African-American poet Langston Hughes, and contains a detailed introduction and biography, as well as brief notes accompanying each poem.

⊗*Larklight, or, The Revenge of the White Spiders!, or, To Saturn's Rings and Back! : a Rousing Tale of Dauntless Pluck in the Farthest Reaches of Space*. Phillip Reeve. Bloomsbury. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

In an alternate Victorian England, young Arthur and his sister Myrtle, residents of Larklight, a floating house in one of Her Majesty's outer space territories, uncover a spidery plot to destroy the solar system. Includes full-page pen-and-inks and spot illustrations that enhance the sense of the story.

The Legend of Bass Reeves: Being the True Account of the Most Valiant Marshal in the West. Gary Paulsen. Wendy Lamb. \$16.00 Grades 5-8

The story of Bass Reeves who was born a slave and later became one of the most respected federal marshals in Oklahoma and Texas. Paulsen draws on newspaper accounts and his own imagination to create this historical fiction tale based on the real person. **Open Court 5: Going West**

Library Lion. Michele Knudsen. Candlewick. \$16.00 Grades K-3

A lion starts visiting the local library but runs into trouble as he tries to both obey the rules and help his librarian friend. Illustrated with acrylic and pencil artwork that brings detail to the story and enhances the friendliness of the lion. **Open Court 2: Sharing Stories**

Lilly's Big Day. Kevin Henkes. Greenwillow. \$18.00 Grades K-3

When her teacher announces that he is getting married, Lilly the mouse sets her heart on being the flower girl at his wedding. Her teacher persuades her to be an assistant to his niece, the actual flower girl, and Lilly rises to the occasion in a surprise twist that satisfies everybody. Bright illustrations accompany this satisfying story.

⊗*Little Lost Bat*. Sandra Markle. Charlesbridge. \$16.00 Grades K-3

Chronicles the early life of an orphaned Mexican free-tailed bat, from its birth to its adoption by a new mother. Markle expertly weaves facts about bats into the story. Illustrated with double-page watercolors with ink details. **Open Court 1: Animals**

Little Mama Forgets. Robin Cruise. Illustrated by Stacey Dressen-McQueen Farrar. \$16.00 Grades PreK-2

Although her Mexican-American grandmother now forgets many things, Lucy finds that she still remembers the things that are important to the two of them including tickling,

pouring cream on pudding and other little things. A poignant story that is highlighted with south-of-the-border bright paintings. Includes some Spanish words. **Open Court 2: Our Country and Its People**

The Little Red Hen. Jerry Pinkney. Dial. \$17.00 Grades PreK-2

A newly illustrated edition of the classic fable of the hen who is forced to do all the work of baking bread and of the animals who learn a bitter lesson from it. The story is expanded and includes a bevy of chicks and four lazy animals. Lush and detailed illustrations create a wonderful atmosphere for this title. **Open Court 2: Sharing Stories**

⊗ *Living As a Refugee in America: Mohammed's Story.* Helen Howard. World Almanac. \$23.00 Grades 5-8

Presents a short study of what it is like to be a refugee living in America, and follows the experiences of Mohammed Nazari, a young sixteen-year-old boy who, with his mother and siblings, came to this country from Afghanistan.

⊗ *Lonek's Journey: The True Story of a Boy's Escape to Freedom.* Dorit Bader Whiteman . Star Bright. \$16.00 Grades 5-8

Recounts the true story of an eleven-year-old Jewish boy who escaped from Nazi-occupied Poland in 1939 and a Siberian slave labor camp to find freedom in Palestine. Illustrated with captioned photographs. Includes maps on endpapers.

⊗ *The Loud Silence of Francine Green.* Karen Cushman. Clarion. \$18.00 Grades 5-8

In 1949, thirteen-year-old Francine goes to Catholic school in Los Angeles where she becomes best friends with a girl who questions authority and is frequently punished by the nuns, causing Francine to question her own values. Accurately captures the terrors and confusions of the McCarthy era. Readers will relate to the pervasive fear of the period as it is reflected in the post-9/11 world.

Lugalbanda: The Boy Who Got Caught Up in a War. Kathy Henderson. Illustrated by Jane Ray. Candlewick. \$17.00 Grades 3-6

This is a tale that about Gilgamesh's father as a young prince who is caught up in an ill-advised war and uses his wits and courage and eventually becomes king. Illustrated with Sumerian-inspired watercolor, ink, and collage illustrations. Appropriate for introducing ancient cultures. **Open Court 6: Ancient Civilizations**

Mama, I'll Give You the World. Roni Schotter. Schwartz & Wade. \$17.00 Grades K-3

At Walter's World of Beauty, Luisa's secret plans are underway to create a very special birthday celebration for her hard-working, single mother who is employed there as a stylist. Mixed media artwork highlights the distinctive characters and warm atmosphere. **Open Court 2: Kindness**

Max's Words. Kate Banks. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades K-3

When Max cuts out words from magazines and newspapers, collecting them the way his brothers collect stamps and coins, they all learn about words, sentences, and storytelling. The soft illustrations show words all over the pages and provide some good examples of concrete poetry. **Open Court 1: Let's Read, Open Court 3: Imagination**

Meow Ruff: A Story in Concrete Poetry. Joyce Sidman. Illustrated by Michelle Berg. \$16.00
Grades K-3

A collection of brief, illustrated poems that tells the story of a dog who slips out of his house and meets a white cat left alone on the street and together they share adventures. The poems are ingeniously incorporated into the illustrations which are bright and bold.

