

Notables 2007

NOT AVAILABLE FOR EXHIBIT

- ⊗ *3-D ABC: a Sculptural Alphabet*, Raczka, Bob, \$15.00, Millbrook, Grades K-5
Presents striking photographs of sculptures that focus attention on three-dimensional artwork of different styles and materials. Each sculpture is captioned with the artist's name and the work's title. Accompanied by child friendly comments that add interest.
- ⊗ *Adventures of Odysseus*, Lupton, Hugh, \$18.00, Barefoot (2006), Grades 3-6
An illustrated adaptation of Homer's classic tale of Odysseus and his adventures after the long Trojan War. The text is framed with bright mosaic-style illustrations of the heroes and monsters, in watercolor, gouache, and gold ink. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations**
- ⊗ *At Gleason's Gym*, Lewin, Ted, \$18.00, Roaring Book, Grades 2-5
Looks at the action at Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn through the eyes of Sugar Boy, a nine-year-old boxing champion, who is following in the footsteps of former Gleason's trainees like Muhammad Ali and Jake La Motta. Illustrated with rich watercolor artwork. Presents a view of boxing as a sport for young children-both boys and girls-as well as adults.
- ⊗ *Babies in the Bayou*, Arnosky, Jim, \$17.00, Putnam, Grades K-3
There are many babies in the bayou, and even though they might have sharp white teeth, hard shells, webbed feet, or quick claws, their mothers still need to protect them. Told through poetic text and illustrated with soft acrylics, the various baby animals are presented. **Open Court: Animals**
- ⊗ *Ballerina Dreams: a True Story*, Thompson, Lauren, \$17.00, Feiwel & Friends, Grades PreK-2
Focuses on five little girls who long desperately to be ballerinas on stage. Each has a disability, such as cerebral or Erbs palsy, that affects leg and arm muscles. This true story tells how they had their dreams come true by becoming ballerinas. The photographs show the difficulties encountered by these girls as well as the range of ability of motion.
- ⊗ *Barnum Brown: Dinosaur Hunter*, Sheldon, David, \$17.00, Grades K-3
An illustrated biography of early twentieth-century paleontologist, Barnum Brown, the man who is credited with first discovering the bones of the Tyrannosaurus Rex. The highly readable text is accompanied by textured ink, gouache, and acrylic paintings, that show shadowy dinosaurs looking over Brown's shoulder as he works. **Open Court: Fossils**
- ⊗ *Battle of Iwo Jima: Guerrilla Warfare in the Pacific*, The, Hama, Larry, \$22.00, Rosen, Grades 5-8
Tells the story of the Battle of Iwo Jima in graphic novel format, also providing introductory information on the important commanders, the island, and the war with Japan up to that point. Illustrated by Williams in camouflage colors, Williams does a terrific job of examining the ups and downs of the battle as well as the horror of so many losses, on both sides.
- ⊗ *Being Caribou: Five Months on Foot with a Caribou Herd*, Heuer, Karsten, \$18.00, Walker, Gr 4-7
Wildlife biologist Karsten Heuer and his wife, Leanne, follow the five-month migration of 123,000 caribou over mountain ranges and icy rivers to their calving grounds in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, becoming the first humans to ever join a herd on the trek. Illustrated with breathtaking photographs taken on the journey. **Open Court: Ecology**
- ⊗ *Black? White! Day? Night!: A Book of Opposites*, Seeger, Laura V., \$17.00, Roaring Brook (2006), Grades PreK-3
Fold-out pages. A series of colorful die-cut pages that introduces a number of things that are opposites including black and white, big and little, and day and night. Each flap is a different bold color, ensuring that the child won't miss the word or the figure representing the concept, and the

Notables 2007

scenes under the flaps are in keeping with the simple yet sophisticated graphic design of the book.

- ⊗ *Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems*, Grandits, John, \$15.00, Clarion, Grades 5-8
Concrete poems about a girl named Jessie who mocks the school which she attends. Across the thirty or so poems, Jessie reveals she's a vegetarian, plays volleyball and cello, and can't stand cheerleaders. The author uses many different fonts, positioning text in clever ways.
- ⊗ *Capoeira: Game! Dance! Martial Art!*, Ancona, George, \$18.00, Lee & Low, Grades 5-8
Describes the history and practice of Capoeira, a centuries-old Brazilian martial art form that incorporates traditional movements and rhythmic music. Vivid, color photographs show a class of young, multicultural students practicing basic moves of offense and defense.
- ⊗ *Captain Raptor and the Space Pirates*, O'Malley, Kevin, \$17.00, Walker, Grades K-4
Captain Raptor and the crew of the "Megatooth" are called back into action to save the planet Jurassica from rogue space pirates. A graphic novel that comes alive with watercolor and gouache illustrations. A mixture of dinosaurs, pirates, and science fiction that will appeal to reluctant readers or otherwise.
- ⊗ *Chicky Chicky Chook Chook*, MacLennan, Cathy, \$11.00, Boxer/Sterling, PreK-1
Chicks, kittens, and bees play in the summer sunshine until a thunderstorm interrupts their idyllic day. Onomatopoeic rhyming text that children will love to hear again and again makes this a good read aloud choice. The artwork is bright, with feathery dabs and blobs of paint inspired by the art and culture of the author's native Zimbabwe.
- ⊗ *Curious Adventures of the Abandoned Toys, The*, Fellowes, Julian, \$18.00, Holt, Grades 4-6
When Doc the bear arrives at the dump from his former home, he isn't sure about what awaits him but his new friends are determined to make his new home a welcoming one. Includes artwork, ranging from black-and-white spot art to full-page color pictures.
- ⊗ *Dog and Bear: Two Friends, Three Stories*, Seeger, Laura V., \$13.00, Roaring Brook,
Contains three easy-to-read stories that reveal the close friendship between Dog, a playful, rowdy dachshund, and Bear, a multicolored stuffed toy. Full-page illustrations, which often alternate with small panels to advance the stories. **Open Court: Friendship**
- ⊗ *Dog for Life, A*, Matthews, L.S., \$17.00, Delacorte (2006), Grades 4-8
John is close to his older brother, Tom and they share a special bond with their dog, Mouse in that they can silently communicate with him. When Tom contracts a serious illness, they are told that it's not safe to have the dog in the house. John discovers that Mouse is scheduled to go to the pound and he decides to run away and find his uncle, who may be able to help.
- ⊗ *Dogs for Kids!: Everything You Need to Know About Dogs*, Mehus-Roe, Kristin, PB \$14.00, Gr 3-6
Contains dog care advice for children; describing the physical characteristics, behaviors, advantages, and disadvantages of over 150 breeds; discussing training, health care, grooming, feeding, and playing; providing dog-related activities; and more. Includes CD.
- ⊗ *Dolley Madison Saves George Washington*, Browne, Don, \$16.00, Houghton, Grades 1-3
Describes the significant contribution Dolley Madison made to the United States when she saved a picture of George Washington. During the War of 1812, 100 soldiers were assigned to guard the presidential mansion. When they fled, Dolley lingered long enough to make sure that a life-sized Gilbert Stuart portrait of Washington was removed before the occupying British could destroy it, and then disguised herself as a farm woman to get away. Illustrated with line-and-watercolor artwork.
- ⊗ *Dragon Dancing*, Shaeffer, Carole L., \$14.00, Viking, PreK-1

Notables 2007

Young children use their imaginations and their art supplies to pretend to be different kinds of dragons. They go *dragon dancing* through a playground transformed into Asian-influenced landscape with their movements expressed in read-aloud-friendly phrases such as "mish-mooshing" and "la-dee-daw-dawdling."

- ☹ *Feathers*, Woodson, Jacqueline, \$14.00, Putnam, Grades 5-8

When a new, white student nicknamed "The Jesus Boy" joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light. Introduces big issues: faith, class, color, prejudice, family, disability, and friendship.

- ☹ *Frog Heaven: Ecology of a Vernal Pool*, Wechsler, Doug, \$17.00, Boyds Mills, Grades 3-6

Full-color illustrated photographs describe the frogs, salamanders, and other animals that live in a vernal pool: a forest pool that dries up at the end of each summer and gradually fills with water again during the fall, winter, and spring. Illustrated with clear, color photos that provide excellent visual support to the text. **Open Court: Ecology**

- ☹ *Giant of Seville, a "Tall" Tale Based on a True Story, The*, Andreasen, Dan, \$14.00, Abrams, Gr K-4

A simple, illustrated story based upon the true story of Martin Van Buren Bates who grew to be nearly eight feet tall. Seville's residents welcome him, but accommodating a guest of his stature is difficult. The townspeople work together to build a home large enough for the giant and his equally statuesque wife. An endnote introduces the historical people and events that inspired the story.

- ☹ *Gimme Cracked Corn & I Will Share*, O'Malley, Kevin, \$18.00, Grades 2-4

Chicken dreams about a treasure and sets off on a dangerous journey to find it. "Cornball comedy guaranteed to pun-ish your funny bone... Scramble together bits of the comic cartoon picture books by M.J. Auch with pieces of the egg-zagerated humor of the movie *Chicken Run* and season with the wacky wit of Doreen Cronin and you have a frittata of fun." -*Kirkus*

- ☹ *Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal: a World Wide Cinderella*, Fleischman, Paul, \$16.00, Holt, Grades K-4

A retelling of the "Cinderella" story based on a variety of folk traditions, including elements from Mexico, Iran, Korea, Russia, Appalachia, and other countries and regions. Highlighted by brightly painted folk-art vignettes.

- ☹ *Golden Dreams of Carlo Chuchio, The*, Alexander, Lloyd, \$19.00, Holt, Grades 5-8

Naive and bumbling Carlo, his shady camel-puller Baksheesh, and Shira, a girl determined to return home, follow a treasure map through the deserts and cities of the infamous Golden Road, as mysterious strangers try in vain to point them toward real treasures.

- ☹ *Great Circle: A History of the First Nations, The*, Philip, Neil, \$20.00, Clarion, Grades 5-8

Presents a comprehensive history of Native American nations, from pre-Columbian times to the reclaiming of traditions; and explores Native American ideas about land and society, religion, science, and history. Illustrated with period photographs and reproductions that add visual and captioned information to the text.

- ☹ *Great Joy*, DiCamillo, Kate, \$15.00, Candlewick, Grades K-2

Just before Christmas, when Frances sees a sad-eyed organ-grinder and his monkey performing near her apartment, she cannot stop thinking about them, wondering where they go at night, and wishing she could do something to help. The WWII-era illustrations have a glow, and are illuminated by streetlamps and stage lights.

- ☹ *Help! A Story of Friendship*, Keller, Holly, \$18.00, Greenwillow, Grades PreK-2

Mouse hears a rumor that snakes do not like mice; and while trying to avoid his former friend, Snake, he falls into a hole from which neither Hedgehog, Squirrel, nor Rabbit can help him out.

Notables 2007

It's Snake who eventually organizes Mouse's rescue, which Mouse apologizing to Snake.

