

SPACER

Christian Library

J O U R N A L

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This issue features:

- n Collecting treasures...books
- n Summer reading fun -- plan ahead now
- n Automating the library -- how one school did it
- n Christian fiction -- how good is it? And how do we find the best?
- n Writing for primary age children
- n Reading with first graders
- n Publishing ideas for primary children and



A Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

We have had so many questions recently about how this journal came to be, so I'd like to take this opportunity to share the story with you. It is the story of God's work and blessing in the lives of his people.

Almost two years ago my husband Paul and I were celebrating our wedding anniversary, when he became quite ill. Later that week we were told that he had cancer, with only a year or so to live. One year later, in February of 1994, he was gone, and I struggled with the loss. My daughters, who were 20, 19, and 13, gave me reason to carry on, but otherwise life seemed almost purposeless. I was trusting God for comfort and strength just to get through another day.

But all that changed one morning in August. As I was reading and praying I heard a small voice within saying, "You do have a future; anything is possible." And I was filled with hope!

After that, things moved rapidly. School started and I returned to my job as director of libraries for a local school district. Soon I began to feel God's direction to stay home with my youngest starting the next school year. So I told my boss that this would be my last year, and the girls and I began praying for a home industry. A short while later I met with the volunteer librarian and other staff members at my daughters' Christian school to share ideas about running a school library. During that meeting the need for a review journal was raised, and the school principal turned to me and said, "That's something you could do, Nancy."

What excitement filled my heart! I had become more and more disillusioned with review journals that did not tell me what I needed to know to make thoughtful purchasing decisions, and with God's help, I could help meet that need.

And so began months of market research, planning, and gathering together the people with talents needed to make the journal a reality. And out of the dream came a magazine put together by a large group of people, all working in their own homes.

Our offices are in my home in Marysville, Washington, about forty-five miles north of Seattle. I work in my study and in a large workroom in my garage where we store review copies of books and do all our shipping and receiving. Mary Jarvis, our editor, works in her home across town. Ann Wilson, who provides administrative services, works in her home nearby, and shuttles back and forth from the office here, the bank, the post office, and her home. Kitty Lindstrom, who provides our layout and design, works in her home studio, Laughing Raven Studio on Bainbridge Island west of Seattle. And our writers and reviewers work throughout the fifty states in their homes. So this is really a HOME INDUSTRY! And now you know why, when you call, you always get me!

Isn't God gracious? And doesn't he meet us right where we are and lead us into paths of hope and praise? Now we ask that you be our prayer partners as we go forward. This month will you pray specifically for advertising sales to cover the costs of producing the journal? Our subscriptions to date have covered the cost of printing only one issue, and we'd like to keep our rates reasonable. Pray also for wisdom for our reviewers as they read their 200+ books each month.

P.S. Next month we look forward to Laurie Winslow Sargent's article on using your library for home education. God bless you!

In his love and care,
Nancy L. Hesch

Editor and Publisher

Christian Library

J O U R N A L

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The purpose of the *Christian Library Journal* is to provide readers with reviews of library materials from a Christian point of view. About 200 books, cassette tapes, and videos from both Christian and secular publishers will be reviewed each issue, along with subject lists of older materials. Materials reviewed may reflect a broad range of Christian doctrinal positions and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors and reviewers of the *Christian Library Journal*.

Cover: H 221.9 De Paola, Tomie. *Tomie de Paola's book of the Old Testament*. Putman, 1995. ISBN 0399228306. LC 94022219. Trade \$17.95.

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242 *Hurnard, Hannah*. Hinds' Feet on High Places. *Illustrated by JoAnn Edington*. *Destiny Image*, 1993. ISBN 1560431113. LC 94182597. \$14.99.

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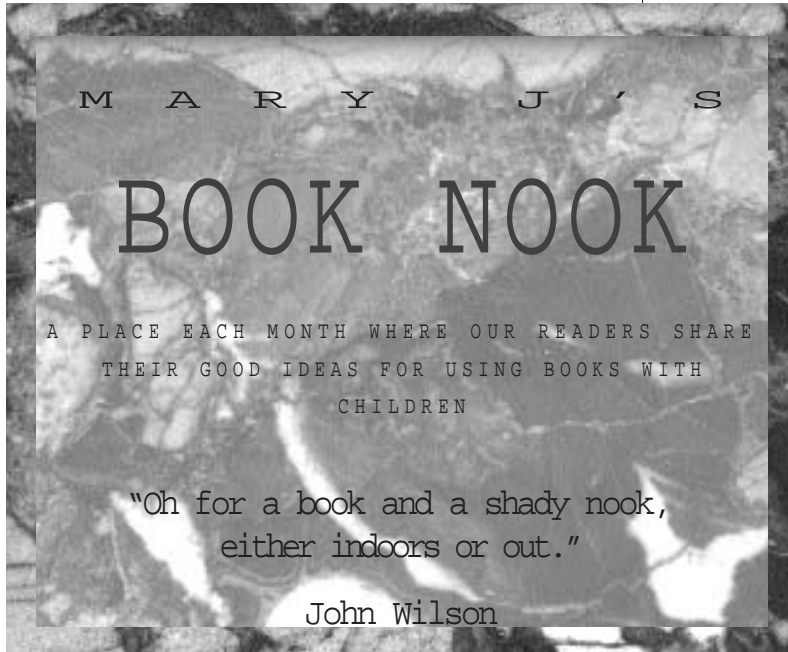
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR Inside Front Cover

C O L U M N S

Mary J's Book Nook	Mary Jarvis	2-3
Writing With Kids	Georgia Beaverson	4-5
Store Up for Yourselves Treasures	Judy Driscoll	6-8
Automating Your School Library	Lynn Harding	9-10
Beyond Christy : New Demands for YA Christian Fiction	Carol Beall	11-13
Read On, Write On	Penny Lent	14
Plan Now for Exciting Summer Reading	Lorinda K. F. Newton	15-16

R E V I E W S

Picture Books	.....	18
Children's Fiction	.....	27
Children's Nonfiction	.....	33
Young Adult Fiction	.....	47
Adult Fiction	.....	55
Nonfiction	.....	59
Index	.....	69



By Mary Jarvis

"What are those kids up to now?" muttered the recess teacher as she hurried to a far corner of the playground. There sat the "troublesome twosome" of the first grade huddled over books. Her shadow fell on them. Their usually belligerent faces lit up as they proceeded to tell her about what they were reading. "I couldn't believe it," she related later. "These two kids who usually bullied and kicked their way through the playground were completely engrossed in reading and having a ball doing it!"

Why were these two little boys so absorbed in reading, rather than their usual active and sometimes destructive play? They had discovered the wonderful adventure of reading and a whole new world within the pages of books. I had introduced them to a program of individualized reading that enabled them to grow in their skills and range of reading. I now had children who were eagerly and confidently picking up books to read whenever they had the opportunity.

You can do this too. You can tap into the boundless enthusiasm that new readers have as they discover the

written word. The individualized reading program I developed takes children beyond the usual first-grade primers and readers. Such a program is in addition to regular reading instruction in phonics, word attack skills, and comprehension. The basic ideas and structure of this program can be used on through the grades also. It capitalizes on children's desire to discover stories and forge ahead on their own. It has to meet the needs of the slow readers, giving them success, as well as those racing ahead of the pack who can read everything in sight.

My plan is simple. For first graders, you begin in January or February, older students could start in September. Collect books: make an arrangement with your school library or gather your own books. Duplicate books are fine. Use a wide range of books, from short easy ones with limited vocabulary to books that go up a grade level or two. Keep these books in a special bookcase. At first, help students choose books based on their ability. Gradually they can pick their own books as they gain confidence and judgment. To simplify selection of books, I put a red, green, or blue sticker on the spines of books indicating difficulty. Try to have at least twice as many books as children.

To keep track of what and how many books students are reading have a manila folder for each child with an easy form in it. The form includes columns for the title, date started, and when someone heard them read a portion of the book. For older students, there might be an extra column for book reports or other activities.

Books are checked out at the end of regular reading group times or other spare moments during the day. Young children take the books home in a large manila envelope with a form for each book, indicating parents have listened to the child read a portion of the book. Volunteer mothers or older students can listen to children read in the classroom. At the end of the year, give certificates showing how many books each child has read.

When totals were tallied, I had children that had read anywhere from twenty to over one hundred books. More important, children develop confidence and a love for reading that will last a lifetime. Reading scores on standardized tests reflect the enlarged vocabulary and reading skills the program has resulted in for these youngsters.

Try this plan to keep students challenged, each one reading at his own

Child's

Play

Writing with
Kindergarten – Second Grade
Children



by *Georgia
Beaverson*

It's often said that play is a child's work. Spend a minute or two with any early elementary age child and another truth becomes evident: word play fascinates him or her. Jokes, riddles, knock-knocks, and funny rhymes all present children with wonderful opportunities to influence the world around them. They learn that words are powerful, and mastering some aspect of language gives them a genuine sense of achievement--and it's fun! Rhyming, especially, is a great way to "work" on writing skills.

Teach kindergarten students rhyming techniques--no physical writing required. My children love to play the "rhyming game" in the car. Choose a word (keep it simple!), and ask the child to pick a word that rhymes with it. Then choose another word that rhymes with the original word. Continue batting the rhymes back and forth until you exhaust the possibilities--but don't stop there! Make up some words, the sillier the better! You'll soon have a giggling, enthusiastic wordsmith.

A step beyond rhyming words is making up short poems or songs with children of this age. Pick a familiar rhyme, and have the child pick a new subject. With the child eagerly leading, change the rhyme accordingly. For instance, my seven-year-old daughter Laura's imagination was caught by a drawing of a

rabbit, dressed in farmer's clothes, standing in the middle of a field of carrots. "Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary" soon became:

"Rabbit, rabbit, don't you nab it!

Let those carrots grow!

With tops of green and bottoms not seen,

Always in a row."

Create new rhyming possibilities by having children write simple poems or chants based on their names. If it's a difficult name--all the better! Encourage them to make up rhyming words with secret meanings. Both of my children have their own special chant. My daughter's chant goes: "Laura Fedora, dancing on the floor-a, with a pink menorah, our Laura!" We had a lot of fun coming up with rhymes for "Laura." It may sound silly to others outside the family, but it's a serious piece of writing to us!

Riddles, like rhymes, fascinate young children. They love to stump their friends and fool their parents with old chestnuts like "What's big and red and eats rocks?" I think riddles please children so much because they're akin to secrets--ones you're allowed to tell!

Don't let riddles escape your notice as a tool to teach writing. Light a child's imagination by playing with well-loved riddles; change their meaning by changing their words. For example, "What's big and red and eats rocks?" could easily become "What's big and white and eats socks?" The answer, as every mother knows, is a clothes dryer!

Take children a step further into the mystery of writing and riddles by introducing them to literary riddles like the ones found in J. R. R. Tolkien's classic, *The Hobbit*. The plucky hero asks several wonderful riddles that kept my son and daughter fascinated for days. One of them goes:

"A box without hinges, key, or lid,
Yet golden treasure inside is hid."

It's stumped many a person over the years.

The answer? An egg. Riddles can also be found in Alice in Wonderland, Wind in the Willows, and even the Bible! After all, how can a camel get through the eye of a needle?

Riddles also have a place in the folk traditions of most cultures, and many folk tales revolve around the successful solution of one. Tenth century Icelanders developed riddle-like descriptive phrases for heroic oral poetry. These literary "riddles" are called kennings.

For example, one common phrase found in Icelandic oral poetry is "the fire of the hawk's land." What does it mean? You have to work it out like a riddle. In tenth century Iceland, hawking was a common sport with the hawk perching on the hunter's wrist. Therefore "hawk's land" means "wrist." "Fire of the hawk's land" means "fire of the wrist." What looks like fire on a wrist? A gold cuff flashes and gleams like fire, so "the fire of the hawk's land" simply means "gold."

Try out a kenning or two with second-grade children. Use the above phrase to start a discussion, turning it into a little guessing game. Then work with the child or group to create some original kennings. You may want to start with one short phrase and brainstorm ideas to describe key words.

Take a well-known line from a nursery rhyme, like "the cow jumped over the moon." "Moon" could become "eye of the bat's land" and "cow" might transform to "tree of milk" or "tree of horns." Even those tenth-century Icelandic poets might be stumped by a "tree of horns jumping over the eye of the bat's land!"

Rhymes and riddles are serious writing tools--no matter how silly they might seem. They alert children to the sounds of words and how they fit together. Riddles and rhyming stretch the mind, helping children to think in the abstract. And most of all, they make the best kind of work: child's play! ■■■

Next month: Newspapers With Third-to-Fifth Grade Children

THE PLAY'S THE THING

A popular Sunday school curriculum proclaims that people remember ten percent of what they hear and read, but up to ninety percent of what they experience. Learning is increased and deepened through activity. But how can a parent or teacher reinforce writing--an inherently interior skill--through action?

As Shakespeare suggested, the play's the thing. Play-acting, whether by a costumed child or a finger puppet, gives words action, clarifying the meaning of the written word. Words become reality as the actor takes the stage.

In the five-to-seven-year-old Sunday school class I teach, we often use impromptu plays to reinforce biblical concepts. After reviewing a Bible story, the children act it out, using their own words to make the scene alive for them. Six months after the fact, my daughter still talks about the "eye of the needle" story, which engaged her attention because she became the camel who had to shed more and more of its rich load in order to humbly scrunch through the narrow gate. Her dialogue consisted mostly of groans and grunts as each child in the class loaded her laundry-basket "saddle" with treasure, then unloaded it to help the camel make it through the gate.

Whether in a group or alone, seeing words come alive can be a rewarding experience for a young writer. If the playwright is full of ideas, setting her down to write out what each person says (with your help if the child doesn't yet write) will start the ball rolling. Remind the eager writer to include stage directions for the actors, and gently point out any lapses in the action's logic. Then gather a group of friends or a pile of puppets and roll up the curtain!

But what if the budding playwright, though

STORE UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES . . .

BY JUDY DRISCOLL

I become impatient with magazine articles on collecting which emphasize the market value placed on an object. My collections are valuable to me for the feelings they evoke and the memories they store. I would no sooner sell them than I would sell one of my children. My collection of children's books, while probably not very valuable in terms of the market, is beyond price in terms of family memories. The nearly seven hundred books which I have collected for my classroom and my own children and grandchildren each hold a special place in my heart. As I tell the children in my classes, each is like an old friend to me. That is a true collection.

Whether I became a first grade teacher because of children's books, or whether I love children's books cannot say. But as I share these old friends with my classes I am transported back to my own childhood, sitting on my mother's lap listening to the mysterious rhythm of "crimson soles and crimson linings" in our old blue copy of *My Book House, Vol. 2*. At three years old I didn't know whether crimson was a fabric or a color, but it tasted delicious when rolling off my tongue. At bedtime my mother would allow my older sister and me to each pick a story to be read before the light string was pulled. My adventurous sister would always choose something new and different. Not I, my choice was always *Little Black Sambo*. In the spring of 1949, my sister's teacher was flabbergasted that a six year old could

recite that story verbatim with no prompting. My mother laughed saying, "Of course she can. She's heard it every night for four years!"

Evenings after dinner, for a couple of years it seems, were spent listening to my parents read aloud the whole series of Oz books. My father was even inspired to go to his workshop and fashion wooden characters to represent our favorites. I remember a trip to our cousins' home and the great discovery that they had a number of Oz books equal to ours, but many which we hadn't read. So the grand swap took place and hours more of enjoying the *Patchwork Girl* and *Glenda of Oz* with their cohorts; the same was true of the Dr. Doolittle series, with its eccentric animal loving doctor, and the *Bobbsey Twins*. Much to my delight, both of these have been republished in paperback form.

Phrases from the books I treasure have become a regular part of the everyday language in my home and in my classroom. How many times I have heard my children proudly display their own plant and intone, "I planted it. I pulled the weeds. Carrots grow from carrot seeds." I sometimes "implore...[a child] to exert himself," and during lunch hour, as the children are delving into their jam sandwiches and juice boxes, I can hear Russell Hoban's Frances reciting her litany of "...a lobster-salad sandwich on thin slices of white bread...And vanilla pudding with chocolate sprinkles and a spoon to eat it with." A rainy day is

sure to be met with "Too wet to go out. And too cold to play ball. So we sat in the house. We did nothing at all. So all we could do was to Sit! Sit! Sit! Sit! And we did not like it. Not one little bit."

Robert Louis Stevenson's poems became such a part of my youngest daughter's vocabulary that for a time the slightest familiar word would

send her off into a recitation of *Where Go the Boats*. A simple request for a crayon would be embellished into, "Would you hand me that 'Dark brown is the river, Golden is the sand. It flows along forever, With trees on either hand.'?"

Our experiences with children's books have colored the stories our family tells when we all get together. One of my favorites which is sure to surface when niece Wendy is home happened when she was a pre-schooler enthralled with Dr. Seuss. A favorite story of hers was *What Was I Afraid Of?* the scary tale of a pair of "...pale green pants with nobody inside." My sister, handy with a sewing machine, decided to delight Wendy by sewing her a pair of pale green pants which Wendy absolutely refused to put her skinny little legs into, adamantly shaking her head and intoning in all seriousness, "No, pale green pants, nobody inside." The pale green pants were never worn. Dr. Seuss has always been a family favorite. My grown children still delight in trying to name all twenty-three silly names that Mrs. McCave

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Too Many Daves.
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The Real Mother Goose.

should have used in naming her sons in *Too Many Daves*.

Certain book covers or illustrations evoke memories of my early childhood. One is *Make Way for Ducklings*, and even though each of my grown children and I had a new paperback copy in our possession, when I ran across an old hardbound copy with its familiar dark green cover, I had to buy it just for the feelings it stirred in me. Each generation has its own memories; whereas I remember Ferdinand best in its dusty rose cloth cover, my thirty-year-old son called home last winter asking for his old white, orange and black paperback copy. When I explained that it was very beat up, and I had a brand new red-covered paperback copy that I would be happy to give him, he turned it down saying, "No, I want the one I remember. I don't care if it's old." So the old beat-up copy came off my school shelf, replaced by the new slick red cover, and Jeff's children will grow up with a beat up but well-loved Ferdinand. In my memory, Rachel Fields' *Prayer for a Child* is a solid dark violet color; for my children it is dark turquoise; for my grandchildren the blond little girl kneels on a colorful paperback cover. Only the loving illustrations and text inside remain constant as we "Bless this milk and bless this bread."

Some book covers haunt my memory, and I can't quite explain why. One of them is the black and white checked cover of the *Real Mother Goose*. I know I never owned it as a child, but every time I see that cover something in my memory is stirred. I can't put my finger on the importance of it; maybe I just remember seeing it when I was on my annual trek to check out *Make Way for Ducklings*, but the memory is there. I shared this with my mother, but she was unable to explain it. She bought my children a copy of it in the mysterious black and white checked cover. We read through it, but nothing in the inside illustrations is familiar, just the

outside. I may never remember why, but it holds a fascination for me.

For years after I considered myself much too old to visit the picture storybook section of the public library (thank goodness I outgrew that!), I found myself returning at least once a year to check out the familiar dark green-covered *Make Way for Ducklings* and delight once more in the brown pencil drawings of Robert McCloskey, probably my favorite children's book illustrator. My dream is to someday travel cross country to Boston, and walk from the Charles River down Mount Vernon, Charles, and Beacon Streets to Boston's Public Gardens where Mr. and Mrs. Mallard raised their eight ducklings and where E.B. White's Louis the Swan trumpeted his way to fame and fortune leading the swan boats. On the same trip I hope to twist my husband's arm into letting me travel through Laura Ingalls Wilder's country.

Another book-inspired trip I will take is to Prince Edward Island, the land of Anne of Green Gables. I was an adult with a junior-high-age daughter before I became enthralled with Anne. My mother had encouraged me to read her as a youngster, but I never got around to it. When my daughter Kristi started in on the series I got curious. Before I knew it, we were sitting on her bed reading out loud to each other because neither of us could bear to wait for the other to finish first.

Not all of my favorite children's books are old books. Some delightful new authors and illustrators are gracing my collection. Already my children have heard "Jillian, Jillian, Jillian Jiggs! It looks like your room has been lived in by pigs!" My school principal walked into my room one day to find my daughter and me weeping over Tomie dePaola's *Now One Foot and Now Another*, and who can resist the illustrations of Eric Carle who invites children not only to

use their eyes but their senses of touch and hearing in *The Very Busy Spider* and *The Very Quiet Cricket*? Patricia Polacco's beautifully written and illustrated family stories are my current favorite, and several teachers and parents in our school were moved to tears when they read my copy of the newly published *The Story of Ruby Bridges*.

Recently at my favorite used book store I purchased Vol. 2 in the green and white revised edition of *My Book House*, delighted that the familiar children were still reading their red storybook on the cover. Rushing home I settled myself into a rocking chair to revive my love affair with the little boy in the purple shoes with crimson soles and crimson linings. To my dismay *Little Black Samba* is now *Rama Krishna*. I am sure that Helen Bannerman would be moved to tears with me if she heard the beautiful rhythm of her lovingly crafted story of the little boy who could eat one hundred and fifty-nine pancakes destroyed by well-meaning editors who didn't live with the story long enough to realize that the story can only live in its original rhythmic form. When contorted in the name of political correctness, *Rama Krishna* becomes stiff and disjointed. What a shame that our culturally diverse and politically correct generation, no matter whether "red or yellow, black or white," will never delight in "crimson soles and crimson linings."

As Christian teachers and parents, we owe it to our children to collect memories with them of the beautiful rhythms, visions, and adventures which our Lord has inspired these time-honored authors and illustrators to set before us. As they become rich in memories, our future generations may be spared from materialistic collections monetary value and instead store up for themselves.

"...treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal."

Matt. 6:20

Judy Driscoll, a first grade teacher, has taught at Christ the King Academy in Poulsbo, Washington, for 20 years.

When should you consider automating your Christian school library? The answer may be:

- n when the librarian tires of using his/her brain as a computer to remember the content and location of each book and resource;
- n when you have the resources--the people and the cash;
- n as soon as possible.

The rewards are fantastic!

Automating a library--going "online"--starts with thinking and visiting. The librarian sets goals and schedules a tentative timeline to meet them. Of course, these are written; eventually, they will be submitted to the principal, school board, et cetera.

Automating the Library

By Lynn Harding

We decided to investigate library automation for Snohomish County Christian Elementary School in the winter of 1994. As head librarian, I visited five computerized elementary and high school libraries--one Christian and four public schools. I also telephoned several of the local public school district library resource offices for advice and help. Using this information, I discovered that the library software one buys depends on the hardware you already own or want to purchase--PCs or Macs. (The software companies are now busy crossing over, i.e. PC written software is being rewritten for the Mac and visa versa.) Look in the back of one of the larger book distributor catalogs; i.e., Bound-To-Stay-Bound, for names of library software companies.

Our school has PCs, so I called the Follett Software Company for information. Follett, one of the largest companies, is one of the pioneers of library software. Their area representative immediately called me and gave me piles of glossy brochures and colored information sheets which I waded through, overwhelmed and aghast at the prices.

We found we needed four resource people to successfully accomplish automation: an administrator librarian to plan and implement the program, a computer hardware specialist to help purchase and set up the hardware, a troubleshooter who is both library and computer literate, and someone to pay for all of it! Sometimes one person will be able to do more than one of these jobs, but we used four. Several of these people were wonderful volunteers. It must be emphasized that a knowledgeable, available, affordable computer consultant is a necessity.

Automation is expensive. We paid \$5,200 for our software from Follett. It included the cataloging, circulation, and search programs, a CD ROM with a million MARC book records (invaluable if you are writing your own records), a barcode scanner, a portable handheld mini computer for doing inventories and acquisitions, and 10,000 barcodes and label protectors for the books. In the winter of 1995, we paid an additional \$1,000 networking fee to allow us to have online cataloging search. When we purchased our software, Follett had just come out with their new "Unison" program that allowed both circulation and cataloging to work from the same data base. It was a wonderful idea and "Unison" sold much faster than Follett had anticipated. Consequently, their technical support was insufficient to meet customer demands. Initially, we were annoyed and frustrated that the Follett promises and performance did not match. However, we persevered and now are reaping the rewards.

For hardware, we purchased a Gateway 2000 486 CD ROM computer and accessories for \$2,500. This

enabled us to start writing our MARC book records and build our online data base. Now, after a little more than a year, we have 7,000 books and audiovisual materials in our data base. We have since purchased three additional computers (386s), a 486 server, cables, surge protectors, and Windows NT software to allow us to network throughout the library with online cataloging. We use one of the 386's as the checkout station; two are on the floor as student search stations. Networking the library cost an additional \$4,500.

Besides the monetary costs of hardware and software, computerizing your library will cost a lot in terms of librarian time. I was fortunate to have an assistant who filled in when I was busy with the computer. We both worked extra long hours and much of the summer to create the data base, writing MARC records, or adapting them from Follett's Alliance CDROM.

Perhaps you don't know what a MARC record is. We didn't when we started. MARC stands for machine-readable cataloging. A MARC record allows the computer to read the bibliographic information for a book or other library material, information traditionally shown on a card catalog card. Librarians need to follow the rules of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules book.

Software companies will create your data base, writing your MARC records from your shelf list cards, for a fee per record. This was not an option for us since we didn't have shelf list cards for our card catalog!

There are some advantages to writing your own records. First, by repeatedly using the Follett Alliance CDROM, a list of a million book records, we learned about MARC and cataloging rules. This enabled us to competently write our own records for the many, many books, especially Christian titles, that are not on the CDROM. We were able to customize all of our records, adding as many as thirty-five subject fields for one collected sports anthology book! We discovered wonderful books we didn't know we had. Finally, our records are accurate--we took great care with them.

In the beginning, my major reason for automating was to be able to find information and books in our collection quickly and easily and to create bibliographies for teachers. But automation offers so much more. Circulation duties that used to consume librarian hours now take minutes. Instead of a few hundred card catalog subject headings, we can search for 27,000 subjects. Record keeping, such as overdue reports, is fast and accurate. Students use search computers like they never used the card catalog! They stand in line to look up "basketball," even if they know where the basketball books are shelved. The computer will tell them if the book they want is "in" or "out."

Whatever reasons you have for automating, the time to start the process is now! Gather the resource people you need, budget the dollars, or pray for a donor, and begin planning. It can be a long, frustrating, expensive process, but the rewards are great. Dozens of times each day students and librarians are able to "check the computer" to see if a book is in or out, who has it, what the call number is; to put a book on hold; to research a subject; or to list books about a particular topic and give to the requesting teacher. Having to rely totally on librarian memory is a chore of the past. Now we are automated! ██████████

Mrs. Lynn Harding is a librarian for Snohomish County Christian Elementary School, WA. She has written and edited for magazines and newspapers. When not at school, Lynn reads, gardens, sews, and works as a florist.

Beyond Christy

New Demands for YA Christian Fiction

"Of making many books there is no end."

Ecclesiastes 12:12

A t a junior high school library book fair in suburban Virginia, an extremely frustrated YA reader held a paperback up in each hand and plaintively decried, (with apologies to R. L. Stine and Michael Crichton), "There's GOT to be something else for me to read besides "Goosebumps" and Jurassic Park! There's got to be something...(pause and roll of eyes) MORE." Although she left empty-handed, her disappointment spoke volumes. Was this one small voice a solitary plea for recreational reading that rises above the merely popular? Maybe not. Consider what occurred to Children's/YA librarian ayo dayo of the Chinn Park Library in Woodbridge, VA. She was so overwhelmed by positive public response to the creation of a new reading list for young adults that she was highlighted in the Washington Post (June 25, 1995) and continues to fax copies of her list to out-of-state public and school libraries and parent groups. What is on this high-demand booklist that's causing such a furor? Christian Fiction. Christian Fiction???

These two real-life scenarios illustrate a subtle, but growing phenomenon. YA readers and their parents are requesting with increased frequency (and less timidity) books that convey a strong sense of hope, optimism, and purpose as an alternative to popular YA titles. In response to these demands, librarians are turning to a genre that,

although not new, continues to gain recognition as a literary subspecialty unique in its influence and message. Julie Pringle, Book Selection Coordinator of the large Fairfax County Public Library System in Northern VA, states, "Christian Fiction is not new. We have always carried the "classics" such as C. S. Lewis's "Chronicles of Narnia," Catherine Marshall's *Christy* (1976) and Julie (1985. both Avon), and Lois Leppard's "Mandie" series (Bethany). As long as circulation statistics remain high for these materials, we will continue to respond to suggested orders for Christian Fiction."

What is Christian Fiction exactly? And can the genre, as it currently exists, serve as a credible substitute for popular YA fiction? If its aim is to provide teen readers with books that embody both high literary quality and traditional moral standards, then the answer is yes and no. While Christian Fiction may become the "something...MORE" desired by readers, librarians need to become acutely aware of the unique strengths and weaknesses of the genre to better serve their patrons and maintain collection integrity.

Christian Fiction, broadly speaking, is literature that emphasizes values based upon a Biblical world view. As a rule, it does not seek to advocate specific tenets of individual denominations; rather, it recognizes and utilizes the larger, more universal Biblical doctrines of Christianity as its basis. Key doctrinal themes central to Christian Fiction cite God as the loving and just Creator of all things and the Bible as the holy, inspired word of God and source of all truth. Humans are separated from God by their sinful, disobedient nature; and Jesus Christ died on their behalf to allow for God's forgiveness of sin. In utilizing these basic doctrines as its thematic foundation, Christian Fiction becomes accountable to very specific standards. It is a literature of designed restraint, focusing less on the base physical and visual attributes of its characters, and emphasizing instead their internal maturation and/or spiritual growth. Indeed, many Christian school libraries throughout the country have book selection policies based

upon Biblical scripture. Fredricksburg Christian School in Fredricksburg, VA, for example, cites Philippians 4:8 as the final criteria for material evaluation, "Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Standards such as these, which emphasize a moral absolute and depict a clear picture of right and wrong within society's bounds, are one main reason for Christian Fiction's wide appeal. For many young adults and their parents, the coarsening of American culture has resulted in a weariness of the dark, the lurid, and the pessimistic. Some readers are simply tired of occult obsessions, grisly descriptions, and nihilistic endings. Like the frustrated YA mentioned above, there is a desire for "something...MORE."

But how has this desire "played at the box office"? What are the best YA Christian Fiction titles being read? And what objective review sources are available to librarians for evaluating these titles?

The numbers tell part of the story. According to the Christian Booksellers Association, rising statistics show a significant increase in the circulation of Christian Fiction nationwide. There is a greater demand by library patrons for specific titles and a corresponding boom in the Christian publishing industry (10% within the last year). All these indicators serve as evidence of a valid market for Christian Fiction. And because it relates to every genre (romance, mastery, fantasy, historical fiction, etc.), the idea—"create the booklist and the readers will come"—is realistic.

The demand for books espousing Christian values is there. And where there is a demand, there is always a market. And where there is a market, there should be objective evaluation. Rushing in to fill the "morality link" perceived by some as missing in current YA literature are the larger Christian publishers such as Tyndale House, Bethany House, Bob Jones University Press, Zondervan, Intervarsity Press, Focus on the Family, and others. Certainly there are numerous books and series that have withstood the test of time and the scrutiny of librarians and

parents. Charles Sheldon's 1896 classic *In His Steps* (Buccaneer, 1991), for example, comes immediately to mind. Catherine Marshall's enduring literary duo of Christy and Julie still command high YA readership. And Alberta Hawse's *Vinegar Boy* (Moody, 1970) is timeless.

Yet, despite the numerous titles targeted and published for young adult readers, one regrettable fact is that much of the output suffers in literary quality. It is a lament shared by librarians and educators, Christian and secular alike. Influential Christian school organizations, such as the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), which establishes education standards for Christian schools worldwide, closely monitors Christian Fiction for its suitability for inclusion in approved school curriculums. The consensus is that despite the moral message of most YA Christian Fiction, the books are often poorly written and overly preachy. "One major flaw [of Christian Fiction]..." states ACSI curriculum specialist Kevin Washburn, "is the general lack of character development. The people [in the stories] are simply not believable to young adult readers. And one should not compromise quality for the message. Quality of writing must be there, regardless of [the author's] motivation."

Christian Fiction, then, requires a delicate balance of enlightenment and entertainment. Sigmund Brouwer, author of the popular "Accidental Detectives" series (Scripture), states that "Christians are discovering that fiction is indeed a powerful medium for writers and readers to explore and understand great truths. Yet these truths must appear naturally in the fabric of the story—moralizing and preaching belong in the genres of nonfiction essays or sermons—or the fiction writer risks losing his readers.... On the other hand, well-written fiction which reflects those truths can succeed in bringing faith to non-Christian readers."

How then, can librarians evaluate the genre critically and without bias? What selection tools exist that can aid in the justified inclusion of Christian Fiction into all collections? Fortunately, the newly created *Christian Library Journal* (CLJ) published by Christian Library Services (Marysville, WA) fills this timely need. Edited by

Nancy Hesch, it contains over 125 critical reviews per issue of recommended Christian literature (grades Pre-K to 12) written by professional reviewers of all denominations. Christian Schools International (CSI), in Grand Rapids, MI, publishes Library Materials Guide twice yearly and includes reviews of Christian and secular books (grade PreK to 12). Two independent book club companies, Make Way for Books (Birmingham, AL) and God's World Book Club (Asheville, NC) provide excellent newsletters with well-annotated reviews. Bob Jones University Press (Greenville, SC) has recently updated its Best Books resource (1993) by Donna Hess, listing recommended titles, secular and Christian, suitable for school libraries (grades K-12). Lastly, the Christian Booksellers Association publishes Bookstore Journal, a monthly compilation of newer books which, though promotional in nature, does have descriptive reviews.

And finally, what Christian Fiction titles are YAs actually reading? Books in every genre! For fantasy fans, choices abound. Jan Gwyn, librarian at Norfolk Christian Academy, Norfolk, VA, reports that her younger YAs enjoy John Bibee's fast-paced "Spirit Flyer" series (InterVarsity) about a magic bicycle that possesses supernatural powers for good. Stephen Lawhead's "Dragon King Trilogy," "The Pendragon Cycle" (both Crossway) and "The Song of Albion" (Avon), and John White's "Archives of Anthropos" (InterVarsity) all are fantasy epics involving personal quests, lost mythologies, and voyages to the Otherworlds. Frank Peretti's tandem novels for older YAs, *The Present Darkness* (1986) and *Piercing the Darkness* (1989, both Crossway) are gripping contemporary tales of two small towns that become epicenters in climactic battles of heavenly angelic forces v. demonic evil powers.

Young adult readers of historical fiction at Delaware County Christian School in Newtown, PA, tell librarian Nancy Jacobsen that the two best-known Bodie Thoene series, "The Zion Chronicles" and "The Zion Covenant" (both Bethany), sustain strong interest because of the compelling pre-and post-Holocaust adventures of its Jewish characters. While Michael Phillips's newest series, "The Secret of the Rose" (Tyndale), also centers on Hitler's rise to power, his other historical works focus on different national pasts. "The

Stonewycke Trilogy" and "The Stonewycke Legacy" (both Bethany), both set in Scotland, trace the complex destinies of the Ramsey and Duncan clans. And in "The Russians" series (Bethany), two family histories are intertwined throughout the reigns of Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, and Cossack rule. In Gilbert Morris's "House of Winslow" saga (Bethany), one family spans 300 years of American history, while in Michael Jones's new *Twilight of the Gods* (Moody, 1995), Saxons rule over Britain in A.D. 450. Romance novels with a historical bent remain a popular choice too, such as Francine Rivers's "Mark of the Lion" series (Tyndale), which depicts life during the decadent Roman empire.