Open Court 1: Let's Read

☺ *Mice, Morals & Monkey Business: Lively Lessons from Aesop's Fables.* Christopher Wormell. Running Press. \$18.00 Grades K-3

Presents full-color block prints depicting a number of practical lessons taken from Aesop's Fables. Each fable's moral and title appear opposite the illustrations in big, bold type. A brief paragraph about each fable is given at the back of the book.

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. Kate DiCamillo. Candlewick. \$19.00. Grades 3-6

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories. Illustrated with sepia-toned gouache illustrations and beautifully rendered color plates.

The Miraculous Tale of the Two Maries. Rosemary Wells. Illustrated by Petra Mathers. Viking. \$17.00 Grades K-3

Two sixteen-year-old girls, both named Marie, wander too far while collecting clams and are swept out to sea. They ask God to allow them to return to Earth for one more chance and spend the afterlife doing good for the people of the town. Illustrated with folk-art-style illustrations with simple lines and bright colors.

☺ *Mommy?* Arthur Yorinks. Scholastic. \$23.00 Grades K-3

A little boy is oddly unfazed when his search for his mommy brings him into contact with a host of monsters. Although the creatures try their best to scare him, the child's unwavering smile and mischievous actions quickly clarify who's in charge. Illustrated beautifully by Maurice Sendak. **POP UP book.**

The Moon. Robert Louis Stevenson. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades PreK-2

The watercolor and ink illustrations are the gem of this book, creating a warm, comfortable world where a father and his child go fishing against a background of the poem about the night and the light of the moon. **Open Court K: Shadows**

☺ *Moon Plane.* Peter McCarty. Holt. \$17.00 Grades PreK-1

A young boy looks at a plane in the sky and his imagination takes him beyond the ocean and into outer space, where he lands on the moon, takes a few steps on its surface, jumps, and flies. He returns home and is tucked in by his mother. Illustrated with monochromatic pencil-on-watercolor paper illustrations.

Moses. Margaret Hodges. Harcourt. \$16.00 Grades 3-6

Retells the story of Moses, from his birth and trip in a boat of bulrushes to his bringing of the Ten Commandments down from Mount Sinai. Illustrator Barry Moser's full-page

watercolor artwork on every other page create a strong visual personality for Moses as he ages from confident prince to elderly prophet.

The Most Perfect Spot. Diane Goode. HarperCollins. \$17.00 PreK-2

Jack tries to have a perfect picnic with his mother, but things do not turn out as they expected. They make many attempts to lunch only to face one mishap after another not realizing that a little dog is the reason for each mishap. In the end they have their picnic at home. Watercolor artwork lends an old fashioned flavor to this story.

Move! Steve Jenkins. Houghton. \$16.00 Grades PreK-2

Vivid illustrations and playful text introduce a variety of animals that swing, walk, dive, swim, leap, slither, climb, fly, run, dance, float, slide, and waddle. Includes facts on each animal at the back of the book. Jenkins' signature eye-popping illustrations are crafted cut- and torn-paper collages that bring details to the simple text. **Open Court 1: Animals**

Mr. and Mrs. God in the Creation Kitchen. Nancy Wood. Illustrated by Timothy Basil Ering. Candlewick. \$17.00 Grades K-3

This provides a playful twist on a familiar theme of creation and finds Mr. and Mrs. God busy cooking up a storm. First they produce the Sun, then the Earth, then "enormous, ghastly things," a mistake Mr. God decides, exploding them with a red-hot coal. Eventually animals and the first people come out of the oven. Illustrated with gray ink-and-acrylic paintings, with a few splashes of color.

⊗ *Mummies: the Newest, Coolest and Creepiest.* Shelley Tanaka. Abrams. \$17.00 Grades 3-7

Examines mummy discoveries made around the world, and looks at how advances in forensic science and other investigative techniques are helping scientists learn about the lives and deaths of these sometimes ancient, preserved bodies. The main text for each mummy or cache of mummies is generally a few paragraphs, often supported by a shorter text, both of which are illustrated by photographs or reproductions.

Museum Trip. Barbara Lehman. Houghton. \$15.00 Grades K-3

In this wordless picture book, a young boy is separated from his class while on a field trip to a museum. He steps into a small room and finds himself inside a series of illustrations of old labyrinths. As he works his way to the center of the last one, he finds a small tower, goes inside and is awarded a medal. He ultimately rejoins the class and as they are escorted out to the waiting bus, we see that the museum director wears the same medal. Illustrated with watercolor, gouache, and ink. **Open Court 3: Imagination**

⊗ *My Last Skirt: The Story of Jennie Hodgers, Union Soldier.* Lynda Durrant. Clarion. \$16.00 Grades 6-8

Enjoying the freedom afforded her while dressing as a boy in order to earn higher pay after emigrating from Ireland, Jennie Hodgers serves in the 95th Illinois Infantry as Private Albert Cashier, a Union soldier in the American Civil War. The emotional center of the book is saved for Jennie's turmoil about passing as a man, and the mutually strong but unspoken feelings she has for fellow soldier Frank Moore.