- ⊗ *Hiromi's Hands*, Barasch, Lynne, \$18.00, Lee & Low, Grades K-3

This picture book biography tells the true story of Japanese American Hiromi Suzuki, who, with the help of her father, became one of the first female sushi chefs in New York. The first-person narrative is accompanied by ink-and-watercolor art showing a variety of things from the fish market to the small, delicious pictures of the many kinds of sushi she learns to make. **Open Court: Our Country and Its People**

- ⊗ *Home of the Brave*, Applegate, Katherine, \$17.00, Feiwel And Friends, Grades 5-8

Kek, an African refugee, is confronted by many strange things at the Minneapolis home of his aunt and cousin, as well as in his fifth-grade classroom, and longs for his missing mother, but finds comfort in the company of a cow and her owner.

- ⊗ *Houdini: The Handcuff King*, Lutes, Jason & Nick Bertozzi, \$17.00, Hyperion, Grades 5-8

A brief biography of escape artist Harry Houdini written in graphic comic format that reveals the secret of some of his stunts, including his jump from Harvard Bridge in Cambridge, Mass. on May 1, 1908.

- ⊗ *How to Catch a Fish*, Frank, John, \$22.00, Roaring Book Press, Grades K-2

Rhyming text and illustrations describe the ways fish are caught in various locations around the world. Illustrated with handsome, full-page oil paintings that are rendered in an impressionistic style bringing to life the atmospheres of watery environments. Pays tribute to the sport, skill, craft, livelihood, and tradition of angling.

- ⊗ *Hurricane Force*, Treaster, Joseph B., \$17.00, Kingfisher, Grades 4-8

This is a sobering and informative book, with the descriptions of events surrounding Hurricane Katrina meticulously detailed. The varied photographs help to tell the story. Presents the science behind how and why hurricanes form, how to protect yourself, and what to do in the aftermath.

- ⊗ *I am Invited to a Party*, Willems, Mo, \$9.00, Hyperion, Grades K-2

Gerald the elephant, who "knows parties," gives his best friend, Piggie, advice for getting ready after Piggie receives her very first party invitation. An appealing title that will tickle the funny bone of children and are sure to become a favorite.

- ⊗ *Jabberwocky: the Classic Poem from Lewis Carroll's Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There*, Carroll, Lewis, re-imagined and illustrated by Christopher Myers. \$16.00, Hyperion, Grades 5-8

Illustrated with bright color, this imaginative interpretation of Carroll's classic nonsense poem takes it out of the pages of *Through the Looking Glass*, into a contemporary urban setting, and onto the basketball court. Outstanding and creative illustrations will introduce this nonsensical poem to a whole new generation of readers.

- ⊗ *Jane Addams: Champion of Democracy*, Fradin, Judith Bloom, \$18.00, Clarion (2006), Grades 5-8

Presents a biography of Jane Addams, suffragist, civil rights activist, and founder of Hull House in the slums of Chicago that draws from hundreds of historical documents; and contains archival photographs of her life and activities.

- ⊗ *Jesse Owens: Fastest Man Alive*, Weatherford, Carole B., \$22.00, Walker, Grades 3-6

A biography of Jesse Owens, the African American track and field athlete who won our gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. Told in stirring free verse and illustrated with bright, textured pastel artwork.

Notables 2007

⊗ *Journeys for Freedom: A New Look at America's Story*, Buckley, Susan, \$17.00, Houghton (2006), Grades 4-6

Presents a collection of maps and illustrations that describe the stories of a diverse group of people who sought freedom and shaped the events of America's past. The intriguing true stories are illustrated with double-page spreads. Stories range from Pocahontas, to a six-year-old ironworker, to a contemporary Sudanese refugee. Teachers can use the title to illustrate historical events and individuals and they are valuable for research. Left in the classroom, students will also pick them up for browsing.

⊗ *Knuffle Bunny Too: a Case of Mistaken Identity*, Willems, Mo, \$16.00, Hyperion, Grades K-3

Trixie's first day of pre-kindergarten gets off to a bad start when she and Sonja discover they have the very same "one-of-a-kind" Knuffle Bunnies.

⊗ *Larklight: a Rousing Tale of Dauntless Pluck in the Farthest Reaches Of Space*, Reeve, Philip, \$13.00, Bloomsbury, Grades 6-9

Art and his sister live in an alternate 19th century in which England has colonized the solar system. When elephant-sized space-spiders attack their home, they must work their way through the ensuing adventure. The story brings deadpan comedy, political satire, sci-fi epic, and pirate caper.

⊗ *Lawn Boy*, Paulsen, Gary, \$13.00, Wendy Lamb, Grades 4-7

Things get out of hand for a twelve-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business. His business mushrooms, one of his customers invests his money, he adds crews, and even sponsors a fighter. Capitalism at its best! This is a fantastical tale that is slapstick, improbable, and funny.

⊗ *Leap of Faith*, Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker, \$16.00, Dial, Grades 6+

Abigail is expelled from public school and forced to attend Catholic school after being sexually harassed by the principal's son, is not believed, and then attacks him with a knife. In the new situation she discovers friendship, a talent for theater and develops a true religious faith.

⊗ *Little Night*, Morales, Yuyi, \$17.00, Roaring Book, PreK-K

At the end of a long day, Mother Sky helps her playful daughter, Little Night, to get ready for bed. The artwork is rendered in full-bleed spreads saturated with twilight colors.

⊗ *Little Rabbit's Christmas*, Horse, Harry, \$16.00, Peachtree, Grades PreK-2

Little Rabbit learns about the joy of sharing after he receives a much-coveted red sled for Christmas and tries to keep it all to himself. Illustrated with watercolor washes and ink drawings that create expressive characters. Young children will find that, just like themselves, the Little Rabbit is not quite civilized and sometimes a bit bratty but basically decent and wanting to be good.

⊗ *Living Color*, Jenkins, Steve, \$17.00, Houghton Mifflin, Grades 2-4

Looks at a wide range of colorful animals, describing how their feathers, scales, shells, and skin help them survive, warn predators, signal friends, attract a mate, or hide from their enemies.

Open Court: Look Again

⊗ *M.L.K.: Journey of a King*, Bolden, Tonya, \$18.00, Abrams, Grades 5-8

Profiles the life of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, and includes over eighty illustrated photographs that describe his marches, speeches, and non-violence philosophy. The handsome layout will encourage browsers and the engaging text will be an outstanding addition to the school library collection.

Notables 2007

- ☹ *Magic Horse of Han Gan, The*, Chen, Jiang Hong, \$15.00, FSG (2006), Grades 1-5

A painter named Han Gan draws a horse that jumps off the page. The creature goes from the canvas to the battlefield until, overcome by sadness, he jumps into a different painting. The elegant illustrations on silk were inspired by the real Han Gan, a classical Chinese artist who lived over twelve hundred years ago and specialized in painting equine scenes. *Horn Book*

- ☹ *Magic Rabbit, The*, Cate, Annette, \$14.00, Candlewick, Grades PreK-2

Ray the street performing magician, and Bunny, his assistant and best friend, become separated while performing, which leaves Bunny all alone in the big city. Bunny spends several hours hopping around the city before he finds a trail of gold stars and is reunited with Ray. Illustrated with cross-hatched ink-and-watercolor illustrations, all is black and white save for the telltale yellow stars.

- ☹ *Max Counts His Chickens*, Wells, Rosemary, \$16.00, Viking, Grades PreK-2

Grandma must quickly think of a way to make things fair for Max after Ruby finds all ten of the hidden marshmallow chicks on Easter morning. The fun of counting, along with the humor in the little rabbit's search strategies, will entertain listeners.

- ☹ *Make Your Mark, Franklin Roosevelt*, St. George, Judith, \$15.00, Philomel, Grades 2-5

Profiles the childhood and adolescent years of President Franklin Roosevelt describing the many influences on his life and political career. Illustrated with ink-and-watercolor artwork that resembles political cartooning, using oversized heads and exaggerated perspectives that add humor to the story.

- ☹ *Midsummer Knight, A*, Rogers, Gregory, \$17.00, Roaring Book, Grades K-4

A bear is rescued by a fairy in an enchanted wood and agrees to return the favor by leading the battle against a usurper who has imprisoned the king and queen, along with their loyal subjects, in the dungeon of their castle.

- ☹ *Miss Crandall's School for Young Ladies and Little Misses of Color: Poems*, Alexander, Elizabeth, \$18.00, Wordsong, 2007, Grades 7+

Poems tell the story of nineteenth-century teacher Prudence Crandall and the students she taught at her Canterbury, Connecticut, school for African-American girls before persecution forced its closing.

- ☹ *Motherbridge of Love*, text provided by Mother Bridge of Love, \$16.00, Barefoot Books, Grades K-3

Lyrical text accompanied by vivid illustrations explains to an adopted daughter how the love of her anonymous birth mother and the woman raising her combine to shape who she is. This book shares its name with a London-based organization dedicated to promoting greater understanding of Chinese life and culture among adoptive families in the West.

- ☹ *Moving Day*, Fletcher, Ralph, \$18.00, Boyds Mills (2006), Grades 3-6

Twelve-year-old Fletch has a hard time adjusting after his father announces that their family will be moving from Massachusetts to Ohio. Told through 34 free verse poems, this story is illustrated with watercolor illustrations that resonate like flashes of family history.

- ☹ *My Friend is Sad & Today I Will Fly!*, Willems Mo, \$9.00, Hyperion, Grades K-3

Two early reader selections with typically silly and successful results. In the first, when Gerald the Elephant is sad, Piggie is determined to cheer him up, but finds after many tries that it only takes the simplest thing to change Gerald's mood. In the second, Piggie is determined to fly, but Elephant is skeptical, and when Piggie gets a little help from others, amazing things happen. Uncluttered pages feature the two main characters against clean white space. The text is entirely comprised of dialogue, shown in softly colored word balloons. Beginning readers will delight in

Notables 2007

these funny stories.

- ☹ *On the Wings of Heroes* Peck, Richard, \$15.00, Dial, Grades 4-8
Gentle humor and nostalgic glimpses of life in America during World War II bring another time and place to life. A variety of characters pass through the story as coffee and sugar are rationed, scrap metal is collected to support the war effort, and a world of people "Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without." It's easy to picture this novel as a wonderful film.
- ☹ *One City, Two Brothers*, Smith, Chris, \$16.00, Barefoot Books, Grades 2-4
To settle an inheritance dispute between two brothers, King Solomon tells a tale of how Jerusalem came to be founded. "Based on a folktale told by both Jews and Arabs, this picture book beautifully captures the spirit of brotherhood and gives both readers and listeners hope for what could be if people thought more about one another than about themselves. The accomplished folk-style artwork, in shades of verdant green, heavenly blue, and harvest orange and yellow, does more than illustrate the story; it adds an air of peace and hope to which children will respond." *School Library Journal*
- ☹ *Owen & Mzee: The Language of Friendship*, Hatkoff, Isabella, \$17.00, Scholastic, Grades 3-6
Sequel to *Owen and Mzee*. Text and color photos tell the true story of the friendship that developed at a Kenyan wildlife sanctuary between Owen, a baby hippopotamus orphaned by the 2004 Southeast Asian tsunami, and Mzee, a 130-year-old giant tortoise. Illustrated with full color photographs. **Open Court: Friendship**
- ☹ *Ox, House, Stick: The History of Our Alphabet*, Robb, Don, \$16.00, Charlesbridge, Grades 3-5
Traces the history of the Roman alphabet from Proto-Sinaitic signs to Phoenician script to Greek and Roman letters, and presents information on related topics such as writing materials, punctuation, and printing technology.
- ☹ *Patience Wright: America's First Sculptor and Revolutionary Spy* Shea, Pegi Deitz, \$18.00, Holt, Grades 4-6
An illustrated biography of Patience Wright, a woman born into a Quaker family in 1725 who grew up to be a celebrated wax sculptor, and whose talent led her to England in the pre-Revolutionary War years where she was able to learn information about England's intentions toward the colonies and send the intelligence to America. **Open Court: Making a New Nation**
- ☹ *Peter Pan in Scarlet: the Official Sequel*, McCaughrean, Geraldine, \$16.00, McElderry, Grades 5+
Wendy and the Lost Boys begin having nightmares and realize they must return to Neverland to figure out the cause of them, and when they get there, they embark on an adventure with Peter Pan to find a buried treasure on Neverpeak. Pen-and-ink illustrations add to the enjoyment of the story.
- ☹ *Piglet and Papa*, Wild, Margaret, \$15.00, Abrams, Grades PreK-1
When Piglet's beloved father chases her away after she plays too rough, all of the barnyard animals try to make her feel better, but Piglet is still afraid that her father no longer loves her.
- ☹ *Pink*, Gregory, Nan, \$18.00, Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, Grades K-2
Vivi wants more than anything to buy the beautiful bride doll all dressed in pink at the fancy toy store and decides to save all her money; however, when she takes her parents to show them the doll, she discovers that someone else has bought it. Digitally assisted pictures create a distinctive look through the elongated forms and faces of the characters.
- ☹ *Polo, The Runaway Book*, Faller, Regis, \$15.00, Roaring Brook, Grades PreK-2
While trying to retrieve his new book from a thieving alien, Polo, a resourceful pooch, has a