Has Christian Fiction, then, with its rising circulation, broadening audiences, and new vehicles of self-evaluation, finally come of age? Can it continue to increase in relevancy and quality for its young adult clientele? Ecclesiastes 12:12 states: Of making many books there is no end." It is an admonishment that while many books may be written, mankind will benefit most from those that reflect God's teachings. Christian Fiction, properly written, critically reviewed, and responsibly endorsed, can indeed assist librarians and patrons of all ages in their search for "something...MORE!" ■

*Carol Beall is the librarian at the Immanuel Christian School, Springfield, VA.
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—PRIMARY & SECONDARY STUDENTS GET PUBLISHED—

Jack and Jill Magazine wants work from students in five areas: fiction, up to 500 words; poetry; jokes; riddles; art. Fiction can be fantasy, folktales, mystery, humor, or adventure. Payment for students is a byline and clip. Stories need a health or fitness related theme and must be contemporary, showing wholesome values. This magazine's audience is seven-to-ten-year-olds and is published eight times a year. Projects with a seasonal slant should be sent six months in advance [lead time]. Response time is ten weeks on complete manuscripts. Send work typed or neatly hand-written. Guidelines are free, for a SASE. Sample copies are \$1.25, or check in your school or community library. Write to Editor Steve Charles, 1100 Waterway Blvd., Indianapolis IN 46206.

—TEENS GET PUBLISHED—

The Legions of Light, a bi-monthly for all ages, gives new, unpublished writers a chance to see their work in print. In non-fiction, send personal experiences, inspirational, or craft & hobby pieces of 200-500 words. Fiction is accepted in all genres, to 1,500 words, including sci-fi, fantasy, historical, religious, plays, and folktales. They are especially interested in environmental and social-issue essays. Allow six months lead-time on seasonal pieces. Poetry is accepted, any length. All types of fillers are needed, especially humor and political cartoons. Pays \$5-\$10 and from one-to-five contributor's copies, on publication, for one-time rights on any work accepted. Response in four weeks on queries and six weeks on manuscripts. Guidelines are free with a SASE. Sample copies are \$3 plus a 9X12 self-addressed envelope. Editor Elizabeth Mami says, "Write for all

ages. We like heartwarming fiction. Be creative; be expressive; be yourself. Tell us about yourself in a cover letter. Avoid extreme violence, racist, or sexual themes, and dark or graphic stories when you write for us." Send to Box 874, Route 28, Margaretville NY 12455-0874.

—STUDENT CONTESTS—

Keystrokes Contest seeks essays and poetry on "using a computer to write." Essays or personal experiences are limited to 750 words. Poetry can be four-to-ten lines long. This quarterly contest uses one-time rights and gives publication, a byline, and one copy. No entry fee. Work must be typed, and a cover letter is needed. Guidelines are free with a SASE. Sample copies [newsletter format] are \$4. Response in four weeks. Next deadline is December 15. No critique is given, and manuscripts are returned with a SASE. "Read a copy to get a feel for what we publish," says the managing editor. Send to Student Submissions Editor Kiel Stuart, 12 Skylark Lane, Stony Brook NY 11790.

—NEW WRITER'S WORDS TO KNOW—

Audience—*The age and type of people who read the publication*

Bi-monthly—*Every other month*

Clip—*A copy of the author's work [as if clipped out of a publication]*

Contemporary—*A present-day setting*

Complete manuscripts—*A finished project, instead of an outline or query*

Cover letter—*An introductory letter telling about you and why you wrote it*

Critique—*An evaluation of the quality of writing*

Lead time—*Number of months needed before a specific publication date*

Response time—*How long it is before you hear from an editor*

Seasonal slant—*Material about specific holidays, seasons, or events*

[Check previous issues for other writer's words used in this column.]

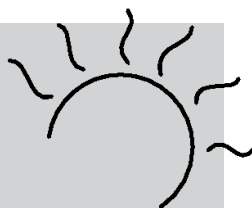
Read On, Write On, Get Published



by Penny Lent

Penny Lent lives in Puyallup, WA, with her husband, two sons, two orange cats, and assorted NW slugs. Lent is a frequent conference and school speaker and has free-lanced over 600 articles for radio, magazines, and her newspaper columns. She is editor and designer of two national newsletters and has authored seven books, including Young Writer's Market Manual, Young Writer's Contest Manual, and Young Writer's Manuscript Manual from Kaleidoscope Press.

Plan Now for Exciting Summer Reading



BY LORINDA K. F. NEWTON

“Mom! I’m bored! There’s nothing to do!”

Sometime during summer vacation, these laments begin. Kids run out of creative ideas to entertain themselves. What can be done?

In 1991, Newport Covenant Church in Bellevue, Washington, began a summer program designed to encourage children to read. It proved so popular it continues to this date.

Although Newport is a fairly large congregation, a church or Christian school of any size can run a successful summer reading program. Such an undertaking requires considerable preparation, yet the work will pay off when you see a child transformed into a book lover.

To begin, form a planning committee of two or three people in February. Then follow these seven steps.

1. Develop a theme: This theme

ought to be fun and appealing to any reader. Newport has used “Seekers in Sneakers,” “The Reading Race,” and “Elect to Read.”

2. Establish a budget: Money will be needed to buy materials for information packets and prizes. To minimize costs, shop discount stores, garage sales, and mail-order catalogs, and ask members of the church or student’s parents to donate prizes or materials.
3. Make information packets: The reader and his parents or adult sponsor (a grandparent or adult friend) will better understand the program when they have written rules to guide them. The information packet should include: registration form, instruction sheets, reading symbols, and reading log.
 - a. On the registration form, include the child’s name, address, phone number, and school grade in the fall. Each child must turn in the registration form before participating in the program.
 - b. The instruction sheets explain

what the child must do to earn a certificate of achievement. List the following instructions on these sheets:

- n Dates of the program and the library’s hours.
- n Eligibility: State who can participate, such as children in preschool through junior high. Most children interested in participating, however, will be elementary age.
- n Program requirements: Explain how a reader qualifies for prizes and the certificate of achievement. For example, have each child read at least four books or 125 pages, some Scripture sections, and a few selected books. Each age group can have different reading requirements. A reader can also earn prizes by doing book reports. For example: a conventional school book report; a poster, mobile, or bookmark that depicts the story; or a vocabulary list of new words.
- n Book list: Because this is a Christian program, it may be desirable to restrict the reading list to the books in the church or school library or to books approved by the librarian, such as classics and biographies.
- n Recording progress: Explain how the child should record his or her reading progress, using the reading log and the reading symbols.
- n Other ways to promote reading: Encourage the child to read to an elderly person, a shut-in, or a preschooler.

- n Prizes: Explain how they are won and distributed.
 - n Contact people: List the names and phone numbers of the program coordinator and the librarian so parents could call if they had any questions.
 - c. To record the child's reading progress, make reading symbols in a shape that represents the program's theme. For example, the "Seekers in Sneakers" theme had a sneaker-shaped symbol cut from colored paper. When the reader completes a book, the child must record the following information on the symbol: name, book title, and number of pages. The sponsoring adult must sign the symbol. These can be placed in a box, and the librarian or an assistant can record this information in the master reading log. Once recorded, use the symbols to decorate the library and to display the children's progress. Over time, the library will become vibrant with color as the number of books that have been read grows.
- The master reading log is a three-ring binder that contains one reading-log page per child. Use this log to keep track of met reading requirements, the number of books or pages read, and the titles read. The registration forms can be stored in this binder, too.
- d. Have each child keep a personal reading log. The log sheet should contain the list of reading requirements and columns for the date when the book was finished, when a prize was received, and a place for the adult sponsor's initials. Encourage the adult sponsor to help the child fill out the reading log.

Assemble the registration form, instruction sheets, the reading symbols, and the reading log in theme folders with pockets to form the information packets. Place the instruction sheets and reading log in the binder and the registration form and symbols in the pockets.

4. Shop for prizes: Prizes motivate a child to read. A small prize can be given for each book read, or tickets can be earned for each book. Later these tickets can be exchanged for larger prizes. Here are some examples:
 - n Small prizes: pencils, pens, small ceramic animals, marbles, shells.
 - n Medium prizes: toy horses, books, flashlights, posters.
 - n Large prizes: Christian videos, Bibles, expensive books.
5. Recruit assistants: To complete all this work and to do the bookkeeping, you will need volunteers. For less than twenty children, two volunteers will be needed. For a large group of sixty or more, you will need three to five assistants. Assign each assistant specific duties.
6. Hold a mandatory meeting for adult sponsors and readers: Parental or adult-sponsor involvement is a must. Each child must be accompanied by a sponsoring adult. At this meeting, explain how the program works, discuss what books can be read, preview the prizes, collect registration forms, and provide time for questions.
7. End with an award ceremony: After closing the program, determine which children completed all of the requirements. Make certificates of achievement for these children. List

all those who completed the program in the church or school newsletter. Next, invite the children's families to a party where the children will receive their certificates. Such honoring will encourage the children to read more in the future.

Reading good books helps a child develop a healthy imagination and solid Christian character. The love of reading can also make a child a life-long learner. At first, a child may read only to win prizes, but soon he will discover that reading is its own reward. XXXXXXXXXX

Lorinda K. F. Newton is a free-lance writer, editor, and desktop publisher who lives in Kirkland, Washington.

Christian Library

J O U R N A L

B O O K R E V I E W S

Picture Books	18-26
Children's Fiction	27-32
Children's Nonfiction	33-45
Young Adult Fiction	47-53
Adult Fiction	55-58
Nonfiction	59-68

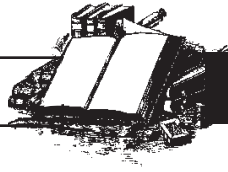
R A T I N G S Y S T E M

Quality of Material

- 4 Excellent - among the very best of this type elements
- 3 Good - well written: strong recommendation
- 2 Average - readers will enjoy, but not the best

Acceptability of Material

- 4 No questionable
- 3 Slight concerns
- 2 Moderate concerns



Miriam Aroner
The Kingdom of Singing Birds
 Illustrated by Shelly O. Haas
 Kar-Ben Copies, 1993
 Paper \$5.95
 K - Gr. 3

Zusya is a gentle rabbi wise in the ways of nature. The people in his village come to him for advice. News of his wisdom reaches the king of the land, who has a problem with his collection of beautiful birds. None of the many birds in the royal aviary will sing. Someone suggests that the king send for rabbi Zusya. When Zusya comes, he knows his advice, "let the birds go free," will make the king angry. Zusya tells the king anyway. Eventually, the king takes Zusya's advice and frees the birds. Some of the birds fly away. Others stay and promptly begin to sing. More singing birds are attracted as word of the "freed" birds is spread. Thereafter, the land is called the Kingdom of Singing Birds.

Readers of this story may have trouble caring about Zusya as our attention is pulled away

from him to the king. However, Shelly Haas' illustrations are soft and gentle, fitting with Zusya's personality.

The issue of the birds only singing when they are free is a stumbling block--we all know that caged birds do sing. But, Rabbi Zusya's courage of being willing to go to the king and speak what is right is quite admirable.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Sue Ford
Freelance Writer
Renton, Washington

V. Gilbert Beers
My Bedtime Anytime Storybook
 Illustrated by Tim O'Conner
 Thomas Nelson, 1992
 Trade \$15.99
 PS - Gr. 2

Six playful characters make up a group of friends who call themselves Joyful Noise. Bru (a bear), Puddles (a blue hippo), McWhiskers (a

mouse), Tux (a penguin), KaWally (a koala), and PJ (a zebra) are talking animals, each with his own distinctive personality. Through a series of almost fifty stories, they learn many important lessons about such values as honesty, kindness, cooperation, self-image, and praising God. The illustrations by Tim O'Conner portray colorful, cartoon-like characters, large enough to capture the attention of a preschooler.

Each story in this series is short and to the point, and titles include explanatory subtitles, for example, "The Flying Bear: A Story About Being Content with Who You Are and What You Can Do." In each story, one of the main characters faces a problem, which is quickly resolved with the help of his friends. A few of the stories include other animals that live in the forest, but there is only one female character in the entire book, a little kitty who appears in only one story. The stories are simple and are intended to teach specific lessons appropriate to young children. A topical index and a "Note to

Parents and Teachers" about using the stories are included.

u Quality - 2 § Acceptability - 4

Catherine W. Ockey
Freelance Writer

Camano Island, Washington

Boelts, Maribeth
Summer's End
Illustrated by Ellen Kandoian
Houghton Mifflin, 1995
Trade \$14.95
PS - Gr. 3

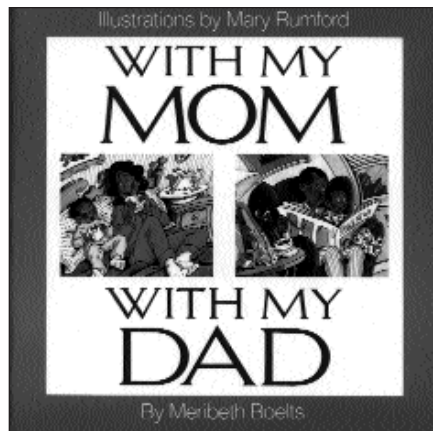
Calling all tomboys and tomboy moms who like to read to their children, as well as tomboys' little sisters. Here is a book just for you.

Jill has had a wonderful summer full of baseball, swimming lessons, sparklers, barefeet, comfortable old T-shirts and shorts, rocks, shells, petting zoos. Now summer is ending and it is time for Jill to go back to school. She will be in second grade. There are new things to consider: new black, lightening streaked shoes, a new and prickly haircut, new and scratchy clothes, new school supplies for Jill and her little sister, who will be attending school for the first time. Jill worries about math and writing her name correctly. It is sad at summer's end to say good-bye to all those wonderful summer things: petting zoos, rocks, shells. But then the good school memories come: seeds that turned into sunflowers, drawing beautiful pictures. There is a little sister to help through her first day at school. And--there are those black, lightening streaked shoes to help Jill run into the school yard to play with all of her friends.

This is a book for listening to when you are little, to read to yourself as you get older, and, when you are really big, to read to your little sister. School age children will identify with Jill's feelings about leaving the wonders of summer to go back to school. Preschool siblings will enjoy hearing about an older child's feelings. Everyone will enjoy the illustrations, including the ones that introduce you to the cat that offers silent sympathy throughout the book, the dragon that lies dejectedly on the bed in Jill's very clean, summer's end room, and those beautiful, black, lightning streak shoes that will carry Jill into the school yard.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Donna Eggett
Volunteer Counselor
Pregnancy Care Center of Catawba Valley
Hickory, North Carolina



H
Meribeth Boelts
With My Mom, With My Dad
Illustrated by Mary Rumford
Pacific Press, 1992
Paper \$5.95
PS - Gr. 1

Divorce is a shattering experience for both adults and children. Kay Kuzma, child development specialist, relates, "At a time like this, a child needs to be reassured over and over that, even though many things change with divorce, a parent's love is forever the same." As a parent cuddles with the child reading this book, they will be stimulated to chat about what's different and what's the same now that the child has two special homes instead of just one.

Each page has one sentence, alternating descriptions of Mom's house and Dad's house and what the child gets to do at each house. The differences are stated matter-of-factly and positively. The same things are that each parent prays at bedtime with the child, asking God to bless the other parent, and that each parent loves the child. A prayer at the end reminds the child God always loves him and his parents. There is no hint of bitterness between the parents so the child is protected from the emotional trauma of needing to choose sides.

Mary Rumford's colorful illustrations are well done. This book is likely to comfort and reassure any child of a broken home. For those not from a broken home, it will help them understand their friends' broken situations. This is an excellent resource for families dealing with this problem.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Judith M. Gonzales
Freelance Writer
Moses Lake, Washington

Marc Brown
Arthur's Family Vacation
(An Arthur Adventure)
Little, Brown, 1995
Trade \$14.95, Paper \$4.95
PS - Gr. 3

School is out, and Arthur's family is going on vacation. Arthur would rather go to summer camp with his friend, Buster. He spends the trip to the beach thinking of the fun he is missing at camp. Then rain threatens to spoil the week at the beach until Arthur decides to take a field trip. Planning new places to go, Arthur forgets about the rain and missing Buster. Even with only one sunny day, he is able to show Buster that he really did have a good time.

An enjoyable book for students to hear or read, this is a good example of a family working together and having a good time in spite of circumstances. Every page is illustrated. After hearing the story, young children could tell it themselves by looking at the pictures.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Marie Knaupp
Retired Librarian
Monmouth, Oregon

Marc Brown
D.W., the Picky Eater
Little, Brown, 1995
Trade \$12.95
PS - Gr. 2

Marc Brown, well-known children's author, delights us with yet another childhood problem. Arthur's little sister D.W. is a very picky eater. "I don't eat anything with eyes, or pickles, tomatoes, mushrooms, eggplant, pineapple, parsnips, and cauliflower...I would never eat liver...and more than anything else in the whole world, I hate spinach!" Picky eaters of any age will easily identify with D.W.'s dislikes and her methods of keeping away from the foods she hates, moving them around on her plate, dropping them in the dirt, throwing a tantrum.

D.W., grounded from dinners out with the family, becomes curious about restaurant food when Arthur brings home a tiny paper umbrella from a Chinese restaurant. She is finally allowed to go out for dinner with her family when she promises to eat what is on the menu. The restaurant has a children's menu filled with enticing sounding meals. D.W. passes by Farmer in the Deli Bagel Platter and Pirate Pita Pocket to choose Little Bo Peep Pot Pie. She eats it immediately and begs her mother to make it at home. What a shock for D.W. when her mother asks for the recipe and finds out Little Bo Peep Pot Pie is pastry filled with

"...lots and lots of spinach!" This story is sure to delight both children and parents.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Judy Driscoll

*Teacher, Christ the King Academy
Poulsbo, Washington*

Marc Brown
D.W. Thinks Big
Little, Brown, 1995
Trade \$11.95, Paper \$4.95
PS - Gr. 2

D.W. had not been chosen to be in Aunt Lucy's wedding. She was too little. After feeling left out during all the preparation, an unexpected turn of events shows that being little can sometimes be a big help.

Small children who love to play "wedding" will especially enjoy this well-illustrated event pictured through the eyes of a child. The action-packed illustrations tell the story equally as well as the words.

This book can be used for discussion of the ever-present dilemma of how to accept being too young and waiting to grow up.

Examples of unacceptable as well as acceptable behavior are shown. If no discussion of the book follows the reading, it could reinforce the poor behavior so typical of the younger child in a family.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Marie Knaupp
Retired Librarian
Monmouth, Oregon

Butterworth, Nick
When We Play Together
When It's Time for Bed
When There's Work to Do
When We Go Shopping
Little, Brown, 1994
Board \$4.95
PS

These toddler's first boardbooks are fascinating for little ones, detailing daily activities of children and their parents. Be prepared to read them repeatedly, and then your child will "read" them back to you. The child in the books is unnamed, but his friends, who are stuffed toys, (Whitey, George, Hippo, Wilson, Billie, and Croc) are named on the back of each book for the child's benefit. The pictures are simple, appealing, and timeless. These stories are good for teaching children the connection of words and pictures with reality, and to develop their imagination. Parents will want to use them at home.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Harriette Richards
Freelance Writer and Retired Teacher
Port Orchard, Washington

Janell Cannon
Stellaluna
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1993
Trade \$14.95
PS

In her first children's book, *Stellaluna*, Janell Cannon tells the story of a young fruit bat who learns to be friends with three baby birds while enjoying an exciting adventure. Children of all ages learn many facts about a mammal not often written about.

Full-page, brightly colored pictures help the reader visualize the details of the story while showing that it is not necessary to be alike to be friends.

The pictures and fast moving story keep pre-school children interested. The scientific facts make this book a valuable tool for research for older students.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Marie Knaupp
Retired Librarian
Monmouth, Oregon

H
Eric Carle
The Very Lonely Firefly
Philomel Books, 1995
Trade \$21.95
PS

In brilliant, broad strokes, Eric Carle paints with color rather than many words the search of a firefly for a place to belong. A family of four, plus a cat, a dog, and an owl play an important part in the search.

Young children's attention will be captured by the continuous, bright, bold page-and-a-half spreads. They will identify with the children, enjoy the pets, and be surprised by the unusual display of blinking lights on the last page.

This book will be enjoyed by all ages not only because of the beauty of the pages, but because of the universal need to belong.

The fourth in the series, *The Very Lonely Firefly* completes Carle's quartet. This book is a must for all pre-school children.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Marie Knaupp
Retired Librarian

Monmouth, Oregon

Sandra De Coteau Orie
Did You Hear the Wind Sing Your
Name? : An Oneida Song of Spring
Illustrated by Christopher Canyon
Walker, 1995
Reinforced \$15.85
K- Gr. 3

The Oneida Indians, centered in Wisconsin, celebrate the season of spring as a great time of birth and stirring of new life. All forms of life are equally valued and looked upon with thanksgiving and awe by the Oneida people.

The illustrations are striking, filling the pages with color and a sense of nature's role in the season of spring. The story line gives a good understanding of the ancient beliefs these people have for all that nature is and provides. However, there is no mention of God as the Creator of nature--rather each part of the life cycle is looked upon as sacred and to be honored in itself. If presented as a tool to learn about different cultures and belief systems, this book could stimulate good discussion for children.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 2

Mary McKinney
Freelance Writer, Teacher
Port Orchard, Washington

Garry Disher
Switch Cat
Illustrated by Andrew McLean
Ticknor & Fields Books for Young
Readers, 1995
Trade \$14.95
PS - Gr. 2

Two very different girls are mismatched with two very different cats in this tale of two odd couples. Evangelina is an elegant, refined cat who seems to prefer the company of Cecilia, the delicate and neat, perfect-little-girl next door. Ms. Whiz, a scruffy, rough-and-tumble feline, steals away whenever she can to visit the book's narrator, a frenzied, scabby-kneed girl with mismatched socks. Both girls and their cats know who really belongs with whom but their parents are unyielding. Then one day, Cecilia and Ms. Whiz move away. It looks as if the girls and the cats they love will be separated forever, until irascible Ms. Whiz takes matters into her own paws.

Switch Cat is written in tight, poetic style with creative use of strong verbs, adjectives, and original word combinations. Phrases like "Ms. Whiz, scruffy, torn, fish-breathy, mean, a mad-eyed spark on the trunks of trees," paint a vivid picture and make this a good read-aloud book. Colored pencil illustrations by Andrew McLean capture the personalities of each character and complement the text well. Without making an overt point, the book recognizes and affirms the differences that make each of us unique.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Janet Smith
Freelance Writer
Latrobe, Pennsylvania

Barbara Juster Esbensen
The Dream Mouse : A Lullaby Tale
from Old Latvia
Illustrated by Judith Mitchell
Little, Brown, 1992
Trade \$15.95
PS - Gr. 2

Multiculturalism is more than a buzzword in this, the last decade of the Twentieth Century. It is an invitation to become acquainted with the literature of other lands. *The Dream Mouse, a Lullaby Tale from Old Latvia* is well-met by the children of this generation.

"Evening is coming over the land, over the green sea. The edge of the sky glows red where the sun spreads her silk skirt in the cool air."

With rich imagery and alliteration, Barbara Juster Esbensen draws us into the journey of the Dream Mouse. He travels from house to

house with his cartload of dreams. Each turn of the page presents more beauty of Esbensen's written cadence enhanced by the lyrical drawings of Judith Mitchell. The rhythm of the plot is as gentle as a lullaby, charming the young child towards quiet time.

The visual images used in *The Dream Mouse* are garnered from an anthology of Latvian dainas (folk songs) with tracings back to the work of Krisjanis Barons ("Latvian Dainas," 1894).

The Dream Mouse would delight preschool and early elementary children. The tempo and texture of the writing is excellent.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Su Hagerty
Freelance Writer
Issaquah, Washington

Ann Grifalconi
The Bravest Flute
Little, Brown, 1994
Trade \$15.95
Gr. 1 - 4

It's New Year's Day and a young Mayan boy will be playing his bamboo flute and leading the parade of country folk to the cathedral in town. But there's more than just the desire to do a good job motivating this fatherless boy. If he completes the task, including carrying the heavy drum, he might receive a gift of pesos to feed and support his family. The hungry boy does not have an easy assignment, but keeps going and is doubly rewarded for his efforts. First, he's encouraged on the path by the widow of the old master flutist giving him her husband's black and silver flute. Secondly, he's rewarded by the elders for bravely completing the journey.

The selfless attitude and the willing heart of this Mayan boy is clear throughout the story. But in addition, his worries and fears will help readers believe he is real.

This story of the courage and persistence gives a striking glimpse of the Mayan culture. The boy's gaining strength from the morning star, the good omen it represents, and references to shamans and magic are counter to the Christian view, and would need to be explained to younger readers, yet this story would provide a good opening for explaining other cultures' beliefs. The pictures in this book are warm and appealing.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Sue Ford
Freelance Writer
Renton, Washington

H
Hall, Donald
Lucy's Summer
Illustrated by Michael McCurdy
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1995
Trade \$15.00
Gr. 1 - 3

Award winning poet Donald Hall tells the story of his mother Lucy Wells as a seven-year-old living on a farm in New Hampshire with her parents and younger sister Caroline. The year is 1910. The memorable summer begins with Lucy's mother opening a millinery shop in the front parlor. Rather ordinary happenings--such as playing house, helping with the canning of fruits and vegetables, and delivering hats to customers--are punctuated with the arrival of unusual visitors. An itinerant photographer takes the girls' pictures, an organ grinder with a monkey entertains them, a man and woman traveling with a gypsy caravan trade picture frames for some of Mama's hats. In early September, Lucy and her mother take the train to Boston to buy millinery supplies. Lucy is fascinated by the sights and sounds of the big city.

The story is charmingly told. Superb illustrations by Michael McCurdy resemble old-time woodcuts. The authentic details and wholesome events of family life early in this century weave a captivating story.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Dr. Rosalie B. Icenhower
Freelance Writer
Bothell, Washington

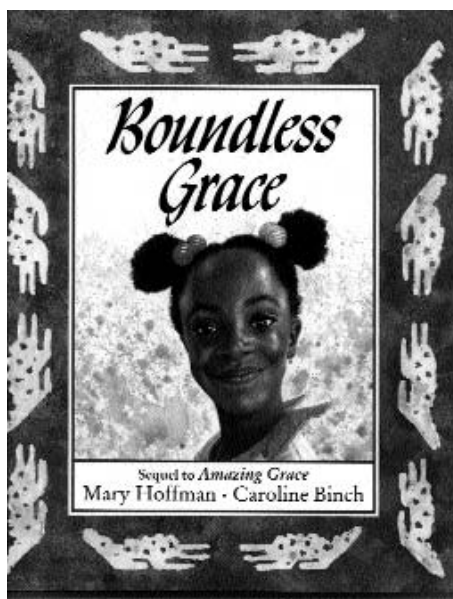
Margaret Hebblethwaite
My Secret Life : A Friendship
with God
Illustrated by Peter Kavanagh
Morehouse Pub., 1991
Trade \$11.95
PS - Gr. 3

A child's eye view of fellowship with God is the subject of this refreshing picture book. It is told in first person, and the perspective is so simple as to seem almost irrelevant at first glance. But the more the reader reflects on the child's attitudes and feeling for his best friend, the more respectful and appealing it becomes. The book discusses places a child can talk to God, what he can talk about, the tangible answers God gives, and how a person's life and behavior are changed by talking to God on a daily basis. God's love and interest in what happens to his friends and his delight in a person's friendship are discussed in a childlike way.

The special appeal of the book lies in the concept that God is a friend who will share a child's most private thoughts without anyone else knowing. The layout is appropriate for beginning readers with just enough words on each page. Colorful illustrations by Peter Kavanagh help the beginning reader to understand the story. This book should help the child who wants to know how he or she can develop closeness to God. He will learn God is interested in children's lives and problems. Reading this book aloud for those unable to read is heartily recommended.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Harriette Richards
Freelance Writer and Retired Teacher
Port Orchard, Washington



H
Mary Hoffman
Boundless Grace
Illustrated by Caroline Binch
Dial Books for Young Readers,
1995
Trade \$14.99
Gr. 2 - 5

Grace is a young African-American girl who, like many children, has divorced parents. She lives with her mother and grandmother Nana who love and care for her. In spite of this, Grace has questions about what a family is -- that it may or may not be the stereotypical father, mother, brother, sister, cat, and dog. Nana reinforces throughout the story that "families are what you make them." Grace and Nana eventually go to Africa where she meets her father, stepmother, and stepsiblings. Grace

and Nana have a wonderful time, though Grace has many uncertainties about her role in her new family in Africa. Her dad helps her with some of her concerns. By the time Grace leaves for home, she has come to realize as Nana says that "families are what you make them."

The story is beautifully illustrated by Caroline Binch. The faces of each character express feeling which gives more understanding and sensitivity to this story. This book will be especially meaningful to children who live in similar conditions.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Sandy Mitchell
Teacher, Willamette Christian School
Eugene, Oregon

Dianne Hofmeyr
Do the Whales Still Sing?
Illustrated by Jude Daly
Dial Books for Young Readers,
1995
Trade \$14.99, Library Ed. \$14.89
K - Gr. 4

This story begins when Pete, the lighthouse boy, gathers driftwood for an old man. The man uses driftwood to make carvings which he sells. Pete asks him if he has always made things. Instead of answering directly, the old man tells him the tale of a fierce and skilled sea captain who became rich by harpooning whales and selling their blubber for whale oil. But the captain learns the world and its wildlife have intrinsic value. Resources are given to be used wisely and to be cherished. Pete learns to appreciate the natural world that now speaks to the old man.

This charming picture story, beautifully illustrated by Jude Daly, shows children the beauty and importance of caring for the natural world. Its second lesson, that fighting and fierce bravery are not the best qualities to emulate, is effectively aimed at young boys, who tend to idolize the tough strong hero. However, it appeals to girls as well, with the same lessons. The images brought to mind by the lilting lyrical words are especially vivid and beautiful. This book will teach conservation more effectively than class work, because of the emotional pull it exerts on the reader. Read it aloud for the full effect. It is excellent for school or family.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Harriette Richards
Freelance Writer and Retired Teacher
Port Orchard, Washington

Florence Page Jaques
There Once Was a Puffin
Illustrated by Laura McGee
Kvasnosky
Dutton Children's Books, 1995
Trade \$8.99

K - 2. The whimsical pictures and flowing rhyme of the story make this picture book a fun treat for children. Illustrations by Laura McGee Kvasnosky are colorful and simple. The Puffin is lonely because he has no friends to play with. His habit is to eat them! While he ponders his predicament, some friendly fish come alongside and suggest he change his eating style. They all become good friends, and the delightful ending gives evidence that we all can change bad habits.

The story is short and rhyming, lending itself to easy memorization by children. It also provides dramatization possibilities for class activities.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Carolyn Hearing
Teacher
Raytown, Missouri

Garrison Keillor
Cat, You Better Come Home
Illustrated by Steve Johnson and
Lou Fancher
Viking, 1995
Trade \$15.99
Gr. 1 - 4

Finding herself unappreciated at home, Cat goes off to find appreciation and good food. She finds career and friends with whom she leads an exciting and adventurous life. When things get tough, she finds herself alone. Fortunately she is still welcome at home.

Although younger children may not understand all the words, their lyrical quality will fascinate them. The rhythm and poetry of this tale plus the intrigue of the story will make for a captivated audience. The art work is wonderful. One could spend much time just looking at the pictures. This is a cat lover's book!

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Rosalie M. Dahlvang
Librarian, St. Anthony School
Renton, Washington

Dorothy Hoffman Levi
A Very Special Sister
Illustrated by Ethel Gold
Kendall Green, 1992
Trade \$9.95
PS - Gr. 3

Laura, a deaf child, has two hearing friends, Frannie and Jimmie. Laura is excited because her mother is going to have a new baby. As the birth draws near, she worries whether Mother will love her as much as she will love the new baby, especially if the baby can hear. Laura learns that hearing has nothing to do with the depth of Mother's love.

This new-sibling picture story has a different twist, helping the hearing-impaired child realize his value and accomplishments. The pictures have appropriate signing in them so the deaf reader can see what the children are saying to each other. At the end of the book, several pages are devoted to pictures of signed words and the manual alphabet. The deaf child will love to read or watch this book signed over and over because it will assure him he is important and valued. The story will teach children that people who have a disability are really the same inside, with the dreams and fears of other children. Ethel Gold illustrates the book with simple appropriate illustrations that can be easily understood by the young with little help from a parent or teacher.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Harriette Richards
Freelance Writer and Retired Teacher
Port Orchard, Washington

Jonathan London
Honey Paw and Lightfoot
Illustrated by Jon Van Zyle
Chronicle Books, 1994
Trade \$14.95
Gr. 1 - 3

In *Honey Paw and Lightfoot*, readers are given a fascinating look into the life of a mother grizzly bear and her cub, Lightfoot, in the wilds of Alaska. Lightfoot begins life no bigger than a hamster in the dark of a cold cave. Honey Paw teaches Lightfoot how to survive, and Lightfoot uses those skills to begin his own life as a young male bear. The magnificent illustrations of Jon Van Zyle give the reader not only the realism of the bears but also the territory and places they roam. The book gives basic facts about bears in the wild, in a setting that will appeal to the young reader. The story ends as it begins with the seasons and cycles of a bear's life. It also gives the opportunity to imagine what will happen in the future to Lightfoot.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Sandy Mitchell
Teacher, Willamette Christian School
Eugene, Oregon

Larry McKaughan
Why Are Your Fingers Cold?
Illustrated by Joy Dunn Keenan
Herald Press, 1992
Trade \$14.95
PS - Gr. 3

Why Are Your Fingers Cold? is a beautifully illustrated story with large double-fold pictures in full color. The message of the book is communicated equally well by the illustrations and by the short question and answer on each page. Real life experiences that children easily identify with are used. Each experience is positive and can be used as an example of how a child should act. The reading of the book could initiate a good discussion time. This book has a strong message of caring that very young children will want to hear over and over again. The illustrations by Joy Dunn Keenan are large enough to be used with a kindergarten class during story time. The use of animals on almost every page would be enjoyed by children.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Marie Knaupp
Retired Librarian
Monmouth, Oregon

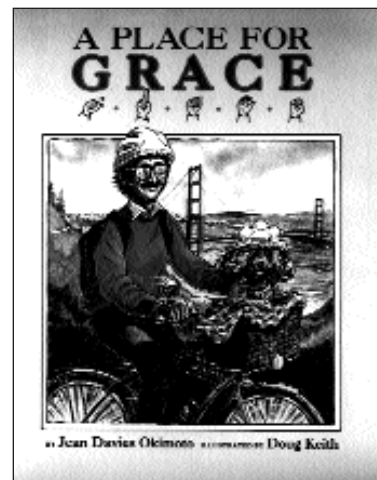
David Novak
Itsy-Bitsy Spider's Heroic Climb & Other Stories
(American Storytelling from August House)
August House Publishers, 1994
Cassette \$12.00
PS - Gr. 2

David Novak expands the Itsy-Bitsy Spider to spin a tale of perseverance and then relates the story to overcoming problems that every child might face. Children will be delighted by the story telling abilities and sound effects that are used throughout the tape. In the story, "A Glass of Water," from Novak's own childhood experiences, children will learn why it is a good idea to plan ahead. "Jack," a version of "Jack and the Beanstalk," suggests that wealth needs to be spread about for good things to grow. Other stories included are "Mon-Daw Minh" about an Indian boy's spirit quest to provide food for his family, and "The Snake's Disguise" a story of Gremlins living under the earth and a search for identity that people on the earth would accept. These stories have dubious values, but can be used as parables. The tape

ends with a skateboard story that relates back to the Itsy-Bitsy spider's story of perseverance.

u Quality - 2 § Acceptability - 2

Paula Stewart Marks
Principal, Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon



H
Jean Davies Okimoto
A Place for Grace
Illustrated by Doug Keith
Sasquatch Books, 1993
Trade \$14.95
PS - Gr. 2

Compassion for the handicapped radiates from the brightly illustrated cover to the last page of this charming, readable book. Grace, whose name is spelled out in sign language on the cover, is a shaggy stray mutt with high aspirations. In her heart, she knows her destiny of service to mankind will require her to be "brave, loyal, and true." When she offers herself to be trained as a guide dog for the blind, Grace is ungraciously turned away. That very day, through an act of bravery, she captures the imagination of a deaf man. Charlie realizes her potential and pries open another door of opportunity for Grace, one much more suited to her size and talents. "I will be brave, loyal, and true to Charlie," Grace vows as she begins her arduous training as an Official Hearing Dog.