My Mei Mei. Ed Young. Philomel. \$17.00 Grades PreK-2

Antonia gets her wish when her parents return to China to bring home a Mei Mei, or younger sister, for her. At first the new baby takes attention from her parents, but eventually, together they begin to develop a close sister bond. Beautifully illustrated with detailed watercolor artwork. **Open Court: 2 Our County and Its People**

⊗*My Name Is Gabriela/Me Llamo Gabriela.* Monica Brown. Luna Rising. \$16.00 Grades 1-3

Presents a short biography of the life of early twentieth-century Chilean children's author and poet, Gabriela Mistral, and describes her childhood and education as a teacher and her works that led to receiving the Nobel Prize for literature in 1945. Presented in English and Spanish.

My Senator and Me: a Dog's Eye View of Washington D.C. Edward M. Kennedy. Scholastic. \$17.00 Grades K-4

Senator Edward M. Kennedy's dog, Champion Amigo's Seventh Wave, or Splash, introduces readers to Washington, D.C., as he follows the senator around for a day. Whimsical watercolor artwork lends humor and reality to this wonderful introduction to Washington and to the processes of government.

The New Girl... and Me. Jacqui Robbins. Atheneum. \$17.00 Grades K-2

Two African-American girls named Shakeeta and Mia become friends when Shakeeta boasts that she has a pet iguana and Mia learns how to help Shakeeta "feel at home" even when she is in school. Cartoon-style watercolors depict a realistic-looking classroom with a mix of children from a variety of backgrounds. **Open Court K: Finding Friends**

Night Boat to Freedom. Margot Raven. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades 3-5

At the request of his fellow slave Granny Judith, Christmas John risks his life to take runaways across a river from Kentucky to Ohio. Based on slave narratives recorded in the 1930s. Lewis's watercolors beautifully enhance this poignant story.

The North Pole was Here: Puzzles and Perils at the Top of the World. Andrew C. Revkin. Kingfisher. \$16.00 Grades 6+

An environmental reporter recounts his expedition to the North Pole where he followed oceanographers as they studied the mysteries of climate modeling and global warming, revealing how the fate of the pole will impact the earth. **Open Court 5: Journeys and Quests**

Nosy Rosie. Holly Keller. Greenwillow. \$20.00 Grades PreK-2

Rosie the fox's excellent sense of smell is good for finding things, but she stops using it after everyone begins to call her "Nosy Rosie." Watercolor artwork is highlighted with simple black lines.

⊗*Not Afraid of Dogs.* Susanna Pitzer. Walker. Scholastic. \$17.00 Grades PreK-3

Young Daniel must confront his fear of dogs when his mom agrees to dog-sit his aunt's pet. When the dog is frightened by a thunderstorm, Daniel's anxiety slowly turns to astonishment as he realizes that he can comfort the pup-and that he does like dogs after all.

Oh, Rats!: The Story of Rats and People. Albert Marrin. Dutton. \$17.00 Grades 4-6

Describes rat behavior and survival skills and aspects of their relationship with humans, including disease, rats as food, rats as pests, and the training of rats as rescuers. Handsome scratchboard illustrations in black and white and highlighted with red.

Once Upon a Time, the End (Asleep In 60 Seconds). Geoffrey Kloske. S&S. \$16.00 Grades PreK-3

A tired father takes only a few sentences to tell a number of classic tales in order to get the persistent listener to fall asleep. What follows are 60 second versions of children's stories including *Chicken Little; Small Girl, Red Hood; Sleeping Beauty* and more. Illustrated with humorous pen-and-ink watercolor artwork. **Open Court: 2 Sharing Stories**

On Sukkot and Simchat Torah. Cathy G. Fishman. Lerner. \$18.00 Grades 1-5

Describes the history and customs of the Jewish holidays of Sukkot and Simchat Torah through colorful illustrations and text. **Open Court 5: Heritage**

One Green Apple. Eve Bunting. Clarion. \$16.00 Grades 1-4

While on a school field trip to an orchard to make cider, a young Muslim immigrant named Farah gains self-confidence when the green apple she picks perfectly complements the other students' red apples. The glowing watercolor artwork captures the emotions that Farah experiences on her second day of school in the United States. **Open Court 5: Heritage**

Onward: A Photobiography of African-American Polar Explorer Matthew Henson. Dolores Johnson. National Geog. \$18.00 Grades 5-8

Presents the story of the expedition to the North Pole by explorers Robert Peary and African-American Matthew Henson, focusing on the contributions made by Henson. The engaging narrative is supported with a proliferation of primary sources and other documents that support the adventure. **Open Court: 4 Survivor**

Our Eleanor: A Scrapbook Look At Eleanor Roosevelt's Remarkable Life. Candace Fleming. Atheneum. \$20.00 Grades 4-8

Presents a collection of illustrated photographs and stories representing the life and career of Eleanor Roosevelt, and examines her White House years, her years as a delegate to the United Nations and more. Illustrated with archival photographs, reproductions, newspaper and magazine clippings, handwritten letters, and diary entries.

© *Our Stories, Our Songs.* Deborah Ellis. Fitzhenry & Whiteside. \$18.00 Grades 6+

Presents the stories of children from the African nations of Malawi and Zambia whose lives have been touched by AIDS, and provides facts about the AIDS epidemic in Africa.

Owen and Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship. Isabella Hatkoff. Scholastic. \$17.00 Grades 2-5

Illustrated text and full-color photographs tell the true story of the unusual relationship between Owen, a baby hippopotamus orphaned by the tsunami, and Mzee, a 130-year-old giant tortoise. **Open Court 3: Friendship**

Pancakes for Supper! Anne Isaacs. Scholastic. \$16.00 Grades K-4

This story is based on *The story of Little Black Sambo* written by Helen Bannerman and first published in 1899. In the backwoods of New England, a young girl cleverly fends off the threats of wild animals by trading her clothes for her safety. This version is infused with the elements of an American tall tale. The oil painting artwork is full and robust.