Notables 2007

series of adventures and eventually helps the alien and his people. Bright graphic-novel-style wordless panels show Polo as he goes from one fantastic series of improbable adventures to another.

- ⊗ *Prairie Grasslands*, Lynch, Wayne, \$15.00, NorthWord (2006), Grades 5-8

Six chapters cover the history, geography, climate, ecology, terrain, flora, and fauna of the grasslands and the mountains. Stunning close-up photographs highlight both the changing scenery and the lives of resident animals in these two dramatically different ecosystems.

- ⊗ *Real Benedict Arnold, The*, Murphy, Jim, \$18.00, Clarion, Grades 5-8

Presents a comprehensive biography and history of Benedict Arnold that examines many of his heroic deeds and contributions to the Revolutionary cause before he decided to switch sides. Includes numerous reproductions of paintings, engravings and drawings sprinkled throughout.

Open Court: Making a New Nation

- ⊗ *Red Moon at Sharpsburg*, Wells, Rosemary, \$17.00, Viking, Grades 7+

Even though the odds are against her and the Civil War has ruined her home and given her a view of the darker side of humanity, thirteen-year-old India Moody continues to aspire to become a scientist and attend Oberlin College. Wells has created a sense of what the North and the South endured during the Civil War by interweaving stories from both sides, and gives a horrifying picture of medical practices and superstitions of the times.

- ⊗ *Rising Star of Rusty Nail*, Blume, Lesley M.M., \$14.00, Knopf, Grades 4-6

In the small town of Rusty Nail, Minnesota, in the early 1950s, musically talented ten-year-old Franny wants to take advanced piano lessons from newcomer Olga Malenkov, a famous Russian musician suspected of being a communist spy by gossipy members of the community. **Open**

Court: Heritage

- ⊗ *Robot Dreams*, Varon, Sara, \$18.00, First-Second, Grades 6-9

Robots, ducks, melting snowmen and other mute creatures, all rendered in sweet and simple drawings, go through some very big, very human ordeals in this lovely graphic novel about friendship.

- ⊗ *Runaround*, Hemphill, Helen, \$17.00, Front Street, Grades 5-8

In Kentucky in the 1960s, partly as revenge against her older sister for publicly embarrassing her, eleven-year-old Sassy decides to make the handsomest boy in the neighborhood her boyfriend, but first she has to find out what makes a boy like a girl, and how to know when he does.

- ⊗ *Scallywags, The*, Melling, David, \$15.00, Barron's (2006), Grades K-3

The Scallywags, a family of lazy, shiftless, mischief-making wolves, annoy all the other animals to the point where they quit getting invited to eat, play, or join in other activities, but when the wolves decide to improve themselves, they go too far in the other direction, until a full moon appears. Bright illustrations show the wolves' goofy antics, and the unique text design adds further fun.

- ⊗ *Sneeze! Sny*, Alexandra., \$16.00 Charlesbridge, Grades 4-6

Explains some of the reasons why people sneeze, featuring color micrographs of the air-pollen, dust mites, mold spores, dust, goose down, and other allergens that provoke sneezing. Large full color electron micrographs on every double-page spread show everything from dust mites, mildew, and pollen to the influenza.

- ⊗ *Someone Named Eva*, Wolf, Joan M., \$15.00, Clarion, Grades 5-8

From her home in Lidice, Czechoslovakia, in 1942, eleven-year-old Milada is taken with other

Notables 2007

blond, blue-eyed children to a school in Poland to be trained as "proper Germans" for adoption by German families, but all the while she remembers her true name and history.

- ⊗ *Standard Hero Behavior*, Anderson, John David, \$16.00, Clarion, Grades 6+
When fifteen-year-old Mason Quayle finds out that their town of Darlington is about to be attacked by orcs, goblins, ogres, and trolls, he goes in search of some heroes to save the day.
- ⊗ *Steven Caney's Ultimate Building Book*, Caney, Steven, \$30.00, Running Pr., Grades 4-8
Examines the history and construction of various types of structures, including bridges, skyscrapers, and domes; and provides instructions for related projects. Portions of this book are especially useful for reference facts and science projects.
- ⊗ *Story of Charles Atlas Strong Man, The*, McCarthy, Megan, \$19.00, Grades 1-3
An illustrated account of the life of Angelo Siciliano, an Italian immigrant who, tired of being pushed around, developed a program of physical fitness that transformed his life and earned him the name Charles Atlas.
- ⊗ *Sugar Cane: a Caribbean Rapunzel*, Storace, Patricia, \$16.00, Jump at the Sun, Grades 2-5
Taken from her parents because of a craving for sugar cane, a baby is raised by a conjure-woman in this version of the story set in the Caribbean. "As Sugar Cane grows, she learns music from a ghost teacher, an angel from a heavenly choir, a 500-year-old Spanish Gypsy, and a "jazz master from New Orleans." One evening the lonely girl's voice attracts King, a young man renowned for his songs. Raul Colon's colored-pencil-and-watercolor illustrations mirror the lyrical text." *School Library Journal*
- ⊗ *Surfer of the Century: the life of Duke Kahanamoku*, Crowe, Ellie, \$19.00, Lee & Low, Grades 3-6
A biography of Hawaiian Duke Kahanamoku, five-time Olympic swimming champion from the early 1900s who is also considered worldwide as the father of modern surfing.
- ⊗ *Talented Clementine, The*, Pennypacker, Sara, \$15.00, Hyperion, Grades 2-5
In her second adventure, eight-year-old Clementine, convinced that she has no talents, tries to find a way to avoid participating in the class talent show. Illustrated with line drawings. This is an early chapter-book that will have readers jumping at the chance to spend another eventful week with Clementine.
- ⊗ *Terrible Storm*, Hurst, Carol Otis, \$17.00, Greenwillow, Grades K-3
A child's two grandfathers relate their boyhood experiences of the Massachusetts blizzard of 1888, during which each was stuck for three days doing what he disliked the most. One was stranded alone in a barn, the other in a crowded inn. Both say that his was the "worst possible place," but the lively pen-and-ink illustrations tell a different story.
- ⊗ *Thank You Bear*, Foley, Greg, \$18.00, Viking, Grades PreK-1
Bear has found something fantastic, a little box that Mouse will just love. By the time shows it to his friend, he is unsure of his gift's value, because everyone he has met along the way has pooh-poohed it as too small, too ordinary, or better in someone else's hands. Illustrated with watercolor animal figures, outlined in strong black lines. **Open Court: Finding Friends**
- ⊗ *That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown*, Cowell, Cressida, \$15.00, Hyperion, Grades PreK-2
Emily defends her old stuffed rabbit named Stanley from the naughty queen who is determined to acquire it any way she can. Emily and Stanley have fanciful adventures, and the illustrations, done in collage, pen and ink, and watercolor, perfectly depict the joy and energy of the companions' playtime activities. **Open Court: Finding Friends.**

Notables 2007

- ☹ *There is a Bird on Your Head*, Willems, Mo, \$9.00, Hyperion, Grades K-2
Opposite best friends Gerald, who is careful and worrisome, and Piggie, who is clumsy and carefree, run into a problem when two birds land on Gerald's head.
- ☹ *Toad by the Road: a Year in the Life of These Amazing Amphibians*, Ryder, Joanne, \$17.00, Holt, Grades K-2
Poems and illustrations trace the yearly life cycle of toads from tadpoles in the spring to adults which hibernate in the winter. A typical page offers a short poem, a fine illustration, and in smaller print at the bottom of the page, a sentence or two of information.
- ☹ *Twin Princes, The*, Arnold, Tedd, \$17.00, Dial, K-4
Two bug-eyed chicken princes who are twins take part in a contest to determine which one will inherit the throne. The king announces a horse race, with his crown going to the one whose horse finishes last. Illustrated in stylized art with bold outlines, colored-pencil curlicues, and watercolor washes.
- ☹ *Vinnie and Abraham*, Fitzgerald, Dawn, \$16.00, Charlesbridge, Grades 2-4
This picture book biography tells the story of Vinnie Ream, an aspiring artist living in Washington D.C. during the Civil War, who gained a reputation as a sculptor and succeeded in persuading President Abraham Lincoln to sit for her, an honor that led to her winning a government commission to create a statue of Lincoln after his assassination.
- ☹ *Wednesday Wars, The*, Schmidt, Gary D., \$15.00, Clarion, Grades 5-8
During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.
- ☹ *When is a Planet not a Planet: the Story of Pluto*, Scott, Elaine, \$16.00, Clarion, Grades 3-6
Explains Pluto's reassignment in 2006, from planet to dwarf planet via child-friendly language. The history and science behind the discovery of the nine planets is explained, terms are defined, scientists are introduced, and a time line of planetary milestones is included. Includes captioned color photos and other illustrations from a variety of sources. **Open Court: Astronomy**
- ☹ *Who is Driving?*, Timmers, Leo, \$13.00, Bloomsbury, Grades PreK-1
Easy-to-read text invites the reader to guess which animal is driving each of seven vehicles based on how they are dressed, then reveals their destinations and the vehicles' sounds. Vivid acrylic illustrations in primary colors have a three-dimensional look. **Open Court: Things that Go**
- ☹ *Who Likes Rain?* Yee, Wong Herbert, \$15.00, Holt, Grades PreK-1
As a young Asian girl splashes in the rain, she plays a guessing game with the reader about other living things that enjoy a cloudburst. Told in lilting rhyme, it's a perfect read aloud for preschoolers and simple enough for beginning readers. Illustrated with soft, gentle acrylic artwork.
- ☹ *Wizard, The*, Prelutsky, Jack, \$18.00, Greenwillow, K-3
An illustrated, rhyming tale of a wicked wizard and his evil deeds, as he uses "elemental sorcery" to change a bullfrog into a series of objects, from a flea to a flame. Illustrated with digital artwork that has all the lushness and radiance of oil paintings.
- ☹ *Wolf's Coming*, Kulka, Joe, \$14.00, Carolrhoda, Grades PreK-1
All of the animals in the forest go into hiding because the wolf is coming, but why they are hiding

Notables 2007

is the big surprise. All is tense until Wolf opens the doors and finds...a surprise party in his honor. Illustrated with bright, clear computer graphics.