The subsequent adventures of our heroine serve as an excellent introduction into the hidden, silent world so misunderstood by the hearing. Doug Keith's winsome illustrations display an array of technological apparatus which further demonstrate the severe limitations suffered by this oft-neglected segment of our population. Whether read aloud to preschoolers or perused by fourth-to-sixth graders, Grace will surely wend her way into the hearts of adults and children alike.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Olivia Wheatley Stachorek
Teacher
Carlsborg, Washington

Paul and Emma Rogers
Quacky Duck
Illustrated by Barbara Mullarney
Wright
Little, Brown, 1995
Trade \$14.95
PS - Gr. 1

Duck was fond of quacking. "When she quacked, she was happy. And when she was happy, she quacked" much to the consternation of the other farm and meadow animals. Then one night, the pond and meadow became silent. The animals at first revel in the silence; but, when it goes on for four weeks, they start to miss Duck just a little. Not to worry, that quacky duck suddenly reappears followed by ten little ducklings who don't quack, they cheep!

The young child will enjoy following the colorful, animal-shaped cartoon balloons to signal Duck's quacking and be delighted with a page of ten of those same balloons to signal the time to "cheep" along with the ducklings. Barbara Mullarney Wright's colorful illustrations make this book a pleaser.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Judy Driscoll
Teacher, Christ the King Academy
Poulsbo, Washington

Avril Rowlands
Tales from the Ark
Illustrated by Rosslyn Moran
Lion Publishing, 1993
Paper \$4.99
Gr. 2 - 5

If any child has wondered what Noah did with all those animals once God shut the door on the ark, this book provides an imaginative, humorous look. However, there are concerns about the pessimistic tone of both animals and humans. There is also the concern of providing God's point of view and whether it is disrespectful to furnish God's side of the conversation.

Once these concerns are considered, the story itself has charm. Poor Noah has to deal with angry animals, reluctant children, and occasional emergencies such as a leak in the ark. Each chapter focuses on different animals. Lessons such as trust, respecting authority, and teasing are interwoven in each tale.

Younger children will enjoy the book being read aloud, while older ones might laugh at its subtle humor. The whimsical black-and-white drawings complement the story well.

u Quality - 2 § Acceptability - 3

Pam Webb
Freelance Writer, Volunteer Librarian
House of the Lord Christian Academy
Oldtown, Idaho

Brian Sibley
The Great Food Feud : Or a Little
Give and Take
Illustrated by Rosslyn Moran
Lion Publishing, 1994
Trade \$12.95
PS - Gr. 3

The Aralians and Zedonians live across a wide, bridged river from each other. They get along fine sharing crops and dairy goods until the Chancellor of Zedonia encourages the King to send a message to the Queen of Aralia demanding they receive double the amount of what they give. The Aralian Prime Minister blows up the bridge between them. The Zidonians react in fear and build a high wall. The Aralians follow suit. Everyone regrets they no longer receive the benefit of food the other supplied. Famine results. The King and Queen reach a solution, and everyone is happy, sharing as they did in the past.

The clever title and intriguing cover illustration by Rosslyn Moran draw a person into this story immediately. The message of trusting and sharing comes across clearly.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Judith M. Gonzales
Freelance Writer
Moses Lake, Washington

Lynn A. Strough
Eliza's Carousel Lion
D. R. Godine, 1994
Trade \$17.95
Gr. 1 - 4

"When Eliza was young, she loved things that were old." This opening line helps you understand Eliza and what drives her. As a child her favorite place to go was Trolley Park. One of the things that made it special was the lion on the old carousel in the middle of the park. As she grew she studied history and when she was grown she took a job in a museum. She often visited the now faded and worn lion on warm summer Saturday afternoons.

One day when she arrived she found an empty space where the carousel animals used to chase

each other around and around. The carousel's owner, Alastair, explained that he had to sell the animals to make room for a mall. Eliza kept busy working, but couldn't stop thinking about the music, the lights, and the lion. Eventually she decides to try to find the lion and ends up with much more. The bright artwork by the author adds life to the animals as well as to the story. One of the things I admired about this book is the possibility of a child catching a vision of the value of things from the past, maybe even a feel for history.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Tonie Lagasca
Parent Volunteer
West Hills Christian School
Portland, Oregon

Jenny Wagner
Motor Bill and the Lovely Caroline
Illustrated by Ron Brooks
Ticknor & Fields Books for Young
Readers, 1995
Trade \$14.95
PS - Gr. 2

Motor Bill, a simple, child-like character, is viewed with gentle humor and affection by others in the town where he lives. He has no job, can't tie a bow, and spends his days playing in a toy car that he believes is real. The sensitive and caring Caroline takes time each day to chat with Bill and always tells him how lovely his car is. The first time Bill offers her a ride, she blushes at the thought of being seen by everyone they know. Eventually, Motor Bill's sweet efforts at persuasion help Caroline overcome her self-consciousness and the two spend a wonderful day together that neither will ever forget.

This touching story beautifully depicts how kind and caring attitudes provide the basis for friendships that mutually enrich each person involved. The author avoids any overt suggestions that some individuals are smarter than others and instead presents a story that shows we are all special, with unique things we can contribute to each others' lives. The illustrations by Ron Brooks, portraying Bill, Caroline, and the townsfolk as animals, also assist in avoiding the depiction of any individual as handicapped or different. Warmth emanates from this gentle tale which gets its point across by showing us a very special friendship in action.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Janet Smith
Freelance Writer
Latrobe, Pennsylvania

Warren, Jean
The Wishing Fish
Illustrated by Barb Tourtillotte
(A Totline Teaching Tale)
Warren, 1993
Paper \$5.95
PS - Gr. 2

Two trees learn contentment in this rhyming story of make-believe. A palm tree and a fir tree become unhappy in their own environments, wishing to be someplace else. Through the special powers of a magical fish, the two get their wishes and trade places. They soon discover why they belong in their own environments. Their wish to return is granted. This make-believe variation on the state of being content offers teaching opportunities about this important truth. It also lends itself to discussions about environments in the northern and southern hemispheres.

Children will be delighted by the fantasy and poetry of this Jean Warren Totline Teaching Tale and by Barb Tourtillotte's colorful artwork. Included in the book are several pages of age-appropriate songs and crafts. The book is intended as a read-aloud to preschoolers and an easy reader for six- to eight-year-olds.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Cathie Coffin
Educational Consultant
Kirkland, Washington.

Jean Watson
Dan and Gramps
Illustrated by Toni Goffe
Victor Books, 1995
Trade \$5.99
PS - Gr. 2

Dan likes to visit Gramps. They have snacks, read, or do different things together. But Gramps is always losing things. So before their activity of the day, Dan has to help Gramps find something he has lost. He enjoys helping Gramps in this way. Dan helps find his offering at church and keeps Gramp's key safe in his pocket. Gramps gives God credit for taking care of him by giving him a kind family and good friends, "especially my very helpful great grandson."

This heartwarming story will get a child giggling as he gets involved in finding lost items in each delightfully colored picture. It is an excellent, upbuilding book encouraging love between extended family members even of great age differences. Toni Goffe's attractive artwork makes *Dan and Gramps* appear lovable and fun.

Companion title:

Anne and Gran

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Judith M. Gonzales
Freelance Writer
Moses Lake, Washington

Marjorie Ann Waybill
Chinese Eyes
Illustrated by Pauline Cutrell
Herald Press, 1974
Trade \$14.95
Gr. 1 - 3

Chinese Eyes is a sensitive story that will be understood by children who have felt put down by the comments of classmates. It shows how important it is when others think you are different. After a long, very bad day at school, Becky goes to her mother for comfort. Her mother explains to her what Chinese eyes really are. Now Becky is able to feel good about herself again.

This would be a good book to use with adopted children as the leading character in this book was from Korea, brought to the author's family by the Holt Adoption Program in 1967. A first grade class, during story or library time, would enjoy hearing this book read. It would be a good beginning for discussion on individual differences or adoption. The illustrations by Pauline Cutrell are detailed enough for the children to follow the story, yet leave room for them to fill in with their imagination.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Marie Knaupp
Retired Librarian
Monmouth, Oregon

Flavia Weedn and Lisa Weedn
Gilbert
The Little Snow Bear : An Original
American Tale
Hyperion Books for Children, 1995
Trade \$10.95
PS - Gr. 2

There once was a little bear who had no friends. He was very lonely, but one day he came up with the idea of making himself a friend--another little bear made of snow. The snow bear comes to life, and the two bears become fast friends, having many happy times together. When spring comes, the snow bear melts away, with a promise to come the next year. During his absence, the little bear learns some valuable lessons about friendship and memories. He discovers that he is "never lonely again, for he

is too busy making memories with his special friend made of snow."

This is a heart-warming tale, simply written with soft, warm illustrations. *The Little Snow Bear* would make a nice read-aloud book that children want to hear again and again. A good addition to any library.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Sharon Westra
Librarian, Mt. Vernon Christian School
Mt. Vernon, Washington

C. Wilkeshuis
The Best Gift of All
Illustrated by Rita van Bilsen
St. Paul Books & Media, 1989
Trade \$8.95
K - Gr. 3

King Balthasar has embarked on a journey to follow the star that will lead him to the Prince of Peace. His young son, Irenus, decides to go as well. Secretly, he sets out with his most treasured toys to give as gifts to the Christ Child. A wonderful ball, a beautiful book, and a beloved pup will be his offerings to the new Prince. As he travels, he encounters situations where the gifts he has brought will bring joy to the people he meets. He is left empty-handed with nothing to give but himself.

Beautifully illustrated by Rita van Bilsen, this book shows how one gives from the heart. When shared with young children, it will provide an opportunity for discussion on the true meaning of giving.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Sally Kuhns
Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School
Bremerton, Washington

Patrick Yee
Let's Make Friends
Let's Go
Let's Play
Let's Eat
Viking, 1995
Board \$2.99
PS

These sturdy board books are sized small enough to be held by tiny hands, though Mom or Dad's help will be needed for the youngest readers. Each title introduces one of four concepts (transportation, toys, food, and animals) to be explored, and each of the twenty-four pages contains one concept, word, and illustration. In *Let's Go*, word pictures include: tractor, bicycle, bus, dump truck, ship, sailboat, airplane, and train. The concepts are

thoroughly represented with a variety of suitable examples. The illustrations are appealing and colorful and, with only a few exceptions, clearly depict the words they portray. These are ideal first books to introduce the youngest children with the shortest attention spans to the pleasures of being read to. The numerous examples of each idea will be helpful in expanding young vocabularies.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Janet Smith
Freelance Writer
Latrobe, Pennsylvania

Deborah Turney Zagwyn
Hound Without Howl
Orca Book Publishers, 1994
Trade \$14.95
K - 2

Howard, a bachelor who enjoyed listening to opera, wanted a musical companion. He chose a basset hound as a pet thinking the dog would bay (howl) for him. They became fast friends, but Clayton was too content to howl. Howard tried many ways to stimulate him to bay, including building a bay window in his doghouse, making bay leaf soup, and taking him shopping at The Bay. But he finally admitted he had a bayless basset, a hound without a howl. Nevertheless, their friendship was nearly perfect, so he took Clayton for a walk by the bay one evening to prove their friendship could handle such disappointment. While relaxing by the ocean, watching the moon come up, Howard's wish finally came true as Clayton began baying at the moon.

Deborah Turney-Zagwyn's illustrations are colorful and appealing, adding to the warmth and whimsy of the story. The delightful play on words will fascinate and tickle young children. The book presents a good point about friendship, when Howard experiences the disappointment of his dog not baying but decides he loves and accepts him anyway.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Judith M. Gonzales
Freelance Writer
Moses Lake, Washington

What are you reading
to your little ones this winter?
Send us a list of you five favorite
titles for winter, Christmas,
Thanksgiving, snowy weather, also
giving the author, publisher, and date
of publication.

(Can't limit it to five?

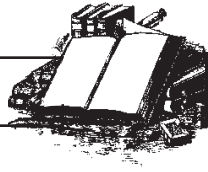
OK, send more!)

We'll publish your lists, some o
which you can use now, and some
next year!

Thanks for sharing with others
who work with children
up through grade 3.

Mail to:

Christian Library Journal
7628 78th Drive N.E.
Marysville, Washington 98270-6516



Elizabeth Hershberger Bauman
Coals of Fire
 Illustrated by Alan Eitzen
 Herald Press, 1982
 Paper \$5.95
 Gr. 4 - 6

Coals of Fire is a compilation of seventeen stories illustrating the courage of those who refuse to fight in times of stress, danger, or warfare. While many who oppose strife suffer persecution and/or die as a result, their ultimate victory is in Jesus Christ.

Worldwide examples range from the distant past (AD 295) to World War II (1943). Though the most recent story is more than fifty years old, the theme certainly is not outdated. The incidents are compelling because they are true. Middle school readers may see applicability to things that occur in family and school life and to the world at large. Readability levels for some chapters may be beyond fourth graders.

The cover and binding and two-color illustrations by Alan Eitzen resemble those often used in book club offerings at school.

u Quality - 2 § Acceptability - 4

Dr. Rosalie B. Icenhower
 Freelance Writer
 Bothell, Washington

John Bibee
The Toy Campaign
 (The Spirit Flyer; 2)
 InterVarsity Press, 1987
 Paper \$6.99
 Gr. 4 - 7

It is summer vacation in Centreville. Susan and John are busy running their own lawn mowing business and riding their Spirit Flyer bicycles. Susan reads the book that goes with her Spirit Flyer, *The Book of the Kings*. John does not. Nor does he take care of his bicycle as well as Susan does hers. He is much more interested in the treasure of toys that Mrs. Happy (strange how changing one letter changes the whole meaning of a word) wants to give to all the children. But these toys are more than they seem. They have chains that ensnare each child who succumbs to Mrs. Happy's offer. Toy fever grips most of the children. John is ensnared, then Susan's two little sisters! What can Susan do?

Black plastic mirrors that draw you into evil, candy that ensnares your soul, chains that turn into a snake, toys that are just not right; John and Susan have to face them all. When they must go into battle against the great fiery snake, they have their bicycle horns for warning, their bicycle lights to drive out the darkness, and Prince Kingson to guide them.

This intriguing fantasy is reminiscent of *Pinocchio*, *Narnia*, and *A Wrinkle in Time*. It has enough excitement to hold the reader's attention through the whole book. It presents eternal lessons in a very interesting manner. The last few chapters do explain some of the symbolism. However, an adult may need to help the reader understand more of the symbols.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Donna Eggett
 Volunteer Counselor
 Pregnancy Care Center of Catawba Valley
 Hickory, North Carolina

Nick Butterworth
The Secret Path
 Little, Brown, 1994
 Trade \$14.95
 PS - Gr. 3

Percy, the park keeper, and his small friend, Squirrel, go into an old maze in the park to trim overgrown hedges. Some animal friends deciding to surprise Percy fall asleep on the stone lion bench and are surprised by Percy who pretends to be the stone lion talking to them. The biggest surprise comes when Percy finds Squirrel has carefully picked up all the string he dropped to be able to find his way out of the maze. The reader is invited to find the way out on a fold-out maze in the back of the book.

Beautiful full-page colored illustrations help to tell the story. Younger children will enjoy the animal characters as well as the fun of finding which path leads to the homemade cookies.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Marie Knaupp
 Retired Librarian
 Monmouth, Oregon

Emily Crofford and C. A. Nobens
Stories from the Blue Road
 Carolrhoda Books, 1982
 Trade \$13.50, Library Ed. \$13.13
 Gr. 3 - 7

Five stories of family life on a cotton plantation in Arkansas provide delightful glimpses of growing up.

In the first story, "Every Body Should Have a Name," Bill names the runt pig, against father's orders. Experience taught them it's hard to butcher a pet. Because Bill believes "every body" should have a name, he calls the pig Otis. He confesses to his dad that he's done so. Dad replies that since Bill's adopted the pig, he has the responsibility for it...including deciding what happens when it's time to butcher. Bill takes on that responsibility and handles it well.

"The Valentine" shows Meg in a quandary about liking Talmadge McLinn, the new boy in school who has a club foot and is a little different. Meg reflects that the kids who make fun have forgotten what it was like when they were new. But she's not strong enough to let the others know how she really feels. When Talmadge walks to her home to give her a valentine he's bought at half-price, her father commends her for choosing friends for what they are, not appearance. She goes off and cries because she hadn't earned her father's praise.

Meg takes piano lessons from Lady Merida who has cancer and plays classical music, which the local folks think is crazy. Meg learns to care and is saddened when Lady Merida dies. She learns that others, like her best friend's mother, enjoy the different music and other beautiful things.

In "It's the Loving that Counts," Meg arranges for her parents to have an afternoon off and bakes them an anniversary cake. The cake is a flop, but the family enjoys refreshment and a good laugh.

The last story, "Dust Devils," shows Meg disobeying her mother on a hot, dusty day by going to the canal with two friends. Once there, they go "skinny dipping" and are seen by someone. Meg hesitates to confess, unwilling to get her friends in trouble, but she finds a way. She discovers her parents aren't angry. Mom did it when she was young, and Dad only suggests that Mom make her a swim suit.

All of the stories are well told and highlight a learning experience for one or more of the kids.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

'Leen Pollinger
Freelance Writer and Editor
Sun City West, Arizona

Pleasant DeSpain
Eleven Turtle Tales : Adventure
Tales from Around the World
Illustrated by Joe Shlichta
(American Storytelling from
August House)
August House Publishers, Inc.,
1994
Trade \$12.95
Gr. 2 - 5

Enjoyable folktales share legends and fables about the ancient reptile, the turtle. The reader can catch a glimpse into eleven different cultures and their traditions by discussing and comparing each story. As is true in most fables, a good lesson or moral is presented for the reader to discover.

The black-and-white illustrations by Joe Shlichta are interesting and demonstrate a key point for each tale. Most of the stories should generate a positive response and good behavior pattern.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 2.5

Mary McKinney
Freelance Writer, Teacher
Port Orchard, Washington

Roger Elwood
Darien's Angelwalk for Children
Illustrated by Ron Mazellan
Chariot Books, 1995
Trade \$15.99
K - 6

Despite the recent proliferation of angel books, little about the subject has been written for children. Now author Roger Elwood has adapted his best-selling Angelwalk series into a picture book for young readers. Elwood's angel character, Darien, intervenes to assist children in a variety of circumstances. He helps a young boy save and adopt a deer in distress, a pet that changes the boy's life. He encourages a girl to have compassion on a homeless woman and reassures another injured girl of God's healing power.

Elwood places great emphasis on depicting angels as ministering spirits true to the biblical view. Each situation conforms theologically to scriptural descriptions of angels and their roles. The full-color illustrations by Ron Mazellan

portray the angel Darien with a sense of majesty, gently ministering to his young subjects. The illustrations fit well with the author's literary style. Scriptural references on angels are also listed providing a starting point for further study.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Janet Smith
Freelance Writer
Latrobe, Pennsylvania

Kim Engelmann
Journey to Joona
(The Joona Trilogy; 1)
NavPress, 1995
Paper \$5.00
Gr. 3-6

In *Journey to Joona*, Margaret Morrison had a terrible year. Her mom had died and she had moved in with her uncle John. Her grades were slipping, and her relationships with her schoolmates were not going well. The book opens with a wild confrontation between Margaret and two of her peers, Ryan and Craig. When Craig accidentally falls in the river, all three of their lives change dramatically as a wondrous, magical swan comes to the rescue. Laurel, the swan, speaks and introduces them to a marvelous paradise called Joona where suffering swans are taken. Joona is in danger, though, from Sebastian, the evil, dark swan. Margaret, Ryan, and Craig are called on to help in the struggle, and as their focus switches from their own petty arguments to the important battle for Joona, a wonderful, gradual unfolding and maturing of their character begins to take place.

This exciting story flows very much along the lines of the *Narnia Chronicles* with the good versus evil theme. The characters parallel those of Jesus, God, and Satan. It's fast-paced and safe with good winning over evil in the end.

Defenders of Joona

Once again, Joona is in danger from the evil Sebastian. Laurel has called upon Margaret, Ryan, and Craig to help, but Margaret can't understand why he's also included Heather Fitzgerald. Heather, who is popular, seems to delight in spreading mean rumors about Margaret that have done much to destroy her already poor reputation at school. Quite by surprise, Heather finds herself one of the team. Joona and Laurel have a marvelous way of healing and rejuvenating all things, including fractured relationships. Through one more intense battle against evil, the children find themselves growing in maturity.

The Crown of Joona

The final episode in this fast-paced trilogy finds Margaret, Ryan, Craig, and Heather once again coming to the aid of Laurel and Joona. Sebastian, having been exiled from the swan paradise earlier, now has come to earth and is causing a tremendous amount of trouble for the children, their families, and the small town in which they live. Sebastian weaves a network of lies and illusion that threatens to tear apart families and damage the town, as well as create havoc for Joona. To save Joona, as well as her family and friends, Margaret is called upon to make her greatest sacrifice. *The Crown of Joona* is a thrilling climax to the Joona series.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Gayle Chessman Haberman
Teacher, West Hills Christian School
Portland, Oregon

Heather Forest
The Animals Could Talk
(American Storytelling from
August House)
August House Publishers, Inc.,
1994

Cassette and Booklet \$12.95
PS - Gr. 4

Heather Forest, an incredibly talented folk singer, has changed nineteen Aesop's fables into mesmerizing folk ballads. This is definitely a "stop what you are doing and listen" tape! The melodies are catchy, and each tale contains a positive moral that is still true today. Included with the tape is a booklet of words and line drawings. Also included is a short biography of Aesop and his writings. This forty-two minute tape would be excellent for listening to on trips, in a classroom, homeschool, or just for fun. It is a definite "must have" for any family. Many of these same fables are currently included in Christian school textbooks.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Paula Stewart Marks
Principal, Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

Mary W. Gehman
Abdi and the Elephants
Herald Press, 1995
Paper \$5.95
Gr. 3 - 6

Orphaned and sent to live with his Uncle Mohammed's family, twelve-year-old Abdi is put in charge of watching the goats on his uncle's Somalian farm. When a hyena kills a valuable nanny goat, Abdi feels as if he has

failed in his duty and in his effort to win over the uncle who reluctantly took him in.

Abdi finds sympathy and encouragement from his Aunt Fatuma and Dug Hassan, a respected village elder. These adults provide needed support for Abdi as he ventures to do better, but at times fails when his efforts to help plant corn and grow papaya trees are foiled by locusts and floods. Abdi chafes when villagers fatalistically say such events happen "Ishna Allah" or "If God wills." He dreams of going to school and learning better ways of farming, in order to help his people. When he saves a valuable crop of sesame plants from elephants, he wins the opportunity to do just that.

This is a simple and beautifully told tale about rural Somalian village life through the eyes of a young Muslim boy. Author Mary W. Gehman's twenty years as a Mennonite missionary and teacher in that African country are demonstrated in the intricate details of Somalian life she weaves into her story. There is no conversion of Abdi to Christianity or other interjection of an overt Christian view. The book is best used as a window into the cultural and religious realm of Muslim Somalia, portrayed by a Christian author whose love for that country and its people shows on every page.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Janet Smith
Freelance Writer
Latrobe, Pennsylvania

Connie Griffith
Mysterious Rescuer
(The Tootie McCarthy Series; 4)
Baker Book House, 1994
Paper \$5.99
Gr. 4 - 7

Tootie McCarthy, a headstrong thirteen-year-old, has just rescued her younger, retarded brother from mistreatment in an asylum. As a reward for exposing the asylum's abuse, Tootie is given a large sum of money. She and her sister have their own ideas of how to spend it. Much to the surprise and dismay of both girls, their father announces his own plans for the money. He bought a farm in Wisconsin. She must leave behind her best friend and face people who don't understand her brother, plus not be able to do what she wants with "HER" money. Anger and resentment grip Tootie's heart.

Tired, cold, and disappointed, the McCarthy's face their first night in their new home without heat. Tootie's mother encourages the family to think of something to be thankful to God for.

As they begin to look for the positive, there is a plunk on the porch. Investigation proves it to be dry firewood. Someone was looking out for them. More nighttime gifts follow. Tootie eventually discovers who has been providing for them, but she has plenty of other struggles to deal with. Thinking it best to keep her brother a secret backfires on Tootie and brings to a climax her discord with fellow student, Sylvia Shinler.

This book deals in a creative way with handicaps and also with anger and bitterness. Tootie resolves her anger and the mysterious rescuer is not who you might think.

Other titles in the series:

- The Unexpected Weapon; 1
- Surprise at Logan School; 2
- Secret Behind Locked Doors; 3
- The Shocking Discovery; 5

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Jannet Hoeffner
Freelance Writer
Prairie City, Oregon

Gloria Guenther
The Gift of Love
Illustrated by Kathy Penner
Kindred Press, 1989
Paper \$8.95
Gr. 4 - 6

The Gift of Love is a sweet and poignant story of an eleven-year-old girl, Melodie, placed in foster care. She has been raised mostly by a poor aunt and uncle. Shortly before going to the foster home, she accepts Jesus as her Savior at a neighborhood evangelistic service for children. Melodie has a difficult time accepting the change to the foster care group home. Fortunately there is a Christian young lady in the home who encourages Melodie as she adjusts to her new home and begins her walk with the Lord. Her other faithful companion is her cat, Al Capone, to whom she pours out her feelings. Despite the difficulties and problems of her life, Melodie finds caring adults who help her grow as a person.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Sally Kuhns
Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School
Bremerton, Washington

Marc Harshman
The Storm
Illustrated by Mark Mohr
(The Adventures of Jenna; 3)
Cobblehill Books, 1995
Trade \$14.99
Gr. 2 - 4

Jonathan hated being singled out and feeling different because he was confined to a wheelchair. One day after coming home from school and being left alone by Mom because she needs to get the car repaired, Jonathan is caught in something unexpected--a tornado. At home alone with storm clouds gathering and that strange funnel in the distance, he is afraid. But taking responsibility seriously, he stays with the horses in the barn to keep them calm and quiet during the tornado. With beams crashing, electricity gone, the very earth shaking, he stays, keeping a hold on the horses. As the storm dies down and Jonathan extricates himself from the wreckage, he gets outside to see not only great devastation of the farm but also his mom and dad. Feeling proud about his choice of actions, he is confident people will notice him now, not for his disability, but for the ability he showed during the storm. This is a worthwhile story of a handicapped boy who wants people to see him as a person and not as "different." Colorfully illustrated by Mark Mohr, the book has the violence of the storm tastefully depicted without being too graphic.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Maria Hedman
Teacher, Falls Christian Academy
Post Falls, Idaho

Laurie Lawlor
Gold in the Hills
Walker, 1995
Trade \$14.95
Gr. 4 - 6

Laurie Lawlor has peopled *Gold in the Hills* with a wonderful mix of characters. The story is told in the words of a precocious ten-year-old, Harriet Elizabeth Proctor, A.K.A. Hattie. Her brother, Pheme (Alexander Phimester), two years her senior, is a talented, sensitive artist who is extremely withdrawn due to the death of their mother. Their father, James Proctor, has left the children with his cousin, Tirzah Throckmorton, survivor extraordinaire, while he prospect for gold. The Throckmorton siblings are a study in contrasts: "Miss High and Mighty" Patience, vindictive Eddie, susceptible Minnie, and sweet baby, Willie. And then there is the next-door neighbor, Old Judge. Much of the story deals with the growing relationship between the Proctor children and the reclusive old man. The plot

can be summed up in the questions: Will the children be sold into slavery by their pious aunt, or will their father truly return before the coming of the snow?

Lawlor has done a marvelous job of showing the hand of God in the dealings of these people without overtly preaching. The situations are realistic, set after the Civil War in Colorado on the edge of a gold-mining area.

The drudgery of everyday life and coping with the consequences of adults' decisions help move the plot toward highlights such as Hattie and PHEME attempting to find their father themselves. Intermediate elementary and early junior high students can identify with the aspirations of the young characters. The reading level is suitable for older students with limited vocabulary.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Su Hagerty
Freelance Writer
Issaquah, Washington

Beverly Lewis
The Chicken Pox Panic
Illustrated by Barbara Birch
(The Cul-de-Sac Kids)
Bethany House Publishers, 1993
Paper \$2.99
Gr. 2 - 4

While she has chicken pox, Abby plans a special surprise for her adopted Korean brother's birthday. Meanwhile, her friend Stacy needs help solving a mystery. Abby goes broke while playing detective. She prays for help in getting money to carry out her party plans. The neighbor kids loan her money. She invites them all to the party, but they break out with chicken pox, including her brother. She bakes the cake anyway, which turns out a mess. She redeems it by decorating it as a chicken pox cake. Fun and high adventure reign.

From the attractive cover to the itchy-gitchy language, this is an appealing book, one of several about the Cul-de-Sac kids. The book is well written, shows realistic seven- to ten-year-old characters, and has pleasing black-and-white illustrations by Barbara Birch.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Judith M. Gonzales
Freelance Writer
Moses Lake, Washington

Susan Lowell
I am Lavina Cumming
Illustrated by Paul Mirocha
Milkweed Editions, 1993
Paper \$14.95
Gr. 3 - 8

Alone, on a train headed away from her loving father and brothers, Lavina travels to a new life with relatives who are strangers. The year 1905 comes alive through the rich story telling of author Susan Lowell. She has paid special attention to accurate detail and makes this an easy way for children to learn their history lesson.

It is a story sure to capture the interest of children, who will quickly relate to Lavina's fears, worries, and unhappiness. Lavina is able to cope with her strange new surroundings and difficult relatives with courage. But when Lavina enters Aunt Agnes's household, religion is used as the excuse to take away one of the few reminders of home Lavina has left, the necklace.

Chapter nine contains descriptions of Halloween stories with banshees, witches, spirits, and goblins.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Myrtle May Pittman Crane
Freelance Writer, Editor
Alderwood Manor, Washington

H
Lucado, Max
Tell Me the Secrets : Treasures for
Eternity
Illustrated by Ron DiCianni
Crossway Books, 1992
Trade \$15.99
Gr. 3 - 6

Two twelve-year-old boys, Eric and Landon, and Landon's nine-year-old sister, Shannon, meet Grandpa Josh and Melva when Landon's baseball crashes through their window. Typical "kid problems" in each chapter bring the trio back to the elderly couple who are retired missionaries. Josh allows the children to read and learn from stories from his (usually) locked book of secrets. The "secrets" are forgiveness, peace, victory, growth, love, greatness, and life.

Max Lucado is an excellent story teller, and Ron DiCianni is a superb illustrator. The stories, relevant to today's children, illustrate biblical truths. Chapters have scriptural subtitles, and several verses are included with a short note of encouragement at the conclusion of each story.

The author urges parents to read the book aloud to children and use each story as a launching

pad for creative, innovative, "but most of all, impassioned" discussion about their values for life. Values taught from such a beautiful book will be used all through life.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Dr. Rosalie B. Icenhower
Freelance Writer
Bothell, Washington

Yvonne MacGrory
The Secret of the Ruby Ring
Illustrated by Terry Myler
Milkweed Editions, 1994
Paper \$6.95
Gr. 3 - 6

On the eve of her eleventh birthday, Lucy, a girl of Ireland, is given a valuable ring by her grandmother. She discovers accidentally that it has the magical power to grant two wishes. Lucy wishes she could live in a much larger house and finds herself back in time as a lowly maid in Langley castle. The remainder of the book tells about life in an Irish castle over a hundred years ago when absentee landlords made life miserable for poor tenants and generated much of the political turmoil of those times. Lucy's character improves, and her appreciation of luxuries she had at home increases.

This enchanting children's novel is Ireland's Bisto "Book of the Year" award winner for 1994. It has won much critical acclaim throughout the English-speaking world. The author's unique method of teaching about Ireland's background is not only carefully crafted, it is historically accurate. The artist, Terry Myler, has drawn charming ink illustrations reminiscent of old etchings. Interspersed throughout the book, they bring to life the author's detailed descriptions. This book will be especially useful in a classroom learning about Irish history.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Harriette Richards
Freelance Writer and Retired Teacher
Port Orchard, Washington

M.E.R.
Mary Jones and Her Bible
Edited by Christopher Wright
(A Victorian Classic for Children)
Bridge Publishing, 1985
Paper \$4.95
Gr. 3 - 6

A young Welsh girl, Mary Jones, has one and only one desire: owning her own Bible. Her longing and heartfelt desire will become reality only after years of hard work and much

sacrifice. Does this hinder young Mary from working toward her goal? Never! She lives with her parents whose occupation as weavers takes all the time and energy they can muster just to give their small family the essentials in life. Their only child, Mary, must work many hours each day in their humble cottage so that her mother can help her father with the weaving.

During the six long years it takes young Mary to save enough money for her Bible, this courageous girl realizes another dream, that of attending a nearby school and learning to read. Her days begin early with chores, then to school, and home again for more chores. On Saturdays, she walks two miles to a nearby farm to read a neighbor's treasured Bible for her Sunday school lessons.

Once she has saved enough money for her Bible, Mary begins an adventure that will change her entire life. Her devotion to Christ and her love for God's Word will make a difference in the lives of all she touches. Young readers will find Mary's story genuine and full of hope. Her single desire and how she works to obtain it is a challenge to all of God's children.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Michele Howe
Writer
LaSalle, MI

Frank E. Peretti
The Door in the Dragon's Throat
(The Cooper Kids Adventure
Series; 1)
Crossway Books, 1990
Paper \$4.99
Gr. 4 - 8

Eureka, I've found it! A fast-paced adventure series, full of exploration, discovery, and a reminder of the need to rely on God's strength. Throughout the series, archeologist Dr. Cooper and his teen-aged children, Jay and Lila, face dangers while searching uncharted terrain for "biblical knowledge, something of eternal value," rather than earthly treasure. During their quests, they face death as they encounter people, places, and situations that mirror those found in the Old Testament. Through each of these situations, their faith in God gives them assurance that he will watch over them and strength to overcome foes and prevail against perilous situations.

The Door in the Dragon's Throat

In what may be the ruins of Babylon, a mysterious door set in the wall of a cavern is rumored to be the gateway to a fabulous

treasure. What is really behind this door? Is it the doorway to a treasure or to a horrible evil (see Revelation Chapter 9)?

Escape From the Island of
Aquarius

The Coopers travel to the South Seas to search for a missing missionary. They find an island that seems to be falling apart and a society run by an anti-christ figure.

The Tombs of Anak

In their search for a missing colleague, the Coopers find a frightening pagan religion and a society that lives in constant fear of their false god Ha-Raphah.

Trapped at the Bottom of the Sea

After an argument with her father, Lila travels home on an Air Force C-141 Starlifter which is hijacked. She becomes trapped at the bottom of the sea in a weapons pod.

Although the Coopers experience spiritual growth throughout this series, a major theme of this volume is Dr. Cooper's and Lila's emotional struggles that resulted from Mrs. Cooper's death (which takes place a number of years before this story begins). With the help of a friend and with God's guidance, they learn important lessons about themselves, and about each other.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Vicki McCuiston
Librarian, Falls Christian Academy
Post Falls, Idaho

Debra Smith
Hattie Marshall and the Prowling
Panther
(Hattie Marshall Frontier
Adventures; 1)
Crossway Books, 1995
Paper \$4.99
Gr. 4 - 6

Twelve-year-old Hattie Marshall is bewildered by the rapid pace at which her life is changing. Nothing remains the same. Her beloved brother Sam leaves home and goes on an extended cattle drive; her sister Rosalie marries; Gramma has an accident that brings the Marshalls in contact with the Siegen family. The story interweaves the lives of the participants, celebrating holidays, and revealing the lives and customs of the Piney Woods of eastern Texas in the 1890s. Author Debra Smith's grandfather was raised in that part of the United States and serves as Smith's historical source.

The framework of the book is a series of incidents in which Hattie and family members

make choices based on a strong faith in God. Hattie is the model of a strong-willed girl, capable and non-conforming. She uses her courage and audacity in positive ways. There are a few incidents of realistic action in the story that may need preparation for a younger reader, but would be handled as a matter of course for the intermediate student. There is high interest level suitable for the older reader with limited vocabulary.