⊕ *Peggony-Po: a Whale of a Tale.* Andrea Davis Pinkney. Hyperion. \$16.00 Grades K-3

This is a rollicking tall tale about Peggony-Po who is carved out of wood by his father, a one-legged whaler. Peggony-Po is determined to catch the huge whale that ate his father's leg, after all, he caught his first whale when he was only four years old! Illustrated with full color etched artwork by Brian Pinkney.

Play, Mozart, Play! Peter Sis. Greenwillow. \$17.00 Grades K-3

Introduces young children to the child prodigy, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, in a tribute to the beauty of listening, looking, imagining, and, above all, playing. Looks at the early life of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in simple text with illustrations. Includes biographical information.

⊕ *Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography Of Juan Francisco Manzan* .Margarita Engle. Holt. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

A portrait in poems of Juan Francisco Manzano, the poet who was born a slave in Cuba in 1797. Told in verse, it recounts the sufferings and trials of Manzano.

Pompeii: Lost & Found. Mary Pope Osborne. Knopf. \$17.00 Grades 4-6

Presents a short illustrated narrative of the city of Pompeii before the 79 AD eruption of Mount Vesuvius buried the city; and describes how in 1763 the city was discovered. Osborne brings alive daily life including mention of the many types of buildings unearthed, such as private homes, bakeries, baths, and markets, as well as the activities enjoyed by the free citizens of Pompeii-concerts, plays, and gladiator fights. **Open Court 6: Ancient Civilizations**

Porch Lies: Tales of Slicksters, Tricksters, and Other Wily Characters. Patricia C. McKissack. Swartz & Wade. \$19.00 Grades 4+ (Younger for read aloud)

Presents a collection of nine original tales drawn from African American oral tradition that blends history and legend with sly humor, creepy horror, villainous characters, and wild farce. Occasional illustration scattered throughout. Great fun to read aloud. **Open Court 2: Our Country and Its People**

⊕ *The Princess and the Pea.* Lauren Child. Hyperion. \$16.00 Grades K-5

Presents a re-telling of the well-known fairy tale of a young girl feels a pea through twenty mattresses and twenty featherbeds and proves she is a real princess. Child has expanded Andersen's tale from a one-page gem into a humorous picture book that will delight all ages.

⊗ *Ptolemy's Gate*. Jonathan Stroud. Hyperion. \$18.00 Grades 6-9

Bartimaeus, Nathaniel, and Kitty face treacherous magicians and an enemy from "The Other Place" that threatens London and the world. (Bartimaeus Trilogy, Book 3)

Punished!. David Lubar. Darby Creek. \$16.00 Grades 3-5

Logan and his friend Benedict are playing tag in the library. Logan gets caught when he runs into a mysterious man. When Logan doesn't apologize sincerely, the mysterious gentleman punishes him by causing him to speak in puns. Only finding seven examples each of oxymorons, anagrams, and palindromes within the time limits will return Logan to normal.

The Remarkable Benjamin Franklin. Cheryl Harness. National Geog. \$18.00 Grades 2-5

An illustrated biography of founding father and American patriot Benjamin Franklin, discussing his childhood, achievements, and participation in the American colonies' bid for independence. Vivid illustrations bring these events to life for students. **Open Court 2: Sharing Stories, Open Court 5: Making a New Nation**

⊗ *The Relocation of the North American Indian*. John M. Dunn. Lucent. \$27.00 Grades 5-8

Presents a history of the forced relocation of Native Americans, and describes their first encounter with Europeans, colonial struggles for control, Manifest Destiny and American expansion, Indian wars, and removal to government reservations.

Rescues!. Sandra Markle. Millbrook. \$25.00 Grades 4-8

A collection of disaster stories and rescues around the world including an avalanche, hurricane, and the 2004 Tsunami, and describes the technology behind the rescues. Illustrated with full-color photographs. **Open Court: 4 Survival**

⊗ *Road to Paris*. Nikki Grimes. Puytnam. \$16.00 Grades 3-6

Inconsolable at being separated from her older brother, eight-year-old Paris is apprehensive about her new foster family but just as she learns to trust them, she faces a life-changing decision.

⊗ *Roar of a Snore*. Marsha Diane Arnold. Dial. \$19.00 Grades PreK-2

Disturbed by a deafening snore, Jack wakes up the family and animals one by one in search of the noisy culprit. The unlikely culprit is a tiny lost kitten asleep in the hayloft. Finally, all gather round and fall asleep. Pratt's acrylic illustrations help to create a pace that perfectly complements the rhyming, cumulative text.

⊗ *Rosa, Sola*. Carmela A. Martino. Candlewick. \$16.00 Grades 4-6

Longing for a sibling in 1966 Chicago, fourth-grader Rosa is delighted with her mother's pregnancy, until the infant is stillborn. Gradually Rosa leans on her friends and begins to cope with her loss.

Ruby Lu, Empress of Everything. Lenore Look. Atheneum. \$16.00 Grades 2-4

After Ruby Lu's deaf cousin, Flying Duck, and her parents come from China to live with her, Ruby finds life challenging as she adjusts to her new family, tries to mend her rocky relationship with her friend Emma, and faces various adventures in summer school.