⊗ *Wow! School!* Neubecker, Robert, \$17.00, Hyperion, Grades PreK-1

The third *Wow!* book features redheaded Izzy in colorful, full-to-bursting spreads and an oversize format. The text begins “Wow! Classroom!” The next spread, “Wow! Teacher!” requires a book-turn of ninety degrees. Limited text and heavy crayon-like outlines allow readers to take charge of a new and potentially overwhelming experience. By book's end, what was new has become familiar. (Horn Book) **Open Court: School**



Notables 2007

AVAILABLE FOR PREVIEW

1607: A New Look at Jamestown, Lange, Karen E., \$18.00, National Geog., 2007, Grades 4-7

Describes the new research and archeological discoveries at Jamestown and demonstrates how our knowledge and historians' views can change. Clearly written and well illustrated showing how previous beliefs about the Jamestown Settlement are erroneous. Provides an excellent account of the Native American tribes' history and relationships before and after the arrival of the colonists. A remarkable account of the process of colonization with all the problems and challenges they faced. Essential U.S. Colonial History resource. **Open Court: A Changing America**

17 Things I'm Not Allowed to do Anymore, Offill, Jenny, \$16.00, Random, Grades K-3

The young narrator lists seventeen things she is not allowed to do after she staples her brother's hair to his pillow ("I am not allowed to use the stapler anymore"), walks backward across the pedestrian crossing ("I am not allowed to walk backward to school anymore"), and shows Joey Whipple her underpants when she does handstands in the schoolyard ("I am not allowed to show Joey Whipple my underpants anymore.") Illustrated with a delightful combination of pen-and-ink and computer-generated illustrations that incorporate actual objects.

Adventures of Marco Polo, The, Freedman, Russell, \$18.00, Scholastic, 2006, Grades 5-8

Traces the travels of Marco Polo via an engaging text and by using primary and secondary sources. Presents a discussion as to the controversy as to whether he indeed went to China. Illustrations include original artwork and complemented by many historic illustrations.

Alabama Moon, Key, Watt, \$17.00, Farrar, Grades 5-8

After the death of his father, ten-year-old Moon Blake is removed from the Alabama forest where he was raised and sent to a boy's home, where, for the first time, he has contact with the outside world and learns about friendship, love, and humanity.

Alchemyst: the Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel, The, Scott, Michael, \$17.00, Delacorte, Grades 5-8

Fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, find themselves caught up in the deadly struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient book that holds the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life.

An Inconvenient Truth: the Crisis of Global Warming, Gore, Al, \$23.00, Viking, Grades 5+

An adaptation of the book in which former Vice President Al Gore examines the climate crisis that is threatening the future of the planet, describes what the world's governments are doing to correct the problem, and explains why the problem should be taken more seriously. Includes photographs, maps, and graphs. **Open Court: Ecology**

Animal Poems, Worth, Valerie, \$17.00, Farrar, 2007, Grades 3-8

An illustrated collection of twenty-three poems about snails, whales, bats, camels, and other animals. The poems are presented on beautifully designed spreads, animated by Steve Jenkins' signature cut paper collage artwork.

Anne Hutchinson's Way, Atkins, Jeannine, Farrar, \$17.00, Grades 2-5

A fictionalized episode from the life of Anne Hutchinson, who arrived with her family in Massachusetts in 1634, but was soon banished for holding religious meetings and teaching ideas with which Puritan ministers disagreed. Illustrated with dramatic and detailed photo-quality paintings. **Open Court: A Changing America**

Notables 2007

Apple Doll, The, Kleven, Elisa, Farrar, \$16.00, Grades K-2

Lizzy is scared to start school, so she makes a doll out of an apple from her favorite tree to take with her on the first day and keep her company. Illustrated with bright, textured and bold artwork with watercolor, ink, colored pencil and collage. Includes instructions for making an apple doll.

Open Court: Making Friends

Apple Pie that Papa Baked, The, Thompson, Lauren, \$16.00, Scholastic, Grades PreK-2

A father makes his daughter an apple pie and all of the farm animals want a taste. A cumulative story told in the style of *The House that Jack Built*, it is illustrated in a bright, folk art style. **Open**

Court: Let's Read

Arrival, The, Tan, Shaun, \$20.00, Scholastic, Grades 5-8

In this wordless graphic novel, a man leaves his homeland and sets off for a new country, where he must build a new life for himself and his family. The artwork is rendered in sepia-toned panels with early 20th century dress and architecture, and even though the setting seems familiar, it is beset with fantastical images, bizarre forms of air transport and alien animals. Readers will begin to understand the unsettling experience of being alone in a new land.

Artist to Artist: 23 Major Illustrators Talk to Children About their Art, Contributing editors, Patricia Lee Gauch ... et al., \$30.00, Philomel, Grades 4+

Selected bibliography of the artists. Maurice Sendak, Rosemary Wells, Eric Carle, and twenty other children's book illustrators speak informally to children about their art and careers. Includes fold-out pages with photographs of early work, studios, materials, sketches, and finished works, as well as self-portraits.

At Night, Bean, Jonathan, \$15.00, Farrar, Grades PreK-1

A sleepless city girl imagines what it would be like to get away from snoring family members and curl up alone with one's thoughts in the cool night air under wide-open skies. Illustrated with silvery, ink-and-watercolor pictures.

Banjo Granny, Busse, Sarah Martin, \$16.00, Houghton (2006), Grades PreK-2

Baby Owen's grandmother learns that he is wiggly, jiggly, and all-around giggly for bluegrass music, so with her banjo, she travels by curious means to visit and play for him. Warm watercolor, gouache, and pastel-pencil illustrations show a variety of scenes as Granny travels and baby Owen eagerly awaits her arrival.

Bearwalker, Bruchac, Joseph, \$17.00, HarperCollins, Grades 5-8

Although he is the littlest student in his class, thirteen-year-old Baron Braun calls upon the strength and wisdom of his Mohawk ancestors to face both man and beast when he tries to get help for his classmates, who are being terrorized during a school field trip in the Adirondacks

Beauty and the Beast, Eilenberg, Max, Retel., \$18.00, Candlewick, Grades 3-6

This splendid version of the classic tale features a Victorian setting and is illustrated with elegant watercolors that include double page spreads. The lively text is well suited to reading aloud.

Open Court: Storytelling

Beowulf: a Hero's Tale Retold, Rumford, James, \$15.00, Houghton, Grades 5-8

A simplified and illustrated retelling of the exploits of the Anglo-Saxon warrior, Beowulf, and how he came to defeat the monster Grendel, Grendel's mother, and a dragon that threatened the kingdom. Handsome artwork shows artwork drawn and finely detailed in black ink, then painted with watercolor and set on a batik like background. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations**

Notables 2007

Billy Creekmore, Porter, Tracey, \$17.00, HarperCollins, Grades 5-8

One day a stranger comes to claim Billy Creekmore from the Guardian Angels Home for Boys; and he embarks on a cross-country journey in search of his past, his future, and his own true self. Told in a child-true voice, this book makes the shocking history about the lives of children at the turn of the last century come alive for today's readers.

Birthday Box, The, Patricelli, Leslie, \$16.00, Candlewick, Grades PreK-1

An imaginative young child has a wonderful time playing with his birthday present and the box it came in. Dynamic, acrylic solid-colored backdrops, upon which the box throws its significant shadow, add a sense of fun. This is a perfect birthday book for a toddler, along with a box, of course! It would also work well for storytime.

Black Cat Bone: The Life of Blues Legend Robert Johnson Lewis, J. Patrick, , \$20.00, Creative Editions, Grades 6+

Poems by J. Patrick Lewis, illustrations by Gary Kelley, and his own lyrics help chronicle the life and career of jazz musician Robert Johnson. Mixed-media illustrations in blues and browns contribute to the mood of the text. **Open Court: Beyond the Notes**

Bow-Wow Bugs a Bug, Newgarden, Mark, \$13.00, Harcourt, Grades 1-3

A wordless circular story in which a small dog grows annoyed by the bug in his environs and sets out on an eventful trek after it, down his street. Simple, bold, expressive illustrations, outlined with heavy black line, are combined with comic-strip panels.

Bronzeville Boys and Girls, Brooks, Gwendolyn, \$17.00, HarperCollins, Grades 3-6

A collection of 34 illustrated poems by a Pulitzer Prize winning author that reflects the experiences and feelings of African American children living in big cities. First published in 1956, this edition features bright new artwork by Faith Ringgold. **Open Court: Heritage**

Casey Back at Bat, Gutman, Dan, \$17.00, HarperCollins, Grades K-4

It's a new season for the Mudville baseball team, and Casey has a chance to redeem himself. He hits a fly ball that flies over the wall and out of the park and just keeps going. The ball flies across the Atlantic, hits the tower in Pisa and heads to Egypt. Streaking through time, it inadvertently sends dinosaurs to their ultimate fate and encounters astronauts before heading back to Earth. At the end "there's still no joy in Mudville," but this comes across as a terrific read-aloud, and it will have kids cheering. **Open Court: Games**

Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, Williams, Marcia, ret., \$17.00, Candlewick, Grades 4-8

An energetic retelling of nine tales by Geoffrey Chaucer in which a group of pilgrims in fourteenth-century England tell each other stories as they travel on a pilgrimage to the cathedral at Canterbury. Quotes in medieval English are featured in dialogue bubbles, while the stories themselves are told in clear modern prose with a poetic bent. Illustrated with detailed watercolor-and-ink cartoon art double-page spreads. **Open Court: Journeys and Quests**

Chester, Imai, Ayano, \$16.00, Minedition, Grades PreK-1

Chester, a black-and-white dog, is upset with his family because they never pay any attention to him, so he decides to run away and find a family that will love him. After staying in a penthouse with too much pampering, his family finds him and all change their ways. Illustrated with soft, impressionistic artwork.

Chicken-Chasing Queen of Lamar County, Harrington, Janice N., \$16.00, Farrar, Grades K-3

A young African American farm girl tries to catch her favorite chicken, until she learns something about the hen that makes her change her ways. As summer goes on, she finds Miss Hen's nest in the tall green grass. She has fuzzy chicks "cuddling tight beneath her wing," and

Notables 2007

although it would be easy to grab her, the child makes a more mature decision and resists the temptation. **Open Court: Country Life**

Close to the Wind: the Beaufort Scale, Malone, Peter, \$16.00, Putnam, Grades 4-6

Describes Francis Beaufort's creation of the Beaufort wind force scale in 1810; presents fictional diary entries by a twelve-year-old nineteenth-century midshipman that describe conditions aboard ship at each of the scale's twelve levels; and includes facts on the construction of a man-of-war and the daily lives of English sailors. Illustrated with full page paintings.