Hattie Marshall avoids being the stereotypical "formula" series book. Although the chapters don't follow a strict time line, they are sequential and quick-tempoed. The panther of the title makes appearances in several chapters of the narrative, increasing the rate of an already fast-moving storyline. One weakness noted is that the account stops abruptly, leaving the reader turning the page looking for another chapter. As this is the first in a series, the reader is left wanting to immediately begin the next book.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Su Hagerty
Freelance Writer
Issaquah, Washington

Barbara Claassen Smucker
Henry's Red Sea
Illustrated by Allan Eitzen
Herald Press, 1955
Paper \$4.95
Gr. 3 - 6

This is a piece of fiction that is also a history lesson. It tells the story of Henry, an eleven-year-old Mennonite boy, his family, and other Mennonite refugees from his Russian village. The book explains why Mennonites had to flee from their homes in the Ukraine at the end of World War II. Some were taken prisoner, some died, some journeyed for weeks on foot or by ox cart to escape to Berlin, a temporary stopping place. The refugees could emigrate to Paraguay or Canada, but to do so they needed to cross Russian-controlled East Germany. It would take a miracle for this to happen.

Henry's Red Sea is a story about that miracle. Just as God parted the Red Sea for the Israelites, he made a way for Henry and his people to cross enemy territory. The author does an exceptional job of initially grasping the reader's interest so that young readers can understand the historical situation. The book emphasizes the strong faith of these Christian people, particularly Henry's grandmother. This is clearly revealed in their strong belief in the power of prayer and in the knowledge that, "nothing can separate us from the love of God." The author's writing style is simple and fresh,

yet powerful. This book with its well-done black-and-white illustrations by Allan Eitzen would make an excellent addition to the elementary classroom.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Sharon Westra
Librarian, Mt. Vernon Christian School
Mt. Vernon, Washington

Kenneth Thomasma
Naya Nuki, Girl Who Ran
(Amazing Indian Children; 1)
Baker Book House, 1983
Trade \$10.99, Paper \$6.99
Gr. 4 - 8

This first book in the fiction series aptly named "Amazing Indian Children" gives the story of Naya Nuki, an eleven-year-old Shoshoni girl, who is captured by an enemy nation, along with her best friend, Sacajawea. Children may be familiar with the story of Sacajawea, who helped guide the Lewis and Clark expedition in real life.

Naya Nuki's story is a much-needed slice of authentic Native American life from a child's point of view. The story takes place in 1801, before the arrival of white settlers. Naya Nuki, whose name is Shoshoni for "Girl Who Ran," and Sacajawea are part of a camp of Shoshonis who are away on a hunt. Enemy warriors attack the camp and capture the women and children.

The author's use of Native American terms (forty-one sleeps) lends an air of credence to the story. Suspense builds up during the agonizing moments of Naya Nuki's capture, the long trip to the village of the Minnetares, and the many days she waits to escape.

Finally, armed with dried food, three pairs of moccasins, a knife, and a buffalo skin, Naya Nuki escapes. Thanks to wilderness training, she is able to survive the hazardous thousand-mile journey to her homeland--a journey equivalent to half of North Dakota and most of Montana. Roving wolf packs, bears, lack of food, Indian hunters, illness, and sometimes frigid temperatures add to the hazards of her journey.

Throughout the story, Naya Nuki grows in confidence, as she makes her own snares to trap animals, successfully escapes from danger time and time again, and keeps moving through almost impossible odds. The book's satisfying conclusion will warm the hearts of children and adult readers.

The book's small print will provide challenging reading for younger children. Talk of spirits

will probably provoke discussion, as children may wonder if the "Great Spirit" means Jesus or the Holy Spirit. Naya Nuki's custom of eating meat raw as a matter of survival may also provoke some discussion.

Because young children are often viewed as forgotten members of society, they may be encouraged that the book's plucky eleven-year-old heroine was able to take care of herself. The book can be used as an opportunity to encourage children to rely on God to help them do great things.

Other titles in the series:

Pathki Nana : Kootenai Girl
Kunu : Winnebago Boy Escapes
Moho Wat : Sheepeater Boy
Om-kas-toe
Soun Tetoken

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

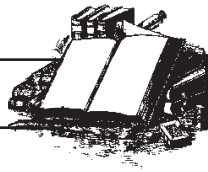
Linda Washington
Freelance Writer and Textbook Editor/Writer
Carol Stream, Illinois

***What are you reading aloud
to children, grades 3 - 6?
Send us your favorite titles,
along with the author, publisher, and date.***

***We'll publish your lists,
and maybe you'll find some new titles
to consider.***

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220

Felicity Henderson and Meryl Doney
A Pocketful of Bible Stories
Illustrated by Graham Round
Lion Publishing, 1980
Trade \$7.99
PS - Gr. 2

Four Old Testament stories and four New Testament parables are retold in this pocket-sized book. The Old Testament stories include Miriam, who hid her brother Moses in the Nile; Elijah and the drought; Naaman and the Jewish servant girl who encouraged him to seek Elisha's help; and Nehemiah who rebuilt the Jerusalem wall. The New Testament stories retell the lost sheep, the two houses, the prodigal son, and the good Samaritan parables.

Each story begins with an attention-getting introduction and is retold in a simple, appealing way that pre-schoolers can understand. Each does a good job of putting forth one spiritual point that young children can grasp. After he is healed, Naaman, the Syrian general, learns that God "...loves and cares for everyone in the whole wide world," even his enemies. Following each section, the author provides readers with a Bible reference where they can find the story or further related readings. Especially nice is the fact that the Old Testament selections are culled from lesser-known historical events, as opposed to oft-chosen selections such as Noah's Ark or David and Goliath. Also noteworthy is the fact that a few of the stories are told from the point of view of a child who played a significant role in the history of God's people. The cartoon illustrations by Graham Round are humorously appealing and do a good job of depicting racial and cultural diversity.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Janet Smith
Freelance Writer
Latrobe, Pennsylvania

220.9

Anne DeGraaf
The Children's Bible Story Book
Illustrated by Jose Perez Montero
Thomas Nelson, 1990
Trade \$17.99
Gr. 3 - 5

Favorite stories from the Bible, beginning with creation and ending with John's vision on the island of Patmos, are retold in a simplified and lively manner. The stories are short and to the point, in large print for easy reading. They are arranged in the same order as presented in the Bible with the scripture references given at the beginning of each story. It is a large volume, well illustrated in color by Jose Perez Montero. Due to the brevity of the stories, it makes a good book for use as a devotional for children.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Debbie Lindsay
Homeschool Parent
Yelm, Washington

H

221.9

Tomie de Paola
Tomie de Paola's Book of the Old Testament
Putman, 1995
Trade \$17.95
PS - Gr. 3

Tomie dePaola, award-winning author and illustrator of more than two hundred children's books, has done it again with this beautiful book of Old Testament stories. This marvelously illustrated collection of stories brings to life the people and places of long ago. Using original text from the New International Version of the Bible, he renders seventeen of the most memorable stories easy to understand and hear. From the creation story in Genesis through Jonah, each story is graphically illustrated in warm colors so children can visualize what happened. Three favorite Psalms are also quoted and illustrated. Although the sacred stories are condensed, they are done so in a faithful way that still enables the reader to understand what has really happened. This is a book that children will listen to or read repeatedly. The biblical text is quoted clearly and faithfully. Illustrations will intrigue children and adults alike. This book is a must for every family and school.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Mary Jarvis
Retired Teacher, Freelance Writer
Marysville, Washington

222

John D. Morris
Noah's Ark and the Ararat Adventure
Master Books, 1988
Trade \$12.95
Gr. 4 - 9

This Creation Science book presents remarkable information, backed by scripture, to help substantiate the biblical account of Noah and the great flood. Much evidence in nature and in the hundreds of differing "flood" stories throughout the world, give credence to the Bible and its truths about this cataclysmic event. The geological evidence presented gives answers to the many questions scientists have about the creation of fossil fuels and the appearance of marine fossils throughout the strata layers of the earth.

The illustrations are interesting, colorful, and useful for learning tools. Beautiful photographs also accompany the research done on Mt. Ararat, the biblical placement of the ark's last resting place. This is an excellent resource book for any library--home or school. Children of all ages will be fascinated with its pictorial representations and the information presented.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Mary McKinney
Freelance Writer, Teacher
Port Orchard, Washington

H

223

Helen and David Haidle
He Is My Shepherd : The 23rd Psalm for Children
Multnomah, 1989
Trade \$8.99
PS - Gr. 3

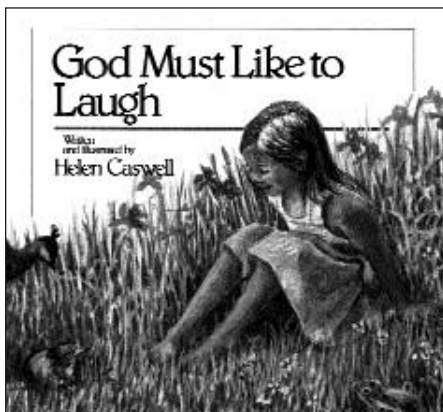
The Haidles have brought the Shepherd Psalm to life in this beautiful book. For each phrase of Psalm 23 (International Children's Bible), author Helen adds an application and/or explanation followed by a brief prayer. Although written for children, this book can also help an adult internalize the meaning of the Psalm. It seems to be one of those books written in language simple enough so a small child can enjoy it and also the adult reading to the child can understand its deeper meaning.

In illustrating the phrase "He gives me new strength" ("He restoreth my soul" in KJV), artist David shows a sheep lying belly up, with the shepherd beginning to lift him upright. How many of us have gone "belly up" at one time or another, either financially or morally or some other way? Helen explains that a sheep may fall "on its back like a turtle. The hot sun on the sheep's belly can bring death in a few hours if the sheep is unable to get up." After telling of the shepherd's rescue, this prayer is added: "Lord, I'm thankful that you're always ready to help me when I'm in a mess. I'm glad you're not mad at me. Thanks for your strength when I'm down."

David's full-color art work makes every page attractive. The expressive faces help the reader bond with the shepherd and identify with the sheep, showing clearly the love between them. This is a book which could be read over and over. It results in the reader wanting to stay close to the loving Shepherd. It is an excellent tool to teach children of all ages the love of Jesus. C.S. Lewis Medallion winner.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Judith M. Gonzales
Freelance Writer
Moses Lake, Washington



H
231

Helen Rayburn Caswell
God Must Like to Laugh
Abingdon Press, 1987
Paper \$5.95
PS - Gr. 1

This first of four books written and illustrated by Helen Caswell captures a child's heart with exquisite pictures and playful poetry. The vastness of God's creation and his love for creatures large and small are pointed out in such a way that a child can appreciate and meditate on them. The captivating rhymes carry the reader from the creation of the sun and moon and the various plants and animals to showing God's care and concern with every

detail. The conclusion is that what God made caused him to laugh with enjoyment. The next three books in the series--*God's Love is for Sharing*, *God Makes Us Different*, and *I Can Talk with God*--are written in a similar format. Each book is beautifully illustrated by the author with concepts and thoughts familiar to a young child exploring his/her relationship with God. These are marvelous books for discussion starters between adult and child.

Other titles in the series:

God Makes Us Different
God's Love Is for Sharing
I Can Talk with God

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Maria Hedman
Teacher, Falls Christian Academy
Post Falls, Idaho

231.7

Ken and Molly Ham
D Is for Dinosaur : A Rhyme Book
and More
Creation Science Foundation, 1991
Trade \$14.95
PS

D is for Dinosaur is a multipurpose family book that can be used as an entertaining ABC rhyme book, a coloring book, or a devotional teaching book. The bright, colorful full-page pictures of the first section along with the large letters of the alphabet are a sure invitation to enjoyment for children. The second part of the book is designed with full-page black and white drawings that may be colored by referring to the pictures in the first section. Personally owned copies lend themselves to this use, and permission is given to photocopy pictures to hand out to students.

Besides being a text book for teaching the alphabet, the book clearly presents biblical creation, dinosaurs and salvation.

This is a book to own, a hands-on book with unlimited possible uses that will be lost if the book is purchased only for check-out from a library shelf.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Marie Knaupp
Retired Librarian
Monmouth, Oregon

231.7

Barbara Knoll
Mommy, Is God as Strong as
Daddy?
Illustrated by Al Berg
Destiny Image, 1995
Paper \$2.99.
PS - Gr. 2

Robby is amazed at his dad's strength. As he watches Dad carry furniture, help a friend move, toss his baby brother into the air, and even catch Robby falling out of a tree, he begins to question this strength. One night before bed, he asks Mom, "Is God as strong as Daddy?" Mom uses the opportunity to teach Robby that God is even stronger and explains to him the special kind of strength God gives us. Robby learns that with God's strength he can love others and do right. The author uses a fictional setting to reveal biblical truth and answer a typical, young child's question about God. Black-and-white sketches accompany the story. This book is a read-aloud for young children and an easy reader for third through fifth grade.

u Quality - 2 § Acceptability - 4

Cathie Coffin
Educational Consultant
Kirkland, Washington.

232.9

Charles Foster
Jesus for Little Ones : Illustrated
Bible Stories for Children
Illustrated by Helen Rayburn
Caswell
Broadman & Holman, 1994
Trade \$12.99
K- Gr. 4

Learning about the life of Jesus, including his teachings and miracles, comes alive in this book for young children. Stories are taken from the Bible and written in language easily understood by kindergarten students yet challenging enough for older youngsters. Each story invites the young reader or listener to do what pleases God.

The format of the book attracts parents and teachers as well as young readers who enjoy self-directed learning. Each of seventy-five stories covers a two-page spread and includes comprehension questions easily answered by the listener or reader. The variety of questions is superb, some strictly cognitive and many requiring synthesizing of concepts taught in the story. For children who read independently, scripture references are included so they may follow up the story by reading the Bible account.

The soft tones of Helen Caswell's pleasing illustrations follow a format also. Each page carries a border that is an outflow of the page. This book lends itself nicely to devotions led by parents at home or by teachers in the classroom, plus independent study by children who enjoy reading.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Carolyn Hearing
Teacher
Raytown, Missouri

232.92

Arthur L. Zapel
Twas the Night Before : A Picture-
Story of the Nativity
Illustrated by Rachel Olson
Meriwether, 1993
Trade \$14.95
PS - Gr. 4

It's a familiar story, shepherds watching their sheep and angels announcing a miracle birth. Happily this story goes beyond the stable, with shepherds and wise men standing around and worshipping the newborn King. It continues on to the wise men in the East who follow a star. You see Herod's anger at a new King of the Jews, and an angel warning Joseph to take his small family to Egypt to escape Herod's wrath. With a special emphasis on who Jesus was and why he came, it finishes up with why we honor the birth of God's Son on Christmas. This is a picturesque tale with bright art work by Rachel Olson that adds to the charm. I enjoyed this book a great deal and look forward to reading it to my grandchildren.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Tonie Lagasca
Parent Volunteer
West Hills Christian School
Portland, Oregon

236

Debby Anderson
Let's Talk about Heaven
Chariot Books, 1991
Trade \$9.95
PS - Gr. 2

Most children have lots of questions about heaven such as, "Who will be there?" and "What will we do in heaven?" Using these and other commonly asked questions, Debby Anderson gives answers to what heaven may be like. Anderson strives for simplicity by combining all eternal states of the believer as "Heaven." In order to get the most from this complex subject and to anticipate potential questions, a Scripture Reference Index is

provided in the back of the book. Some passages, however, are general rather than dealing specifically with heaven.

The colorful and detailed illustrations by the author will keep a child's interest beginning to end. In her desire to simplify the message with the familiar, she has a tendency to make heaven appear like life on earth, only better. The overall message of heaven being a bright, cheerful, and comforting place is emphasized. Best of all, she concludes heaven is being home with Jesus.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Jannet Hoeffner
Freelance Writer
Prairie City, Oregon

242

Jennie Todd
Jesus and Me in the Summer :
Devotions and Activities for Tiny
Christians
Illustrated by Consuelo Udave
Pacific Press, 1995
Paper \$7.95
PS

This book for pre-schoolers is intended to be used in the summer to help a parent spend valuable time with a child. Each day, the parent can read one of the thirty short role-model stories and accompanying poem, prayer, or action song which the child might want to memorize. Then they can do the suggested activity for the day or choose another day's activity.

The stories are about common happenings in the lives of preschoolers. Jose wants the rain to stop so he can go outside to play; Mallory squirms in church; Andre learns to share. Author Jennie Todd does a sensitive job of dealing with each problem in a positive way. The economical activities are easy to do: finding a rainbow in the sprinkler water, blanket riding, handprints, tracing shadows, lacing a heart, leaf rubbings, making play dough, making butter. Some teach valuable lessons, as the litter pickup, practicing fire safety, musical hide and seek (i.e. "you can't hide from God"). Also included are word games, coordination practice, and Bible memory.

The vibrant, attractive cover picture shows Jesus playing with some children in a sprinkler, giving the idea that he enjoys them, wanting them to have fun. The artist, Consuelo Udave does a good job with the apt illustrations for each story.

This devotional/activity book will help build solid Christian character. It can help to establish a good habit of daily devotions with the young child while creatively bringing fun and learning together.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Judith M. Gonzales
Freelance Writer
Moses Lake, Washington

242.62

V. Gilbert Beers
ABC's : Learn about Letters from
10 Bible Stories
(Toddlers Bible Videos)
Victor Books, 1995
Video \$9.99
PS

While Gilbert Beers suggests using this video to teach toddlers their alphabet along with Bible stories, I am not sure he accomplishes his purpose. The video does a good job presenting ten simplified Bible stories in partially animated form for toddlers, but the a-b-c format is somewhat confusing for this age level. The traditional alphabet song with a new ending is sung several times during the video, but the letters introduced with their picture counterpart do not always correlate with the story they are meant to illustrate. For instance, C-cat, D-donkey, E-elephant, and F-frog are introduced with the story of creation, but not shown until the story of Noah's ark, and then not emphasized to remind the child of the letter. Some letter references are confusing such as, "O is for Elijah who liked to obey." The toddler hears "O is for Elijah..., Q is for quit," a reference to the rains stopping during the drought in Elijah's story but probably not a connection a toddler would easily make. At the end of the alphabet U-urn, V-vase, W-water, and X-extra are all presented with no mention in any of the stories, only seen as objects that appear in the stories but not as featured items.

Choose this video for its entertainment value and to learn some Bible stories but don't rely on it as an excellent teaching tool.

u Quality - 2 § Acceptability - 4

Judy Driscoll
Teacher, Christ the King Academy
Poulsbo, Washington

248.8

Katherine Paterson
Who Am I?
William B. Eerdmans, 1992
Paper \$8.00
Gr. 4 - 6

Award-winning author Katherine Paterson explores with young readers what it means to be a child of God. Each chapter of this short volume is devoted to a different, but basic, question most children struggle with during their growing-up years. Where in the World Is God? Where Do I Belong? What About Me? Who Is My Neighbor? What is My Purpose? Paterson addresses each of these questions in a down-to-earth, easy-to-understand manner. She skillfully weaves anecdotes and biblical truths together to show, rather than tell, basic tenets of the faith. The truths she shares are complex, but the manner in which she shares them is captivating and light-hearted. Like her novels, *Bridge to Terebithia* and *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, this non-fiction meditation has all the elements of a read-aloud story. Just as the exposition hints at being cumbersome, Paterson changes the pace with an age-level-appropriate story illustrating her point. She has the ability to put herself in the place of her young reader, communicate with him, and then anticipate and address the next question that would naturally arise from the information she shares. She handles the "what if's" that she knows are coming with the skill of the veteran writer and mother she is.

This book would be an excellent devotional reading for a Bible class and is sure to provoke thoughtful discussion. A teacher's handbook is also available.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Karen Orfitelli

*Freelance Writer; Teacher, Cornerstone Christian School
Manchester, Connecticut*

333.7

Willma Willis Gore
Earth Day
(Best Holiday Books)
Enslow, 1992
Library Ed. \$15.95
Gr. 1 - 4

The history and celebration of "Earth Day" is the subject of this holiday book. An attractive cover with bright well-defined drawings illustrates Earth Day concepts.

Two chapters about how people celebrate Earth Day in our schools and in other countries will especially hold the reader's attention. The interesting things other children do will give the reader good ideas for his own celebration.

The first chapter is a concise introduction to Earth Day, but doesn't draw the reader in as quickly as it might. The chapter on history may be a little long, but is specific and easy to

understand. More detail on how pollution hurts the earth and the people living on it will increase interest for children to participate in their own community's celebrations.

People of various races are the subjects in most of the photographs, which helps involve the reader in the text. Color, as well as black and white photos are used. A few of the photo captions are redundant; the text is self-explanatory.

Earth Day will be appropriate for school libraries and home school parents interested in having students participate in this important holiday.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Tracie Mabry

*Freelance Writer
Vancouver, Washington*

385

George Walton Williams
The Best Friend
Illustrated by John Kollock
Sandlapper Pub., 1990
Trade \$10.95, Paper \$6.95
Gr. 1 - 3

The merchants of Charleston, South Carolina, in the 1820's had a problem: cotton planters were shipping their crops to Savannah, Georgia, and business in town was bad. The businessmen seized upon a bold plan to bring commerce their way when they decided to build a 140 mile railroad track from Augusta to Charleston: a plan made more daring by the fact that no steam locomotive had ever traveled so great a distance. They ordered a steam locomotive from New York and named it "The Best Friend." Their new friend not only brought new-found trade and prosperity, but ushered in the era of the railroad age.

This true account of how the longest railroad in America was built meets the challenge of making a historical event interesting and meaningful to the youngest readers. Author Williams succinctly states the merchants' problem and their need to find a solution in a way that young children can easily understand. The black and white illustrations by John Kollock are appealing and pay great attention to historical detail. Scenes from the city of Charleston and renderings of the steam locomotive are accurately portrayed. The author even utilizes a direct quote from one of the locomotive's first passengers as part of the text. *The Best Friend* makes a good launching pad for a unit of study on the railroad.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Janet Smith

*Freelance Writer
Latrobe, Pennsylvania*

394.2

Dianne M. MacMillan
Easter
(Best Holiday Books)
Enslow, 1993
Library Ed. \$15.95
Gr. 1 - 4

Easter legends, beliefs, and customs from various parts of the world are set forth in a simple yet entertaining way in this new holiday book. There is a chapter on Lent which introduces young readers to specific days of "Holy Week." The Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday are included.

The author's research is evident in brief retelling of legends about the Easter bunny. Children will enjoy learning about the history of their favorite customs, for example, Easter eggs. They will also feel involved as the author writes about how other children celebrate Easter.

Written for 7-10 year olds, first graders may find some of the words and sentences difficult to read. Older children may feel the author talks down to them, especially in the first chapter. The chapter titles are simple, yet draw the reader in, with the exception of the last two chapters which seem unnecessary.

The color photographs add to the text and catch the attention of the reader. Black and white photos are too "busy" and not as eye-pleasing. The strength of black and white photography is lost in the combination of color photos used with the black and white. The colorful well-drawn cover illustration is attractive.

Easter is acceptable nonfiction for a Christian library. Reading about why various traditions are part of Easter celebrations will add to children's understanding of this "holy" day.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Tracie Mabry

*Freelance Writer
Vancouver, Washington*

398.2

Robert Bender and Charles Perrault
Toads and Diamonds
Illustrated by Andrew McLean
Lodestar Books, 1995
Trade \$13.99
PS - Gr. 1

This is the retelling of an old fairy tale about a cruel mother and her two daughters. The

daughters are as different from each other as night from day--one mean and jealous, the other sweet and kind. One night, Merth, the sweet sister, runs into an ugly troll whom she treats with kindness. He rewards her goodness with diamonds and other beautiful gems. When her mother and sister discover this, the mean sister is sent to find the source of these riches. The girl goes out into the night and runs into the troll. Not knowing he is the source of the jewels, she treats him as she treats everything and everyone else--with meanness and nastiness. He repays her actions with toads and insects. The book's moral is easily recognized when the sisters' actions and attitudes are appropriately rewarded. The book uses a few words that may be difficult for young children to understand. Although the art work is extremely striking and bright with color, the "ugliness" of some of its characters might be a bit formidable to the very young child.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Sharon Westra
Librarian, Mt. Vernon Christian School
Mt. Vernon, Washington

398.2

Beatrice Orcutt Harrell
How Thunder and Lightning Came
To Be : A Choctaw Legend
Illustrated by Susan L. Roth
Dial Books for Young Readers,
1995
Trade \$14.99, Library Ed. \$14.89
PS - Gr. 2

How Thunder and Lightning Came to Be is a delightful, silly tale with vivid illustrations. Children will want to have it read to them again and again. This is the retelling of a North American Choctaw Indian Legend. It should be explained as such to avoid confusion and to affirm that God is really the one who created thunder and lightning. In this story, the Great Sun Father wishes to devise a plan that will warn his people before he sends wind and rain storms. He gives this job to two birds who are not very clever. Their ideas don't work out as planned, but through their mishaps, they create thunder and lightning--the perfect warning of an oncoming storm. The two birds are lovable and should find a place in any child's heart. This book is well written and illustrated, an asset to any children's library.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Sharon Westra
Librarian, Mt. Vernon Christian School
Mt. Vernon, Washington

500.5
Carolyn Sumners
Toys in Space : Exploring Science
With the Astronauts
McGraw-Hill/TAB, 1993
Paper \$10.95
Gr. 3 - 9

This resource book recounts the exploits of two separate space shuttle flights involving a total of twelve astronauts and their experiments with 39 toys. Teachers will enjoy the way this book is divided into types of toys and movements. Students do suggested experiments using familiar toys to understand movements on earth. Then, they predict how these toys will work in space in a weightless situation. Actual space results are then given, plus adaptations that the astronauts found necessary. Black and white photographs of the toys and astronauts in space give a good understanding of the problems involved. Line drawings help explain student experiments.

This is the type of book that grows on you and makes you think. Why is it difficult to play basketball in space? How do magnetic marbles behave in weightlessness? Will acrobatic toys and space movers still perform? And how in the world can you play jacks without gravity? Also included is a good overview of how an astronaut goes through a typical day in space.

Overall, this book helps students understand physics by using familiar objects in an unfamiliar setting. Parents and teachers will enjoy using this book to stimulate discussion and give a vicarious space adventure.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Paula Stewart Marks
Principal, Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

507.8
Jean Stangl
Science Toolbox
McGraw-Hill, 1993
Paper \$10.95
Gr. 1 - 3

This is a resource book for teachers and parents designed to provide learning centers that help children discover, explore, and experiment. Students are introduced to basic science tools and given simple directions for constructing their own tools. A drop of water can be turned into a magnifying glass. A glass full of water becomes a lens. A paper cone plus sand can turn into a timer. A prism can be made with a mirror.

All experiments use easy to find items. Interesting trivia accompanies experiments.

Did you know that scientists think honey bees have inner magnets, or that dairy farmers insert small magnets into a cow's stomach? Each activity is designed to teach by the discovery method, and involve fun and success. Directions are easy to follow and discoveries to look for are listed. The directions are complete with line drawings and helpful safety icons. The introduction will help teachers or parents set up a learning center, store material, and know when and how to add new items.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Paula Stewart Marks
Principal, Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

508
Susan Gwen Criswell
Nature Through Science and Art
McGraw-Hill, 1993
Paper \$12.95
Gr. 3 - 6

Homeschool parents and teachers should enjoy the concept that science and art be intertwined to encourage real appreciation of nature. Fifty scientific questions are answered with information, then activities that involve art. Close observation is a key element in both science and art. Example. Put pond water under a microscope. Carefully observe, then draw what you see. Students are encouraged to use a sketchbook journal for recording their observations, although not all art activities involve drawing. When students research how spiders make a web, they actually use yarn, a forked tree branch, and scissors to construct their own web. Paper masks are made as a follow-up activity to finding out why animals have whiskers. Building a snow shelter follows research into different animal shelters. Making clay impressions is a natural art activity following fossil history (which assumes that fossils record life believed to be 3.8 billion years old...and introduces the theory of evolution...an area that can be overlooked without changing the value of studying fossils). Overall, this is a thought provoking book, that will help students to think and do, not just read.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Paula Stewart Marks
Principal, Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

531

Michael and Beverly Oard

Life in the Great Ice Age

Illustrated by Earl Snellenberger

Edited by Gloria Clanin

Creation-Life Publishers, Inc., 1993

Trade \$12.95

Gr. 1- 4

This is an excellent book that strives to present the Ice Age from a creationist perspective. The first half of the book is a story which gives the reader a detailed glimpse into the life and activities of a Cro-Magnon family and their Neanderthal friends during the latter part of the great ice age. Survival and lifestyle of these primitive people are dealt with in a manner that will whet children's interest.

The remaining section of the book goes into further detail on the life of these people. It also addresses questions that arise from evolutionary theories accepted by many in our society. The presentation is sensitive when opposing evolutionary theories and presents the creationist view clearly and concisely. There is a bibliography for further research. Color illustrations abound, and the book is easy to read and understand.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Debbie Lindsay
Homeschool Parent
Yelm, Washington

574.92

Diane Swanson

**Safari Beneath the Sea : The
Wonder World of the North Pacific
Coast**

**Photographs by The Royal British
Columbia Museum**

Whitecap Books, 1994

Trade \$16.95

Gr. 4 - 8

Are you interested in the marine life of the Pacific Coast? Do you wish your students would get interested in the subject? This is a book for you. *Safari Beneath the Sea* introduces students of all ages to the incredible diversity of God's creation at the bottom of the sea. The vivid description and great photography by The Royal British Columbia Museum make the reader want to reach out to touch and see these creatures for himself.

This book was written as part of a special marine education broadcast sponsored by The Royal British Columbia Museum that gave children the opportunity to talk to divers and researchers. It contains information about the various ecosystems in the Pacific. The book describes plants and spineless creatures such as

the giant Pacific octopus, anemones, and ocean slugs, as well as unique fish like the hagfish and pigfish. It also describes the huge mammals that many of us are more familiar with such as the whale, sea lion, and sea otter. The text is lively. Interesting bits of information are contained in sidebars and as lists of bulleted information at the end of the chapters. The variety in the page layout gives the book added eye appeal and would draw in the reluctant reader. This well-written book makes a great addition to the upper elementary classroom or library. It would also be a good book for teachers and homeschoolers to use as a beginning to a study of marine life.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Trudi Kolk
Elementary Media Specialist, Watson Groen
Christian School
Seattle, Washington

595.3

Sylvia A. Johnson

Crabs

Photographs by Atsushi Sakurai
(A Lerner Natural Science Book)

Lerner Publications Co., 1982

Trade \$14.96

Gr. 3 - 7

Anyone interested in learning about the strange crustaceans known as crabs is bound to appreciate this book which won a Special Children's Science Book Award from the New York Academy of Sciences. It is a Lerner Natural Science Book.

Many varieties of crabs live on land; others, in oceans as do crustaceans like lobsters and shrimp. This book concentrates mainly on those that live in the special environment where land and water meet. It can be used as a science textbook. A glossary reinforces teaching about body parts and the life cycle of crabs. The explanation of their process of reproduction is done well. Excellent full-color photography by Atsushi Sakurai acquaints the reader with shore and land, pebble, box, ghost, hairy, sponge, fiddler, coral, and river crabs.

As a Christian reading this book, I noted with awe God's intricate creations and their interaction with each other. The book stimulates a desire to learn more about other creatures mentioned, such as coral polyps and sea anemones.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Judith M. Gonzales
Freelance Writer
Moses Lake, Washington

595.79

Charles Micucci

**The Life and Times of the Honey
Bee**

**Ticknor & Fields Books for Young
Readers, 1994**

Trade \$14.95

Gr. 1 - 6

We typically think of honeybees as pesky insects with stingers, but this book paints a picture of a busy little bug who provides an overwhelming array of positive contributions. *Honey Bee* is packed with interesting facts, including explanations of worker, drone, and queen bees; how the honey bee develops from an egg into a larva, cocoon, pupa, and finally an adult; the daily schedule of worker bees; and the many products, such as beeswax and honey, that these insects produce. Answers to questions such as, "Is it true a bee can only sting once?" and "How does a bee 'dance' in order to direct other bees to a honey source?" are addressed.

Not only does the author present readers with everything they could ever want to know about honey bees, the text is organized in a readable and attractive format, complemented by the author's own accurate full-color drawings. Renderings of the inside of hives, the bee dance, how a bee makes honey, and many other details are clearly illustrated. Each open-page spread focuses on one idea, making the book easy to peruse. The text itself is arranged into informative captions that accompany the illustrations, rather than lengthy, narrative paragraphs. Even adult readers will learn lots about these industrious insects, and children will be captivated by this delightful potpourri of honey bee lore.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Janet Smith
Freelance Writer
Latrobe, Pennsylvania

597.6

Snedden, Robert

What Is an Amphibian?

Illustrated by Adrian Lascom
Sierra Club Books for Children,
1994

Trade \$14.95

Gr. 3 - 6

A frog won't touch an insect that is not moving. More than half the water in a frog's body can turn to ice and it will still live. Most salamanders and newts are just a few inches long; however, the largest can be more than five feet in length. Some salamanders breathe

only through the skin and mouth. These and other interesting facts about amphibians are presented in this book that is easy to read and understand. There is one brief mention of amphibians being the first animals to venture on land millions of years ago. The book has a glossary and index. Captioned color photographs and diagrams make this an attractive book for the pre-school child as well as the young reader.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

*Debbie Lindsay
Homeschool Parent
Yelm, Washington*

597.9

Robert Snedden

What Is a Reptile?

**Illustrated by Adrian Lascom
Sierra Club Books for Children,
1995**

Trade \$14.95

Gr. 2 - 6

Beautiful photographs and interesting details make this an outstanding book for any student or library. What are the four main groups of reptiles? How do reptiles differ from amphibians? If some reptiles shed their skin, what happens to the reptiles who don't? How can a snake swallow something larger around than itself? What is a reptile's third eye? How does a snake smell with its mouth? Which reptiles take care of their young? Answers to these questions plus many other fascinating tidbits will keep any child intrigued. A special glossary helps students understand unfamiliar terms.

The only negative part of the book is one paragraph that talks about other animals evolving from reptiles millions of years ago. This could be easily explained by a teacher or parent. Overall, the impressive photography will attract and hold the interest of students. Teachers and parents will find this an easy book to teach from.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 2

*Paula Stewart Marks
Principal, Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon*

597.96

Eric S. Grace

Snakes

**Edited by R. D. Lawrence
(Sierra Club Wildlife Library)
Sierra Club Books for Children,
1994**

Trade \$15.95

Gr. 4 - 8

This book explores the world of snakes in great depth yet is easy to understand. It includes a short detailed description of the ten major families of snakes, their habitat, body characteristics, what they eat, and if they are venomous or not. Anatomy, methods of securing food, and reproduction are described. There are several brief references to the evolution of reptiles many millions of years ago. It features captioned color photographs throughout and an index. This is a good resource book for older children.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 2

*Debbie Lindsay
Homeschool Parent
Yelm, Washington*

598.2

Joanne Ryder

Dancers in the Garden

**Illustrated by Judith Lopez
Sierra Club Books for Children,
1994, 1992**

Paper \$5.95

PS - Gr. 4

The poetic language and beautiful artwork of this informative book about hummingbirds captivates a reader from the first sentence through the author's note at the end. *Dancers in the Garden* is likely to bring the reader to reflect on the miracle of the creation of these tiny, amazing birds. The author says each hummingbird "seems like a small gift to treasure and remember." Although the book doesn't go into great detail on the scientific facts about the life of the hummingbird, the author adds much of this detail in the note at the end.

The illustrations by Judith Lopez are exquisite, capturing the dainty, ethereal quality of this minuscule creature. The National Science Teachers Association and the Children's Book Council named this an Outstanding Science Trade Book for Children. It also has the honor of being selected as a notable Children's Trade Book in the Language Arts by the National Council of Teachers of English.