⊗ *Salad People and More Real Recipes: A New Cookbook for Preschoolers and Up.* Mollie Katzen. Tricycle. \$18.00 Grades PreK-3

Presents a cookbook for preschoolers that includes twenty recipes and lessons on counting, measuring, mixing, and assembling. Companion to *Pretend Soup and Other Real Recipes*.

Sally Jean, the Bicycle Queen. Cari Best. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades K-3

When Sally Jean outgrows her beloved bicycle, Flash, she experiments with various ideas for acquiring a new, bigger one. The ink-and-watercolor illustrations are light and airy and present a multitude of delightful details. **Open Court 1: Things That Go**

Sand Dollar Summer. Kimberly K. Jones. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00 Grades 5-8

When twelve-year-old Lise spends the summer on an island in Maine with her self-reliant mother and bright, but oddly mute, younger brother, her formerly safe world is complicated by an aged Indian neighbor, her mother's childhood friend, and a hurricane.

Santa Claus: The World's Number One Toy Expert. Marla Frazee. Harcourt. \$16.00 Grades K-3

As the world's number one kid, toy, and gift expert, Santa gets to know every child, selects toys, performs quality control, and wraps all the gifts himself. This Santa is hard-working, devoted and hip. He sports red high-tops and voluminous, suspender-hoisted boxers. The magic here lies in Frazee's effortlessly clever, detailed illustrations; she delivers the exact right book for the exact right season. (Horn Book)

Sea Horse, the Shyest Fish in the Sea. Chris Butterworth. Illustrated by John Lawrence. Candlewick. \$17.00 Grades K-3

Presents information about the sea horse in sometimes poetic language. Illustrated with prints using wood textures create watery backgrounds for the vinyl engravings of sea plants and animals. Watercolor washes in muted tones of green, blue, and red complete the look. **Open Court 2: Look Again**

⊗ *The Serpent Gift.* Lene Kaaberbol. Holt. \$18.00 Grades 5-8

As her brother Davin is unjustly confined to a prison and looks for a way to escape, Dina, now twelve years old, meets her father and learns whether she shares his serpent gift of having the ability to give people dreams. (Third installment in the *Shamer Quartet*).

The Shivers in the Fridge. Fran Manushkin. Dutton. \$17.00 Grades K-3

One-by-one, the members of the Shivers family disappear from the inside of their chilly refrigerator home. They are ultimately reunited and it is revealed that they are refrigerator magnets that were surprisingly left in the fridge. Zelinsky's artwork is a perfect compliment to this humorous story. **Open Court 3: Imagination**

Silly Suzy Goose. Petr Horacek. Candlewick. \$15.00 Grades PreK-1

Looking around, Suzy Goose realizes she is just one of the gaggle. Yearning to be different, she tries out being different kinds of animals. She quickly realizes that she can do all of the things other animals can do and then some. Illustrated with bright mixed-media artwork. **Open Court 1: Animals**

Sister Tricksters: Rollicking Tales of Clever Females. Robert D. San Souci. August House. \$20.00 Grades 3-6

A collection of trickster tales from the American South, featuring such female animal characters as Molly Cottontail and Miz Goose. Tales include a story about Mistah Fox, who pretends to be dead; a humorous *pourquoi* tale that explains why roosters and toads eat grasshoppers; and a tale about Mistah Bear, who sits on a pile of pumpkins because Miz Goose convinces him that they are eggs that will hatch the family he so dearly wants. Told in dialect and expressions that convey a rural Southern flavor, yet the text is never hard to read or understand.

The Six Fools. Zora Neale Hurston, comp. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades K-4

Adapted from a story from Zora Neal Hurston's 1930 folklore collection, this tells about a young man who searches for three people more foolish than his fiancé and her parents. Oil monoprints in a folk art style are vibrant in color. Concludes with an explanation of the unusual ending phrase, "By that time I had left" which is a Caribbean phrase meaning "The End". **Open Court 2: Sharing Stories**

Small Steps. Louis Sachar. Delacorte. \$19.00 Grades 5-8

Sequel to *Holes*. Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along.

Snow is my Favorite and My Best. Lauren Child. Dial. \$17.00 Grades K-3

Charlie and little sister, Lola, play in the snow and consider what it would be like if it snowed everyday. It's up to Charlie to convince her that moderation is important in all things, even snow, and a quick trip to the earth's colder regions seems to do the trick. Illustrated in Child's signature collage style artwork. **Open Court 1: Weather**

So Sleepy Story. Uri Shulevitz. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades PreK-1

In the quiet of the night, a sleepy, sleepy boy awakens to music and finds the dishes, chairs, and clocks enjoying themselves. As the music fades away, the room settles back into quiet dreamtime. Illustrated with ink and watercolor.

Something Out of Nothing: Marie Curie and Radium. Carla K. McClafferty . Farrar. \$18.00 Grades 5-8

Chronicles the life of Marie Curie, discussing her childhood in Poland, schooling in France, discovery of the element radium, efforts to create mobile X-ray units during World War I, and eventual death from radium poisoning. Archival photos enhance the text.

☺*Spring is Here/Llego la primavera.* Taro Gomi. Chronicle. \$18.00 Grades PreK-2

Follows the four seasons, from snow melting into spring, through the quiet harvest and the fall of snow, and then to spring again. Told in English and Spanish. Illustrated with bold, single color backgrounds and clear, primitive figures.