Comets, Stars, the Moon and Mars: Space Poems and Paintings, Florian, Doug, \$15.00, Harcourt, Grades K-5

A collection of twenty whimsical poems about comets, the stars, moon, and the planets. Illustrations are rendered in blues and flame reds, with collage accents. **Open Court: Astronomy**

Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam, Kadohata, Cynthia, \$17.00, Atheneum, Grades 5-8

Based on a true story, this novel chronicles the life of Cracker, an intelligent, yet stubborn bomb-sniffing German shepherd, his military handler, Rick, a young soldier in Vietnam, and Cracker's boy, Willie. The story alternates viewpoints; from Cracker to Willie and then to Rick. Hellish conditions of the Vietnam War are realistically depicted.

Darkwing, Opiel, Kenneth, \$17.00, EOS, Grades 5-8

Taking place 65 million years ago, Dusk, the world's first bat, must lead his colony to safety in a time of changing species. A prequel to the *Silverwing* series.

Deep Cut, The, Spain, Susan R., \$17.00, M. Cavendish (2006), Grades 5-8

Considered "slow" by his father, Lonzo tries his best to help his family in Culpeper, Virginia, during the Civil War and, in the process, comes to some decisions about how to live his life. A fast read that should hold readers.

Diary of a Fly, Cronin, Doreen, \$17.00, Joanna Cotler Bks., Grades PreK-3

A young fly discovers, day by day, that there is a lot to learn about being an insect, including the dangers of flyswatters and that heroes come in all shapes and sizes.

Dimity Dumpty: the Story of Humpty's Little Sister, Graham, Bob, \$16.00, Candlewick, Grades PreK-2

Humpty Dumpty's little sister is too shy to be part of her family's circus act, but she finds courage when her brother needs her help. Children will wait to see how Humpty has his great fall, unexpectedly, he is tagging, spray painting his name on a wall. Despite a grim prognosis, he is saved by Dimity, who comes out of her shell (figuratively) to get the help he needs. **Open Court: Sharing Stories**

Dinosaurs, Long, John, \$16.00, Simon & Schuster, Grades 3-5

A guide to dinosaurs, looking at the different eras of dinosaur life, discussing dinosaur anatomy, survival, flight, parenting, and record-breakers, tracing the history of dinosaur discovery, and featuring profiles of selected meat- and plant-eating dinosaurs. Includes three-dimensional illustrations.

Dizzy, Winter, Jonah, \$17.00, Scholastic (2006), Grades 3-6

A picture book biography of jazz great Dizzy Gillespie is told in the syncopated rhythms of bebop. Focuses on Dizzy's journey from a target of bullies to innovator, trumpeter and singer. Illustrated with acrylic and collage. **Open Court: Beyond the Notes**

Dogs and Cats, Jenkins, Steve, \$16.00, Houghton, Grades K-5

Read about cats, then flip the oversize book over and read about dogs! The two works highlight comparisons between dogs and cats. The animals meet in the middle in a double-page spread that

Notables 2007

shows them harmoniously sharing a space. Illustrated with Jenkins signature dynamic and detailed collage artwork showing dogs and cats of all shapes and sizes and packed with personality.

Dragon's Keep, Carey, Janet Lee, \$17.00, Harcourt, Grades 6+

A medieval fantasy set in 1145 A.D. that features beautiful young Rosalind, who will be the twenty-first Pendragon Queen of Wilde Island. She has much to accomplish to fulfill her destiny, as foretold by Merlin, while hiding a dragon's claw she was born with that reflects a dark secret from her mother. This is a fantasy adventure featuring a strong female character that is difficult to put down.

Dragonsdale, Drake, Salamanda, \$17.00, ChickenHouse/Scholastic, Grades 3-6

Cara loves taking care of the dragons in her father's stable even though she has been forbidden to ride since the accident that caused her mother's death, but rather than just watch as all her friends begin preparing their dragons for the Island Championships, she decides to train the wild dragon Skydancer in secret.

Dumpster Diver, The, Wong, Janet S., \$17.00, Candlewick, Grades K-3

Once a month, every week in the summer, Steve the electrician puts on special gear and, with the help of youngsters who live in his building, dives into a dumpster seeking useful objects that they can transform into imaginative new ones. This humorous adventure will cause young readers to look at the castoffs in their neighborhood with new eyes. **Open Court: Imagination**

Edwardo, The Horriblest Boy in the Whole Wide World, Burningham, John, 17.00, Knopf, 2006, Gr K-3

Edwardo is a pretty typical kid, somewhat messy, clumsy, noisy, and sometimes a little rascal. Adults around him begin to call him the horriblest boy and he rises to the occasion. When he accidentally does something kind, he begins to receive positive reinforcement and his habits change for the better. Witty illustrations compliment the story. Provides insight on the impact of hastily chosen words.

Edward's Eyes, MacLachlan, Patricia, \$15.00, Grades 4-6

Jake and Edward are brothers in a large and close family that loves baseball, music, books, and each other. When Edward unexpectedly dies, the entire family suffers, especially Jake. When the parents donate Edward's organs, Jake has a difficult time until he realizes that his brother's wonderful eyes have gone to a perfect recipient.

Elijah of Buxton, Curtis, Christopher Paul, \$17.00, Scholastic, Grades 3-6

Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat, Jonelle, Lynne, \$17.00, Holt, Grades 3-6

When Emmy discovers that she and her formerly loving parents are being drugged by their evil nanny with rodent potions that can change people in frightening ways, she and some new friends must try everything possible to return things to normal.

The End, LaRochelle, David, \$17.00, Scholastic, Grades K-3

A circular story told in reverse, starting with the happy ending, a wedding attended by a host of interesting fairy-tale characters. This play on traditional fairy tales provides an opportunity for children to predict the unexpected ending! Illustrated with handsome and humorous artwork, this is a good read-aloud choice. **Open Court: Sharing Stories**

Notables 2007

The Entertainer and the Dybbuk, Fleischman, Sid, \$17.00, Greenwillow, Grades 6-9

A struggling American ventriloquist in post-World War II Europe is possessed by the mischievous spirit of a young Jewish boy killed in the Holocaust. Includes author's note which details the murder of over one million children by the Nazis during the 1930s and 1940s.

Epossumondas Saves the Day, Salley, Coleen, \$16.00, Harcourt (2006), Grades K-3

This is a high-spirited Louisiana version of the traditional folktale, *Sody Sallyraytus* that is great fun to read aloud! A huge snapping turtle gulps down birthday party guests one by one until the little possum, Epossumondas, saves the day. Illustrated with hilarious mixed-media artwork.

Escape of Oney Judge: Martha Washington's Slave Finds Freedom, The, McCully, Emily A., \$16.00, Farrar, Grades 3-5

Young Oney Judge risks everything to escape a life of slavery in the household of George and Martha Washington and to make her own way as a free black woman. Oney's story is enhanced by detailed watercolor paintings that create a good sense of household life and the rising issues of slavery in these early days of the new republic. Includes an author's note. **Open Court: Risks and Consequences**

Every Year on Your Birthday, Lewis, Rose, \$16.00, Little Brown, Grades PreK-2

Each year on the birthday of her adopted Chinese daughter, a mother recalls the moments they have shared, from the first toy to the friends left behind in China. Beautifully designed with framed scenes and boxed sequences of her growth and concluding with the Chinese character for "family" which is a synonym for "home".

Extreme Animals: The Toughest Creatures on Earth, Davies, Nicola, \$13.00, Candlewick (2006), Grades 3-6

Describes the physical characteristics and biological processes that enable particular animals to survive in extremely hot and cold climates. Illustrated with colorful cartoon artwork that will pull kids into this fascinating book about survival.

Face to Face with Caterpillars, Murowski, Darlyne A., \$17.00, National Geographic, Grades 3-6

An introduction to caterpillars, discussing where they live, what they look like, what they eat, how they defend themselves, and what they need to survive. Illustrated with vivid, up close photographs.

Face to Face with Grizzlies, Sartone, Joel, \$17.00, National Geographic, Grades 3-6

Joel Sartore describes his experiences with bears while on assignment for "National Geographic" magazine, and provides basic information about bears' bodies, habitats, and behavior, as well as environmental and human factors that endanger bears. Includes animal conservation ideas.

Finn's Going, Kelly, Tom, \$17.00, Greenwillow, Grades 5-8

A ten-year-old English boy decides to run away after the sadness at home becomes unbearable following the death of his twin brother. Days later he returns after accepting his own grief.

Fox, Banks, Kate, \$16.00, Farrar, Grades PreK-1

A baby fox anticipates the time when he can go out alone, but first his parents must teach him the ways of the wilderness. Through the young fox's eyes, the reader observes the shifting seasons. Rich, color-saturated paintings show the fox family and their natural world. **Open Court: Animals**

Fred Stays With Me!, Coffelt, Nancy, \$17.00, Little Brown, Grades K-3

A child describes how she lives sometimes with her mother and sometimes with her father, but her dog is her constant companion. Told in a first-person narrative, playful art shows the mayhem

Notables 2007

Fred causes and the power he gives the child because he will never leave her. Illustrations rendered in soft watercolor perfectly complement the quiet story, bringing humor to the story.

Gilda Joyce: the Ghost Sonata, Allison, Jennifer, \$16.00, Dutton, Grades 5-8

Teen detective Gilda Joyce's best friend Wendy Choy qualifies to compete in an international piano competition in Oxford, England, and Gilda is determined to go as well, as a page turner. Suspense builds along with much romantic comedy.

Good Day , A , Henkes, Kevin, \$17.00, Greenwillow, Grades PreK-1

Contrary to the title, the story starts out with a calamity. A bird, a fox, a dog, and a squirrel overcome some minor setbacks and end up having a very good day. Simple details enhance the illustrations. A fine read aloud choice.

Good Masters, Sweet Ladies: Voices from a Medieval Village, Schlitz, Laura Amy, \$17.00, Candlewick, Grades 4-8

A collection of short interconnected monologues featuring characters, between ten and fifteen years old, who live in or near a thirteenth-century English manor. The dialogue helps students step directly into the shoes of medieval children. Designed for performance and excellent for use in teaching history. Illustrations present images of the era and provide ideas for appropriate costuming and props.

Good Sports: Rhymes About Running, Jumping, Throwing, and More, Prelutsky, Jack, \$17.00, Knopf, Grades K-3

These brief, untitled poems are presented across colorful spreads and describe the experiences and emotions of young athletes as they participate in a variety of physical pursuits, including soccer, football, ice skating, and gymnastics. A collection that may convince children that poetry can be fun. A great read aloud just before recess! **Open Court: Games**

Green as a Bean, Kuskin, Karla, \$17.00, HarperCollins, PreK-1

Questions in verse about the many things you could be if you were square or soft or loud or red or small or fat or fierce or dark are answered in rhyme. Illustrated with bright, fanciful acrylic paintings.

Growing Story, The, Krauss, Ruth, \$17.00, HarperCollins, Grades PreK-K

A little boy worries throughout the summer that he's not getting bigger, but at the end of the season he tries on his winter clothes and realizes that he has grown. Illustrated with detailed watercolor artwork. This renewed version of the classic text by Krauss (1947) captures the gentle spirit of the original text.