Whether read aloud to children of preschool age through second grade or read independently by older readers, this book will

captivate and teach about hummingbirds while entertaining and encouraging an appreciation of nature.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

*Judith M. Gonzales
Freelance Writer
Moses Lake, Washington*

598.9

Carol Greene

**Reading About the Peregrine
Falcon**

(Friends in Danger)

Enslow Publishers, 1993

Library ed. \$14.95

Gr. 1 - 3

Children are introduced to peregrine falcons in this easy-to-read, colorful book. Wonderful photographs and interesting text aid young readers in learning the characteristics and life habits of this endangered bird. A section on practical ways to protect the peregrine offers activities and valuable learning experiences. A summary of important facts and words to learn is included at the end of the book.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

*Sally Kuhns
Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School
Bremerton, Washington*

598.9

Aubrey Lang

Eagles

**Photographs by Wayne Lynch
Edited by R. D. Lawrence**

**(Sierra Club Wildlife Library)
Sierra Club Books for Children,
1990**

Paper \$7.95

Gr. 4 - 8

Did you know there are fifty-nine species of eagles or that an eagle makes its feathers waterproof? Aubrey Lang presents these and many other intriguing facts about this spectacular bird in this outstanding science book. Her highly informative, very readable text will easily capture the attention of children. They will learn about the four types of eagles, from the bald eagle to the fierce harpy eagle. Descriptions of habits and habitats are beautifully enhanced with numerous full-color photographs by Wayne Lynch. This Sierra Club Wildlife Library Book has received recognition as an Outstanding Science Trade Book for Children by the National Science Teachers Association and Children's Book Council. It is not only an excellent resource for

any library, it is an enjoyable book for home and classroom.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Cathie Coffin
Educational Consultant
Kirkland, Washington.

599.74

Eric S. Grace
Seals

(Sierra Club Wildlife Library)
Sierra Club Books for Children,
1991

Paper \$7.95
Gr. 4 - 8

What do seals eat? How are they able to dive underwater for long periods of time at great depths? How are Harp seals able to survive in frigid waters? What do walruses use their tusks for? These and other questions are answered in an easy to understand and interesting way. *Seals* explores the habitat, characteristic differences, and way of life of several species of pinnipeds that inhabit our world. The reader is taken on a journey through a year in the life and activities of Northern Fur Seals. There is a brief mention of their evolutionary ancestors millions of years ago and a diagram showing their evolutionary tree. It is a good resource book for young readers that features large type, captioned color photographs and illustrations, and an alphabetical index.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 2

Debbie Lindsay
Homeschool Parent
Yelm, Washington

599.74

Debbie S. Miller
A Caribou Journey
Illustrated by Jon Van Zyle
Little, Brown, 1994
Trade \$15.95
PS - Gr. 7

A mother caribou digs for lichens in the frozen tundra of Northern Alaska as her young bull calf does the same. Together they follow the rest of the herd, traveling almost three thousand miles in a year, facing many dangers: from wolves to raging waters to mosquitoes that can take up to a quart of blood a week from a single animal. Uniquely equipped with hollow hair, padded hooves, and two long toes that act like snowshoes, the caribou go through the yearly cycle, traveling in small groups in the winter and joining a huge migration north to the Arctic Ocean for the short summer, where they bear

their young and graze freely in preparation for another winter.

The beautiful narrative and rich descriptions of the caribou and their environment combine with the illustrations by Jon Van Zyle to awaken all the senses of the reader. The artist portrays the severe cold, the struggles against predators, and the mother caribou's protection of her young calf in an impressionistic style, using the natural muted colors of the arctic landscape. Replete with detailed scientific information, the book successfully teaches, entertains, and enriches the reader's understanding of animal life.

In the author's note at the end of the book, there is a reference to the caribou's place in the evolution of man, but the text of the book inspires admiration and reverence for God's creations.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Catherine Ockey
Freelance Writer
Camano Island, Washington

599.74

Ian Stirling
Bears

Photographs by Aubrey Lang
Edited by R. D. Lawrence
(Sierra Club Wildlife Library)
Sierra Club Books for Children,
1992

Paper \$7.95
Gr. 3 - 6

Over forty beautiful photographs help provide an introduction to eight species of bears in their natural habitats. This interesting book acquaints young readers with the everyday life a bear leads. Find out how and where bears live, what they eat, what sounds they make, how they send non-verbal messages to one another, how they care for their young, grow up, and find new homes. These, plus many more interesting details, will intrigue youngsters. This would be an excellent resource for library or classroom. The book is well laid out and students would find it useful for reports. Beside photographs, blackline comparisons of weight, bone structure, and range will aid students. One short chapter, "The First Bears," deals strongly with evolution. The rest of the book is excellent.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 2

Paula Stewart Marks
Principal, Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

629.13

Chadwick, Roxane
Amelia Earhart : Aviation Pioneer
(The Achievers)
Lerner Publications, 1987
Library ed. \$11.96, Paper \$4.95
Gr. 3 - 6

This biography begins showing Amelia as a towheaded tomboy allowed to do "boy things." She and her younger sister wore bloomers when dresses were traditional. They went sledding, fishing, collected insects, and played baseball. This was not the standard for 1905! Throughout her life Amelia Earhart continued to be very independent as she challenged women to new horizons. She earned her pilot's license in 1922 and continually pushed against the barriers of tradition. She earned an altitude record, and was the first women to cross the Atlantic, first as a passenger, then as a pilot.

An alcoholic father and divorce in her family combined to give her a distrust of marriage. When she finally does marry, she has her husband-to-be sign an agreement that he would release her from the commitment, if they found no happiness together within one year. Finally the book traces her attempt to fly around the equator and the mystery of her disappearance. Black and white pictures give a good overview of Amelia's life. Her fourteen records are listed in the back of the book. This book would be a good addition to a unit on flight or helpful for a famous woman report.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Paula Stewart Marks
Principal, Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

630

Gail Gibbons
Country Fair
Little, Brown, 1994
Trade \$14.95
PS - Grade 2

Country Fair, by award-winning Gail Gibbons, meanders through the byways of the Exposition much as a family would, visiting the exhibits that are particular favorites. The use of present tense walks along beside you, viewing displays and exploring the mid-way with enthusiasm.

The narrative begins with the preparation of the fairgrounds. The early-morning-to-dark progress that follows is action-packed. Snapshots of each event arouse a feeling of nostalgia for anyone who has ever gone to a country fair; the sights and smells and sounds introduced in text and illustration are familiar friends!

Gibbons uses brilliant color to illuminate her story, with geometric borders holding in the bustle of activity found on every page. The detail is precise and realistic.

Country Fair meets varied reading needs. For the young child, it is a satisfying "read me a story" book, inviting listener and reader alike to stop and explore the lifelike detail portrayed in the drawings. Second graders will delight in solo investigation. A third or fourth grade class could take the information given as a model for cooperating with the school's PTSA and assisting in planning and mounting a Fair-at-School. The older reader with a small reading vocabulary would find limited appeal in the text.

The reality of the "you-are-there" pictures of *Country Fair* added to the simplicity of the text is pleasing to the young reader.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Su Hagerty
Freelance Writer
Issaquah, Washington

634

Sylvia A. Johnson
Apple Trees
Photographs by Hiroo Koike
(A Lerner Natural Science Book)
Lerner Publications Co., 1983
Trade \$14.96
Gr. 1 - 6

This is one of twenty-eight books in the series: The Lerner Natural Science Books. An enticing introduction to the field of natural science, these books cover such topics as elephants, grasshoppers, sunflowers, lions, silkworms, and many other creatures and natural phenomena.

Apple Trees has excellent photographs of amazing clarity and intricate detail by Hiroo Koike. The vividness of the photographs gives the reader an urge to pick and eat the fruit right off the pages.

Washington State is the leading apple producer in the United States. Its cold winters give the trees a chance to rest and prepare for the growing season. The author describes the life of an apple tree in all the seasons and explains the natural process that produces the tree's crisp, delicious fruit. Using diagrams, she explains the practical function of the blossoms, "fragile works of art." She explains why bee hives are brought into orchards. The big business of growing apples is complicated, hard work. The trees must be irrigated, protected from insects and diseases, harvested, and pruned. This book, selected as an Outstanding

Science Trade Book for Children, also won a Special Children's Science Book Award from the New York Academy of Sciences. It makes an excellent resource book for student and teacher alike.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Judith M. Gonzales
Freelance Writer
Moses Lake, Washington

641.6

Jennifer Storey Gillis
An Apple a Day : Over 20 Apple
Projects for Kids
Illustrated by Patti Delmonté
(Science Magic)
Whitecap Books, 1993
Paper \$9.95
PS - Gr. 4

Kids will love the projects and activities about apples. Author Jennifer Gillis has gathered more than twenty kid-tested apple activities for this book illustrated by Patti Delmonte. Kids will have a great time discovering apple facts and solving apple puzzles. Art projects and mouth-watering recipes will whet any child's appetite. Younger children will need adult help, but instructions and illustrations are clear enough that older children can accomplish many of the projects on their own.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Debbie Lindsay
Homeschool Parent
Yelm, Washington

652

Helen Huckle
The Secret Code Book
Dial Books for Young Readers,
1995
Trade \$14.99
Gr. 3 - 7

Students of all ages will enjoy learning how to write in secret code in this imaginative and fascinating book. Take the Pigpen Cipher where the sender forms lines on a page similar to those in a Tic-Tac-Toe game and then fills in the spaces with letters from the alphabet and period marks to create an "unbreakable" secret message only a fellow conspirator will be able to decode. There is Thomas Jefferson's Cipher (one that he created himself) which operates like a combination lock, and of course the only person who can "unlock" the message is the other person owning an exact replica of the cipher machine.

The Secret Code Book gives detailed, yet simple, instructions on how to create nineteen

different types of codes, languages (such as Pig Latin), and unbreakable writing styles. Another bonus is the generous historical background information given for each type of code described. Readers will find these special insights a real treasure as they attempt to match wits with some of history's most famous (or infamous) characters such as Benedict Arnold and Julius Caesar. The artwork and photography are superb and create just the right kind of atmosphere for a budding secret agent. This book would be great fun for anyone with an adventurous mind.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Michele Howe
Writer
LaSalle, MI

743

D. C. DuBosque
Draw! Rainforest Animals
Peel Productions, 1994
Paper \$7.95
Gr. 4 - 12

This drawing book enables the reader to use step-by-step directions to draw rain forest animals. The simple, yet attractive, illustrations are in small enough steps for even non-artists to successfully produce nice drawings. The directions are clear and easy to follow. Lizards, frogs, monkeys, snakes, birds, and other creatures are included. Each animal's scientific name, diet, size, and interesting facts are included. Helpful hints and suggestions for creating a background for the animal or reptile drawn can be found throughout the book. Directions for how to draw plants are included also. There is a small section of drawing tips in the back. Children in grades four and above will enjoy using this book. Teachers may want to use this book for creating bulletin boards or teaching art lessons.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Anita Utley
Faith Christian School
Mead, Washington

745.5

Gwen Diehn and Terry Krautwurst
Nature Crafts for Kids
Sterling Pub., 1992
Trade \$19.95
Gr. 5 - 9

This hard-bound book contains fifty projects kids can make, largely from common objects found outdoors and tools readily available in the home. A child ten years old could do many of these crafts without the aid of an adult.

Language is appropriate to fifth grade and above, even high school students could use the book without being insulted by the reading level. Some projects do need adult aid.

Scientific backgrounds, specific to the materials being used, accompany the project categories. For instance, while a student makes crafts from sea life and sand, she can read about the ocean in a colorful and interesting overview. Scientific information is observable in systems and patterns. Sections correspond to the seasons, and the table of contents is "user friendly." Full color illustrations of boys and girls, from various ethnic backgrounds, demonstrate the projects. Instructions are clear and appropriate to the illustrations. Varying crafts in this volume can be used in a group setting, for class projects, or individually for a kid to just "find something to do."

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Dona Kachele
Teacher, Neighborhood Christian School
Bellevue, Washington

745.5
Jennifer Storey Gillis
In a Pumpkin Shell : Over 20
Pumpkin Projects for Kids
Illustrated by Patti Delmonté
Storey Communications, 1992
Paper \$8.95
Gr. 2 - 5

Discover the wonderful world of pumpkins! Grow them, eat them, make crafts, have fun with these gorgeous golden globes. Kids, parents, and teachers will have a bundle of fun as they explore the pages and activities of this book. There is a pumpkin puzzle and pumpkin lore of how jack-o'-lanterns came to America. Finger-lickin' good recipes are included with easy directions for children. Each page is well illustrated and easy to follow.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Sandy Mitchell
Teacher, Willamette Christian School
Eugene, Oregon

793
Jennifer Storey Gillis
Green Beans & Tambourines :
Over 30 Summer Projects &
Activities for Fun-Loving Kids
Illustrated by Patti Delmonté
Storey Communications, 1995
Paper \$9.95
PS - Gr. 4

"It's amazing what you can produce with a handful of soil, some sunshine, water, and a

little patience." Jennifer Storey Gillis proves her point with this delightful book that kids and adults will both enjoy. What child wouldn't want to build a toad house; create creepy Fruit Critters; grow a windowsill Egghead Garden; or make flags, kazoos, and tambourines for a Fourth of July parade! With this book to assist adults and kids, boring summer days will be a thing of the past. Patti Delmonte creates illustrations that make for delightful, clear directions. Younger children will need help with most projects, but older kids can read and do many of the activities on their own.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Debbie Lindsay
Homeschool Parent
Yelm, Washington

808
The Oxford Treasury of Children's
Stories
Compiled by Michael Harrison and
Christopher Stuart-Clark
Oxford University Press, 1994
Trade \$20.00
K - Gr. 3

This is a collection of twenty-six short stories written by classic authors such as Rudyard Kipling and Hans Christian Anderson plus modern-day writers. The stories are fairy tales about wolves and princes, kings, dragons, and such. Although a half dozen of these stories are quite good, most of the rest are of mediocre quality. Many fail to hold the reader's interest and are tedious.

A few of them focus on revenge, killing, or ghosts. Some of the fairy tales mix dragons, knights, and castles with modern-day television and motorbikes. This combination seems to impair the story and detract from the magical quality of make-believe. To its credit, the book has attractive and colorful illustrations.

u Quality - 2 § Acceptability - 2

Sharon Westra
Librarian, Mt. Vernon Christian School
Mt. Vernon, Washington

808.8
The Book of Virtues for Young
People : A Treasury of Great Moral
Stories
Edited, with commentary, by
William J. Bennett
Silver Burdett Press, 1995
Trade \$16.95
Gr. 4 - 7

The word "virtue" is making its way back into the American vocabulary. William J. Bennett,

former Secretary of Education under President Ronald Reagan says, "Americans do not care so much about differences in culture or even in color as they care about character as it is expressed in behavior." ("The Search for Virtues," William J. Bennett, Tome, March 7, 1994, page 78.) To underscore his firm belief in this premise, Bennett edited *The Book of Virtues for Young People*, a worthy collection of classic folktales, stories, and poems.

Self-discipline, compassion, responsibility, friendship, work, courage, perseverance, honesty, loyalty, and faith are the divisions of Virtues. Each section is prefaced by a photograph characterizing the theme and a homily written by Bennett. Authors such as Horatio Alger, Leo Tolstoy, Katherine Lee Bates, and Anne Frank grace the 384 pages of this volume, spanning tales of antiquity to mythology to yesterday's newspaper.

Not only has Bennett addressed the subject of character, he has provided a collection of classic readings. *The Book of Virtues for Young People* is a reference or a storybook for intermediate elementary students or junior highers. The content and style make this book accessible to the older reader with limited vocabulary.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Su Hagerty
Freelance Writer
Issaquah, Washington

811
Willie Morris
A Prayer for the Opening of the
Little League Season
Illustrated by Barry Moser
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1995
\$15.00
Gr. 1 - 4

A series of delightful and wonderfully realistic water color pictures done by Barry Moser illustrates this unique prayer book that focuses on the opening of Little League season. This serious, yet charming, little book serves to remind adults and children alike that God cares even about the little things in our lives. Mr. Morris prays a blessing on everything from the catcher, awkward in all his gear, to the mother who drives and cleans and soothes the sores. The prayers are simple and sincere, but some older readers might find the book taking baseball a little too seriously. I found it a rewarding reminder of God's presence in every corner of our lives.

The pictures are entertaining and attractive, but the language, though simple and direct, uses an

adult vocabulary. This is probably more of a read aloud book for younger children.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Gayle Chessman Haberman
Teacher, West Hills Christian School
Portland, Oregon

811
Ogden Nash
The Tale of Custard the Dragon
Illustrated by Lynn Munsinger
Little, Brown, 1995
Trade \$14.95
PS - Gr. 1

Light-hearted comedy and verse tell a story of "brave, braver, and bravest." Custard, the cowardly dragon, saves Belinda and her pet animals from a pirate. This poem, first published in 1936, comes back with fresh appeal in Lynn Munsinger's delightfully illustrated edition. True bravery is shown by action, not words, as Custard rises to the occasion when real danger comes.

Whether this book is a good choice for reading of nonsense verse in a class will depend on the acceptability of make-believe dragons, eating of pirates, and use of knives and guns. Children will enjoy the fantasy and humor of the examples of bravery of Belinda and each of the animals in her family.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Marie Knaupp
Retired Librarian
Monmouth, Oregon

811
Joanne Ryder
Without Words
Photographs by Barbara
Sonneborn
Sierra Club Books for Children,
1995
Trade \$15.45
PS - Gr. 8

Bridging the language gap between humans and animals is the subject of this beautifully photographed picture album by Barbara Sonneborn with its accompanying poetry by Joanne Ryder. A Sierra Club Book for Children, *Without Words* will also delight adults who enjoy watching animals and humans interact with gestures, touches, and looks. A page of photographer's notes tells about each animal photographed, where it lives, and which animals are endangered. Most of the animals were photographed at Marine World Africa USA; a few at Sea World, Florida; and some at private homes in the United States. Young

children will appreciate the photographs alone, while the older child and adult will enjoy the poetry that accompanies each page. Teachers may want to use this book as a starter for exploring how people communicate without words.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Judy Driscoll
Teacher, Christ the King Academy
Poulsbo, Washington

813
Isaac Bashevis Singer
Stories For Children
Farrar Straus Giroux, 1984
Paper \$13.00
Gr. 3 - 6

These Jewish stories are written to entertain everyone, 3 to 93. The stories range from historical through natural, supernatural, religious, to folklore. There are histories so interesting they seem like tales, and tales so believable they seem like history. Hanukkah with its candles, pancakes, dreidels, and heart deep meaning is an integral part of many of these stories: a lost fawn named Hanukkah; the joy of the ceremony and feast in the poor house, miracles from Elijah, romance over a prayer book, Dreidel the parakeet who flew in one Hanukkah morning thereby causing a marriage.

Dancing here and there are the stories of the wonderfully foolish wise elders of Chelm, and their Beadle, Schlemiel. These delightful fools excel at making "wise" decisions such as punishing by drowning the carp who slapped Head Elder Gronam Ox in the face with its tail. The panoply of stories includes: a trickster who convinces a rich man that his silver tablespoons have teaspoon babies; demons and witches vanquished by students of the Talmud; three wishes, seemingly wasted, but not really; the joy of studying the Talmud and the Bible, dreaming wondrous dreams about the stories they contain; a Jewish wanderer who saves a beautiful maiden from a river demon.

Many of these stories come from an ethnic background that differs from ours. Be ready to answer children's questions about these differences. This is a book to read to others or to listen as it is read to you. The stories will catch your imagination making it hard to limit yourself or your hearers to just one story.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Donna Eggett
Volunteer Counselor
Pregnancy Care Center of Catawba Valley
Hickory, North Carolina

818.5209
Roxane Chadwick
Anne Morrow Lindbergh : Pilot
and Poet
(The Achievers)
Lerner Publications, 1987
Paper \$4.95
Gr. 3 - 6

This biography follows Anne Lindbergh's transformation from a young, timid, bookworm into the self-confident partner and copilot of her famous husband. Together, they weather tragedy--the kidnapping of their first born. As partners, they master challenges--raising five children, breaking a transcontinental speed record, and spending six months on flights surveying the North Atlantic.

Never comfortable with publicity and attention, Anne herself becomes famous with the publication of her memoirs, books, and poems. As a pilot, writer, conservationist, wife and mother, Anne's story shows courage as she gains self-confidence. This book will give hope to shy, quiet children, as they read about Anne's accomplishments. Black and white photographs provide insights into Anne's life. Libraries will find this a positive asset to their biography section and teachers can confidently use this book as assigned reading or for research assignments of famous women.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Paula Stewart Marks
Principal, Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

820.8
Juba This and Juba That
Selected by Virginia Tashjian
Illustrated by Nadine Bernard
Westcott
Little, Brown, 1995
Trade \$14.95
PS - Gr. 7

Stories to tell, songs to sing, rhymes to chant, and riddles to guess are compiled in this anthology. Originally published in 1969, Virginia Tashjian has revised this edition with whimsical black and white drawings by Nadine Bernard Westcott. The delightful mix of new and familiar fare has something to inspire every storyteller and child.

"I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly," "I Went to the Library," "Eensy-Weensy Spider," "John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt," "John Brown's Baby," and many more are all in one book with suggested actions and how-to-use ideas. A reference must for each school library and day care center, this irresistible collection of classic favorites is guaranteed to

add variety to any story hour. Because of the inclusion of witch, bogeyman, and ghost, this book may be best used as a teacher's reference book.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Marie Knaupp
Retired Librarian
Monmouth, Oregon

821

The Oxford Treasury of Children's Poems

Compiled by Michael Harrison and
Christopher Stuart-Clark
Oxford University Press, 1994
Paper \$9.95
K - Gr. 5

This collection of poems includes some from quite well-known authors such as F. Scott Fitzgerald, Robert Louis Stevenson, Shel Silverstein, Emily Dickinson, and A. A. Milne. Included in this volume are both well-known and obscure poems, nursery rhymes, and tongue twisters. It is a well-rounded collection of poetry with something for everyone's taste. Overall, most of the poems are fine and acceptable, although a few of them might present problems for Christians who want to focus on nurturing. For example: "Didn't care was hung... put in a pot and boiled till he was done." and "It's a Bit Rich" is about a greedy child playing Monopoly. Illustrations on nearly every page are varied in color, size, shape, and style. This variation keeps the book fresh, interesting, and fun.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Sharon Westra
Librarian, Mt. Vernon Christian School
Mt. Vernon, Washington

821.008

Ring Out, Wild Bells

Illustrated by Karen Baumann
Edited by Lee Bennett Hopkins
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992
Trade \$17.95
K - Gr. 5

A collection of poems about holidays and seasons throughout the year has been gathered together for both younger and older children to enjoy. This book provides a rich introduction to both past and present poets such as Ogden Nash, Robert Frost, Charlotte Zolotow, Frank Asch, and Aileen Fisher. There is an agreeable mix of simple and complex poems to read aloud and for memorization. Holidays and seasons are well-represented although the Mother's Day selections were disappointing.

The poems about Halloween contain references to ghosts and witches; other poems about fall are delightful. Both the Christian and Jewish perspective are represented. The simple illustrations, a variety of color and black-and-white drawings, lend a joyful touch to the poems.

Overall, this is a useful resource which provides a thought-provoking, merry introduction to both poems and the wonder of the year's holidays and seasons.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 2

Pam Webb
Freelance Writer, Volunteer Librarian
House of the Lord Christian Academy
Oldtown, Idaho

823

Olde Mother Goose

All songs arranged and performed
by The Hubbards
Illustrations by Anita Carroll-
Welden
August House Publishers, Inc.,
1993
Cassette and booklet \$12.95
PS - Gr. 1

This is a fascinating cassette which turns twenty-six familiar Mother Goose Rhymes into songs and teaches the listener about traditional acoustical instruments. While children find the songs enjoyable, adults relish the special accompaniment. Each rhyme is accompanied by different instrumentation. Find out about a jaw harp, washboard, mandolin, cornetto, melodeon, hurdy gurdy, and other such instruments by following along in the companion booklet. The booklet contains words of the rhyme plus drawings by Anita Carroll-Welden of animals holding the instruments being played. The booklet includes background details about each instrument. The six Hubbards are a talented, versatile group. Parents, teachers, and children will find this cassette pleasurable and educational.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Paula Stewart Marks
Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

920

The Oxford Children's Book of Famous People
Oxford University Press, 1994
Trade \$35.00
Gr. 4 - 9

This reference book of one thousand famous people, past and present, introduces a wide

variety of people with a brief biographical sketch of each. Included are those who have made contributions to the arts, science, sports, theology, politics, military, etc. Over sixty consultants and authors from around the world helped to devise the list of people. It is well organized and has cross references, pictures on every page, a thematic directory, and a chronological directory at the back of the book. This is a good resource book and is also enjoyable for perusing at leisure.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Debbie Lindsay
Homeschool Parent
Yelm, Washington

971.3

Barbara Greenwood
A Pioneer Sampler : The Daily Life of a Pioneer Family in 1840
Illustrated by Heather Collins
Ticknor & Fields Books for Young Readers, 1995
Trade \$15.95
Gr. 3 - 7

This delightful book takes you to the year 1840 and life with the Robertson family on their backwoods farm. It is written in small vignettes with Sarah Robertson, age ten, as the main character. From spring to winter an entire year is covered describing the many things a pioneer family had to do to survive.

Along with the story, sidelights show more specifics as to how these various activities were accomplished, whether clearing the land or tapping a maple tree. It tells how essential specific tools or items were.

Interwoven with the text are nineteen projects that a child might do at home to replicate what is told in the story: how to make butter, read the weather, do finger spinning, and many other things primary to self-sufficiency.

All three facets of the book are complemented by wonderful, detailed illustrations by Heather Collins. *A Pioneer Sampler* answers many of the questions a child may have about how children lived and played generations ago. There is the mention of hobgoblins and a few other superstitions relevant to that period in time. Overall the book is informative and a good resource tool.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Jannet Hoeffner
Freelance Writer
Prairie City, Oregon

979.7
Ron Hirschi
Seya's Song
Illustrated by Constance R.
Bergum.
Sasquatch Books, 1992
Paper \$7.95
Gr. 3 - 6

Seya's Song is a lyric description of the natural surroundings of the S'Klallam people native to the Pacific Northwest. A young Native American girl recalls the language her grandmother used as she lived, worked, and played along the shores of Puget Sound. She describes the life-cycle of the salmon and traditional activities of her people. The reader learns S'Klallam words for fish, fruits and other wildlife that are important to the Puget Sound. A glossary in the back of this picture book includes a pronunciation guide and the meaning for the S'Klallam words used in the book. Constance R. Bergum's illustrations lend a peaceful, dreamlike quality to the narration that fits well with the sounds of the S'Klallam language.

This book is a completely enjoyable look at a language and culture that is disappearing in our country. It is recommended for use in studying Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest. *Seya's Song* is also a great read-aloud. It is important to become familiar with the pronunciation of the S'Klallam words before reading it to children in order that the flow of the text not be interrupted. The sounds of the language and the lyric quality of the book can help everyone, young and old alike, remember that God has given a beautiful gift to all cultures when he blessed us with the gift of language. When reading this book, Christians can appreciate and understand this culture without having to accept the religious beliefs behind the language and the life-style.

Deer and Loon were Traveling: A Story of the Upper Skaget of Puget Sound told by Vi Hilbert can be used as a companion to *Seya's Song*. Published by Children's Press, it is a wordless book and cassette recording of a S'Klallam folk-tale that alternates English and S'Klallam sentences. It's a wonderful way for all ages to experience the unique sounds of the language and their relationship to the outdoor sounds of the Northwest. Used together, children get an idea of S'Klallam language as it is used in everyday life as well as in storytelling.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Trudi Kolk
Elementary Media Specialist, Watson Groen
Christian School
Seattle, Washington

n **CORRECTION:** Jerry JERMAN is the author of *My Father, the Horse Thief* and *The Long Way Home*, both reviewed in our October issue. We apologize for the misspelling of Mr. Jerman's name.

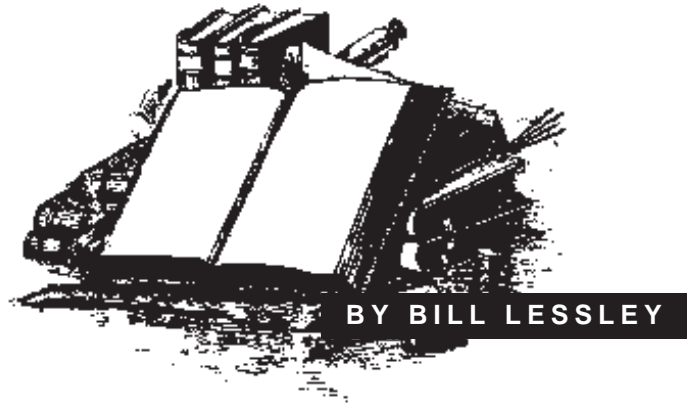
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BY BILL LESSLEY

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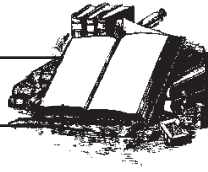
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Arvin, Reed
Wind in the Wheat
Nelson, 1994
Trade \$12.99
Gr. 7 - 12

Andrew Miracle is a deeply religious young man who has suspected, and hoped, that his talent might take him beyond the simple secure round of farm, church, and charity concerts. When promoter John van Grimes invites him to Nashville, it seems an answer to prayer.

Andrew's conviction that he's "called" helps him repress his uncertainties over the artificial way he's packaged and presented to the public. So does his responsibility for the financial future of an ever-growing entourage. Only Miracle's girlfriend Carolyn worries about his soul.

After several spiritual ups and downs, Miracle returns to his hometown, realizing that, for him at least, fame and fortune are too much temptation. He leaves the door open for more composing, but he'll save his performances for the nursing home residents he visits weekly.

Reed Arvin is a record producer and composer who's worked with such famous artists as Amy Grant, Barbara Mandrell, and Michael W. Smith. His description of Miracle's music career includes the authentic details that make Andrew's corruption believable.

However, he's gone beyond the typical "falling star" story. He takes the reader inside Miracle's gift, to sense what it's like to create good music. He also describes Miracle's relationship with God, showing how difficult it sometimes is to discern the Lord's will. Nor does he condemn the entire entertainment industry. He simply reveals its spiritual pitfalls.

Arvin's villains are as believable as his hero. We know immediately that van Grimes will cheat Miracle. We know, too, that we've used the same justifications when committing sins ourselves. The other industry powerhouses are also typical of the separation of faith and work too many Christians practice. Teens of both sexes will enjoy this tale of a profession they tend to idolize.

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u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Kathleen T. Choi
Retired Teacher
Hilo, Hawaii

Judy Baer
New Girl in Town
(Cedar River Daydreams; 1)
Bethany House Publishers, 1988
Paper \$3.99
Gr. 6 - 12

In the first book of this series, *New Girl in Town*, Lexi Leighton, her parents, and her younger brother move to Cedar River. They soon encounter high school clannishness and prejudice against Lexi's younger brother who has Down's Syndrome and is therefore retarded. Lexi has a hard time adjusting to her new environment, but with the Lord's help she makes some new school friends, most of whom aren't believers in the first book.

The series (22 books at this writing) continues, using the same major characters, so the reader is familiar with them from previous books, and feels comfortable, already knowing their personalities. Judy Baer, author of the series, writes her Christian fiction not only to entertain, but to help people of high school age deal with the enormous problems and choices teenagers face today. Each book deals with one or two of Lexi's friends, showing how Lexi helps them deal with their problems from a scriptural standpoint. The books have a Christian world view and strong values. They are cleanly written. Subjects dealt with include loneliness, alcoholism, dyslexia, illiteracy, death and grief, absent parents, teen pregnancy, suicide, drug problems, anorexia, cancer, AIDS, racial prejudices, etc.

At the end of each book, Ms. Baer includes a letter to her readers, inviting them to write to her personally if they have a problem or a question which they feel they can't discuss with their families or teachers. Apparently, many have written to her, because she has also published books containing answers to teen questions.

Christian parents and teachers should realize these problems are among those faced every day by teens in public schools. In Christian schools, many of these situations are duplicated, though perhaps less frequently. Regardless of how clean and carefully handled,

some parents may not want to have their children confront these issues in a novel, particularly at junior high school level. Because of these life-shaping subjects, parents and teachers are advised to preview the books before their teens read them.

Other titles in this series:

- Trouble with a Capital "T"; 2.
- Jennifer's Secret; 3.
- Journey to Nowhere; 4.
- Broken Promises; 5.
- The Intruder; 6.
- Silent Tears No More; 7.
- Fill My Empty Heart; 8.
- Yesterday's Dream; 9.
- Tomorrow's Promise; 10.
- Something Old, Something New; 11.
- Vanishing Star; 12.
- No Turning Back; 13.
- Second Chance; 14.
- Lost and Found; 15.
- Unheard Voices; 16.
- Lonely Girl; 17.
- More Than Friends; 18.
- Never Too Late; 19.
- The Discovery; 20.
- A Special Kind of Love; 21.
- Three's a Crowd; 22.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Harriette
Freelance writer and Retired Teacher
Port Orchard, Washington

Esther Bender
Katie and the Lemon Tree
Illustrated by Joy Dunn Keenan
Herald Press, 1994
Paper \$4.95
Gr. 5 - 8

To fuel early sparks of interest in horticulture and to add dimension to United States history lessons, former teacher Esther Bender has created her first fiction. With emphasis on her characters' need for the religious freedom they found in America, Bender weaves her tale around first the seeds, then the growth, of both a family tree and a healthy lemon tree. In both cases, Katie's faith is rewarded by God giving

"the increase." This book provides easy reading for adolescents and a wholesome read-aloud for early grades. The illustrations by Joy Dunn Keenan serve to fill out the underdeveloped characters of this new author.

u Quality - 2 § Acceptability - 4

Olivia Wheatley Stachorek
Freelance Writer, Teacher
Carlsborg, Washington

Esther Bender
Shadow at Sun Lake
Herald Press, 1995
Paper \$5.95
Gr. 6 - 10

Cassie hears a lot of talk of deer, bear, and even panther (also called mountain lion, cougar, or puma) when she arrives at Sun Lake with her friend Sheila. Cassie is spending the summer with Sheila's family while her own mother is in school. As a change of pace from daily hikes and sunning on the beach, Cassie visits the library and finds materials on panthers, which officials say do not live in that area. The locals, particularly Mr. Walker, known as "Old Grouse" to the kids, believe there are panthers. The teenage groundskeeper, Lyle, follows Cassie everywhere. Ace, cook at a fast-food place, is Sheila's friend from past years and spends as much time as possible with the girls.

Thumps on the trailer roof in the night, screams near and far, scary treks through dark woods to Fossil Rock, a reporter who smears mud and smelly gook on himself, and a diminishing number of geese are just a few of the happenings that help Cassie change from a homesick "shadow" to a more self-assured person...and incidentally to solve the mystery of the Shadow at Sun Lake.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

'Leen Pollinger
Freelance Writer and Editor
Sun City West, Arizona

John Bunyan
Target Earth! : John Bunyan's The
Holy War
Edited by Christopher Wright
(A Victorian Classic for Children)
Bridge Publishing, 1982
\$4.95
Gr. 6 - 12

Fantasy takes a spiritual turn in *Target Earth*. The popular theme of spiritual warfare is seen from an angel's point of view. Although the theme is current, the story is old. Christopher Wright has revised and updated John Bunyan's Victorian classic for children, *The Holy War*.

Two small angels, Keerdy and Temar, are sent from planet Eltor to Earth to work for the Lord. They are given a vision of what has happened on Earth to gain understanding about their mission.

The city of Mansoul is populated by such characters as Mr. Conscience, Lord Understanding, Captain Secure, Mr. Unchanging, Good Deeds, and a host of others both good and bad. The troops of King's Son and Diabolus fight over the city. In the battle, many are wounded and killed. At the end, the reader is reminded that the city represents a person and the battle is for the soul of man.