Squirt!: The Most Interesting Book You'll Ever Read About Blood. Trudee Romanek. Kids Can Press. \$15.00 Grades 4-6

Two ancient beliefs about the powers and sources of human blood introduce this quirky exploration of the circulatory system. The informal text includes anecdotes, physiology, interesting facts (about leeches, vampires, and other creatures), and some history. Seven activities encourage hands-on understanding of some concepts, for example, how an astronaut's pressure suit works. Cartoon illustrations appear in each section. (Horn Book)
Open Court 4: Mystery to Medicine

⊗ *Stealing Home.* Ellen Schwartz. Tundra. \$9.00 Grades 4-6

Nine-year-old Yankee fan and Bronx native Joey Sexton is sent to Brooklyn after his mother's death and finds himself battling prejudice in his own family, trying to win the acceptance of his white, Jewish grandfather, who looks down on him because he is half African-American.

Stink and the Incredible Super-Galactic Jawbreaker. Megan McDonald. Candlewick. \$13.00 Grades 2-4

Seven-year-old Stink Moody, having discovered that he can get free samples by writing letters of complaint to companies, gets so caught up in his letter writing campaign that he misses his best friend's birthday, but he plans a super surprise to make up for his mistake. Includes a list of idioms used in the story.

⊗ *Summer is Summer.* Phillis Gershtator. Holt. \$17.00 PreK-1

Colorful illustrations and rhyming text present a celebration of summer from the perspective of four friends as they sip lemonade under a tree, play at the beach and catch fireflies at night. Cheery, bright illustrations.

The Summer Sherman Loved Me., Jane St. Anthony. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades 5-8

In addition to coping with her changing relationship with her mother, twelve-year-old Margaret spends her summer trying to sort out her feelings for the boy next door who claims to love her.

Superhero ABC. Bob McLeod. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades PreK-2

An alphabet book with invented superheroes, from Astro-Man to the Zinger. Each is presented in cartoon illustrations that show the figures in action with bold colors, word balloons, and block letters in an attractive comic-book style. The text has doses of humor and strong alliteration. **Open Court 1: Let's Read**

Thelonus Monster's Sky-High Fly Pie: a Revolting Rhyme. Judy Sierra. Knopf. \$17.00 Grades K-3

A good-natured monster thinks a pie made out of flies would be a good dessert. After obtaining some helpful hints from a spider via e-mail, he creates a sticky crust, gathers flies, attaches them to the crust, and invites "eleventeen ravenous monsters" for dessert.

Theodore. Frank Keating. Illustrated by Mike Wimmer. S&S. \$17.00 Grades 2-5

A biography of Theodore Roosevelt that imagines the president looking back on his life, describing his childhood, his youthful journeys throughout the world, his experiences as a

leader, and the value he placed on knowledge, adventure, originality, and integrity. Illustrated with glowing, realistic paintings that provides a strong sense of time and place. **Open Court 5: Going West**

This is the Dream. Diane Z. Shore & Jessica Alexander. Illustrated by James Ransome. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades K-4

An illustrated poem that describes how nonviolent protests helped end the segregation of schools and public places in the United States. Children may need some background discussion to understand the situations pictured including segregated drinking fountains, buses, lunch counters, libraries, and the events that began to cause change in the south. Full-color paintings are highlighted with some collage and bring this era to life. **Open Court 2: Courage**

This Little Piggy and Other Rhymes to Sing and Play. Jane Yolen. Illustrated by Will Hillbrand. Includes audio CD. Candlewick. \$20.00. Grades PreK-2

An oversize book that presents a variety of finger plays, songs, clapping games, and pantomime games. Includes scores for piano and guitar, brief historical notes, and lyrics for songs, and directions for the finger plays. Bright and breezy illustrations accompany each offering. **Open Court 1: Let's Read**

⊗ *Three French Hens.* Margie Palatini. Hyperion. \$16.00 Grades PreK-2

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, a hungry fox down on his luck. Includes detailed watercolor and charcoal line illustrations.

⊗ *Through Georgia's Eyes.* Rachel Victoria Rodriguez. Holt. \$17.00 Grades 1-4

Traces American painter Georgia O'Keeffe's relationship with color and shape from her first memory to her later years in New Mexico, describing the inspiration she took from wide, open spaces, and includes illustrations inspired by her work.

⊗ *To Dance: a Memoir.* Siena Cherson Siegel. Simon & Schuster. \$18.00 Grades 3-6

Follows the life and career of a ballerina, detailing her dance school experiences, performances, and personal life. Presented in graphic novel format.

Tour America: a Journey Through Poems and Art. Diane Siebert. Chronicle. \$18.00 Grades 3-6

Poet Diane Siebert and illustrator Stephen T. Johnson team up to celebrate the scenic treasures of the United States. Developed during a ten-year motorcycle odyssey with her husband, to produce poems that celebrate sites famous and lesser known.