Half a World Away, Gleeson, Abby, \$16.00, Scholastic, Grades K-3

Amy and Louie are best friends. When Amy moves from Australia to New York City, the friends miss each other dreadfully. Louie wonders if Amy will hear their special call even though she is 'half a world away.' His call goes up into clouds that look like dragons and wild seahorses. The clouds float out over the ocean, all the way to New York, where Amy wakes and tells her parents, "I had a lovely dream. . . I dreamt about Louie and he called me." A comforting story for newly separated friends. **Open Court: Friendship**

Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent: How Daring Slaves and Free Blacks Spied for the Union During the Civil War, Allen, Thomas B., Nat'l Geographic, \$19.00, Grades 5-8

The story of Harriet Tubman's various roles as a spy, secret agent, and leader is set against the stage of the abolitionist movement and the Civil War. It also presents the ways that ex-slaves and free blacks served the Union cause. The spy action is at the heart of this small volume and it is illustrated with primary source artwork consisting of images, maps, and woodcuts.

Notables 2007

Heat Wave, Spinelli, Eileen, \$16.00, Harcourt, Grades K-3

Abigail, Ralphie, and the other citizens of Lumberville struggle to endure a week-long heat wave in a time long before air conditioners. "Townpeople, kids, and dogs try a variety of ways to cool down and finally all camp out on the riverbank dreaming of a break in the weather. Stark white pages provide the perfect backdrop for fresh, vivid watercolor cartoons, with the final page displaying splashes of refreshing blue raindrops." *School Library Journal*

Henry's Freedom Box: a True Story from the Underground Railroad, Levine, Ellen, , \$17.00, Scholastic, Grades 2-5

A poignant story about a young boy growing up as a slave, sold and sent away from his family, and ultimately separated from his wife and children. He decides to mail himself in a box to a sympathetic supporter in Philadelphia. With the help of a white doctor, he is successful in his adventure. Illustrated with full spread paintings. **Open Court: Survival**

Here's a Little Poem: a Very First Book of Poetry, Yolen, Jane, Collector, \$22.00, Candlewick, Grades PreK-K

A collection of poems for children and are arranged with themes of self, family, going outside, and when it is time for bed. The poetry is witty, intelligent, and well crafted, and perfect for children in preschool and kindergarten. The illustrations use a wide range of mediums and techniques, and are perfectly suited to the selections.

How it Happened in Peach Hill, Jocelyn, Marthe, \$16.00, Random, Grades 5-8

When fifteen-year-old Annie Grey and her "clairvoyant" mother arrive in Peach Hill, New York, in 1924, each finds a reason for wanting to finally settle down, but to reach their goals they will have to do some serious lying and Annie will have to stand up for herself.

How To Bake an American Pie, Wilson, Karma, \$17.00, McElderry, Grades 2-4

A cat and a dog follow a unique recipe to make an American pie using the attributes of America and Americans. The rhyming text includes phrases from *America the Beautiful* and is enhanced by whimsical full page color artwork, making this a read aloud choice. Use this title to introduce immigration units.

How to Be a Baby...By Me the Big Sister, Lloyd-Jones, Sally, \$16.00, Random, Grades K-3

An all-knowing big sister gives her baby sibling lessons in being a baby. All along it's obvious that her comments hide a lot of love. The humorous cartoon-like artwork features acrylic paint, crayon, and felt-tip pen.

How to Steal a Dog, O'Conner, Barbara, \$16.00, FSG, Grades 4-7

Living in the family car in their small North Carolina town after their father leaves them virtually penniless, Georgina, desperate to improve their situation and unwilling to accept her overworked mother's calls for patience, persuades her younger brother to help her in an elaborate scheme to get money by stealing a dog and then claiming the reward that the owners are bound to offer.

Hurry! Hurry!, Bunting, Eve, \$16.00, Harcourt, PreK-1

As a baby chick is hatching, the proud hen urges the farm animals to hurry! hurry! in and observe. In just a few power-packed words, Bunting skillfully ramps up the energy, from the hen's first excited call and the hush while the chick is hatching to the resounding "Welcome!" that the animals shout to the barnyard's newest arrival. The bright paintings help to tell the story with details and humor. **PreK Open Court: At the Farm**

I am Not Joey Pigza, Gantos, Jack, \$16.00, FSG, Grades 5-8

Joey's father returns, calling himself Charles Heinz and apologizing for his past bad behavior, and he swears that once Joey and his mother change their names and help him fix up the old diner he

Notables 2007

has bought, their lives will change for the better.

Imagine Harry, Klise, Kate, \$16.00, Harcourt, Grades PreK-2

After Little Rabbit starts school, he sees less and less of his invisible friend, Harry, and finally tells his mother that Harry moved away. **Open Court: Finding Friends**

Incredible Book Eating Boy, The, Jeffers, Oliver, \$17.00, Philomel, Grades K-3

Henry loves to eat books, until he begins to feel quite ill and decides that maybe he could do something else with the books he has been devouring. Illustrated with artwork constructed from the pages of old discarded books and a big bite out of the back cover.

Invention Of Hugo Cabret: a Novel in Words and Pictures, The, Selznick, Brian, \$23.00, Scholastic, Grades 4-8

Part graphic novel, part narrative, this is a fantasy that grabs the reader and holds him tight. Hugo is an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931. He meets a mysterious toy-seller and his goddaughter and his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized. Generously illustrated with detailed silvery pencil drawings.

Jack and the Beanstalk, Nesbit, E., \$14.00, Candlewick (2006), Grades K-3

An elegant retelling of the English fairytale, originally published in 1908 in *The Old Nursery Stories*, using rich language to depict an endearing, but lazy, ne'er-do-well who turns folly into triumph. Realistic pencil and watercolor illustrations.

Jack Plank Tells Tales, Babbitt, Natalie, \$16.00, Scholastic, Grades 2-6

Because he is too nice to be a pirate, Jack Plank looks for a new career, but each night he tells tales of why the one job he looked into that day is wrong. Some of the tales, which beg to be read aloud, will leave listeners arguing about what really happened while others will make them smile.

Jazz on a Saturday Night, Dillon, Leo & Diane, \$17.00, Blue Sky Press, Grades 2-4

A crowd gathers on a Saturday night to groove to an evening of jazz played by a "Dream Team" of musicians including Miles Davis on trumpet, Max Roach on drums, Charlie Parker on alto saxophone, John Coltrane on his sax, Thelonius Monk on piano, Stanley Parker on bass, and Ella Fitzgerald at the microphone. Includes a companion CD.

Just Grace, Harper, Charise M., \$15.00, Houghton, Grades 2-4

Named "Just Grace" by her harried teacher to distinguish her from the other two Graces in the class, third-grader Grace prides herself on being empathetic, but when she tries to help a neighbor feel better, her good intentions backfire. She secretly tries to cheer up her neighbor and gets accused of kidnapping her cat instead. This short chapter book is illustrated with humorous cartoon artwork.

Land of the Silver Apples, The, Farmer, Nancy, \$19.00, Atheneum, Grades 5-8

After escaping from the Sea of Trolls, the apprentice bard Jack plunges into a new series of adventures, traveling underground to Elfland and uncovering the truth about his little sister Lucy. NOTE: This is the middle volume of a trilogy.

Leaves, Stein, David Ezra, \$15.00, Putnam, Grades PreK-1

A bear who has never experienced autumn before is puzzled by the falling leaves, unsure whether he should try to put them back or use them as a bed for a nap. "Simple, declarative sentences and expressive small-scale pictures blend beautifully in this sweet story about a young bear experiencing his first full cycle of seasons. Bamboo pen and earth-toned watercolors are used to great effect to depict the setting of a tiny island with a few trees." *School Library Journal* **Open Court: Weather**

Notables 2007

Legend of Lao Tzu and the Tao Te Ching, The, Demi, \$22.00, M.K. McElderry Books, Grades 4-7

Introduces children to the life and teachings of Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu, who is credited with creating the Tao Te Ching. Clear, concise writing, thoughtfully considered design, and striking illustrations. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations**

Let it Shine: Three Favorite Spirituals, Bryan, Ashley, \$17.00, Atheneum, 2- 5

Bright collage illustrations accompany the lyrics of three well-known spirituals: *This Little Light of Mine*, *When the Saints Go Marching In*, and *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*. Includes a brief music score and a short history of slave songs before the Civil War. A useful addition when studying African-American culture and folklore, or just for singing.

Letters from the Corrugated Castle, Blos, Joan W., \$18.00, Atheneum, Grades 4-8

This novel, told through letters and newspaper articles, is an engaging story set during the California Gold Rush of the 1850s. Eldora, an orphan, moves with her guardians to San Francisco, where she befriends two Mexicano children, one, a boy searching for gold. She discovers she is not an orphan but the daughter of an influential land-owner. Issues of prejudice recur as one of the Mexicano children is killed by a hateful miner and a Jewish shop owner is driven out of town by repeated vandalism.

Lightship, Floca, Brian, \$17.00, Atheneum, Grades K-2

Illustrations and simple text tell the story of lightships that were used in place of lighthouses in order to safely guide ships into port. Watercolor drawings show the daily life aboard one of these ships, cooking, sleeping, working, all the while rolling with the rhythm of the waves. **Open Court: Things That Go**

Little People and a Lost World: An Anthropological Mystery, Goldenberg, Linda, \$29.00, 21st Century (2006), Grades 5-8

Archaeologists examine a humanlike skeleton excavated from a cave on Flores Island in Indonesia that turned out to be an adult woman of extremely small stature, and studies evidence to the discovery of a race of small humans 12,000 years ago. Students will find the plentiful color illustrations, including color photographs and diagrams appealing.

Long Gone Lonesome History of Country Music, The, Bertholf, Bret, \$19.00, Little Brown, Gr 3-6

A tongue-in-cheek history of American country music that features brief profiles of country music legends, a how to yodel section, short sections about the types of country music (gospel, honky-tonk, rock-a-billy, bluegrass, and more) as well as country words, dances, and a chance to create some original country music lyrics. Illustrated with caricatures. **Open Court: Beyond the Notes**

Look at You! A Baby Body Book, Henderson, Kathy, \$16.00, Candlewick, Grade PreK

An offering that lyrically commemorates a small child's amazing feats, from crawling to clapping to exploring food with their entire bodies. Told in rhyming text. The illustrations look at the many things babies learn about their bodies and feelings. This is a good choice for individual or small group sharing. **PreK Open Court: I'm Special**

Lucia and the Light, Root, Phyllis, \$17.00, Candlewick (2006), Grades K-3

One winter in the Far North the Sun disappears and Lucia, accompanied by her milk-white cat, braves the freezing cold and trolls who want to eat her, trying to find the Sun and bring it back. Illustrated with soft, fluid multi-colored paintings that convey both danger and sunlight-filled safety and warmth.

Notables 2007

Lucky Jake, Addy, Sharon, \$17.00, Houghton, Grades K-3

While panning for gold with his Pa, Jake adopts a pig that he names Dog. A chain of events is set off that leads to prosperity. While Pa talks about good luck, Jake believes more in action. Illustrated with pastel artwork that presents different perspectives.