The book has many black and white drawings that appear to be from the original book. This story will appeal to the young reader who likes today's fantasy novel.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Myrtlemay Pittman Crane
Freelance Writer
Alderwood Manor, Washington

Lynn Craig
New Friends in New Places
(Forever Friends; 1)
Thomas Nelson, 1994
Paper \$4.99
Gr. 7 - 9

Seen through Katelyn's eyes as she writes in her journal, *New Friends in New Places* shows the struggles of a teenager in a new place. Having to change schools near the end of her freshman year is upsetting to Katelyn. She just knows she'll never make any new friends. But friends turn up in the most unexpected places, and in no time it seems as if they've known each other for ages. With the help of her Aunt Beverly, Katelyn adjusts to the new town, meets a boy who is special, helps another newcomer feel at home, and learns valuable lessons about the true meaning of friendship.

The story's message that we can have friends by being friends comes through clearly. This is a book to recommend for any young person facing the trauma of moving.

The book ends by raising questions that make the reader want to go on to the next book in the series--quickly!

Other titles in this series:

Friends Make the Difference; 2
Summer of Choice; 3
Collins Ville; 4

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Myrtlemay Pittman Crane
Freelance Writer
Alderwood Manor, Washington

Connie Brummel Crook
Laura's Choice : The Story of
Laura Secord
Windflower Communications, 1993
Paper \$9.99
Gr. 8-12

This historical fiction story tells of the life of Laura Secord, a heroine in Canadian history. While learning about Canadian and early American history, the reader is also treated to an inside look at a family dealing with the issues of death and adjusting to a stepparent. It covers a number of years, mainly focusing on the War of 1812 from the Canadian perspective.

The plot relates the history of Laura's family beginning at their home in Massachusetts. After some difficult years, her father decided they would move to Canada because of land he had purchased there. They faced many challenges starting over in a sparsely populated area. In the years that follow, they find themselves in the middle of a war with the United States. The story shows the character of men, both good and bad, on both sides of the conflict. It shows the real-life struggles of the characters and their dependence on God. Near the end of the book, Laura takes her historic walk to warn the Canadian forces of an enemy attack. Her courage brings victory to the Canadians when they would have certainly been defeated.

This would be excellent to read in conjunction with early American history to acknowledge the fact that there were heroes on both sides of the conflict. It has some great role models who showed courage and strength of character in the face of great difficulty.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Esther Knaupp
Librarian and Teacher, Santiam Christian School
Corvallis, Oregon

Allan W. Eckert
Incident at Hawk's Hill
Illustrated by John Schoenherr
Little, Brown, 1995, 1971
Paper \$5.95
Gr. 6 - 8

At age six, Benjy MacDonald is the youngest of four children growing up in Winnipeg, Saskatchewan, in the 1870's. He's extremely shy and prefers to spend his time observing the animals of the farm and surrounding woods and grasslands. He imitates the movements of these

animals with amazing accuracy, a fact his father finds more embarrassing than admirable.

One day Benjy strays too far from home. The community forms a search party, but Benjy hides from the only searcher he sees, trapper George Burton, whom he dislikes and distrusts. Seeking shelter from a storm, Benjy wiggles down a badger hole and appears to have vanished from the face of the earth. He befriends the badger, whose cubs died of starvation while she fought to get free from one of Burton's traps. She "adopts" Benjy and keeps him alive with raw game for eight weeks until his older brother finally discovers his hiding place.

This Newbery Honor Book is rich in animal lore. Unfortunately, Eckert's descriptions of badger behavior are so extensive they sometimes bring the plot to a halt. Most of the children who can read this book will be considerably older than its hero, which might limit its appeal. However, survival tales are always popular with upper elementary school students. The fact that Eckert based his novel on a true incident should make his story even more appealing.

A visit from the Archbishop near the end of the novel makes explicit the Christian lessons in Benjy's experience. Mr. MacDonald has grown to appreciate his son's uniqueness, just as the Creator always has. Like the Good Shepherd, the MacDonald family never gave up searching for Benjy, even when their neighbors concluded the child had drowned in the nearby river.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Kathleen T. Choi
Retired Teacher
Hilo, Hawaii

Janis Fedor
For the Love of Adam
Son-Rise Publications, 1993
Paper \$7.95
Gr. 9 - 12

As the oldest in the family, Liza Jane was given many responsibilities. Her duties increased when her father joined the army to fight in the Civil War and her mother was pregnant with her seventh child.

When Adam, a wounded soldier with only one arm, showed up, Liza Jane's family nursed him back to health. Liza Jane realized after some time that he had come to mean more to her than just a passing interest. On returning to health, Adam let Liza know that she was special to him also; but when she declared her love for him, he told her he could never marry her because of something that would be a barrier forever. She

tried to discover his secret but to no avail. It isn't until the end of the story that the secret is revealed and healing comes to Adam.

Intertwined in the story was Liza Jane's friendship with her neighbor, Sarah, and the tragedy in her life. It comes to light early in the story that Sarah's mother had gotten an abortion years before, and now Sarah is contemplating the same thing. This crisis is resolved in an exciting way.

Junior high and senior high students will relate to this story of real-life heartbreaks and tragedies as it gives answers to worth and acceptance in spite of circumstances surrounding one's birth. It relays a strong pro-life message.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Esther Knaupp
Librarian and Teacher, Santiam Christian School
Corvallis, Oregon

Robert Funderburk
These Golden Days
(The Innocent Years; 2)
Bethany House Publishers, 1995
Paper \$8.99
Gr. 9 - 12

This historical novel set during the Korean War is the continuing story of the Temple family. Catherine and Lane's oldest daughter, Jessie, is drawn by Austin Youngblood's reckless passion for living on the edge of danger. When Austin and Jessie inadvertently cause a tragedy, both fight confusion and guilt as they separately seek independence and purpose for their lives.

Lane, called back to the Korean War, re-experiences the chaos of dying comrades. As one of the older soldiers, he views the war from an interesting perspective. Catherine, left at home, learns that peace comes from helping others. These believable characters experience real problems as they overcome hesitation and confusion. Austin and Jessie find their restlessness replaced with serenity as they find Jesus. Good morals and credible characters make this a good choice for any teenager.

Other titles in this series:

Love and Glory; 1

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Paula Stewart Marks
Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

Ruth Glover
The Shining Light
(The Wildrose Trilogy; 1)
Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City,
1994
Paper \$8.95
Gr. 9 - 12, Adult

At the turn of the Nineteenth Century, any who dared attempt to carve out a home and live within the bush country of Saskatchewan encountered many harsh perils as well as great possibilities. Perhaps Abbie was too citified to face such hardships and danger. Yet with her husband, Worth, and three children, she was determined to succeed--for their sakes if not her own. Unforeseen to her, lay a different path, one Abbie must face alone with the inner strength that only God can provide.

This touching story, the first in a trilogy, is one of tenacity and fierce resolve despite insecurity and devastating setbacks. The endearing antics of two elderly brothers, both widowed, offer many light moments and encouragement, as well as showing the determination and spunk these pioneers possessed in order to succeed. The author succinctly expresses the deep need to trust, not only in one's own ingenuity and resourcefulness, but in God who sees beyond the immediate trouble to a fruitful and fulfilling future. Summed up beautifully in Abbie's most desperate moment, we discover with her, where true power and courage lie. "'Worth...,' Abbie cried silently. But Worth wasn't there; he would never be there. 'God...,' she cried. And he was there. He would always be there."

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Mary McKinney
Freelance Writer, Teacher
Port Orchard, Washington

Lee Ann Lewis
The Trouble with Dreams
Herald Press, 1991
Paper \$5.95
Gr. 6 - 8

Written in a way that is easy and enjoyable for even an elementary student, this is the story of Joseph, beginning when he is twelve years old. The conflict with his brothers, resulting from the favoritism shown by his father, becomes evident immediately. Scenes with his brothers highlight the conflict that lead up to his being sold as a slave.

The fear and rejection that Joseph experienced from the treatment he received from his brothers and the difficulties he faced as a slave in Egypt where he was unjustly accused by Potiphar's wife were the training ground for the position he would hold as the one next to the

king. In spite of Joseph's questions and hardships, his underlying trust in a sovereign God is obvious.

The author is careful to stay true to the biblical account while making the unknown facts as realistic as possible. A favorite Bible story of all time, this story of Joseph is challenging and encouraging for young people who may be struggling through circumstances in their lives that seem unfair. The ageless promise of God's presence with us and his ability to bring good out of evil is brought out strongly in this book.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Esther Knaupp
Librarian and Teacher, Santiam Christian School
Corvallis, Oregon

Og Mandino
The Twelfth Angel
Fawcett Columbine, 1993
Paper \$4.99
Gr. 5 - 7

"Every day in every way I am getting better and better" is Timothy Noble's guiding motto. As the smallest and least talented member of the Little League Angels, he most certainly needs to get better. Team manager, John Harding, needs that slogan too. A successful businessman, Harding lost his wife and only child in an automobile accident. With their deaths, he also lost the will to live. Providentially, just before the accident, the Hardings had returned to John's hometown. John's childhood friend begs and bullies John into helping run one of the town's Little League teams--the Angels.

There John meets Timothy, whose second favorite slogan comes from Winston Churchill: "Never give up." It soon becomes the team motto, as Timothy wins their respect for the cheerful way he battles his shortcomings as a player. He wins the whole town's love for his gutsy battle with cancer. His faith and courage make even his death a triumph.

Og Mandino's Christianity is a cheerful, "can do" faith sometimes falling into humanism. There's an old saying, "Work as if it all depended on you; pray as if it all depended on God." Mandino has built his professional life on the first half of the equation: getting the self to work well. Conservative Christians may fear God's grace is given short shrift. Mandino's plot is a familiar one; still, it's hard to resist young Timothy, and Mandino throws in enough curve balls to keep you concerned for the boy's fate. Mandino is also honest enough to show that Timothy's self-affirmations can't alter all his circumstances. Nonetheless, his example is

a legitimate source of inspiration in the face of life's pains and losses.

u Quality - 2 § Acceptability - 3

Kathleen T. Choi
Retired Teacher
Hilo, Hawaii

Dennis McCallum
The Summons
NavPress, 1993
Paper \$11.00
Gr. 10 - 12, Adult

Sherry Martin, although brilliant, is a typical mixed-up college student. She's beautiful, intelligent, popular (with both boys and girls), and yet empty and searching inside. Beginning on her own and then through contact with a "radical" Christian campus group, Sherry begins to discover the God of the Universe. On her journey, she re-evaluates her lifestyle and comes to grips with issues such as God's view of dating and relationships, spiritual warfare, and even discord between different Christian sects.

Intellectual stimulation in the story challenges the reader to look closely at his own spiritual beliefs and practices and also encourages him to get off the pew and join in the very real battle that is raging between God's own and the enemy.

This book is well written although the vocabulary or vernacular of the college students left me a bit cold. Do all (including brilliant) college students express themselves with so much slang?

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Sherri Taplett
Parent and Reader
Wenatchee, Washington

Jack Metzler
Tachechana : The Story of
Skiping Fawn
Destiny Image, 1992
Paper \$8.99
Gr. 7 - 12

Tachechana (Skiping Fawn), the daughter of the Sioux chief Great Bear, has been trained by her father to be a warrior. The braves complain to the chief and ask that she take her proper place as a squaw. Great Bear tells her she must leave and only return to the village with a husband. He then talks of her mother who had died when she was born, and Tachechana learns for the first time that her mother was a white woman. Her father instructs Tachechana to go and learn what love is, something his wife had

almost taught him. She goes to a trapper in the hills who agrees to allow her to stay and begins to teach her to read and write. The trapper, Nathan Cooper, is struggling with his own fears; but, in teaching Tachechana the true meaning of love, he is able to conquer his fears and renew his own personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This book gives many details of a trapper's lifestyle as well as Indian customs. It is interesting, but not very realistic and lacks in development of character and plot.

u Quality - 2 § Acceptability - 4

Esther Knaupp
Librarian and Teacher, Santiam Christian School
Corvallis, Oregon

Walt Morey
Angry Waters
Blue Heron Publishing, Inc., 1969,
1990
Paper \$7.95
Gr. 7 - 10

Dan Malloy is a fifteen-year-old boy on the road to trouble. Hanging around with the wrong kind of friends involves him in a robbery. He is given the chance to turn his life around by being paroled to a family farm. Dan doesn't want to be there. At the first opportunity, he asks his parole officer to find him another place. Mrs. Edwards and the daughter, Jennie, make him feel welcome, but he has a difficult time relating to quiet Mr. Edwards.

Left alone one night, Dan acts quickly to save a cow and calf. Being given the responsibility to wean the calf begins the change in Dan's attitude. Things don't seem so dreary or lonely. Having something to take an interest in opens up a whole new world for Dan. Dealing with death and tragedy on the farm tests Dan's new outlook. He learns to do things he never thought possible. The final test of his commitment to his new family comes in the shape of his old friend Rocky, who escaped from prison. There is mild violence associated with this encounter, but justice prevails. The story is well paced and keeps the reader hooked with tense and exciting moments.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Jannet Hoeffner
Freelance Writer
Prairie City, Oregon

Janette Oke
The Bluebird and the Sparrow
Bethany House Publishers, 1994
Paper \$8.99.
Gr. 7 - 12

From her earliest memories of childhood, Berta realized she would never be exclaimed over like her beautiful younger sister Glenna. In reaction to this rejection, Berta tried to be different from her sister, even in the way she dressed. Knowing she couldn't compete with looks, she prided herself in being independent and strong.

As the years went by, Berta cut herself off from others and refused to show any emotion. When an old high school classmate returns to town and begins to form a friendship with her, Berta starts to change. Through their discussions she realizes she has never had a personal relationship with Jesus. The arrival of a new pastor in her home church shows Berta her need of Jesus and her life is transformed. Through a sermon on the life of Joseph, she sees that it is not circumstances that make a person, but whether or not one chooses God. After working through the bitterness and rejection she had felt as a child, Berta turns to God and is able to accept herself and others. This down to earth wisdom from Janette Oke is especially relevant to teenagers who struggle with inadequacy and inferiority and feel as if a sibling is being favored by parents.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Esther Knaupp

*Librarian and Teacher, Santiam Christian School
Corvallis, Oregon*

Janette Oke
When Calls the Heart
(Janette Oke's Canadian West; 1)
Bethany House Publishers, 1983
Paper \$7.99.
Gr. 9 - 12, Adult

When young, cultured, and independent Elizabeth accepts a teaching position on the Canadian frontier, she faces numerous challenges. Her wealthy eastern upbringing does not prepare her for the perilous life ahead. Although determined not to become romantically involved with a frontiersman, she reluctantly falls hopelessly in love with a Royal Canadian Mountie. Together, they encounter harsh winters, loneliness, discouragement, and difficulties in relating to the native Indian residents of the far north.

Although the first-person narration is sometimes awkward, Oke successfully grabs the reader's attention and sustains it throughout this action-packed series. The reader is able to enjoy Elizabeth's unwavering faith and devotion to God, evident throughout each formidable encounter with nature and circumstance. The well-developed characters

and the lack of predictability make this series well worth reading.

Other titles in this series:

When Comes the Spring; 2
When Breaks the Dawn; 3
When Hope Springs New; 4

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Linda Olson

*Central Christian High School
Terrebonne, Oregon*

Gary Paulsen
The Tent : A Parable in One Sitting
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1995
Trade \$14.00
Gr. 9 - 12

Steven goes through many emotions as his father, Corey, becomes a tent preacher, deciding that this is how they will become rich. Steven has his doubts about their success from the beginning. Their travels take them through small Texas towns. Money comes in, but Steven's conscience tells him these methods are not right. The money rolls in, and they begin to lead the good life. But is it such a good life? Corey also is bothered by this, wondering if they are doing right. The true meaning of the Bible finally prevails, and Corey sees his deceiving ways.

The book is interesting, and the heroes saw the wrong they were doing and were willing to make amends.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Rosalie M. Dahlvang

*Librarian, St. Anthony School
Renton, Washington*

Elsa Redekopp
Two Worlds for Jash
Windflower Communications, 1992
Paper \$4.95
Gr. 6 - 8

Young Jash, of German descent, was raised in Rosental Valley in Ukraine. During World War II, his village is terrorized by Russian communists. Their crops are confiscated, as are the animals. The family must sometimes feed, and even house, uncouth men who belittle their heritage and religious faith.

Pa, a Mennonite, will not fight the soldiers, even though hunger and illness weaken the family and kill baby Abram. Nor will he abandon his faith. He believes God knows their needs and has a plan for them. A small miracle, finding a large loaf of bread on the road, saves

the family's life. Later, in Canada, they meet the wagoner who lost that loaf while taking provisions to the Front.

Eventually the Mennonite church brings food and medicine to the desperate villagers. They offer an opportunity to emigrate to Canada. When the family's precious horses are stolen and the children learn atheism at school, Pa decides to go. In Canada they quickly become a part of the Winnipeg community, working to acquire their own home and farm. Jash eventually releases his bitterness toward those who oppressed his family when he realizes, "all things work together for good for those who love the Lord."

Redekopp does an excellent job of weaving the religious theme into her tale; the lessons never seem forced. Her precise details and the preface thanking those who came before us, suggest the incidents in Jash's life were tales she heard growing up in Manitoba. Unfortunately, although the events are vividly described, they fail to touch the emotions. Opening the novel with Jash safely in Canada immediately eliminates any suspense from his wartime troubles. Even the death of baby Abram reads more like a news report than a story from the heart.

Students will find the book an easy read, and it may shed some light on current events in the former Soviet Union.

u Quality - 2 § Acceptability - 4

Kathleen T. Choi

*Retired Teacher
Hilo, Hawaii*

Kay D. Rizzo
She Said No : But He Crossed the
Line Between Passion and Violence
Pacific Press, 1994
Paper \$10.95
Gr. 10 - 12, Adult

Allowing more than she should, giving himself every male chauvinistic excuse in his repertoire, Heather and Joshua head into a destructive dating relationship in which everyone loses, the victim, the perpetrator, their families, even future loved ones. Looking at both the male and female sides of the problem of date rape, *She Said No* starts at the beginning of a Christian dating relationship and blows you away with descriptive detail through to the violent rape and beyond to the despair and ultimate spiritual growth of both protagonists.

Date rape is a shocking subject matter. Don't approach this book as if it were a bedtime story. Be prepared to be shocked. And then be sure to move on to the most important part of this

book, the second section: The Facts on Acquaintance Rape. Heather and Joshua's story illustrates the valuable facts found in this section: statistics and facts about rape; encouragement not to take the blame on yourself if you are raped; pointers on how to avoid date rape as well as what to do if you are attacked; and the truth about the myths of rape, for example: a man's libido, once inflamed, is impossible to stop...just imagine her father walking in the front door.

This is a book of interest to all who date, both male and female. Discussion groups will also find it valuable. It could be a good starting point for discussing the morals of dating.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Donna Eggett
Volunteer Counselor
Pregnancy Care Center of Catawba Valley
Hickory, North Carolina

H
Cynthia Rylant
A Fine White Dust
Bradbury, 1986; Dell, 1987
Trade \$14.95, Paper \$3.50
Gr. 6 - 8

Pete Cassidy has always been religious. Even the indifference of his parents and the active atheism of his best friend Rufus doesn't shake his commitment. He likes church; he likes Jesus. Pete's thirteenth summer finds him itchy for an even deeper faith, something more--though he doesn't know what.

This itch seems answered by the arrival of James W. Carson, whom Pete dubs "Preacher Man." Even after Pete is "saved" at the first of Carson's revival services, he can't get enough of Preacher Man. He follows him around town and attends every service, weeping for his sins and the fact that his family and friend are bound for hell. Carson, though, is no saint, and he betrays Pete's loyalty. The "real Christian" is untrustworthy and the non-believers those on whom Pete can rely. The contrast shakes Pete's faith in God.. As the book ends, Pete is developing a new theology, one which can include both his love for Jesus and his appreciation of the good people who don't share his views.

Rylant's story is beautifully written, a Newbery Honor book. Pete is a believable and likable hero. Fundamentalist and evangelical readers may be disturbed that Pete's new religion doesn't seem to require that everyone be born again. Catholic and Mainline Protestant students may find the revival scenes foreign and overly emotional. However, Pete is

wrestling with questions all believers must face: "What about those who don't believe? Why are some of the nicest people I know non-believers and some Christians so hateful?" Upper elementary and intermediate students will empathize and appreciate Pete's struggles even if they don't agree with his answers.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Kathleen T. Choi
Retired teacher
Hilo, Hawaii

Elizabeth N. Shaffer
Daughter of the Dawn : A Pilgrim
Romance
Son-Rise Publications, 1992
Paper \$7.95
Gr. 7 - 9

This fictionalized story set in the early sixteen hundreds includes numerous historical characters such as John Howland, William Bradford, John Carver, William Brewster, Miles Standish, Squanto, and Samoset. From the loading of the Mayflower and the misfortune of the Speedwell to the long sea voyage, the arrival in America, and the first difficult years of the colony's establishment, the story makes our early American history come alive in an exciting way.

The many historical events and characters woven into the story are shown in such a real and fresh way that the reader will have a new appreciation of all that Pilgrims faced as they braved incredible difficulties to survive. Not only does the book portray the daily struggles, it also highlights the personal details of the life of Elizabeth Tilley whose family chose to seek a new life in America. Elizabeth watched all of her family die and felt bound to marry a man she did not love while her best friend became engaged to the one she loved.

In the midst of her struggles, Elizabeth learned to lean on God for her strength, and was able to truly trust in him in her sorrow and disappointments. Through a series of events, circumstances changed to bring true joy for Elizabeth. Not only does this book give much historical information about our country's beginnings, but it also will challenge and inspire young people to trust God in the details of their lives. The only questionable element in the book was an over-emphasis on the romantic feelings of Elizabeth and John Howland.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Esther Knaupp
Librarian and Teacher, Santiam Christian School
Corvallis, Oregon

James R. Shott
Othniel
Herald Press, 1994
Paper \$8.95
Gr. 8 - 10

This story of Othniel, one of the judges from Old Testament times, is true to the biblical account and the historical events of the time. As the story begins, Othniel is guarding his sheep following his recovery from battle wounds. When men come to ask him to be their leader in battle against the Anakim, he immediately refuses. Only after much persuasion by the men and ultimately the call of God does he agree to become their commander.

After he sees the miraculous victory over the enemy, Othniel realizes that God is using him in an incredible way. He is able to overcome his insecurity of feeling like a cripple and become the shaphat (judge). His relationship with his wife, Achsah, daughter of Caleb, is highly unusual for biblical times since Othniel treats her as an equal as she advises him in important decisions.

The most significant lessons in the story are the acceptance of difficult situations and the realization of the presence of God to face every trial no matter how great. This is an excellent book for teenagers as they struggle with knowing God's will for their lives.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Esther Knaupp
Librarian and Teacher, Santiam Christian School
Corvallis, Oregon

Julia Shuken
In the House of My Pilgrimage
Crossway Books, 1995
Paper \$9.99
Gr. 10 -12, Adult

At the turn of the century, refugees escape Russia's civil strife and uprisings to find shelter and political freedom in the Los Angeles area. An underlying sorrow continues to grip many of their hearts as they fear for the safety of family members left in their homeland. Piotr and Fenya, in particular, seek God's protection for loved ones and experience his miracle-working power as news is brought that survivors are arriving soon. Thankful for safe passage, they find there still are struggles in this land of opportunity: to be foreign and outcast is difficult; to choose to marry beyond one's ancestral heritage is unthinkable. As they follow God's ways, he offers healing and bonding, forgiveness and fresh understanding--a new start in a new land!

This passionate story of courage and love will touch the hearts of any who enjoy delving into the complex history and continual uprisings that plagued Old Russia, Georgia, and the Armenian race in particular. These hardy people, many who heeded their prophet's warning of coming disaster, fled to America and became an integral part of the labor force that helped establish many areas in America. The author expertly portrays the struggles and determination of these people, while sensitively weaving individual lives and loves within the fabric of this historical novel.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Mary McKinney
Freelance Writer, Teacher
Port Orchard, Washington

Lauraine Snelling
The Race
(Golden Filly Series; 1)
Bethany House Publishers, 1990
Paper \$4.95
Gr. 5 - 10

If you love horses and want to know more about thoroughbred horse racing, this is the series for you. Tricia Evanston, sixteen, enjoys her life raising, training, and soon-to-be-racing thoroughbred horses. Trish's wonderful life begins to fall apart. Her father falls ill and may not get well. Trish makes it to the "big time" but not without mishaps along the way: racing accidents, dealing with personal relationships, the death of her father, and threats of personal harm. We find ourselves rooting for Trish as she learns and grows from each of these experiences and deepens her relationship with God.

The books are definitely written as a series, the next following right where the previous one left off. They could also be read separately but would not have the same impact; many of the characters as well as parts of the plot are carried through more than one book.

Other titles in the series:

- Eagle's Wings; 2.
- Go for the Glory; 3
- Kentucky Dreamer; 4
- Call for Courage; 5
- Shadow over San Mateo; 6
- Out of the Mist; 7
- Second Wind; 8
- Close Call; 9
- The Winner's Circle; 10

u Quality - 2 § Acceptability - 3

Jannet Hoeffner
Freelance Writer
Prairie City, Oregon

Lucille Travis
Tirzah
Herald Press, 1991
Paper \$5.95
Gr. 6 - 9

To actually hear from Yahweh was an awesome experience for fifteen-year-old Ram and his younger sister, Tirzah. Surely, they would never be the same again! With Moses leading, the Israelites followed the Glory Cloud through the desert toward the Promised Land. God's great power was seen as he provided food, water, and miraculous victory over their enemies. But there were grumblers among the people--so many, in fact, that the Lord finally had to send judgment on them. Facing plagues and the slaying of those that refused to trust in God was difficult and heart-rending, yet the worst was yet to come.

Because of continual rebellion, the word from the Lord came down with finality. No one over the age of twenty would be allowed to enter the Promised Land. They were to wander the desert for forty years until the last of that generation died. Tirzah was in shock as she heard the fatal words, realizing that her faithful parents were among those who must stay behind. Her father encouraged her and shared his hope. "You will take our places, be our eyes, our ears. Your joy will be for us too." Nodding slowly, Tirzah began to understand that God's decree was just and that there was much ahead--a great cause for hope and rejoicing. This is a touching story that also convicts as you realize how easily one can lose trust in God's sovereign plan.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Mary McKinney
Freelance Writer, Teacher
Port Orchard, Washington

Gloria Whelan
That Wild Berries Should Grow :
The Story of a Summer
William B. Eerdmans, 1994
Trade, \$14.00, Paper \$5.00
Gr. 5 - 9

Written with wry wit and engaging style, Whelan's latest work is deftly illustrated by cleverly shaped lines of free verse at each chapter heading. Her vivid accounts of plant and wild life captivate the reader. Whelan's subtle use of irony places a city girl's mistrust of the quiet serenity of her grandparents' country retreat in juxtaposition with her delight

in discovery, youth with age, old world with new, war with peace, and sickness with health.

The fifth grader is taken from the smothering love of her invalid existence where parents, aunts, and uncles bow to her every fancy to a robust country life that nurses her back to a joyful exuberance she could never know in the city. The reader is teased with clues of dramatic changes that the young girl herself remains oblivious to. Journal keeping is encouraged, as are many fine examples of fullness of life available for the seeker. Altogether a repository of delight for all ages, a special prize for young ladies.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

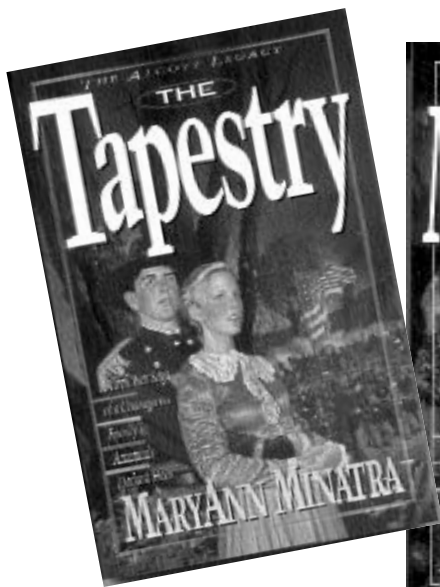
Olivia Wheatley Stachorek
Freelance Writer, Teacher
Carlsborg, Washington

Susan Kimmel Wright
Death by Babysitting
Herald Press, 1994
Paper \$6.95
Gr. 5 - 8

Volunteering to babysit a small herd of nine crying babies and children during a church meeting was not Nellie's and Peggy's idea of a fun evening. Absorbed with the various duties baby-sitting involves, they turned to find that one more screaming infant had been deposited in a crib near the door. After the meeting, parents returned to take their children. All were claimed except the crying infant in the crib near the door. After a thorough search for the missing parents, the pastor phoned the authorities to come and take custody of the baby. Caught up in why someone would abandon her baby, Nellie and her friend set out to solve the mystery and find answers to questions that surface. Child abuse, abortion, and adoption are motives examined to try and understand why abandoning a baby is considered as an escape route by a desperate mother.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Debbie Lindsay
Homeschool Parent
Yelm, Washington



H
MaryAnn Minatra
The Tapestry
(Alcott Legacy; 1)
Harvest House, 1993
Paper \$9.99.
Gr. 9 - Adult

The Tapestry is set around the time of the Civil War and focuses on the lives of two brothers who had never known each other. Their lives become intertwined with the O'Dell family in Illinois, where they are nurtured and loved. Through a unique set of circumstances they discover their blood relationship. This historical fiction book brings to life many well-known events surrounding the Civil War through the eyes of Ethan Alcott who becomes a personal aide to President Lincoln. It gives a sensitive view of the heart-breaking results of the war between the states. This poignant story includes personal struggles of jealousy, revenge, love, and loyalty, and the need for a God who is present and involved in every aspect of life. Mystery, spies, romance, and war are masterfully woven together to result in a thought-provoking story of life and hope.

H
MaryAnn Minatra
The Masterpiece.
(Alcott Legacy; 2)
Harvest House, 1994
Paper \$9.99
Gr. 9 - Adult.

In *The Masterpiece* the reader is plunged into the drama of Andy Alcott and his sister Meg. From the treacherous sailing voyages around the Horn, to the life-threatening reality of the Ku Klux Klan and the personal vengeance of an evil step-brother, the plot draws the reader into the lives of the characters. Andy Alcott seeks to escape his problems by living at sea. After a year aboard his ship, where Meg experiences much of Europe, she goes for a visit to Tanglewood, a Southern home owned by their uncle. She becomes immersed in her vision of teaching children of former slaves in Mississippi. The challenges and dangers she faces cause her to turn to God for His strength. This book is filled with drama, intrigue, and the underlying assurance of God's presence and hope even when things seem hopeless. The author's major desire in writing this historical novel is to dramatically portray "the importance of family relationships free of bitterness and estrangement."

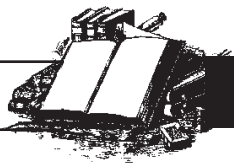
H
MaryAnn Minatra
The Heirloom
(Alcott Legacy; 3)
Harvest House, 1994
Paper \$9.99
Gr. 9 - Adult

This third and final book of the *Alcott Legacy* centers around the lives of Katherine Alcott and her cousin Ben. At the heart of the story is the rocky relationship of Katherine and her father, Andy. Katherine finds herself face to face with God following months of inner struggles after surviving the sinking of the *Lusitania*, while her father faces his own struggles back in the States. After months of inner turmoil she finds freedom from her past hurt, anger, bitterness, and disappointment. At the same time, Ben faces adventures on the battle front in France as an Allied flier. After being shot down behind enemy lines, he comes to grips with his personal relationship with Jesus Christ while reading his grandfather Ethan's Civil War diary. This book is gripping and compelling, as the real-life tragedies and triumphs are felt in this historical fiction book set during World War I.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Esther Knaupp, Santiam Christian School

We apologize for the inconvenience of overlapping these reviews in our October issue.



Stanley C. Baldwin
1999: A Novel
Intervarsity, 1994
Paper \$9.99
Gr. 10 -12, Adult

Matt Douglas is a Christian radio talk show host. He is the proud winner of the prestigious Bradbury Award for Investigative Journalism. Nothing is going to lead him astray. He can figure it all out. Then he meets John Profett, author of an instant bestseller about the return of Christ. Profett recognizes Matt's abilities and value and invites him to lead the Profett Ministries. But just who is this man with no background? This prophet named Profett? Matt's wife, Priscilla, doesn't trust Profett until horrible things happen to her and Profett comes to the rescue. She learns that you either believe him or horror follows. What is Profett up to?

Strong Christians going astray, families torn apart, half portions of scripture used for evil, rape, murder, bad things happening to Christians, disillusionment, angels, human devils, it's all here in this book. So also is the help that comes only from God, prayer, true repentance, the strength of Christian love, triumph in the midst of disaster.

This book is about today's Christians and today's problems. It is fairly interesting to read. However, it leaves the reader with several questions: Why did poor Priscilla have to be both raped and forced to the point of shooting her husband's assailant? How does she cope with the trauma caused by these two incidents?

u Quality - 2 § Acceptability - 3

Donna Eggett
Volunteer Counselor
Pregnancy Care Center of Catawba Valley
Hickory, North Carolina

Stephen Bly
One Went to Denver and the Other
Went Wrong
(Code of the West; 2)
Crossway Books, 1995
Paper \$7.99
Adult

This book tells the tale of Tap and Pepper, a young couple new in their Christian faith and very much in love. Each brings to the relationship a past they are struggling to

reconcile with their new faith. Besides learning to accept God's forgiveness and forgive themselves, they must also learn to trust each other. Set in the 1800's when a man's safety was his gun and his quick wit, this tale moves quickly from one gun fight to another. Tap and Pepper move in and out of danger as characters from days gone by come back to threaten and blackmail them. Bly's action-packed plot teaches us not only to accept God's grace, but also to accept each other as new creatures in Christ. A unique aspect of this story is the italicized prayers the characters raise as their trust and faith in God grows.

Other title in this series:

It's Your Misfortune and None of My Own; 1

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Kathryn Burns
King's High School
Seattle, Washington

Robert Cormier
Now and at the Hour
Dell, 1991
Paper \$3.99
Gr. 10-12, Adult

Alphege LeBlanc is a fifty-eight year old French-Canadian who worked in a plastic factory until he lost a lung to cancer. At first, he's sure he'll soon return to his workbench. However, the cancer spread to his bones. *Now and at the Hour* traces his final illness. Alph's physical world contracts to his bedroom. His mental world is a confusing landscape of drug-induced hallucinations, memories, regrets, and fear. Fear looms the largest. Fear not only of death but of his family and his life, because now comes the summing up. What has he accomplished with his life? How well has he loved and served his family?

Alph is a faithful, but not exceptionally devout Catholic. "Lord have mercy," "Our Father," "Hail Mary," and "The Act of Contrition" have always been enough for his needs. Now he clutches his rosary and hopes those few well-worn prayers will carry him through the fear and shame.

Cormier has written a jewel of a book. Like most good people, Alph is only aware of his shortcomings. Cormier goes beyond the usual "disease-of-the-month" tale to show how a good man can find acceptance and meaning in his dying. His wife Ellie and their children are portrayed in quick, vivid strokes, as is life in a laborer's home.

Although the hero is an adult, teenagers, who often wonder about death, will appreciate Alph's journey. Protestants may find some Catholic references unfamiliar, but they in no way hamper an understanding of the story.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Kathleen T. Choi
Retired Teacher
Hilo, Hawaii

Joe Dallas
Unforgiven Sins
Harvest House Publishers, 1994
Paper \$8.99
Gr. 8 - 12, Adult

Greg Bishop is a licensed therapist for a Christian counseling center. He receives a suicide message from an investigative reporter revealing that he is homosexual and has been treated by Dr. Crawford, Bishop's mentor. The reporter asks Bishop to treat his friend Robbie Carlton for the same problem.

Before their first session, a radical homosexual organization called BRAVO steals Crawford's files and begins "outing" the patients. That is, patients can either publicly announce their homosexuality or BRAVO will. That is the dilemma Carlton, a popular gospel singer, faces. Carlton reveals his inclinations at a concert and credits Bishop with healing him. BRAVO attacks Bishop for labeling their sexual preferences unnatural. They intend to fatally weaken conservative Christianity, the only significant opposition to the homosexual lifestyle.