⊗ *Toys Go Out: Being the Adventures of a Knowledgeable Stingray, a Toughy Little Buffalo, and Someone Called Plastic.* Emily Jenkins. Schwartz and Wade. \$19.00 Grades 2-4

Six stories told by toys that are best friends are accompanied by Zelinsky's lively black-and-white illustrations. The stories tell of their escapades and discoveries, including an eventful trip to the beach, the development of an intimate knowledge of the washing machine, the pitfalls of sleeping atop the bed and an understanding of the importance of birthdays. **Open Court 3: Friendship**

Troll Mill. Katherine Langrish. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

When fifteen-year-old Peer Ulfsson witnesses the disappearance of his neighbor's wife, rumored to be a seal-woman, he must help protect the baby she leaves behind from trolls, a witch, and other creatures. The narrative is more intense than *Troll Fell* (for which this is a sequel) and despite the presence of selkies, household fairies, and uncanny babies, the drama is centered around human struggles.

The True Story of Stellina. Matteo Pericoli. Knopf. \$18.00 Grades PreK-3

A poignant and true story of how Matteo and Holly Pericoli rescued a small finch that fell out of a nest in New York City. The bird flew and sang, lived in an apartment, and traveled to the studio where Holly was a Spanish dancer. The couple cared for Stellina for eight years until she finally died. Illustrated with gentle watercolor artwork that is minimalist and perfectly captures the highlights of this tender story. **Open Court 3: City Wildlife**

Twenty-One Elephants and Still Standing April Jones Prince. Houghton. \$16.00 Grades 1-5

Upon completion of the Brooklyn Bridge, P.T. Barnum and his twenty-one elephants parade across to prove to everyone that the bridge is safe. An excellent read-aloud due to the sparse, yet powerful text that contains both alliteration and occasional rhyme, making it a pleasure for readers and listeners alike. Enhanced by lush illustrations.

Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding. Lenore Look. Illustrated by Yumi Heo. S&S. \$17.00 Grades K-3

Jenny narrates this story of her uncle's wedding that is filled with Chinese tradition and yet, sadness seeps in between the lines. She'll miss her best buddy. In the end, the busy day has a sweet ending as the new bride chooses Jenny to release a box full of butterflies and thanks her for sharing her uncle. Bright artwork shows the details that heighten Jenny's feelings and show the wedding traditions. **Open Court 2: Our Country and Its People**

Up Before Daybreak: Cotton and People in America. Deborah Hopkinson. Scholastic. \$19.00 Grades 4-8

Making excellent use of primary sources and black-and-white photos and period reproductions, this book provides a detailed account of the effect of cotton production on the social structure of the United States from colonial days to the last days of the mill workers in the 1930s. The voices of the children make this a vivid and personal account.

☺ *Victory*. Susan Cooper. McElderry. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

Molly, upset by her family's move from London to the U.S., is strangely drawn to an old book about the life of Admiral Lord Nelson, and soon finds her life intertwined with that of Sam, a boy her age who served with Nelson aboard the HMS "Victory" a century earlier.

Vile Verses. Roald Dahl. Illustrated by various artists. Viking. \$25.00 Grades 2-6

A rich collection of poems from Roald Dahl's works including *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Witches*, *James and the Giant Peach* and many more. The selections are illustrated by a bevy of talented illustrators including Chris Wormell, Chris Riddell, Babette Cole, and Tony Ross. This collection will appeal to a broad range of ages.

Wabi: A Hero's Tale. Joseph Bruchac. Dial. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

Narrated by a great horned owl named Wabi who becomes fascinated in a tribe of Native Americans and fall in love with a young woman. From his great-grandmother Wabi learns that he can change shape and he changes into a young man to win the love of an Abenaki girl. Trials and adventures follow. The story is blended with suspense, humor and romance. An engaging read.

Walk On!: A Guide For Babies of All Ages. Marla Frazee. Illustrated by Harcourt. \$16.00 Grades PreK-2

Provides suggestions for walking (or succeeding in other pursuits) such as "Get a grip. Pull yourself up." The reader learns that it's common to fall on the first try and is encouraged to cry "if it helps." In the end, the child is walking, albeit a little wobbly. This story speaks to the very young as well as preschoolers who enjoy stories about what they were like when they were "little," and older children and adults who will appreciate the wry humor. Illustrated with creamy artwork in a retro style from the 1940's. **Open Court K: Stick to It**

The Wand in the Word: Conversations with Writers of Fantasy. Leonard S. Marcus, comp. Candlewick. \$20.00 Grades 5+

A collection of interviews in which thirteen fantasy writers discuss their craft, influential life experiences, literary inspirations, work routines, and beliefs.

☺ *Water Street*. Patricia Reilly Giff. Random. \$16.00 Grades 5-8

In the shadow of the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge, eighth-graders and new neighbors Bird Mallon and Thomas Neary make some decisions about what they want to do with their lives. This continues the Irish American immigration story begun in *Nory Ryan's Song* (2000) and *Maggie's Door* (2003) with the next generation.

Weedflower. Cynthia Kadohata. Atheneum. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

After twelve-year-old Sumiko and her Japanese-American family are relocated from their flower farm in southern California to an internment camp on a Mojave Indian reservation in Arizona, she helps her family and neighbors, becomes friends with a local Indian boy, and tries to hold on to her dream of owning a flower shop.

☺ *What I Call Life*. Jill Wolfson. Holt. \$17.00 Grades 5-8.

Placed in a group foster home, eleven-year-old Cal Lavender learns how to cope with life from the four other girls who live there and from their storytelling guardian, the Knitting Lady.

What Stinks? Jill Wolfson. Holt. \$17.00 Grades 4-6

Illustrated text and photographs describe a number of smelly plants and animals including skunks and camels, the rafflesia blossom, ginkgo trees, and animal feces and urine. Readers will find a wealth of fascinating, quite complex information about biology.