Mama for Owen, A, Bauer, Marion Dane, \$16.00, Simon & Schuster, Grades PreK-1

When the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami separates a young African hippopotamus from his mother, he finds a new snuggle partner in Mzee the giant tortoise. Based on a true story. "Butler's feathery illustrations, featuring smiling, doe-eyed animals rendered in soft tones of butter, rose, and lavender, hint at the sunny outcome even during the story's troubling opening scenes." *Booklist*

Open Court: Finding Friends

Marley: a Dog Like no Other, Grogan, John, \$18.00, Grades 4-7

A special adaptation of the author's book *Marley & Me* for young readers, in which he shares the story of his golden retriever Marley, and tells of the love his family has for the dog. Written with real affection and humor, this tender tribute to a dog "with stinky breath and bad manners" will win the hearts of even those who aren't dog lovers.

Me I Am!, Prelutsky, Jack, \$16.00, Farrar, Grades PreK-2

An illustrated, children's poem which celebrates individuality. Bright, energetic illustrations celebrate the kids' distinctly different interests (rollerskating, examining bugs, dancing). **Open Court PreK: I'm Special**

Mercy Watson Fights Crime, DiCamillo, Kate, \$13.00, Candlewick (2006), Grades K-3

Mercy the pig's love of buttered toast leads to the capture of a small thief who would rather be a cowboy. Another adventure in an early chapter book that will engage beginning readers and build

Mr. Pusskins: A Love Story, Lloyd, Sam, \$15.00, Atheneum, Grades PreK-1

Mr. Pusskins is a cat full of full attitude. He hates doing ordinary cat things such as playing with his owner Emily but a night out on the streets in search of adventure makes him reconsider the advantages of a loving home. The bright illustrations capture this fluffy cat in all of his grouchy glory. Good read aloud choice.

Mr. Putter and Tabby See the Stars, Cynthia Rylant, \$14.00, Harcourt, Grades 1-2

Mr. Putter and Tabby find they are not the only ones awake when they go for a walk at midnight to cure Mr. Putter's pineapple-jelly-roll-induced insomnia. Soft pencil sketches colored with watercolor and gouache energize the story and add to the fun. An excellent choice for beginning and developing readers.

My Dog is as Smelly as Dirty Socks: and Other Funny Family Portraits, Piven, Hanokh, \$16.00, Schwartz & Wade, Grades 2-4

A young girl draws a family portrait, then makes it more accurate by adding common objects to show aspects of each member's personality, such as her father's playfulness, her mother's sweetness, and her brother's strength. An excellent model for writing and creating unique family portraits.

My Life as a Chicken, Kelley, Ellen A., \$15.00, Harcourt, Grades K-3

After escaping the frying pan, a chicken has an adventure that includes pirates, a typhoon, and a balloon ride before landing happily in a petting zoo. The rhyming text is enhanced with digital mixed-media illustrations.

Notables 2007

Mysterious Benedict Society, The, Stewart, Trenton Lee, , \$17.00, Little, Brown, Grades 4-8

A curious newspaper ad advertising special opportunities for the gifted catches the eye of orphan Reynie Muldoon. He is selected for a crack team to complete an important mission, to infiltrate the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened and to discover its secrets. In addition to grand adventure, the book also tackles personal concerns: abandonment, family, loyalty, and facing one's fears. Smart kids are the natural audience for this; but, read aloud, the novel will attract many others as well.

Nini Here and There, Lobel, Anita, \$18.00, Greenwillow, Grades PreK-2

Fearing at first that her family is going on vacation without her, Nini the cat ends up traveling with her owners to their new home. Illustrated with vibrant watercolor artwork, this is a comforting story about new beginnings.

No Talking, Clements, Andrew, \$16.00, S&S, Grades 3-6

The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest. The experiment takes on a life of its own, as the collective action turns into civil disobedience when the oppressive principal decides to put a stop to it. By the end, the two camps have become more allies than rivals.

Not in Room 204, Riggs, Shannon, \$16.00, Whitman,

A teacher tells the children in her class to talk to an adult if they are being sexually abused. Regina arrives early at Room 204 to confide her secret, which involves her father. The story ends on a hopeful note. The strength in this book is in the sensitivity of its presentation. Illustrated with clear, bright illustrations. A helpful picture book to raise children's awareness of sexual abuse without raising anxiety.

Nothing But Trouble: the Story of Althea Gibson, Stauffacher, Sue, \$17.00, Knopf, Grades 2-5

Explores the life and achievements of Althea Gibson. "Bursting across Couch's impressionistic Harlem street scenes in a blaze of color, the rangy, grinning young Gibson, the first African-American tennis player, male or female, to win at Wimbledon, seems ready to jump right off the pages of this high-energy profile." *Kirkus* **Open Court: Cooperation and Competition**

O.K. Book, The, Rosenthal, Amy Krause, \$15.00, HarperCollins, Grades PreK-2

A character enumerates a great many things that it enjoys doing, although not great at any of them, knowing that someday it will excel at something. Simplicity of illustrations.

On Meadowview Street, Cole, Henry, \$18.00, Greenwillow, Grades K-2

Upon moving to a new house, young Caroline and her parents encourage wildflowers to grow and birds and animals to stay in their yard, which soon has the whole suburban street living up to its name. Illustrated with watercolor artwork show how the garden grows and how she begins to connect with other children in the neighborhood. **Open Court: City Wildlife**

On My Journey Now: Looking at African American History Through the Spirituals, Giovanni, Nikki, \$19.00, Candlewick, Grades 5-8

Nikki Giovanni celebrates the courage, strength and character of Africans in America through the inspirational words of the spirituals. She traces how the people in bondage created the great spirituals to tell their stories, and what the songs still mean to us today. Includes words to songs. **Open Court: Survival**

Once Upon a Banana, Armstrong, Jennifer, \$17.00, S&S (2006), Grades K-4

A chain of chaotic events begins when a juggler's monkey grabs a banana from a shopkeeper's display and tosses the peel aside. The nearly wordless story is helped along by rhyming street signs and detailed watercolor artwork in a cartoon style. In the end, a garbage truck careens with

Notables 2007

a truckload of bananas and all the characters gather for a banana feast! A good selection for teaching prediction skills.

One Well: the Story of Water on Earth, Strauss, Rochelle, \$18.00, Kids Can Pr., Grades 3-6

Tells the story of Earth's water, introducing the concept of the planet's water as being contained in one well, and discussing the importance of water to survival of plants, animals, and people, recycling, access to water, pollution, and conservation. Illustrated with bright paintings that often present a birds-eye view. **Open Court: Ecology**

Orange Pear Apple Bear, Gravett, Emily, \$13.00, S&S, Grades PreK-1

Using just 5 words, four in the title and a concluding word, a charming and unique story is born. The simple text explores concepts of color, shape, and sequence as the bear plays with and ultimately eats the orange, pear, and apple. Illustrated in loose line and watercolor art.

Our Liberty Bell, Magaziner, Henry Jonas, \$16.00, Holiday House, Grades 4-6

Tells the story of the Liberty Bell, discussing its role in the origins of the United States, and looking at how it became a symbol of American freedom. Illustrated with black line drawings that bring a flavor of the Revolutionary period and beyond. **Open Court: Making a New Nation**

Perfect Day, A, Charlip, Remy, \$18.00, Greenwillow, Grades PreK-2

"A child and parent explore all the possibilities of a single day together, taking walks, eating, playing, painting, staring up at the clouds, and contemplating books they've read. The simple rhyming text floats by like a breeze, and the watercolor illustrations gently glow."- **Hornbook**

Perfect Nest, The, Friend, Catherine, \$17.00, Candlewick, Grades K-3

Jack the cat builds perfect nest in the hopes of luring a chicken who might lay an egg for a delicious omelet. He attracts a Spanish-speaking chicken, a French-speaking duck, and an all-American goose. Each bird lays an egg but in the end, none are willing to leave the nest. When Jack finally figures out how to get the birds to move, the eggs hatch and he is imprinted as their parent. Bright illustrations add to the humor of the story. **Open Court: Finding Friends**

Pictures from our Vacation, Perkins, Lynne Rae, \$18.00, Greenwillow, Grades 2-5

Given a camera that takes and prints tiny pictures just before leaving for the family farm in Canada, a young girl records a vacation that gets off to a slow start, but winds up being a family reunion filled with good memories. Illustrated with brightly hued, detailed pen and ink and watercolor pictures.

Pierre in Love, Pennypacker, Sara, \$17.00, Orchard, Grades K-2

Feeling "bloopy and love-swoggled" in the presence of Catherine, a rabbit and the elegant ballet teacher, Pierre, a humble mouse fisherman tries to muster the courage to reveal his affection for her. He dresses up and admits his love, but she has already given her heart to a rugged fisherman, who, in the end, turns out to be Pierre.

Pocket Babies & Other Amazing Marsupials, Collard, III, Sneed B., \$19.00, Darby Creek, Grades 3-7

Teaches about the marsupials of the world, including opossums, kangaroos, koalas, and others. Numerous full-color photos break up the text, and organizational charts help readers understand the complex classification system.

Porc in New York, A, Stock, Catherine, \$17.00, Holiday, Grades K-3

Monsieur Monmouton and his shepherd dog Cabot head to New York in pursuit of the farm animals that have taken off on a sightseeing trip, but Monsieur's focus on catching the wayward animals wavers when he meets an attractive waitress at the Kool Kat Klub. The story is fun, and the expansive, exuberant artwork is a wonderful compliment to the story. **Open Court: Journeys**

Notables 2007

Probuditi!, Van Allsburg, Chris, \$19.00, Houghton (2006), Grades K-3

On his birthday, Calvin and his friend Rodney see a magician perform, then copy him by hypnotizing Calvin's little sister, but the joke is on them when they are unable to snap her out of it. While Calvin is howling at the memory of his sister "barking and drooling," it is she who has the very satisfying last laugh (offstage). Illustrated with textured pastel and pencil drawings. Another excellent read aloud choice.

Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea, Montgomery, Sy, \$18.00, Houghton (2006), Grades 4-8

Full-color, illustrated photographs provide detailed information on the search for the tree kangaroo in Papua New Guinea's cloud forest, and describes its habits, behaviors, and characteristics. Presents an exemplary description of science field work. **Open Court: Ecology**

Rainstorm, Lehman, Barbara, Houghton, \$14.00, Grades 2-4

In this wordless picture book, a boy finds a mysterious key which leads him on a rainy day adventure. Illustrated in brightly colored, simple watercolor, gouache, and ink artwork that combines full-page images, spreads, and pages of sequential panels. This appealing rainy day tale will stir the imagination of those who have ever looked for something to do on a gloomy day.

Ready, Set, Skip, O'Conner, Jane, \$17.00, Viking, Grades PreK-1

Told in rhyming text, this is the story of a little girl who is an accomplished whistler, soap-bubble blower, and skater, just can't skip. Mom comes to the rescue and shows her a special trick that is successful. Bright artwork compliments the story. **PreK Open Court: I'm Special, Open Court: Keep Trying**

Reconstruction, Ruggiero, Adriane, \$26.00, Benchmark, 2007, Grades 5-8

Various primary source documents, such as diary entries, newspaper accounts, political speeches, laws, popular songs, and personal letters, present the history of the era of Reconstruction in the United States. Includes discussion questions.