When Carlton accidentally dies in a fire BRAVO set, the grieving and insecure Bishop is manipulated into becoming the national spokesman for Citizens United. This organization includes moderates who feel homosexuals don't require special legislation

and conservatives who want to reverse America's tolerance for homosexual acts.

Bishop's principles erode under the constant publicity and praise. He loses touch with his wife, pastor, and friends, substituting a closer relationship with CU's beautiful financial backer. However, he's horrified to discover Chappel is a neo-Nazi. They have funded and fomented the clashes between fundamentalists and radical homosexuals to create a climate similar to that which ushered in Hitler. Bishop reveals this secret on national television, returns to his wife, and begins rebuilding his career and a ministry to homosexuals who wish to lead straight lives.

Unforgiven Sins gives a balanced picture of homosexuality. Despite one ridiculous plot device (no one turns off a shocking videotape halfway through), this gripping tale, full of surprises and complex characters, is a genuine Christian thriller. Boys as young as fourteen should find that the discussion of homosexuality gives them important insights into human sexuality in general. Teachers will also appreciate the opportunities the book opens for discussing American politics.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Kathleen T. Choi
Retired Teacher
Hilo, Hawaii

Donald D. Davis
Listening for the Crack of Dawn
(American Storytelling from
August House)
August House Publishers, Inc.,
1990
Paper \$11.95
Adult

Donald Davis has woven a delightful series of tales from his early childhood through his coming of age in Appalachia in the 50's and 60's. His stories cover all areas of a young boy's life from the embarrassing experience of wetting his pants on the first day of elementary school, to making friends, learning to drive, camping in the woods, and discovering the facts of life while working at the local drive-in theater. Some of the subject matter and language in the collection, although exquisitely told, might not be appropriate for young people under eighteen. His skill at characterization and capturing the feelings of growing up make this book excellent reading for adults.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 2

Kathryn Burns
King's High School
Seattle, Washington

David F. Gray
The Shepherd's Path
New Leaf Press, 1993
Paper \$9.95
Adult

Start memorizing your Bible and hang on to your faith. It's the twenty-first century and religious persecution has come to America. Bibles are banned, sermons must be government approved before delivery, and true jChristians have gone underground in order to worship.

The Shepherd's Path is a group of Christians across America linked by computer to help one another find an underground group of believers to worship with and to provide hiding places for Christians whose lives are being threatened by "the powers that be." We see glimpses of what might be the "anti-christ" and his cohorts in leading positions all over the world. Their main goal is to wipe out followers of the King and eradicate any semblance of Christianity. Can they do it? Have modern-day believers become too soft to endure such persecution? Could YOU stay true if prayer and worship were cause for treason and carried a penalty of death?

The Shepherd's Path is well written and fast paced. It is an eye-opener and causes the reader to examine the strength and depth of his faith.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Sherri Taplett
Parent and Reader
Wenatchee, Washington

Jennifer Rees Larcombe
Leaning on a Spider's Web
InterVarsity Press, 1993
Paper \$9.99
Adult

Larcombe sets her novel in Laburnum Terrace, an enclosed London street with fourteen households. Four events disrupt those households: Richard Reynolds, a young widower, becomes pastor of the nearby church. Alison Grazier, pillar of that church, takes in a foster child. Beautician Claire Lassalle decides to develop her psychic powers, and a burglar injures Miss Rosedale, the elderly recluse in the end house.

As if God had rotated a cosmic kaleidoscope, the residents tumble into new relationships. Emmie Dawson agrees to live with Miss Rosedale until she recovers. Crossing the courtyard removes her from the influence of her money hungry landlord and into companionship with the devout older woman.

Learning that illness causes Miss Rosedale's isolation, Kim Patterson often drops by on her way to the park with her children. Rev. Reynolds comes to play the piano and court Emmie. Reynolds' other pastoral visits inspire the Pattersons to take Claire Lassalle's neglected daughter under their wing and to inquire more often about Ann Coley, who collapsed during a marathon. Emmie becomes friends with the Sardines retarded son.

The Terrace's growing sense of family is not universally appreciated. Tom Coley wants no neighbors watching his flirtation with Claire Lessalle. Claire prefers to keep her paranormal adventures private. Alison Grazier feels doubly humiliated when her neighbors learn that husband Gordon is accused of sexually molesting their foster daughter. Each character in the novel will discover before its dramatic end that leaning on anyone or anything other than Jesus is "leaning on a spider's web" (Job 8: 14-15).

Like an earlier English writer, Elizabeth Goudge, Larcombe views life as a series of decisions moving us closer to heaven or hell. Like C. S. Lewis, Larcombe makes goodness interesting, inspiring the reader to persist in goodness until journey's end. High school girls will appreciate this reminder that even our most ordinary actions have lasting spiritual significance.

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u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Kathleen T. Choi
Retired Teacher
Hilo, Hawaii

Thomas Locke
The Delta Factor
(The Thomas Locke Mystery
Series; 1)
Bethany House Publishers, 1994
Paper \$7.99
Adult

One company, Pharmacon, and its leaders are the magnets that draw several characters together in this well-written mystery. Already in the field are James Whitehurst, Pharmacon's executive vice-president, and Dr. Harvey Cofield, an administrator and the boss of another key character, Dr. Deborah Givens. Dr. Givens is a brilliant researcher, but her body is being debilitated by multiple sclerosis. Another key character being drawn to Pharmacon's business is Cliff Devon. As an FDA agent with integrity, his job is to look into Pharmacon's new drug application. Not only

does Devon renew his long-time, but neglected, friendship with Dr. Givens and meet Blair, a secretary at Pharmacon and the love of his life, but he is also pulled into a career and life-destroying intrigue. Cliff and Deborah make other discoveries and soon learn the consequences of attempting to stop a lucrative new drug. Others are drawn together by this drug company. Each plays a role in bringing this mystery to its conclusion.

Readers will enjoy this first of a series by Thomas Locke. Although there is mild violence (Horace is roughly kidnapped at gunpoint), the book is an enjoyable, clean, and captivating mystery.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Wally Vohland
Liberty Gardens Christian School
Salem, Oregon

George MacDonald
The Baronet's Song
Edited by Michael R. Phillips
Bethany House, 1983
Paper \$7.99, \$5.99
Gr. 10-12, Adult

A young Scottish boy is soon orphaned as his despairing, alcoholic father dies in his arms after a binge of drinking. The child, Gibbie, is torn apart as he witnesses his father's death and tears out onto the streets (his only true home) in his sorrow. Once his emotions have calmed, Gibbie finds himself permanently cast onto the streets to fend for himself. His kind heart and giving nature provide enough pity from his neighbors and the city residents to keep him alive through castoffs of food and occasional shelter.

The naive Gibbie, however, befriends another drinking man and tries to help him as he did his dead father. No sooner than Gibbie has taken this man to his own heart than a fight emerges and Gibbie witnesses his new friend's violent murder. Once again, the orphan flees to the streets. This time, however, he runs with terror in his heart and he never returns.

As Gibbie makes his way across the farmlands of Scotland, he encounters both the kind and cruel. His generous ways soon make him fast friends with a shepherd and his family. As Gibbie grows up, now a part of a godly family, he takes to heart everything he reads from the Bible. Then tragedy and triumph strike as Gibbie's heritage is exposed and he is taken from his adopted family. How will Gibbie accept this new change of events?

Only a young man filled with God's spirit could continue to love and give as graciously as

Gibbie did throughout his life. This book is a tender story about a remarkable boy, one that will fill the hours with joy and satisfaction.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Michele Howe
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Mother
LaSalle, Michigan

Daisy Newman
The Autumn's Brightness
Friends United Press, 1991
Paper \$10.95
Adult

She wanted something--to catch perhaps some reflection of the color and excitement in other people's lives. She wanted new lustre for her life. Dilly wanted to shine.

Could she, a fifty-two-year-old widow caught in the dailiness of an ordered life in a small New England town, find clarity, adventure, even romance? An invitation from her sophisticated New York cousin, Elmira, brings Dilly to New York seeking answers to her questions. The glitter of parties and bustle of the city couldn't make up for the fact that she was homesick for Kendel, Rhode Island. Almost ready to go home, she accidentally meets Durand and is enveloped by his quiet charm. She is captivated as she begins to see life and the city through his eyes. A tug-of-war is played out as she struggles with the differences in their lives and must determine where her heart lies.

Daisy Newman weaves together the issues of life played out against the background of a Quaker community in the midst of twentieth century culture. She intrigues and entertains, yet wrestles with eternal values and conflicts each of us confronts.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Mary Jarvis
Retired Teacher, Freelance Writer
Marysville, Washington

Daisy Newman
Diligence in Love
Friends United Press, 1951
Paper \$11.95
Adult

Sophisticated, lovely Vaughn Hill comes to Kendel to research the setting for an underground railroad her New York advertising agency wants to use in a promotional campaign. As she confronts the past in this Quaker village, she comes face-to-face with her own past and the values that have shaped her life.

Her marriage and family are teetering dangerously on the brink of a deep chasm. Will her goals for success bring her the satisfaction and peace she yearns for? Or is there another answer to the deep desires of her heart? Can she and her husband ever recapture the wondrous relationship they once experienced? How can she shape her children's lives when they don't want what she does? This is a novel about the struggles of life and the choices each of us must make. Daisy Newman meets these questions head-on in this thoughtful novel. Reading this book will encourage one to be sure priorities and relationships with God and others are in the right order.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Mary Jarvis
Retired Teacher, Freelance Writer
Marysville, Washington

Susan DeVore Williams
Sunset Coast
Crossway Books, 1995
Paper \$11.99
Gr. 10 - 12, Adult

Susan DeVore Williams immediately captivates her readers in the opening of this book by her skillful characterization of the main character, Sally Anderson. The reader cares about Sally, wonders what will happen to her, and wants to know where her life is going.

Sally, a young woman whose high-society husband left her and their son for another woman, struggles to become independent and successful. She reaches her goal and settles into what she considers "the perfect life." Or is it? The reappearance of a man she cared deeply for during college, Mac McDonald, introduces a number of questions into Sally's idyllic life. Through a series of events, Sally not only finds the answers to her questions, but she also finds that a relationship with God adds a dimension to her life she never knew existed. The character development in this novel is by far its greatest strength. The novel is a testimony to the fact that good writing and depth of characters can occur without sex, violence, and vulgarity.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Karen Orfitelli
Freelance Writer; Teacher, Cornerstone Christian School
Manchester, Connecticut

James D. Yoder
Black Spider over Tiegenhof
Herald Press, 1995
Paper \$10.95.
Gr. 10-12, Adult

During the reign of Hitler and his Nazi regime, being both German and Mennonite did not mix. The Claassen family learned to face their fears, their religious beliefs, and the laws set forth by the Nazis. At the beginning of the war, the eldest son, Hermann, is a soldier and believes his country is doing right. His church elders, while not perhaps in agreement with fighting, recommend that the Mennonite community submit to the rule of their government. What price will the entire community pay for this decision?

The elder Claassens, Gerhard and Esther, along with their youngest son, Chris, find new battles to fight on the homefront. They are challenged to defy their government by hiding a young Jewish girl in their home. In their employ is a zealous German maid who may be spying on them. Through the terror and the torture of Hitler's reign, this family learns firsthand what their faith means to them as they draw closer to God and witness his provision in miraculous ways. This book gives our generation a look at how many Germans suffered under Hitler's reign.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Michele Howe
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Mother
LaSalle, Michigan

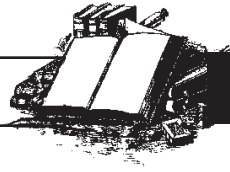
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133.9

Douglas R. Groothuis
Deceived by the Light
Harvest House Publishers, c1995
Paper \$8.99
Adult

This book explores the multi-faceted subject of near-death experiences (NDE's) in the light of scripture. Are NDE's real? How Christian are they? What about near-hell experiences? How do people live the rest of their lives after returning? Groothuis, a well-known expert on new religions, does not shy away from investigating and discussing accounts of NDE's from scientific and religious angles. He takes the reader through much of the research done in this field and examines similarities and contradictions of NDE's.

The title, as well as much of the book, is a response to Betty Eadie's best-selling book *Embraced by the Light*, a detailed account of her NDE. Groothuis shows that even though Eadie claims the light she met during her experience was Jesus, her beliefs are closer to a mix of Mormonism and New Age than to Christianity. Despite her "biblical words and Christian-sounding concepts," many of Eadie's statements contradict biblical teaching. He charts biblical truths and compares them to the spiritual truths Eadie learned during her NDE, clearly demonstrating how she, as well as others, have been "deceived by the light" they encountered.

This book takes a thorough and clear look at a complex subject without sensationalizing reports of NDE's or out-of-the-body experiences. Groothuis presents the facts and affirms that the Bible is the leading authority about life, death, and eternity. This is a thought-provoking book.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Karen Orfitelli
Freelance Writer; Teacher, Cornerstone Christian School
Manchester, Connecticut

158

Joan Sturkie and Valerie Gibson
The Peer Helper's Pocketbook
Resource Publications, c1992
Paper \$7.95
Gr. 9 - 12

The Peer Helper's Pocketbook attempts to provide a concise reference manual for peer helpers. The book reviews the skills involved in being a peer helper, including listening skills, intervention skills, and referrals. Chapter six gives an overview of various issues the student helper may encounter, such as suicide, child abuse, family problems, death and dying, eating disorders, school problems, peer pressure, pregnancy, and substance abuse. Each topic is defined, then symptoms are discussed along with suggestions to the peer helper. The authors also keep in mind the need for a supervisor in situations requiring professional services.

There were no real weaknesses in the book; as a pocketbook, it is not intended to be an exhaustive work on the subject. However, some of the areas covered could be overwhelming to a high school helper. It is important that the reader recognize his/her limitations and make appropriate referrals.

This book would be an excellent asset to a high school peer counseling program.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Randy Fisk
Counselor, Greenleaf Friends Academy
Greenleaf, Idaho

209

Deborah Morris
Real Kids, Real Adventures No. 1
Real Kids, Real Adventures No. 2
Broadman & Holman, c1994
Paper \$5.99
Gr. 6 - 9

"A thrill a minute" is a good way of summing up these exciting stories. Not only do readers get to enjoy adventure-packed stories of real heroes their own age, they are able to learn great lessons on survival techniques that will enable them to be more efficient in any emergency. Each book contains three exciting

stories from plane crashes to forest fires to being lost in a cave for five days. Each adventure shares useful advice and an underlying faith in God that plays a significant part in the rescue efforts.

The reader will quickly relate to the characters portrayed in these well-written stories, and find them hard to put down. This is a great way to encourage the reluctant reader to find success and enjoyment in reading.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Mary McKinney
Freelance Writer, Teacher
Port Orchard, Washington

220

**The Wonders of God's Creation :
 Human Life**
**The Wonders of God's Creation :
 Planet Earth**
**The Wonders of God's Creation :
 Animal Kingdom**
**(A Moody Institute of Science
 Presentation)**
Moody Video, 1991
Set of 3 videos \$69.95
Gr. 5 - 12, Adult

Skillfully weaving together attention-grabbing film footage, stirring musical accompaniment, and well-chosen scriptural passages, this three-part video series uses the wonders of science to effectively teach, not only science, but an appreciation for the infinite knowledge, wisdom, and love of the Creator. Planet Earth covers topics as diverse as water, astronomy, and seeds, and includes time-lapse clips of burrowing oats and exploding scotch broom seed pods guaranteed to turn the head of even the most devoted video-game fan. Animal Kingdom explores the miracles of birds, butterflies, salmon, bats, bees, and other members of the animal world, and notes man's constant but often unsuccessful attempts to understand and imitate God's creations. Human Life very sensitively presents fetal development and then focuses on the wonders of the human brain, hand, and circulatory system.

The videos cover a wide range of topics in slightly over three hours of running time,

making it impossible to delve into any single subject in great depth. This, however, is not a weakness but a strength since the series is clearly intended to amaze, stimulate, and motivate the viewer to learn more. The film clips (some of which are ten-twenty years old and of varying quality) emphasize the unusual and spectacular. Parents and teachers struggling to attract the interest of middle school and high school students who "hate science" will be especially grateful for these videos. The frequent acknowledgments of the hand of the Almighty make a strong impression without being oppressive or overdone.

Winner of the 1993 Video of the Year award from International Christian Visual Media Association.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability -4

Randl Ockey
Librarian/Freelance Writer
Camano Island, Washington

230

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich and Maria von Wedemeyer
Love Letters from Cell 92 : The Correspondence Between Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Maria von Wedemeyer, 1943-45
Abingdon Press, 1995
Trade \$24.95
Gr. 10 - 12, Adult

Those familiar with Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German pastor during Hitler's reign, will find priceless insight into his character and personal life through these love letters. Bonhoeffer's opposition to Hitler put him in intrinsic danger, and efforts to develop an effective resistance eventually caused his arrest and execution. He has had much written about his courageous defiance of Hitler and his sustaining faith in God, but these love letters share the human side of the man.

It may seem cruel to have never been allowed personal time with his fiancée, Maria Von Wedemeyer, yet we can see through these letters how Bonhoeffer's love for her became a support and life-line to him. For the history buff, this book gives fascinating insight into the private strength and tender heart of this courageous man.

Another title of interest:

Writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Mary McKinney
Freelance Writer, Teacher

Port Orchard, Washington

232.9

In His Presence : A Celebration of the Peace, Love and Promises of God in World and Song
248.3
Worship the King : Blessed Hope in Scripture and Song Praising God for All He Has Done
(A Moody Video Presentation)
Moody Video, 1993
Video \$19.95 each
Gr. 10 - 12, Adult

These two videos present, with scripture, familiar hymns and background music, the awesomeness and majesty of God. Outstanding photography allows the viewer to appreciate God's creation, yet give him glory.

The presentations are given in segments that carry a particular theme and thus can be used in part to encourage the study of a specific subject in scripture, or even the study of a particular aspect of nature accompanied by God's word. They are a bit repetitious to view in their entirety at one sitting. Done with great professionalism, these tapes can be useful for classroom or home use. Far better than the prevalent "New Age" tapes available, the viewer can find true peace and comfort meditating on God's timeless word and awe-inspiring creation.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Mary McKinney
Freelance Writer, Teacher
Port Orchard, Washington

248

Don Kimball
A Spirituality of Relationships
(Power & Presence Series)
Cornerstone, 1994
Paper \$14.95
Gr. 9 - 12, Adult

It is one thing to teach our young how to invite Jesus Christ into their hearts; it is quite another to demonstrate how his love is lived out in our lives.

Don Kimball's approach to a topic he dubs "Practical Theology" provides a rethinking of everyday Christian living. The creative genius of this work is the simplicity of Kimball's blueprint for relating to God and to others. His spiritual orientation is truly universal in scope as he writes, "I have been blessed by working with thousands of people of many denominations over the past twenty-five years." The reader is reminded of the great German

theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who lived and died emphasizing Christian community. In his book, Kimball's experience translates into rich understanding of the basis of ministry: relationship.

A Spirituality of Relationship is less a study than a tool, useful to anyone seeking to share the life and love of the Saviour.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Olivia Wheatley Stachorek
Freelance Writer, Teacher
Carlsborg, Washington

248

Phillip Rushing
Empty Sleeves
Bridge Publishing, 1984
Paper \$9.95
Gr. 10 - 12, Adult

Empty Sleeves is the autobiography of Phillip Rushing who, at the age of sixteen, lost both arms in an accident with a power line. He describes his journey as he comes to know God. The author does a wonderful job of showing the reader the frustrations he faced with no arms. Simple chores like writing, opening doors, getting dressed, showing affection--all were obstacles to overcome. The reader will also learn how many blacks viewed their lives while working on southern plantations and the hopelessness embodied in that life. Finally, one will discover how Rushing, with God's help, finds a blessing in the midst of this seeming liability.

It is clear that God worked in Mr. Rushing's life, taking him from the plantation and armlessness to college and work; yet God doesn't simply rescue Rushing or announce his plan with bells and whistles, bright lights, or miracles. The reader learns, as did Rushing, that God's plan often seems to unfold slowly, and it is only in retrospect that we see his hand moving.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Randy Fisk
Counselor, Greenleaf Friends Academy
Greenleaf, Idaho

248
George Samuel
Courage in Time of
Discouragement : A Nuclear
Scientist Speaks
Christian Literature Crusade, 1995
Paper \$8.95
Gr. 10 -12, Adult

Everyone faces trials. Helping us respond to those trials is God's way of helping us grow. George Samuel presents solutions to many difficult personal problems. God has definitely met his needs and helped steady him in times of extreme stress. How would you respond if you got into a taxi (in a foreign land) and found yourself taken to a deserted area and your abductor revealed a gun, knife, and syringe to you? As a parent, how do you cope in a time of disaster? If your briefcase were stolen and it contained important personal papers, how would you feel about the thief?

George Samuel contends that God is bigger than any problem and that he always provides a solution if our attitude is correct. Learning to have that right response is the key to overcoming difficulty. This book contains positive, practical, biblical principles that helped George Samuel change his life. These same principles applied to difficult circumstances will be helpful for the reader. This book offers glimpses into the life of a practical scientist who has learned how to exercise his faith. It is well written and gives godly responses to problems that could be devastating.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Paula Stewart Marks
Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

248.4
Peter J. Dyck
A Leap of Faith : True Stories for
Young and Old
Herald Press, 1990
Paper \$7.95
Gr. 5 - 7

Stories told by grandparents are a special treasure for any child. Peter J. Dyck's collection of memories is more than just reminiscing an assortment of personal stories. Each story is a unique demonstration of ethics and morals lived out in real life situations. The first story tells how the word of God was taken to one area of Russia and how, despite much opposition, the Christians spread the word and were encouraged and helped by Christians in other parts of the world. Several of the stories follow Peter's search for a practical way to express his firm belief in not participating in

war. The last story details the circumstances of a Greek village after the war. The villagers have vivid memories of hate towards the Germans who invaded their village and slaughtered the residents. Peter is in charge of sending volunteers to help with the rebuilding. Without realizing the impacts, he sends an ambitious young German volunteer to the village. But God used the circumstances to work love and cooperation in the village.

This is an excellent collection of stories and can be used by parents to provoke discussions with children. Very well written.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Sharon Rau
Librarian, Valley Christian Schools
Abbotsford, British Columbia

248.4
Brennan Manning
Abba's Child : The Cry of the
Heart for Intimate Belonging
NavPress, 1994
Paper \$12.00
Adult

Author Brennan Manning points the reader to a God who accepts and loves us in spite of ourselves. He urges us to examine our relationship with our Father and then see ourselves as those desperately loved by Abba. If we dare realize our value to God, we will be transformed. Manning argues that many times we hide our true selves behind masks and acts because we fear what others might think of us. We often do the same with God, trying to do or believe the "right" things, hoping to appease his anger, all the time lacking the transformation that brings compassion for others. Manning says, "When being is divorced from doing, pious thoughts become an adequate substitute for washing dirty feet." This book is an attempt to point the reader to intimacy with God.

A problem for me was Manning's view that "...self-hatred is the dominant malaise crippling Christians and stifling their growth in the Holy Spirit." The first chapter deals with this issue based on the premise that, if we can see no good in ourselves, how can God possibly love us? Regardless of whether this is true or not, the message is still valid: God deeply desires to know us intimately. Manning's familiarity with great literature, his own transparency regarding his personal life, and his love for God and God's people make this book a "must read."

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Randy Fisk
Counselor, Greenleaf Friends Academy

Greenleaf, Idaho

248.4
Stacy and Paula Rinehart
Choices : Finding God's Way in
Dating, Sex, Singleness, and
Marriage
NavPress, 1982
Paper \$5.00
Gr. 10 - Adult

Having taught marriage and family classes for several years, I was eager to find out if Choices would offer anything different from the countless other marriage/dating books on the market. I found much to commend the book.

Choices covers the dating stage through engagement with a solid biblical perspective. It easily lends itself to use in Christian education, thanks to study questions following each chapter. There are also discussion questions which would work well in a classroom setting. The Rineharts have enhanced their own excellent thoughts with quotations from some of the most respected and popular writers in Christendom, including Charles Swindoll, John MacArthur, Elizabeth Elliot, A. W. Tozer, and John White.

Probably the biggest selling point of Choices for me was the clarity with which the Rineharts explain God's principles for the Christian in dating choices, responsibilities, and thoughts. The reader is asked to evaluate his views on love, singleness, sex, the engagement period, and whom and why we date in light of what God has said about these issues. The authors do not come across as preachy, nor is it a dry presentation of facts.

One problem I had with Choices was that those just beginning to date need the information discussed in the book, but might struggle with the reading level. The book fits well with those who may be mature enough to find marriage a distinct possibility (twelfth grade and beyond). A second perceived weakness is that the chapters average close to twenty pages in length, which may not necessarily lend itself to convenient class use. However, if one can get beyond these potential difficulties, the book is well worth the time and effort.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Randy Fisk, Counselor
Greenleaf Friends Academy
Greenleaf, Idaho

248.8
Terry Glaspey
Children of a Greater God :
Awakening Your Child's Moral
Imagination
Harvest House Publishers, 1995
Paper \$9.99
Adult

In this book written for parents, author Terry W. Glaspey argues the case for instilling a vision in our children for a "good and moral life" through exposing them to literature, art, and music that encourages character development. Such well-rounded exposure, states Glaspey, will help us to raise "a morally, spiritually and intellectually mature child, the kind of child who is able to stand up for good."

Glaspey passionately puts forth his case that Christian parents need to offer their children the kind of materials that will develop their faith in God and relate to the whole of life. If there is a weakness in his thoroughly researched and well-written text, it's that he spends a great deal of time making his point and not quite enough time offering practical ideas for application. With patience though, readers will find some good suggestions. Especially helpful are the lists of important works in theology, literature, classical music, and family reading. This book is a good reference for parents and other adults who want to expose children and themselves to classical works, but may not know where to start.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Janet Smith
Freelance Writer
Latrobe, Pennsylvania

248.8
Kathi Hudson
Raising Kids God's Way : A
Biblical Guide for Christian
Parents
Crossway Books, 1995
Trade \$16.99
Adult

Raising Kids God's Way is a well-written guide book for raising children using God's principles. The first section covers why it is important not only to teach, but also to train, your child. Section two deals with the importance of working together as a family and being consistent. God's guide-lines for success are included in section three. The last section gives a practical application for family night. Family togetherness is stressed throughout the book. Kathi Hudson has searched the Bible for God's commandments, parables, examples, and teaching on parenting. In today's world, with all the confusion of what is the right and wrong

way to raise children, *Raising Kids God's Way* is a welcome study-guide for Christian parents.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Dorcas Walker
Freelance Writer
Jamestown, Tennessee

248.8
Bobby Petrocelli and Chris
Frederick
Triumph Over Tragedy
WRS Pub., 1995
Paper \$13.95
Gr. 7 - 12, Adult

Triumph Over Tragedy opens in League City, Texas, on a typical Thursday in 1985. Bobby Petrocelli and his wife of two-and-a-half years, Ava, kissed good-bye and left for work. After a full day at their respective jobs, Bobby and Ava returned home, shared their day's busyness with each other, watched television, and went to bed. An hour later Bobby woke up. But instead of being in his bed, he found himself one room away, dazed and stunned, surrounded by the shattered glass of what was once his dining room window. And instead of gazing at his wife's beautiful face, Bobby was staring into the bright head lights of the pickup truck that had just crashed through their bedroom wall. Ava lay dead beneath the truck.

With the reader's mouth still agape, Bobby's testimony flashes back from the ten-second tragedy that transformed his life, to a compelling and often amusing narrative that begins with his childhood in New York City. By the end of the first eight chapters, Bobby's conversational writing style gives the reader a sense of knowing Bobby, his family, and his enchanting Ava. The sense of loss at the moment of her death is overwhelming.

During the second half of this page-turner, Bobby once again takes his readers by the hand and leads them through the rebuilding of his life physically, spiritually, and emotionally. By the end of the book, you feel as if Bobby is your friend and that you've lived through these years of loss and rebuilding with him. This book contains all the elements of good fiction--people the reader cares about, a suspenseful plot, and a satisfying conclusion--even though it's a true story. Sports fans will love the sections where Bobby talks about his own involvement in athletics and the anecdotes about his famous uncle, baseball great Rico Petrocelli. Romance enthusiasts will be captivated by the love story of Bobby and Ava. This book would be a great addition to any secondary library. Chances are that it won't sit on the shelf for very long!

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Karen Orfitelli
Freelance Writer; Teacher, Cornerstone Christian
School
Manchester, Connecticut

249
Maria Augusta Trapp
Yesterday, Today, and Forever
New Leaf Press, c1975
Paper \$4.50
Adult

Maria von Trapp's book is an account of the author and her family's quest to find out who Jesus is. Many of us are familiar with part of the story of this amazing family as it was portrayed in the movie, *The Sound of Music*. This account begins where the movie ends and the family fled from Nazi-invaded Austria. As they discovered the scriptures and applied them to their daily lives, Jesus became alive to them in a wonderful way. Not only has discovering Jesus personally affected the von Trapp family, but anyone reading the book will be challenged to start a closer walk with our Lord. *Yesterday, Today, and Forever* is a spiritual journey filled with scriptures that have been meaningful to this family. Their adventures and talent make for fascinating reading, but the spiritual sensitivity will touch the heart and expand the mind. Although I am not a Catholic, I found this book to be thought-provoking and a challenge to my faith.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Dorcas Walker
Freelance Writer
Jamestown, Tennessee

266
J. Birney Dibble
Outlaw for God : The Story of
Esther Bacon
Illustrated by Betty Stull Schaffer
Christopher Pub. House, c1992
Paper \$8.95
Gr. 10 - 12, Adult

Esther Bacon was a one-of-a-kind medical missionary who went to Zorzor, Liberia, Africa, in 1941. A completely selfless individual, she worked in primitive conditions under trying circumstances. She finally won the confidence of the bush people so they would come to Phebe Hospital for treatment instead of consulting tribal witch doctors. She did this by walking jungle paths and wading rivers to treat the wounded or to deliver babies anywhere she was asked to come. She was stubborn and strong-willed, but also a highly intelligent, skillful obstetrical nurse with an delightful

sense of humor. She had great compassion for people and love for Jesus Christ. She died of Lassa Fever in 1972.

The book may be hard to get into because the author interjects medical terms and names of diseases without definitions or descriptions. After the first several pages however, the more mature high school student with an interest in medical missionary work will love this most independent nurse. Most of the black-and-white pictures are clustered at the end of the book, though sketches and drawings by Betty Stull Schaffer are interspersed throughout.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Dr. Rosalie B. Icenhower
Writer
Bothell, Washington

268

Robert W. Pazmiño

**By What Authority Do We Teach? :
Sources for Empowering Christian
Educators**

Baker Book House, c1994

Paper \$10.99

Prof

"The ministry of teaching is a high calling, and Christian teachers must discern the quality of their discipleship with Jesus Christ and the quality of their walk with the Holy Spirit so that the gospel may be lived in and out through their teaching." Pasimo has developed a well-researched, organized, and succinct treatise on the authority of the teacher in "the process of sharing God's revelation along with the calling for personal and corporate decision and obedience."

The issues of spiritual gifts, the signs of faith, and faith development are brought out distinctly as they connect to the "trinity of teaching"--content, context, and persons. If we are to teach with authority, our teaching, according to Pasmino, must be balanced and must address not only areas of acceptance within our evangelical world and the broader Christian world, but must also show awareness of other religious perspectives and secular faiths.

An excellent bibliography and subject index are included, making this a valuable resource for Christian teachers.

Other titles by the same author:

Foundational Issues in Christian Education
Principles and Practices of Christian
Education

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Kathryn Burns
King's High School
Seattle, Washington

H

305.8

Frederick Douglass
**Frederick Douglass in His Own
Words**

Edited by Milton Meltzer

Illustrated by Stephen Alcorn
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1995

Trade \$22.00

Gr. 6 - 12

It is fascinating what Frederick Douglass dared to say in public address, in speeches and editorials. His use of language is picturesque, at times even graphic; it sparks the imagination.

An outspoken individual, Frederick Douglass spoke and wrote on a variety of subjects in addition to slavery. He was not afraid to tackle women's rights, the war with Mexico, racial bias (going beyond slavery to include Jim Crow laws and practices), colonization, and education. Editor Milton Meltzer has selected works which stand the test of time; their message is as strong and true today as it was when written. Frederick Douglas was an honest speaker, with a wry sense of humor or sarcasm at times. He didn't stop with exposing injustices, he also called his fellow African Americans to act and to be better people.

The selected writings are divided into three major sections: "Before the War," "The War Years," and "After the War." The first section is the strongest and most cohesive. Historical segments from Frederick Douglass' life are interspersed with the speeches. These editorial comments are helpful to place the writings in context and give the text continuous flow. Grammar has been edited to help the modern day reader. In two or three of the speeches wordiness and extensive background history could have been condensed. The majority of the writings are well edited to convey the essence and clarity of Frederick Douglass' thought.

Frederick Douglass brought to his speaking a perspective gained from experience, which gave him the courage to say what others dared not, e.g. "separation" from family was harder for slaves to bear than whipping. The first selection in the book, editorial comments and actual speech, is the foundation for the remainder of Douglass' career. The bibliography is an important part of this work; specific annotations to further substantiate facts would be helpful for the reader.

A reading of illustrator Stephen Alcorn's comments in the preface is necessary for full appreciation of the artwork. The "linocuts" used are an expressive medium, which stand alongside the text to tell a concurrent story of slavery. They have an emotion of their own, pulling the reader further into the truth of the text, if he will take time to study the art carefully.

Frederick Douglass in His Own Words is appropriate for high school research on slavery and the time period of the Civil War. In keeping with the founding ideals of our country, Frederick Douglass does not hesitate to mention "religious liberty" along with other freedoms; he advocates the moral right to freedom of all people.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Tracie Mabry
Freelance Writer
Vancouver, Washington

307

**Greg Johnson and Susie
Shellenberger**

**Getting Ready for the Guy/Girl
Thing : Two Ex-Teens Reveal the
Shocking Truth about God's Plan
for Success with the Opposite Sex**

Regal Books, c1991

Paper \$9.99

Gr. 8 - 12

Johnson and Shellenberger offer their insights on dating and the opposite sex to young people at the junior high through high school level. Johnson and Shellenberger are editors of Focus on the Family youth magazines, Breakaway and Brio, respectively. The authors encourage teens to evaluate their lives and plans in light of God's goals by utilizing actual letters from teens, personal experience, humor, and dialogue. Chapter titles include Why I've Decided to Wait, Myth vs. Facts, How to Talk to the Opposite Sex and Stay Cool at the Same Time, etc. The book offers biblical advice, without preaching, on topics of dress, disappointment, understanding and respecting each other--even phone etiquette. Illustrations are interspersed throughout the book which enhances readability. Finally, the authors cover an amazing amount of material in relatively few pages, getting their point across without beating the reader over the head, yet are very sensitive to the confusion and fear that often accompanies the dating years.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Randy Fisk
Counselor, Greenleaf Friends Academy

361

Theresa Foy DiGeronimo
A Student's Guide to Volunteering
 Career Press, c1995
 Paper \$10.99
 Gr. 9 - 12, Adult

Are you in the business of guiding young people? *A Student's Guide to Volunteering* could be an additional resource for you. Chapter one gives a brief history of volunteerism, an interesting set of reasons on why one should volunteer, and some general guidelines about the personality of the volunteer. The next six chapters form the heart of the book. These chapters give the specifics about volunteering in health care fields, substance abuse groups, with the needy, in educational fields, environmental groups, and political associations. Each of these chapters ends with a "real life" scenario of a young person on the job. Chapter eight is a guide for the student who would like to start a volunteer organization. It is inclusive enough to be a guideline for starting any kind of group activity. An epilogue discusses President Clinton's AmeriCorps.

A Student's Guide ends with a comprehensive directory of national volunteer organizations, as suggested in each chapter, and national volunteer organizations listed by states. The book is well indexed. There has been a great deal of work done collecting names and addresses of all the agencies. The book is easy to read and can be scanned quickly for information.