What the Moon Saw. Laura Resau. Delacorte. \$18.00 Grades 5-8

Fourteen-year-old Clara Luna spends the summer with her grandparents in the tiny, remote village of Yucuyoo, Mexico, learning about her grandmother's life as a healer, her father's decision to leave home for the United States, and her own place in the world.

Open Court 4: Survival

⊗ *The White Ram: a Story of Abraham and Isaac.* Mordicai Gerstein. Holiday. \$17.00 Gr 1-5

A white ram, made on the sixth day of creation, waits patiently in the garden of Eden until the time is right, then runs to save a certain child in fulfillment of God's plan. Illustrated with detailed, fanciful paintings that enhance this old Biblical story.

Wildfire. Taylor Morrison. Houghton. \$17.00 Grades 4-6

An overview of forest fires, what causes them, and the methods used to control them. Illustrated with detailed paintings that help show how firefighters work and show the natural conditions that can lead to fires and more dangerous developments such as blowups. A rich source of information and visual appeal. **Open Court: 6: Ecology**

⊗ *The Will of the Empress.* Tamora Pierce. Scholastic. \$18.00 Grades 6+

On visit to Namorn to visit her vast landholdings and her devious cousin, Empress Berenene, eighteen-year-old Sandry must rely on her childhood friends and fellow mages, Daja, Tris, and Briar, despite the distance that has grown between them. Includes maps on endpapers. Begins two years after the "Circle of Magic" and "The Circle Opens" series.

⊗ *Wind Rider.* Susan Williams. HarperCollins. \$18.00 Grades 5-8

Fern, a teenager living in 4000 B.C., defies the expectations of her people by displaying a unique and new ability to tame horses and by also questioning many of the traditional activities of women. **Open Court 6: Ancient Civilizations**

⊗ *Winter Friends.* Mary Quattlebaum. Doubleday. \$18.00 Grades PreK-2

Presents an illustrated collection of children's poems by author Mary Quattlebaum that describes the joys of winter. Colorful illustrations. **Open Court 1: Weather**

Winter is the Warmest Season. Lauren Stringer. Harcourt. \$16.00 Grades K-3

A child describes pleasant ways to stay warm during the winter, from sipping hot chocolate and eating grilled cheese sandwiches to wearing wooly sweaters and sitting near a glowing fireplace. Artwork done in glowing acrylics on watercolor paper, capture the warmth of the story. **Open Court 1: Weather**

With A Little Luck. Dennis Brindell Fradin. Dutton. \$18.00 Grades 5-8

Describes the critical events and timing which led to groundbreaking discoveries: anesthesia, vulcanized rubber, penicillin, Pluto, bacteria, nuclear fission, and more in a

well written narrative. Illustrated with black-and-white artwork, photographs, and primary source material.

Wolves. Emily Gravett. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00 Grades K-3

A young rabbit checks out a library book about wolves and learns much more about their behavior than he wanted to know. An imaginative and cleverly designed book that will provide chuckles from adults as well as children who enjoy sly humor. **Open Court 2: Sharing Stories**

The World's Greatest Elephant. Ralph Helfer. Philomel. \$17.00 Grades 3-5

This is the true story of the life of the circus elephant Modoc who traveled widely and experienced dangerous adventures. Modoc's life is intertwined with that of a boy with whom she was raised from infancy and who became her longtime circus partner. Illustrated with detailed watercolor paintings that boldly portray the dramatic episodes of the elephant's life and the story of friendship, separation, and reunion.

☺*The Year of the Dog.* Grace Lin. Little, Brown. \$15.00 Grades 3-5

A lighthearted coming-of-age novel with a cultural twist. Readers follow Grace, an American girl of Taiwanese heritage, through the course of one year, The Year of the Dog, as she struggles to integrate her two cultures.

Yellow Elephant: A Bright Bestiary. Julie Larios. Harcourt. \$16.00 Grades PreK-2

Presents a collection of illustrated poems about animals that encourage the reader to see each animal in a new way. The story is accompanied by full-page gouache illustrations of animals are brimming with vibrant and unexpected hues.

Yellow Star. Jennifer Rozines Roy. M. Cavendish. \$17.00 Grades 4-8

Relates the story of Sylvia from age four in 1939 to 1945 when she has just turned ten. It is the story of a Jewish girl and her family and their struggle to survive in Poland's Lodz ghetto during the Nazi occupation. The novel is filled with searing incidents of cruelty and deprivation, love, luck and resilience. It is set apart by its lyricism as she gains further understanding of the events around her. **Open Court 4: Survival**

Young Thomas Edison. Michael Dooling. Holiday \$17.00 Grades 2-5

This is an illustrated biography of inventor Thomas Edison, that tells the story of a determined, focused young man who, despite significant hearing loss and other setbacks, continued to experiment and create inventions that we still benefit from today. Illustrated with finished oil-on-linen paintings that provide details and a realistic setting that increases the sense of history. **Open Court 6: Perseverance**

☺*Zelda and Ivy the Runaways.* Laura M. Kvasnosky. Candlewick. \$15.00 Grades 1-3

In three new episodes, the Fox sisters discover that not even running out to hide in the yard will save them from yet another lunch of cucumber sandwiches, that it's not a good idea to put something you'll miss into a time capsule and that a sprinkle of "creative juices" made from a secret formula can dispel the most stubborn case of writer's block. (Early chapter book)