Saving the Buffalo, Marrin, Albert, \$17.00, Scholastic (2006), Grades 4-8

Provides vivid details as the history of the buffalo is traced, tells how they reached near-extinction in the nineteenth century, discusses the various causes, and explains the slow recovery with the help of the early conservationist movement. Illustrated with a wide variety of primary sources, photographs, and period paintings. **Open Court: Going West**

Second Is A Hiccup: A Child's Book of Time, Hutchins, Hazel, A \$17.00, Scholastic, Grades K-2

Playful rhyming text helps children comprehend units of time, presenting lively examples of what can happen in the span of a second, a minute, an hour, a day, a week, a month, a year, and a whole childhood. Illustrated with bright watercolor artwork making this an excellent read-aloud and a great choice when children are learning about time.

Secret World of Hildegard, The, Winter, Jonah, \$16.00, Arthur A. Levine, Grades 1-4

An introduction to the life of Hildegard of Bingen, who lived in a time when women were expected to serve and obey men, but through her courage, she became one of the greatest mystics and composers of the medieval age.

Seed is Sleepy, A, Aston, Dianna H., A \$17.00, Chronicle, Grades 1-4

An introduction to seeds; explaining their varying shapes and sizes, where they are found, and their life cycles. Detailed watercolors are accompanied by text written on two reading levels, one for younger readers, and one with details for older readers.

Notables 2007

Shark Girl, Bingham, Kelly, \$19.00, Candlewick, Grades 6+

“Conversations, letters, and prose poems tell the story of fifteen-year-old artist Jane's recovery from a shark attack and adjustment to life as an amputee. We read letters from sympathizers (after a bystander's video is televised) and feel the sting of pity. Jane's slowly growing comfort with herself is realistically portrayed. Nicely drawn relationships round out the involving, affecting story.” *Horn Book* **Open Court: Perseverance**

Skyscraper, Curlee, Lynn, \$18.00, Atheneum, Grades 4-8

Presents a history of skyscrapers around the world including the Pyramids of Giza, the Eiffel Tower, and the Empire State Building in New York. Nearly every spread features a full page of text opposite an impressive acrylic illustration.

Slavery and Resistance, Jordan, Anne D., \$24.00, Benchmark, Grades 5-8

Describes the history of slavery in the Americas from the early colonial times to the end of the Civil War and Emancipation. Describes Jamestown and how both whites and blacks, servants and slaves, worked the land. The information flows seamlessly from detailing how African Americans came to this new country to explaining how slavery spread and took hold, and describing slavery during the Revolution and what life was like for slaves in both the North and the South. Illustrated with paintings and photos. **Open Court: Survival**

Slugs In Love, Pearson, Susan, \$17.00, M. Cavendish (2006), Grades PreK-3

Two garden slugs write love poems in slime to one another but have trouble actually meeting. The artwork incorporates markers, colored pencils and Photoshop to comically characterize the slugs with accessories so they can be easily identified.

Snow Baby: The Arctic Childhood of Admiral Robert E. Peary's Daring Daughter, The, Kirkpatrick, Katherine, \$17.00, Holiday, Grades 4-8

Chronicles the childhood of Marie Ahnighito, the daughter of Admiral Robert E. Peary, who was born in an Inuit village in northern Greenland and spent the next few years making friends with Inuit children, playing on the region's glacial cliffs, and living a life unlike other Victorian children. The text chronicles the beauty of the region as well as the adventure and danger faced by the Peary family. Historic family photos and maps enhance the story. **Open Court: Survival**

Tasting the Sky, Barakat, Ibtisam, \$16.00, Farrar, Grades 7+

The memoir of a Palestinian woman's childhood from 1967 to 1970 told in vignettes through a pair of letters from herself as a high school student in 1981. Careful choice of episodes and details brings to life a Palestinian world that may be unfamiliar to American readers, but which they will come to know and appreciate.

Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos, LaFevers, R.L., \$16.00, Houghton, Grades 5-8

Eleven-year-old Theodosia has the ability to detect black magic and ancient curses that are attached to objects in the Museum of Legends and Antiquities, of which her father is the curator, and discovers that a new artifact from Egypt is cursed and she must return it to the tomb it was excavated from before it destroys the British Empire.

This is Just to Say: Poems of Apology and Forgiveness, Sidman, Joyce, \$15.00, HoughtonMifflin, Gr 4-7

A collection of poems written by a number of 6th grade students who write poems of apology to someone, and a collection of responses in poetry form. Illustrated with collage drawings and paintings created on mixed backgrounds.

Tinderbox, The, Mitchell, Stephen, ret., \$18.00, Candlewick, Grades 2-5

An illustrated retelling of the Hans Christian Andersen story in which a soldier, helped along by a magic tinderbox, finds a fortune and pursues a princess imprisoned in a castle. The pen drawings,

Notables 2007

washed in muted colors, resemble lithographs and have an old-fashioned look.

Today and Today, Issa, Kobayashi, \$17.00, Scholastic, Grades 1-3

A collection of short illustrated haiku poems that tell of an ordinary year in the life of one family, and that describe each season. Each section is introduced by the changing branch of a cherry tree and illustrated with artwork that brings a sense of quiet and contemplation. **Open Court: Weather (Seasonal Patterns)**

Today at the Blue-Bird Café: a Branchfull of Birds, Ruddell, Deborah, \$16.00, McElderry, Grades

A collection of twenty-two children's poems about birds including blue jays, toucans, and cockatoos. Each poem is presented along with a humorous watercolor illustration, and together they address characteristics of different birds. Use as an introduction to poetry, or in beginning a research project on birds.

Top Job, The, Kimmel, Elizabeth, \$16.00, Dutton, Grades 1-4

On Career Day, a young girl entertains the class with a description of her father's exciting job as light bulb changer at the top of the Empire State Building. Brings in themes of standing up for yourself, responding to rudeness and bragging, and girls who are talented mathematicians. Clear, bright illustrations and a great read aloud. **Open Court: Our Neighborhood at Work**

Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion, Burns, Loree G., \$18.00, Houghton, Grades 5-8

Tells about an incident in 1990, where containers packed with Nike sneakers were swept off a cargo ship during a storm at sea as well as an incident in 1992, where thousands of floating bathtub toys spilled into the Pacific in a similar mishap. The book profiles two oceanographers who used computer-modeling programs to predict the landfall of these drifting objects. The well-written text will keep readers engaged. The science is clearly explained, and the vivid and lively photographs and well-labeled charts and diagrams help to create interest and build understanding. (Pair with the picture book version of this story, *Ducky* by Eve Bunting).

Traitors' Gate, The, Avi, \$18.00, Atheneum, Grades 5-8

When his father is arrested as a debtor in 1849 London, fourteen-year-old John Huffman must take on unexpected responsibilities, from asking a distant relative for help to determining why people are spying on him and his family. Avi, a fan of Charles Dickens, uses some of the circumstances of the writer's early life as a basis for this story.

Very Ordered Existence of Merilee Marvelous, The, Crowley, Suzanne, \$18.00, Greenwillow, Grades 5-8

In the small town of Jumbo, Texas, thirteen-year-old Merilee, who has Asperger's Syndrome, tries to live a "very ordered existence," but disruptions begin when a boy and his father arrive in town and the youngster makes himself a part of the family.

Volcanoes, Fradin, Judith Bloom, \$17.00, National Geographic, Grades 4-6

Describes volcanoes including their causes and impact on people. Numerous clear, well-chosen photographs and diagrams help to convey the great power of volcanic activity and the consequences to humans. Pull-quote comments from volcanologists, other scientists, and everyday witnesses to these disasters, designed to hook readers' interest, are a distinct plus.

Wall: Growing up Behind the Iron Curtain, The, Sis, Peter, \$19.00, Clarion, Grades 4-8

Artist Sis Peter describes what it was like growing up in a Communist country and discusses how Western culture influenced his life. Maps on endpapers. "Complex, multifaceted, rich in detail, this book shares the artist's specific heritage while connecting to universal longings. His concluding visions of freedom are both poignant and exhilarating." *School Library Journal*

Notables 2007

Way Down Deep, White, Ruth, \$16.00, Farrar, Grades 4-7

A warmhearted story set in 1954 in Way Down Deep, a town "cradled between the hills in a place that later became known as West Virginia." Ruby June, a foundling, is happily living with Miss Arbutus at the local boarding house when the mystery of Ruby's past begins to unravel. A thoughtful tale that offers humor, mystery, and a feel-good ending that will please readers.

What Happens on Wednesdays, Jenkins, Emily, \$17.00, Frances Foster Books, Grades PreK-2

A child describes every event that occurs on a Wednesday, from waking up while it is still dark out and deciding it is not a kissing day, through a half-day of school, to snuggling into bed at night. The mixed-media illustrations give readers a real feel for the youngster's Brooklyn neighborhood.

When Fish Got Feet, Sharks Got Teeth, and Bugs Began to Swarm: a Cartoon Prehistory of Life Long Before Dinosaurs, Bonner, Hannah, \$17.00, National Geographic, Grades 3-6

Provides information on the prehistory of animal and plant life before the time of dinosaurs, including fun facts, descriptive illustrations, humorous cartoons, a glossary, a pronunciation guide, and a time line.

When Gorilla Goes Walking, Grimes, Nikki, \$17.00, Orchard, Grades K-3

Gorilla, the cat, stars in 19 short, snappy poems, describing his many interests, talents, and behaviors. The humorous poems vary in style and mood and reflect the happy relationship between girl and cat. Illustrated with bright cartoon artwork endearingly portraying the African-American narrator and her smoky gray cat. **Open Court: Friendship**

White Owl, Barn Owl, Davies, Nicola, \$17.00, Candlewick, Grades PreK-3

One winter, a grandfather and his small grandchild find an owl roost, open owl pellets, install a nest box and watch patiently until spring when they are rewarded with the sight of owls, hunting in their fields and feeding a family in the box they have provided. Illustrated with realistic, watercolor-and-pastel pictures. **Open Court: Animals**

Why War is Never a Good Idea, Walker, Alice, \$18.00, HarperCollins, Grades 3+

Bright artwork in double-page layouts and an eloquent poem describes the destructiveness and hopelessness of war and how it destroys people and beauty, bringing it to a personal level. Will spark discussion with older children and teens, while providing a superb visual experience.

Writing Magic: Creating Stories That Fly, Levine, Gail Carson, \$17.00, HarperCollins, Grades 5+

The Newbery winning author presents a guide for budding writers to hone their craft. She gives youngsters tools for coming up with story ideas, developing characters and plot, and finding opportunities for publication. She writes in a direct and friendly style and provides a multitude of writing prompts. A helpful book to have available for writing groups or for young writers who want to improve.

Young Pelé: Soccer's First Star, Cline-Ransome, Lesa, \$16.00, S&S, Grades K-4

A handsome picture-book biography that explores the childhood of Pele, discussing how a poor, Brazilian boy became one of the best soccer players in the world. Highlights the personal struggles, passion, and successes in his life due to his commitment and hard work. Illustrated with full page oil paintings. **Open Court: Games & Cooperation & Competition.**

Notables 2007

Zen and the Art of Faking It, Sonnenblick, Jordan, \$17.00, Scholastic, Grades 5-8

When thirteen-year-old San Lee moves to a new town and school for the umpteenth time, he is looking for a way to stand out when his knowledge of Zen Buddhism, gained in his previous school, provides the answer, and the need to quickly become a convincing Zen master. By allowing the lies to pile up, this faux Zen master becomes like the one person he doesn't want to be. Hilarious and heart-wrenching.