The philosophy of the organizations listed varies, many being liberal. One using this book to counsel young people would be cautioned to check the organizations before suggesting them.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Wally Vohland
 Liberty Gardens Christian School
 Salem, Oregon

371

Kathryn L. Braddon
Math through Children's
Literature : Making the NCTM
Standards Come Alive
 Teacher Ideas Press, 1993
 Prebound \$23.50
 Prof

Looking for interesting activities that make math interesting? This book for educators lists children's literature and activities that help

elementary school children learn the concepts outlined in the NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) standards. The first chapter of this book outlines a brief history of mathematics education, the value of integrating math concepts with everyday experiences, and how reading can help the development of math concepts. It also contains a brief discussion of the role of memorizing math facts and how that relates to the math standards. The information in this chapter is helpful for those educators who are not very familiar with recent trends in mathematics education.

The second chapter briefly outlines the first five standards "...as processes that permeate the mathematics curriculum." Each of the next seven chapters outlines one standard and then lists five to seven books that can be used to teach the standard being considered. After a very brief summary of each book, the authors list at least five, and very often more, activities that reinforce that concept. Each chapter is divided into two sections: books for students K-3 and books for grades 4-6. Additional books are listed at the end of each chapter.

This book is full of good ideas that help make math more interesting for students and can be a good resource for teachers seeking to supplement a standard math series. The literature discussed in the book includes familiar favorites such as *The Grouchy Ladybug* and *Alexander Who Used to be Rich Last Sunday*. It also includes a few questionable books like *One Wide River to Cross* and *Paper John*. *One Wide River to Cross* relates the story of Noah's Ark by describing the animals as coming one by one, two by two and three by three. *Paper John* tells the story about a stranger who rescues a demon. Christian educators will want to preview the literature recommended in this book before presenting it to children. Because the book contains so many great activities for so many acceptable books, there is much to recommend it.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

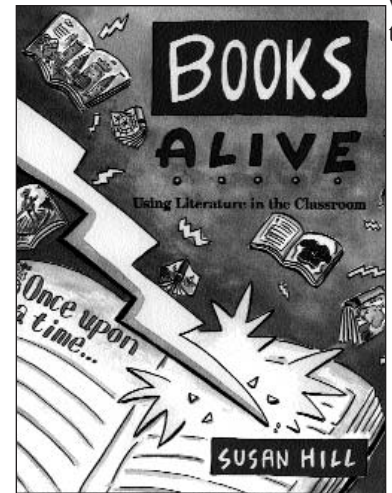
Trudi Kolk
 Elementary Media Specialist, Watson Groen
 Christian School
 Seattle, Washington

373

Susan Hill
Books Alive : Using Literature in
the Classroom
 Peguis Publishers, 1994
 Paper \$16.95
 Prof

Books Alive: Using Literature in the Classroom by Susan Hill should be required reading for

language-arts teachers and future educators in a college language-arts program. Hill's dissertation on the response-based literature program packs the same practical punch as Nancie Atwell's *In the Middle*. Too often we, as teachers, tell children which books should be read and what information should be learned. "Literature is to be shared by a community of readers where responses are generated and extended through interaction with others," Hill states of her approach. She believes that the best way to teach literature is to allow students to discuss their personal responses and interact

with
the

material through "art, drama, poetry, or quiet reflection." Highlights:

- Profiles of contemporary authors
- Photographs, diagrams, and worksheets
- Bibliographies of award winning books
- Professional references
- Critical thinking questions
- 101 alternatives for book reports

Hill has written *Books Alive* primarily for elementary and middle school teachers, but principles of the response-based method apply to educators of all ages.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Sandra Hosking
 Teacher of English and Dramatics, Falls Christian
 Academy
 Post Falls, ID

398

Sharon Creedon
Fair Is Fair : World Folktales of Justice
August House Publishers, Inc., 1994
Trade \$19.95
Gr. 7 - 12

Professional storyteller and attorney, Sharon Creedon, has assembled an entertaining variety of fables, folktales, and myths with a singular theme--the quest for justice. Creedon's accomplished storytelling ability is enhanced by a new spin as she connects the universal truths found in each international tale to issues in today's American legal system. At the end of each of the thirty stories, Creedon addresses her readers in a "Comments" section that is not only instructive, but also written in a warm and personal style. Each tale reflects not only the theme of her book, but also the culture and values of the society it represents. She includes stories from Japan, Israel, Morocco, Colonial America, Italy, and many other countries.

This volume would be a valuable addition to any junior high or high school classroom. Read it for fun or read it for educational purposes, but don't miss this highly captivating collection of wit and wisdom.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Karen Orfitelli
Freelance Writer; Teacher, Cornerstone Christian School
Manchester, Connecticut

398.2

James Riordan
Korean Folk-Tales
(Oxford Myths and Legends
Oxford University Press, c1994
Paper \$10.95
Gr. 8 - 10

This collection of Korean folk tales shares elements with western literature such as Grimm's fairy tales, along with characteristics found in Greek and Roman mythology, yet it also boasts its own distinct Asian flavor. A story such as "The Weaver and the Herdsman: Chik-Nyo and Kyun-Woo" explains the origin of the Milky Way, when two lovers are punished because they neglect their work and are separated by a white river in the sky. "How Cat Saved Magic Amber" offers a lighthearted account of how dogs came to chase cats, and "Son-Nyo, The Nymph and The Woodcutter" tells the tale of a love gained and lost to explain why the rooster crows.

Like their western counterparts, these tales don't shy away from violence. In "The Fox

Girl," a fox is embodied in the form of a girl he eats and takes to eating livers from farm animals. The influence of Buddhist thought and mysticism are evident throughout the book along with gods, demons, and other mythological beings. The folk tales are a reflection of their Asian culture and most suited for reading by junior high age and above as part of their studies on different cultures and forms of literature.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 2

Janet Smith
Freelance Writer
Latrobe, Pennsylvania

428.1

Joan Davenport Carris
Peterson's Success with Words, 2nd ed.
Peterson's Guides, 1994
Paper \$11.95
Gr. 10 - 12, Prof

For college-bound high school students, those planning to take SAT's, or anyone wishing to improve vocabulary and writing skills, *Peterson's Success With Words* is an excellent tool. Organized into vocabulary lessons grouped by type, the words the students study are taught by definition, context, analogy, and usage. When supported in the classroom with verbal review and quizzes, the material is invaluable. Having used it with my college-bound high school students, I know it is excellent. My students testify that studying *Success With Words* has helped them both with SAT's and post-high school studies.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Kathryn Burns
King's High School
Seattle, Washington

509

Henry M. Morris
Men of Science - Men of God :
Great Scientists of the Past Who
Believed the Bible
Master Books, 1988
Paper \$6.95
Gr. 6 - 12

Science does not necessarily mean being against God. In this useful book, Henry Morris reveals that throughout history there have been great scientists and famous inventors who have professed a strong belief in God. Many have espoused these beliefs in well-documented books that study the evidence in nature of the great flood and creation and give God the glory in all that they have accomplished.

Brief biographies are given of 101 of these great men as well as a short introduction about the different eras in which each lived. This is a good reference book for the student of science. It introduces exceptional men who have definitely molded history while giving credence to the truth of the Gospel.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3

Mary McKinney
Freelance Writer, Teacher
Port Orchard, Washington

530

Charles Ludwig
Michael Faraday, Father of Electronics
Herald Press, 1978
Paper \$7.95
Gr. 4 - 8

Charles Ludwig has skillfully written Michael Faraday's remarkable life story in a way that will surely capture the interest of his readers. Anyone who is interested in science will not only enjoy this book, but also learn from it. The book opens with a riveting scene from Faraday's school room that immediately hooks the reader. This incident, described in vivid detail, caused Faraday, a pioneer in electronics, to drop out of school before the age of ten. In spite of his lack of formal education, Faraday has been heralded as one of the all-time greats of science along with Galileo and Sir Isaac Newton.

Throughout his narrative, Ludwig weaves in fascinating facts about world history, Faraday's strict Sandemanian sect of Christianity, and spellbinding anecdotes about other famous people Faraday knew during his lifetime. Facts and discoveries are shared through fast-moving dialogue enabling even the most reluctant reader to understand the basics of electronics without even trying.

This book is a "must read" for any one remotely interested in science, and its short chapters would make it a natural fit for a read-aloud selection.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Karen Orfitelli
English Teacher, Cornerstone Christian School
Manchester, CT

595.7

Doug Wechsler
Bizarre Bugs
Cobblehill Books, c1995
Trade \$14.99
Gr. 5 - 7

Do you know a child fascinated by bugs of all descriptions? This unique book illustrates creatures of all descriptions which are rarely seen by an average bug watcher. The text is prose and not designed specifically for research. Students will find this book interesting for facts about these bugs but probably will have to be good readers and intent on reading non-fiction to enjoy the text. Children of all ages will enjoy the photos which are clear and beautiful.

The author definitely has an evolutionary bias and creationists will want to read this book with their children and discuss the many references to the animals adapting to the environment.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 2

Sharon Rau
Librarian, Valley Christian Schools
Abbotsford, British Columbia

599
Dorothy Hinshaw Patent
Why Mammals Have Fur
Photographs by William Muñoz
Cobblehill Books, c1995
Trade \$14.99
Gr. 5 - 7

The photos in this book can best be described as "portraits" of wild animals. It is a beautiful volume which will be appealing to children and adults. However, the text is written in prose too difficult for primary children but not easily used for research for intermediate students. Children who love animals and love to read will enjoy this book for information gained, reading it as non-fiction leisure reading.

Families who believe in a strong creation viewpoint may find that they need to read this book together and discuss the evolutionary bias of the author. Teachers in Christian schools can use this as an excellent resource for information to demonstrate the reason animals have fur but will probably want to explain that evolutionists believe animals made the decision for physical changes in order to adapt to the environment whereas creationists believe God built those intricate physical details into his creative works from the beginning.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 2

Sharon Rau
Librarian, Valley Christian Schools
Abbotsford, British Columbia

599.74
Terry Domico
Bears of the World
Photographs by Terry Domico and
Mark Newman
Facts on File, c1988
Trade \$29.95
Gr. 4 - 12

Bears, bears everywhere! If you enjoy learning about these furry creatures or just enjoy great photographs, this book is for you. It gives a thorough study of the eight different bear species and ten subspecies in the world, from the polar bear to the exotic giant panda in China and everything in between. Full-color photography by Domico and Mark Newman is outstanding.

The book is informative as well as fascinating and dispels old myths and presents accurate facts about this great beast. As the famous anthropologist Margaret Mead said, "Misinformation is the world's most easily gotten commodity." This book dispels the many false rumors about bears and replaces them with facts and a genuine interest in these usually shy, gentle beasts. Useful safety tips and lessons to be learned from the past are also presented to aid the reader in gaining practical tips when venturing out in "Bear Country."

The section on "Bear Beginnings" presents the theory of evolution, attempting to trace the origins of the bear.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 3

Mary McKinney
Freelance Writer, Teacher
Port Orchard, Washington

630
Joan Anderson
The American Family Farm : A
Photo Essay
Photographs by George Ancona
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1989
Trade \$18.95
Gr. 6 - 8

With the family farm rapidly disappearing from the landscape, photographer Ancona and author Anderson set out to create a photo essay on what they feared was an American institution all but dead. The award-winning book that resulted takes the reader on a photographic journey through the fifteen-hour days and milking barns of a dairy farm in Massachusetts, the shared lives and dreams of farm co-op members in Georgia, and the special challenges of managing an organic hog and grain farm in drought-plagued Iowa. Along the way, the reader receives temporary membership in

families whose lives seem almost synonymous with the farms they own.

With text as crisp and uncompromising as the black and white photographs that dominate the book, Ancona and Anderson accurately present life on contemporary American family farms. The uncertainties, the small pleasures and simple joys, the relentless routine, the strong family bonds, the sun-up-to-sun-down hard work, the defeats, and the triumphs are all faithfully portrayed. Far from sounding the death knell for the family farm, what emerges is a realistic and optimistic picture of ordinary, yet extraordinary, people working hard to keep a cherished version of the American Dream from vanishing forever. In Ancona and Anderson's own words, "what began as a tribute to a dying way of life turned into a journey of discovery and hope."

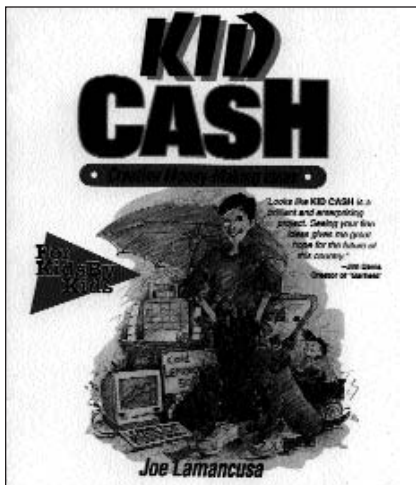
u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Randl Ockey
Librarian/Freelance Writer
Camano Island, Washington

640
Cynthia Yates
1,001 Bright Ideas to Stretch Your
Dollars : Pinch Your Pennies,
Hoard Your Quarters, Collar Your
Dollars
Vine Books, 1995
Paper \$8.99
Adult

Why pay more than you have to for anything? This book is about helping families live within their means, cheaply and creatively. Frugal living doesn't mean life without electricity, no car or vacation, wearing outdated clothing, or eating rice and beans. (Although there are some delicious recipes using these very ingredients.) It's about having control of how you spend your hard-earned money; knowing a bargain from a gimmick. The author says the key is ORGANIZATION. That, coupled with some common sense and a keen desire to get more "bang for your buck," should have you headed in the right direction.

Cynthia Yates gives timeless money-saving tips for food, health, and beauty aids; buying and maintaining cars; credit cards; and sprucing up your home. All this, and more, is sprinkled throughout with humor and short scripture verses. For experienced savers and those just starting out, Chapter 1 - The Ten Commandments for Thrifty Living lays the foundation. Yates guides us toward becoming good and faithful stewards of the resources God has given us. Her clever ideas begin with the most common budget-buster, impulsive buying



in the grocery store. Also included are charts on seasonal buying and the shelf life of fruits and vegetables. Though the book is geared mostly toward women, men will find a chapter or two that're especially helpful.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 4

Lynn Clark

Parent Volunteer, New Hope Christian School
Grants Pass, Oregon

H
658

Joe Lamancusa
**Kid Cash : Creative Money-
Making Ideas**
TAB Books, 1993
Paper \$17.95
Gr. 3 - 12

This superior book is a MUST for students, parents, or teachers who want creative, yet practical ideas for young people to earn money (and stay busy)! No more "I'm bored, what can I do?" The author--only 15 years old--has packed this book with 40 kid-tested, "immediately put to use" ideas. Young people can choose between jobs such as pet sitter, vacation helper, yard upkeeper, dog walker, car washer, curb painter, sign maker, advertiser, etc. Each idea is accompanied with a professional looking flyer that can be copied and handed out to prospective customers. Each job possibility also includes job descriptions, lists of needed qualifications, and estimates of what the startup cost will be. Finally, possible customers are targeted and a list is given of things to do that should guarantee success.

Overall, this is an impressive book that should be in every library accessible to young people. Young people need to be able to earn money and this will give them that opportunity and enable them to develop positive work ethics.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

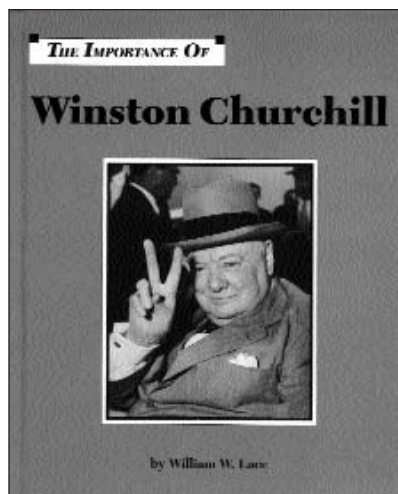
Paula Stewart Marks
Principal, Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

808.5
Carol Marrs
**The Complete Book of Speech
Communication : A Workbook of
Ideas and Activities for Students of
Speech and Theatre**
Meriwether Pub., 1992
Paper \$12.95
Gr. 8 - 12, Prof

Imagine a text book that actually gets read! Attention-deficit television addicts will love the layout of this book. The creative use of fonts, text boxes, and humorous graphics will pique the interest of the reader.

This "complete" text addresses every aspect of speech making and delivery, including interpersonal communication, using visual aids, impromptu speaking, research, non-verbal communication, and acting. It also contains exciting exercises to add to humdrum lecturing and note taking. Some screening is needed for use in Christian schools as it discusses self-esteem from a humanistic perspective. Teachers will find this book valuable because it moves the students through the art of speech making at a progressive yet comfortable pace.

u Quality - 3 § Acceptability - 3



Sandra K. Hosking
Falls Christian Academy
Post Falls, ID

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941.082

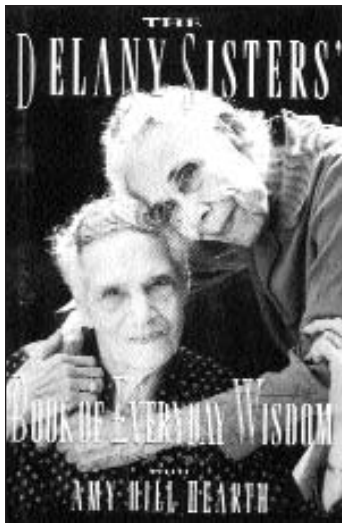
William W. Luce
**The Importance of Winston
Churchill**
Lucent Books, 1994
Library ed. \$16.95
Gr. 7 - 12

William Luce's reader-friendly biography explains why Winston Churchill was called "the greatest citizen of our time," and a man whose footprints "are so huge as to turn the tide of history." Throughout this book, we are reminded that Winston Churchill did not have an easy road to success. In the words of his son, Randolph, "He had to fight every inch of his road thru life." Along the way, his many trials and defeats paved the way for his victories.

Although he came from a wealthy, titled, well-established family, his parents paid very little attention to him and he had a lonely childhood. As a student, he was one of the lowest in his class, constantly flogged for misbehavior. While serving in the military, he distinguished himself as both a soldier and a newspaper correspondent. He was captured while fighting in the Boer war and made a daring escape. Later he served as the First Lord of the Admiralty. During World War I, his idea of using armored tanks changed the way war was fought.

In politics, he fought for what he felt was right, rather than for what was politically correct. These often unpopular opinions lost him many elections. In addition to serving as Prime Minister twice, he served in a number of other governmental positions. He had a clear, uncanny insight into world affairs. After reading this book, I can't help wonder what would have happened had his predictions of Adolf Hitler's and Joseph Stalin's actions been heeded sooner.

The author describes Churchill as a strong-willed, humane man who made a great impact on history. Throughout the book, numerous quotations and photographs add interest and provide insights into his life. This book contains a number of other features that make this information easy to access. There is a timeline of important dates that would be a time-saver for someone who is looking for a specific date or event. There are two bibliographies, one of works that were used in writing this book, one of books suggested for further reading. These bibliographies are expanded to include a short summary of the books, as well as their suggested reading level. Throughout the book, selected words are defined right after the word is used in the text.



The Importance of Winston Churchill would be a welcome addition to middle and secondary school libraries. This book would be of interest to the casual reader as well as the student who is doing research.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Vicki McCuiston
 Librarian, Falls Christian Academy
 Post Falls, ID

H
 973

**Sarah Louise and Annie Elizabeth
 Delany
 The Delany Sisters' Book of
 Everyday Wisdom
 Kodansha International, 1994
 Trade \$15.00
 Adult**

Two delightful sisters took the reading world by storm with their first book *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters First 100 Years*. Now they've done it again, with their attempt to answer questions from readers all over the world.

What is it about these two sisters that intrigues, entertains, and challenges so many? Certainly they are intelligent and were hard working. Bessie was a dentist and Sadie was a teacher for over fifty years. Their heritage was certainly one to acclaim; they came from a family of ten children. Their father, the son of a slave, became the first black Episcopal bishop in this country. Their ages, 105 and 103 at the writing of this book, are certainly exceptional. Perhaps it is a combination of all these elements, plus a deep faith in Christ and a spirit born of struggle and victory, that shines through and gives hope to the rest of us caught up in day-to-day living.

They are simple but direct in what they say. "As long as you can see each day as a chance for something new to happen, something you never experienced before, you will stay young." And then again, "One of the most important qualities to have is the ability to create joy in your life." The book is a compilation of their conversations on growing up, being women, following dreams, family and friends, faith, and living life to the fullest.

It is filled with common sense and wisdom that I think we all yearn for in this day of high technology and hectic living.

u Quality - 4 § Acceptability - 4

Mary Jarvis
 Retired Teacher, Freelance Writer
 Marysville, Washington

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1,001 Bright Ideas to Stretch Your Dollars	66	Incident at Hawk's Hill	48	That Wild Berries Should Grow	53
1999 : A Novel	55	It's Your Misfortune and None of My Own	55	The American Family Farm	66
A Caribou Journey	40	Itsy-Bitsy Spider's Heroic Climb & ...	23	The Animals Could Talk	28
A Fine White Dust	52	Jennifer's Secret	47	The Autumn's Brightness	57
A Leap of Faith	61	Jesus and Me in the Summer	35	The Baronet's Song	57
A Pioneer Sampler	44	Jesus for Little Ones	34	The Best Friend	36
A Place for Grace	20	Joona Trilogy	28	The Best Gift of All	25
A Pocketful of Bible Stories	33	Journey to Joona	28	The Bluebird and the Sparrow	50
A Prayer for the Opening of the Little League...	42	Journey to Nowhere	47	The Book of Virtues for Young People	42
A Special Kind of Love	47	Juba This and Juba That	43	The Bravest Flute	21
A Spirituality of Relationships	60	Katie and the Lemon Tree	47	The Chicken Pox Panic	30
A Student's Guide to Volunteering	64	Kentucky Dreamer	53	The Children's Bible Story Book	33
A Very Special Sister	20	Kid Cash	67	The Complete Book of Speech Communication	67
Abba's Child	61	Korean Folk-Tales	65	The Crown of Joona	28
ABC's	35	Kunu	32	The Delany Sisters' Book of Everyday Wisdom	68
Abdi and the Elephants	28	Laura's Choice	48	The Delta Factor	56
Amelia Earhart	40	Leaning on a Spider's Web	56	The Discovery	47
An Apple a Day	41	Let's Eat	25	The Door in the Dragon's Throat	31
Angry Waters	50	Let's Go	25	The Dream Mouse	21
Anne and Gran	25	Let's Make Friends	25	The Gift of Love	29
Anne Morrow Lindbergh	43	Let's Play	25	The Great Food Feud	24
Apple Trees	41	Let's Talk about Heaven	35	The Importance of Winston Churchill	67
Arthur's Family Vacation	19	Life in the Great Ice Age	38	The Intruder	47
Bears	40	Listening for the Crack of Dawn	56	The Kingdom of Singing Birds	18
Bears of the World	66	Lonely Girl	47	The Life and Times of the Honey Bee	38
Bizarre Bugs	65	Lost and Found	47	The Little Snow Bear	25
Black Spider over Tiegenhof	58	Love and Glory	49	The Oxford Children's Book of Famous People	44
Books Alive	64	Love Letters from Cell 92	60	The Oxford Treasury of Children's Poems	44
Boundless Grace	22	Lucy's Summer	29	The Oxford Treasury of Children's Stories	42
Broken Promises	47	Mary Jones and her Bible	30	The Peer Helper's Pocketbook	59
By What Authority Do We Teach?	63	Math through Children's Literature	64	The Race	53
Call for Courage	53	Men of Science - Men of God	65	The Secret Code Book	41
Cat, You Better Come Home	22	Michael Faraday, Father of Electronics	65	The Secret of the Ruby Ring	30
Children of a Greater God	61	Moho Wat	32	The Secret Path	27
Chinese Eyes	25	Mommy, Is God as Strong as Daddy?	34	The Shepherd's Path	56
Choices	61	More Than Friends	47	The Shining Light	49
Close Call	53	Motor Bill and the Lovely Caroline	24	The Shocking Discovery	29
Coals of Fire	27	My Bedtime Anytime Storybook	18	The Storm	29
Collinsville	58	My Secret Life	21	The Summons	50
Country Fair	40	Mysterious Rescuer	29	The Tale of Custard the Dragon	43
Courage in Time of Discouragement	60	Nature Crafts for Kids	41	The Tent	51
Crabs	38	Nature Through Science and Art	37	The Tombs of Anak	31
D Is for Dinosaur	34	Naya Nuki	32	The Toy Campaign	27
D.W. Thinks Big	20	Never Too Late	47	The Trouble with Dreams	49
D.W., the Picky Eater	19	New Friends in New Places	48	The Twelfth Angel	50
Dan and Gramps	25	New Girl in Town	47	The Unexpected Weapon	29
Dancers in the Garden	39	No Turning Back	47	The Very Lonely Firefly	20
Darien's Angelwalk for Children	28	Noah's Ark and the Ararat Adventure	33	The Winner's Circle	53
Daughter of the Dawn	52	Now and at the Hour	55	The Wishing Fish	25
Death by Babysitting	53	Olde Mother Goose	44	The Wonders of God's Creation	59
Deceived by the Light	59	Om-kas-toe	32	There Once Was a Puffin	22
Defenders of Joona	28	One Went to Denver and the Other Went...	55	These Golden Days	49
Did You Hear the Wind Sing Your Name?	20	Othniel	52	Three's a Crowd	47
Diligence in Love	57	Out of the Mist	53	Tirzah	53
Do the Whales Still Sing?	22	Outlaw for God	62	Toads and Diamonds	36
Draw! Rainforest Animals	41	Pathki Nana	32	Tomie de Paola's Book of the Old Testament	33
Eagle's Wings	53	Peterson's Success with Words	65	Tomorrow's Promise	47
Eagles	39	Prnciples and Practices of Christian Education	63	Toys in Space	37
Earth Day	36	Quacky Duck	24	Trapped at the Bottom of the Sea	31
Easter	36	Raising Kids God's Way	62	Triumph Over Tragedy	62
Eleven Turtle Tales	28	Reading About the Peregrine Falcon	39	Trouble with a Capital "T"	47
Eliza's Carousel Lion	34	Real Kids, Real Adventures No. 1	59	Twas the Night Before	35
Empty Sleeves	60	Real Kids, Real Adventures No. 2	59	Two Worlds for Jash	51
Escape from the Island of Aquarius	31	Ring Out, Wild Bells	44	Unforgiven Sins	55
Fair Is Fair	64	Safari Beneath the Sea	38	Unheard Voices	47
Fill My Empty Heart	47	Science Toolbox	37	Vanishing Star	47
For the Love of Adam	49	Seals	40	What Is a Reptile?	39
Foundatio Issues in Christian Education	63	Second Chance	47	What Is an Amphibian?	38
Frederick Douglass, in His Own Words	63	Second Wind	53	When Breaks the Dawn	51
Friends Make the Difference	48	Secret Behind Locked Doors	29	When Calls the Heart	51
Getting Ready for the Guy /Girl Thing	63	Seya's Song	45	When Comes the Spring	51
Go for the Glory	53	Shadow at Sun Lake	48	When Hope Springs New	51
God Makes Us Different	34	Shadow over San Mateo	53	When It's Time for Bed	20
God Must Like to Laugh	34	She Said No	51	When There's Work to Do	20
God's Love Is for Sharing	34	Silent Tears No More	47	When We Go Shopping	20
Gold in the Hills	29	Snakes	39	When We Play Together	20
Green Beans & Tambourines	42	Something Old, Something New	47	Who Am I?	35
Hattie Marshall and the Prowling Panther	31	Soun Tetoken	32	Why Are Your Fingers Cold?	23
He Is My Shepherd	33	Stellaluna	20	Why Mammals Have Fur	66
Henry's Red Sea	31	Stories from the Blue Road	27	Wind in the Wheat	47
Honey Paw and Lightfoot	23	Summer's End	19	With My Mom, With My Dad	19
Hound Without Howl	26	Sunset Coast	57	Without Words	43
How Thunder and Lightning Came To Be	37	Surprise at Logan School	29	Worship the King	60
I Am Lavina Cumming	30	Switch Cat	21	Writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer	60
I Can Talk with God	34	Tachechana	50	Yesterday's Dream	47
In a Pumpkin Shell	42	Tales from the Ark	24	Yesterday, Today, and Forever	62
In His Presence	60	Target Earth!	48		
In the House of My Pilgrimage	52	Tell Me the Secrets	30		

Alcorn, Stephen	63	Greene, Carol	39	Myler, Terry	30
Ancona, George	66	Greenwood, Barbara	44	Nash, Ogden	43
Anderson, Debby	35	Grifalconi, Ann	21	Newman, Daisy	57
Anderson, Joan	66	Griffith, Connie	29	Newman, Mark	66
Aroner, Miriam	18	Groothuis, Douglas R.	59	Nobens, C. A.	27
Arvin, Reed	47	Guenther, Gloria	29	Novak, David	23
Baer, Judy	47	Haas, Shelly O.	18	O'Conner, Tim	18
Baldwin, Stanley C.	55	Haidle, David	33	Oard, Beverly	38
Bauman, Elizabeth Hershberger	27	Haidle, Helen	33	Oard, Michael	38
Baumann, Karen	44	Hall, Donald	21	Oke, Janette	50, 51
Beers, V. Gilbert	18, 35	Ham, Ken	34	Okimoto, Jean Davies	23
Bender, Esther	47, 48	Ham, Molly	34	Olson, Rachel	35
Bender, Robert	36	Harrell, Beatrice Orcutt	37	Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw	66
Bennett, William J.	42	Harrison, Michael	42, 44	Paterson, Katherine	35
Berg, Al	34	Harshman, Marc	29	Paulsen, Gary	51
Bergum, Constance R.	45	Hebblethwaite, Margaret	21	Pazmiño, Robert W.	63
Bibee, John	27	Henderson, Felicity	33	Penner, Kathy	29
Bilsen, Rita van	25	Hill, Susan	64	Peretti, Frank E.	31
Binch, Caroline	22	Hirschi, Ron	45	Perrault, Charles	36
Birch, Barbara	30	Hoffman, Mary	22	Petrocelli, Bobby	62
Bly, Stephen A.	55	Hofmeyr, Dianne	22	Phillips, Michael R.	57
Boelts, Maribeth	19	Hopkins, Lee Bennett	44	Redekopp, Elsa	51
Bonhoeffer, Dietrich	60	Hubbards, The	44	Rinehart, Paula	61
Braddon, Kathryn L.	64	Huckle, Helen	41	Rinehart, Stacy	61
Brooks, Ron	24	Hudson, Kathi	62	Riordan, James	65
Brown, Marc	19, 20	Jaques, Florence Page	22	Rizzo, Kay D.	51
Bunyan, John	48	Johnson, Greg	63	Rogers, Emma	24
Butterworth, Nick	20, 27	Johnson, Steve	22	Rogers, Paul	24
Cannon, Janell	20	Johnson, Sylvia A.	38, 41	Roth, Susan L.	37
Canyon, Christopher	20	Kandoian, Ellen	19	Rowlands, Avril	24
Carle, Eric	20	Kavanagh, Peter	21	Rumford, Mary	19
Carris, Joan Davenport	65	Keenan, Joy Dunn	23, 47	Rushing, Phillip	60
Carroll-Welden, Anita	44	Keillor, Garrison	22	Ryder, Joanne	39, 43
Caswell, Helen Rayburn	34	Keith, Doug	23	Rylant, Cynthia	52
Chadwick, Roxane	40, 43	Kimball, Don	60	Sakurai, Atsushi	38
Clanin, Gloria	33	Knoll, Barbara	34	Samuel, George	60
Collins, Heather	44	Koike, Hiroo	41	Schaffer, Betty Stall	62
Cormier, Robert	55	Kollock, John	36	Schoenherr, John	48
Craig, Lynn	48	Krautwurst, Terry	41	Shaffer, Elizabeth N.	52
Creeden, Sharon	64	Kvasnosky, Laura McGee	22	Shellenberger, Susie	63
Criswell, Susan Gwen	37	Lace, William W.	67	Shlichta, Joe	28
Crofford, Emily	27	Lamancusa, Joe	67	Shott, James R.	52
Crook, Connie Brummel	48	Lang, Aubrey	39, 40	Shuken, Julia	52
Cutrell, Pauline	25	Larcombe, Jennifer Rees	56	Sibley, Brian	24
Dallas, Joe	55	Lascom, Adrian	38, 39	Singer, Isaac Bashevis	43
Daly, Jude	22	Lawlor, Laurie	29	Smith, Debra	31
Davis, Donald D.	56	Lawrence, R. D.	39, 40	Smucker, Barbara Claassen	31
De Coteau Orié, Sandra	20	Levi, Dorothy Hoffman	23	Snedden, Robert	38, 39
De Paola, Tomie	33	Lewis, Beverly	30	Shellenberger, Earl	38
DeGraaf, Anne	33	Lewis, Lee Ann	49	Snelling, Lauraine	53
Delany, Annie Elizabeth	68	Locke, Thomas	56	Sonneborn, Barbara	43
Delany, Sarah Louise	68	London, Jonathan	23	Stangl, Jean	37
Delmonté, Patti	41, 42	Lopez, Judith	39	Stirling, Ian	40
DeSpain, Pleasant	28	Lowell, Susan	30	Strough, Lynn A.	24
Dibble, J. Birney	62	Lucado, Max	30	Stuart-Clark, Christopher	42, 44
DiCianni, Ron	30	Ludwig, Charles	65	Sturkie, Joan	59
Diehn, Gwen	41	Lynch, Wayne	39	Sumners, Carolyn	37
DiGeronimo, Theresa Foy	64	M.E.R.	30	Swanson, Diane	38
Disher, Garry	21	MacDonald, George	57	Tashjian, Virginia	43
Domico, Terry	66	MacGrory, Yvonne	30	Thomasma, Kenneth	32
Douglass, Frederick	33	MacMillan, Dianne M.	36	Todd, Jennie	35
DuBosque, D. C.	41	Mandino, Og	50	Tourtillotte, Barb	25
Dyck, Peter J.	61	Manning, Brennan	61	Trapp, Maria Augusta	62
Eckert, Allan W.	48	Marrs, Carol	67	Travis, Lucille	53
Eitzen, Allan	27, 31	Mazellan, Ron	28	Udave, Consuelo	35
Elwood, Roger	28	McCallum, Dennis	50	Van Zyle, Jon	23, 40
Engelmann, Kim	28	McCurdy, Michael	21	Wagner, Jenny	24
Esbensen, Barbara Juster	21, 49	McKaughan, Larry	23	Warren, Jean	25
Fancher, Lou	22	McLean, Andrew	21, 36	Watson, Jean	25
Fedor, Janis	49	Meltzer, Milton	63	Waybill, Marjorie Ann	25
Forest, Heather	28	Metzler, Jack	50	Wechsler, Doug	65
Foster, Charles	34	Micucci, Charles	38	Wedemeyer, Maria von	60
Frederick, Chris	62	Miller, Debbie S.	40	Weedn, Flavia	25
Funderburk, Robert	49	Mirocha, Paul	30	Westcott, Nadine Bernard	43
Gehman, Mary W.	28	Mitchell, Judith	21	Whelan, Gloria	53
Gibbons, Gail	40	Mohr, Mark	29	Wilkeshuis, C.	25
Gibson, Valerie	59	Montero, Jose	33	Williams, George Walton	36
Gilbert, Lisa Weedn	25	Moran, Rosslyn	24	Williams, Susan DeVore	57
Gillis, Jennifer Storey	41, 42	Morey, Walt	50	Wright, Barbara Mullarney	34
Glaspey, Terry	61	Morris, Deborah	59	Wright, Christopher	30, 48
Glover, Ruth	49	Morris, Henry M.	65	Wright, Susan Kimmel	53
Goffe, Toni	25	Morris, John D.	33	Yates, Cynthia	66
Gold, Ethel	23	Morris, Willie	42	Yee, Patrick	25
Gore, Willma Willis	36	Moser, Barry	42	Yoder, James D.	58
Grace, Eric S.	39, 40	Muñoz, William	66	Zagwyn, Deborah Turney	26
Gray, David F.	56	Munsinger, Lynn	43	Zapel, Arthur L.	35

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